

THE MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's official! 2011 has arrived! The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce is welcoming the new year with open arms as we plan and coordinate new benefits and events for our members! If you have not gotten your membership dues in, we are still waiting to welcome you! Thank you to those who have already submitted their renewal applications. Your Chamber of Commerce board held their annual retreat where we brainstormed ideas and planned the majority of the programs for the coming year. We will be spotlighting our businesses at our Bingo nights, as well as conducting surveys for your feedback. Be on the lookout for email blasts from the Chamber requesting spotlight information as well as our feedback forms. Our goal this year is to align our activities with the Chamber's mission of promoting economic programs designed to strengthen and expand the income potential of all businesses and organizations. We will strive to help advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Manhattan area, its citizens and all of the business community. Although the economy is not fully recovered, we are continually thinking of ways to help our member businesses and organizations. The Chamber is planning, on at least a monthly basis, a networking opportunity for our members. These opportunities will be Business After Hours, Quarterly Meetings, or catered luncheons. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to grow your businesses by introducing yourself to other members of the Manhattan and local area business community. In addition, please be on the lookout for more frequent issues of our newsletter as we hope to bring that to you monthly as well! We always welcome your opinions and suggestions! Please contact myself or any of the board members should you have an idea to share!

As we leave 2010 behind, I would like to acknowledge our

PRESIDENT - Dianne
Huelsman-First Bank of
Manhattan

VICE PRESIDENT – Shelly
Lewis – Harris Bank N.A.

TREASURER– Bill Johnson
Select Perfection
Construction, LLC

BOARD MEMBER– Dr.
Jeff Pietrzyk – Illinois Eye
Associates

BOARD MEMBER– Brian
Murphy – Lincoln Way High
School District #210

BOARD MEMBER– Stacy
McCormack – State Farm
Manhattan, The McCormack
Agency

BOARD MEMBER – Janine
Podgorny – Illinois Eye/First
Bank of Manhattan

BOARD MEMBER – Jamie
Doyle – Curtain Call
Community Theatre

community's generosity through the Angel Tree. On behalf of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank the following people and organizations for their continued support and help with the Angel Tree:

Barbara Hogan (Principal, Wilson Creek Elementary School), Pam DeBoer (Wilson Creek Elementary), the faculty and staff of Manhattan School District #114, Mayor Bill and Tina Borgo, the employees of First Bank of Manhattan, the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, the Manhattan Lyons Club, and all of the community members, businesses, and organizations who were so generous and giving to those in need during the 2010 holiday season. Without your love and support, this program would not be possible. Through our combined efforts, we were able to help over 75 Manhattan children experience a brighter holiday! I have seen firsthand the value of a giving and caring community and am so proud to be a part of this project!

It is hopeful that 2011 will be an exciting one! We embrace the ability to serve our members and look forward to introducing some new initiatives that we have planned! I wish to see each and every one of you at our events this year such as our Manhattan Expo and Craft Fair that is coming up in April! Please continue to check our website and calendar page for events to come!

Dianne Huelsman, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce President



“Through their annual Christmas Open House, Mayor Bill Borgo and his wife Tina were able to collect over 130 toys this year to donate to the Chamber’s Angel Tree. Their efforts, combined with the generous Manhattan community, enabled over 75 Manhattan children to have a brighter Christmas!”

Christmas on State Street

The Chamber's first annual Christmas on State Street was a big success. The weather did cause a small traveling problem in the morning hours, but it did not stop the Craft Fair vendors or shoppers from coming out. The Craft Fair had a little something to fill one's Christmas list.

The Gingerbread House contest and Chili Cook-off were fun for everyone. The chili entered by each contestant was very tasty, original, and warm; perfect for the winter day! The winner of the contest was Andrew Igel. Andrew won a "Manhattan's Chili Master" chef's apron and a gift card to Berkot's Super Foods donated by the Manhattan Chamber. All the gingerbread houses were amazingly creative; we had over 30 participants! It was evident that the kids worked very hard on them. Unfortunately, the judges could only choose one winner from each age group. The winner for the Kindergarten - 2nd grade group was Haidynne Haglund. Brandon Bird was declared the winner in the 3rd - 5th group and for the 6th - 8th group, the winner was Gaby Gross. Each of the 3 children received a stocking with candy and a U.S. savings bond, donated by the First Bank of Manhattan. The Manhattan Chamber would also like to extend a big "Thank You" to our three Lincoln Way High School Foods Teachers who performed as our judges for the day: Betsy Doogan, Missy Rowell and Sarah Canino. They graciously donated their time to help us with both contests.

Whitmore Ace Hardware also participated by having a raffle. The winner was Jim Lusciatti. Jim won a Black and Decker Storm Station.

All the festivities for the day were followed by a Parade of Lights down State Street to Time Square where people were gathered to see the parade and Mr. & Mrs. Claus as they arrived by fire engine for the lighting of the annual Christmas Tree.

The Manhattan Chamber would like to say "thank you" to everyone who helped make this such a successful event.



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(l-r) Haidynne Haglund, Gaby Gross and Brandon Bird.



Andrew Igel with Board Member Brian Murphy

If you would like to taste Andrew Igel's winning chili recipe we have all the ingredients listed below so that you can make it yourself right in your own kitchen.

ANDREENIES

- Ground Beef – 3 pounds
- Del-Monte (diced) Fire Roasted Tomatoes – 3 cans
- Del-Monte (diced) Tomatoes with Chili Peppers – 2 cans
- Brooks Chili Beans (hot) – 1 can (15.5oz.)
- 1 large Vidalia Onion
- 1 large Bell Pepper
- Minced Garlic – 4 cloves (chopped)
- Garlic Powder – 1 Tsp.
- Jalapeno – 1 (optional)
- Ketchup – ¼ cup
- A-1 – ¼ cup
- Tabasco – 2 Tbsp.
- Salt n Pepper



The Manhattan Chamber Christmas Party

The Chamber's Christmas party was held this year at Stone City VFW in Joliet. We had a great turnout. The food was perfect and everyone had a great time. A big "thank you" goes out to the following businesses for their generous donation of raffle prizes: Manhattan Dental, First Bank of Manhattan, Illinois Eye Associates, Lincoln Way Central, K9 Krazy, Home Star Bank & Financial Services and Pat Murphy/Girlfriends Glamour.



(l-r) Howard Butters, Dawn Murphy, Margaret Knolls, Helene Seltzer, Janine Podgorny and Scott Mancke were the winners of the raffle prizes at the Chamber Christmas Party.



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Manhattan Citizen of the Year

Nominees for the Citizen of the Year award should be citizens living and/or working in the Manhattan area who have had a significant impact on the community through their volunteer and charitable activities. This year's Citizen of the Year award was awarded to two outstanding Manhattan residents. First we would like to acknowledge Michael McHugh of McHugh Insurance for his many contributions to our community. Mike has been a Manhattan resident all his life. He grew up on a farm outside of town, and has currently resided in Manhattan with his wife Mary, a Wilson Creek Elementary teacher for the past 26 years. Mike has been extremely active in our community giving his time to such organizations as a Manhattan Park Board, the Citizen's Advisory Committee, the Irish American Society of Will County where he has served as their member chairperson, and the Manhattan Chamber informational website. He also donates time to St. Joseph's Parish by sitting on the Administration Commission. Mike has many professional affiliations, including being a regional director for the Independent Insurance Agents Association of Illinois.

McHugh Insurance, Mike's company, has been in family owned business since its inception and is committed to offering personal, accurate and timely service for your insurance needs. His business has always been a supporter of various community programs, most notably; McHugh Insurance is a continual contributor to Manhattan Irish Fest and the Manhattan School District Foundation for Educational Excellence.

His services to Manhattan through his volunteerism and through his business have been invaluable and we thank him for all he has done. We are proud to have worked with Mike during the past 5-6 years on the Chamber and are very pleased to present one of the 2011 Citizen of the Year award to him.



(l-r) Mayor Bill Borgo, Chamber President Dianne Huelsman and Citizen of the Year Mike McHugh

Manhattan Citizen of the Year

We would also like to acknowledge another outstanding citizen nominated and chosen for Citizen of the Year. Bill Jusack of Jusack Decorating Service has also made many notable contributions to Manhattan. Bill and his wife Arline are long time Manhattan residents and have 4 children: triplets Bill Jr., Kenneth and Tim and daughter Lisa. His sons help in the decorating business and Lisa, married to Kevin Vancina, own and operate Vancina Landscaping and Superior Wastewater Systems. Bill has served on the Village Planning Commission and has recently donated his time and materials improving the Village's own historic caboose so that it is preserved as an authentic working model of a 1960's caboose. He has coordinated with various town, village, Boy Scout and business representatives to get the caboose repainted and a working crossing arm bell that children can ring.

Bill has also donated his time, tireless energy, and materials to help make Settler's Park attractive. He is a resource for educational tours when the caboose is open and offers to give private tours to many of our community groups. He also continually researches appropriate artifacts and other cabooses to help give Manhattan's caboose it authentic look.

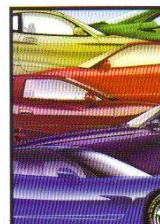
It is no wonder that Bill was also nominated as 2011 Citizen of the Year and it is with great pride that we present the Citizen of the Year award to Bill Jusack.



(l-r) Chamber President Dianne Huelsman,
Citizen of the Year Bill Jusack and Mayor Bill Borgo



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Manhattan Business of the Year

This year's Business of the Year award is presented to a company whose presence has been made widely known to our community for many years. This company has excelled during that time and has benefited the community at-large in doing so. Kraus Electronic Systems Inc., as we know as Kraus Cable, or Manhattan Cable (although they have a presence in Elwood, Gardner and Seneca), has been a part of the Manhattan community for numerous years. Kraus Cable has been instrumental in connecting Manhattan to the web as well as providing cable and phone service to the Manhattan and surrounding communities. Owners Skip and Alice Kraus, happily married for 50 years, are long time Joliet residents and have 7 children: Art, Andrew, Anthony, Aline, Annette, Anita, and Angela. Kraus Cable has donated cable advertising to nonprofit organizations, the Chamber of Commerce included, and monetary donations to countless organizations such as the Manhattan School District Foundation for Educational Excellence and Manhattan Wine Festival. Skip and his son Art were instrumental in helping the Food Pantry's Giving Tree this year by send out information to customers about what was yet needed for some of the remaining families on the giving tree. His efforts resulted in an overwhelming response of support by the community. You will find Skip's video services at almost all Village Board meetings and various events such as out Irish Fest and Manhattan Days of Old parades (and our State of the Village Address!) Our town is better informed due to their cable access channel which provides news and event on the "goings on" of Manhattan. Kraus is a household name in Manhattan, and we thank Skip, Alice and their family for their hard work and generosity to our community.



(l-r) Skip Kraus, Art Kraus, Mayor Bill Borgo and Chamber President Dianne Huelsman

Curves Open House

Curves of Manhattan/Elwood hosted an Open House on Monday and Tuesday, January 17th and 18th in recognition of new owners Helene and Kelly Seltzer. Curves moved to its present location on Gougar Road from Elwood 2 years ago.

To celebrate the Open House, events were held through the day which included door prizes and giveaways. Members were given raffle tickets for wearing Curves apparel and for bringing food for the Manhattan Food Pantry. Winners of the Raffle Door Prizes were Mary Kay Nugent, Cathy Block and Donna Orasco.

Member participated in the “Earn Your Shirt Challenge” at the Open House. Members who increased the number of workouts each week, participate in a Cardio Blast Class once each week or increased their fitness level were awarded a customized shirt for the efforts.

There was also a “Split the Pot Raffle” with proceeds benefiting Lamb’s Fold Center for Women and Children.

Sample Curves Circuit with Zumba Fitness was held. This is the only workout that combines strength training and high energy cardio for a complete 30-minute muscle-toning, fat blasting part in the circuit workout. Classes are held Tuesday at 7:00PM and Saturday at 7:30AM.

Whether you want to lose weight and inches, gain energy, tone up or just stay healthy, the Curves Circuit can work for you. Hours are 6:30AM – 8:00PM Monday thru Friday and 7:00AM – Noon on Saturdays.



(l-r) Jeanna Leonas, Angie Brandau, Helene Seltzer, Kelly Seltzer, Mayor Bill Borgo, Chris Sweedler, Nancy Bartels, Mary Kay Nugent, Jan Comiskey, Kathy Arduino, Teresa Page, Sandra Navarro and Chamber President Dianne Huelsman

Please meet our newest Board Member!

Please join me in welcoming our newest Board Member Janine Podgorny of Manhattan. Janine is 27 and recently married. She works full time at Illinois Eye Associates as a technician and part time at the First Bank of Manhattan as a teller. She is currently attending Joliet Junior College to earn a certificate in Medical Billing. Janine has been involved in community events in the past and is looking forward to contributing more as part of the Chamber.

Manhattan Irish Fest Raffle Tickets

Irish Fest raffle tickets are available from the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce board members and also at the following businesses: Illinois Eye Associates, Harris Bank, State Farm Insurance, and Manhattan Junior High. Cost per ticket is \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. First prize will be \$1,000.00 cash or can be used towards a trip to Ireland! There are also 20 other prizes available including home electronics & local gift certificates! Manhattan Irish Fest will be Friday March 4, and Saturday March 5 this year! We look forward to seeing you there!



Manhattan Bingo!!

Please join us on February 7th when Bingo resumes at Wilson Creek School. Doors open at 5:30pm (early bird game) and regular bingo starts at 6:00pm. Concessions and bingo supplies will be available for purchase.

Chamber Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 7 th	Bingo 5:30pm at Wilson Creek School
March 4 th & 5 th	Irish Fest
March 7 th	Bingo 5:30pm at Wilson Creek School
March 21 st	Bingo 5:30pm at Wilson Creek School
April 2 nd	Business & Craft Expo 9:00am-1:00pm at Wilson Creek School
April 4 th	Bingo 5:30pm at Wilson Creek School
April 18 th	Bingo 5:30pm at Wilson Creek School
April 20 th	Quarterly Meeting 5:30 TBD

