

MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 2007

Issue 63

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Silver Cross Hospital

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

According to the website of the E. F. Schumacher Society, "Widely used in the United States in the early 1900s, local currencies are a legal, but underutilized tool for citizens to support local economies. Local currencies function on a regional scale the same way that national currencies have functioned on a national scale—building the regional economy by creating a protective 'membrane' that is defined by the currency itself. Local businesses that accept the currency are distinguished from chain stores that do not, building greater affinity between citizens of the region and their local merchants. Individuals choosing to use the currency make a conscious commitment to buy locally first, taking personal responsibility for the health and wellbeing of their community, laying the foundation of a truly vibrant, thriving local economy."

Communities throughout the country are rediscovering local currencies. Just a few examples of local currencies currently circulating are Bay Bucks (Traverse City, MI); Ithaca Hours (Ithaca, NY); Burlington Bread (Burlington, VT); and Madison Hours (Madison, WI). In fact, over 50 communities in North America have adopted local currencies based on the Ithaca Hours program alone. Experts indicate that local currencies are perfectly legal, such as Lewis Solomon, a law professor at George Washington University, who advises that local currencies must be printed--not coined--and must not resemble actual dollars.

For more information on the history and workings of local currency check out *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered* authored by E.F. Schumacher, *Rethinking our Centralized Monetary System: The Case for a System of Local Currencies*, by Prof. Lewis D. Solomon or visit the schumachersociety.org website.

What are your thoughts about a local currency in the community of Manhattan? In your opinion would this be a good or bad thing? What would we even call such a currency--Manhattan Money?

Write me and let me know.

Pam Davis, Silver Cross Hospital
President, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce

SPOTLIGHT MEMBER

Business: Waylin Cleaning Services, Inc.
 330 E. North Street in Manhattan
 815-263-0887
 815-478-7456 (fax)

Years in business: three and a half
 Number of employees: four
 email: waylin@krausonline.com

Chamber member: Linda Wright

History of business: friends helped me get started.

What people would be surprised to find out about your business: I work right alongside my employees. I am very flexible and have an open line of communication with my clients.

What you like best about doing business in Manhattan: Everybody is very friendly and willing to work with me.

Business accomplishments you are most proud of: Referrals have been a tremendous help. I am known around town for my services by my van.

RIBBON CUTTING

March 12th marked the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for one of our newest members, Fitness Advantage. Fitness Advantage is located at 540 W. North Street in the Foxford strip mall. Several chamber members as well as Mayor Borgo and Manhattan Village Trustee Mike Naughton were on hand to welcome owners Nick and Amy Gryga to Manhattan. The facility is beautiful and has a child play area. Fitness Advantage can be reached at 815-478-4312.



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QUARTERLY MEETING

Home Star Bank hosted the quarterly meeting which was held on April 25. Guest speaker was our own chamber president and Clinical Coordinator of Chemical Dependency at Silver Cross Hospital, Pam Davis. The topic was "Impaired Employees". It was a very informative meeting. A few snippets: 7.5% of Americans employed in full-time jobs report heavy drinking, as well as 6.6% of part-time employees. 1 out of every 10 adults in the U.S. is already addicted to alcohol. 60% of us know people who have gone to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Alcohol and drug users are more likely to file a workers compensation claim.

Silver Cross Hospital's Chemical Dependency DUI Program recently received a perfect score of 100 on their state survey that was conducted by the Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA), which is a division of the Illinois Department of Human Services. For more information, visit www.silvercross.org or call (815) 740-1100.

WELCOME!

Welcome to our newest member:
A-1 Eco/Lindsay Water Treatment
2016 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill, IL 60435
815-725-2122

Oops! I forgot to mention another new member in the previous newsletter:
Michelle Griford
Tastefully Simple
815-478-3899
tastefullymichelle@sbcglobal.net
Sorry Michelle!

SO LONG ANGELA

Angela Szeman of Mid America Funding has resigned from the board. The chamber thanks her for all her hard work the past several years. Angela will be devoting more time to her career and family. If you are interested in the board position please contact the chamber office at 815-478-3811.



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FARMERS MARKET

The chamber has teamed up with the Manhattan Park District in an effort to bring a farmers market to Manhattan. The proposed market will be held on Saturdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hours are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The market will be located at the southeast corner of State & First. Please contact the Manhattan Park District at 815-478-3324 if you or someone you know is interested in participating.

SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS

Your chamber needs you! Show other chamber members what your business is all about. This is a great networking opportunity! Please consider sponsoring a Business After Hours event. Contact the chamber office for more information, 815-478-3811 or email us at chamber@manhattan-il.com

SILVER CROSS NEWS

A Women's Health Fair will be held May 19 from 8:30 to 12:30 at Lincoln-Way East High School. This free event will include a variety of presentations. Free health screenings, ten minute massages, door prizes and refreshments will be available. For more information on this event or other programs offered, visit www.silvercross.org or call 1-888-660-HEAL (4325).



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Julie Kurczewski
Executive Director

CALANDER

May 26	Farmers Market
May 28	Memorial Day
May 31	Last day of school for Lincoln-Way High Schools
June 1	Last day of school for Manhattan School District
June 17 & 24	Frankfort Chamber sponsors "Concerts on the Green" 6:30 pm at Breidert's Green Park, corner of Kansas & White Street more info. at www.frankfortchamber.com
July 4	Mokena Chamber 4th of July Parade
July 20	Manhattan Chamber Golf Outing
July 26–29	New Lenox Proud American Days more info. at www.proudamericandays.com

KOSEL: MEANS TO DISASTER

As the Governor continues to make adjustments to his proposed gross receipts tax (GRT), calling it a means to an end during a Committee of the Whole meeting in Springfield today, State Representative Renée Kosel (R-New Lenox) maintains that the plan continues to be a means to disaster for consumers and businesses alike.

This week, a Senate committee passed a modified version of the GRT which again increases the over-all taxes to businesses to a one percent tax on manufactured goods and a two percent tax on services. The new plan would also provide businesses with fewer than 25 employees a credit against the GRT. "The fact that the Governor continues to change the elements of the GRT proves to me that he knows he is in trouble. While I am grateful that the Governor took time for an open discussion on GRT, my stance on this devastating tax hike was not changed. The GRT is bad for Illinois," Kosel said. "The Governor claims the GRT is the only way to achieve the "pursuit of happiness," alleging that the increase in revenue will fund universal healthcare, new schools, road improvements and solve a host of other under-funded programs. I firmly believe that the GRT will end up hindering the "pursuit of happiness" in Illinois. With skyrocketing gas prices and outrageous electric rates, consumers cannot afford the enormous taxes the GRT will impose on everyday people when the state cannot pay its current debt," Kosel said.

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