

THE MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“A CHRISTMAS WISH GRANTED”

I am pleased to announce that the Chamber of Commerce received its Christmas wish this year! We had three volunteers step up to fill the vacancies on the Chamber board! It is my pleasure to introduce the three newest directors to our organization who were appointed at the December 7, 2011, board meeting.



First, we have appointed Mr. Vince Aversano. Vince is currently the Managing Partner of Manhattan Dental Care. He and his wife, Dr. Laura Aversano, purchased the dental practice in 2008, and have thoroughly enjoyed their four years in the community. When searching for a dental practice to purchase, Vince and Laura were looking for a town where they would feel comfortable and be able to raise their family. They found that in Manhattan. Laura and her talented staff of hygienists, assistants, and administrators are dedicated to giving their patients the best of care and service. Vince and Laura relocated to the area from downtown Chicago where they resided from 2005 to 2009. Vince and Laura have been married since December 2004. Their four-year-old daughter, Ava, currently attends pre-school at Providence Catholic Children’s Academy and keeps her parents busy running her to gymnastics, violin, and ice skating lessons.

Vince also purchased a dry cleaning franchise for the south and southwest suburbs in 2011, from Martin Franchises, Inc. (Martinizing), the largest dry cleaning franchise in the country. He is scheduled to open his first store in April 2012, in Mokena, with plans for future stores in Frankfort and other suburbs in this area.

Vince was born and raised in New York City and graduated from Marquette University. From 2001-10, he worked at Rotary International in Evanston, serving as head of the Communications Division, managing the activities and personnel of the entire Communications Division encompassing publishing, broadcast media, internet, and photography. He oversaw a full-time staff of 75 employees including magazine editorial and advertising, publications, web site, and film departments. He also managed the 31 editors of Rotary’s licensed international magazines. He developed and executed both short-term and long-term communication strategies

Board Member–Shelly
Lewis – Harris Bank

Treasurer – Bill
Johnson –Select
Perfection
Construction, LLC

Board member –Vince
Aversano –Manhattan-
Aversano Dental Care

Board Member – Dr.
Brian Murphy –
Lincoln Way High
School District #210

Board Member –Deb
Bodga –Zark Heating
and Cooling

Board Member –
Janine Podgorny –
Illinois Eye/

Board Member – Jamie
Doyle – Curtain Call
Community Theatre

Board Member–Steven
Ardan–Ardan
Autobody

to the organization's 1.2 million members. After retiring from Rotary in 2010 to start his new career, Vince still works today with Rotary's Board of Directors in an advisory position. He remains a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago—Rotary's first Rotary club.

Prior to joining Rotary, he spent 7 years as equity partner and Executive Vice President of Q-2 Publishing in Birmingham, Michigan. During his years at Q-2, Vince worked closely with Fortune 500 companies such as General Electric, General Motors, and RJ Reynolds, as well as the leading sports organizations (National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, Professional Golfers of America, and NASCAR) to launch and oversee magazines, create book titles, and develop their web sites.

Prior to coming to Q-2 Vince was Editor-in-Chief of Inside Sports Magazine, which at the time of his departure in the mid-90s, was the leading monthly sports publication in terms of newsstand and subscription sales.

During his career he has sat down and had face-to-face interviews with world leaders, including four U.S. Presidents, business leaders, sports commissioners, and hundreds of athletes and celebrities.

We are very lucky to have Vince assist us on the board!



I am also pleased to introduce Deb Bogda of Manhattan. Deb is currently employed by Provisur Technologies in Mokena, Illinois as a Human Resources Assistant where she is the Special Event Planner for this corporate company. She also works with her son Rob and his HVAC business ZARK Heating & Cooling located in Manhattan. At ZARK, Deb serves as the Public Relations/Marketing guru. ZARK has been in business since 2008 and is proud to say that the company has been growing!

Deb enjoys working with people, planning and executing special events as her passion. She has also raised over \$36,000 each year for the American Cancer Society. Working with her committees at Provisur Technologies, ZARK and previous career challenges, she has dealt with motivating employees, fund raising and handled many company and corporate Special Events.

Deb has 3 sons with their own families, which have given her 8 grandkids. She is a Mother, Grandma/Nana, HR Assistant, Lead Receptionist, Special Event Planner, Public Relations/Marketing Assistant and now on the Board of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce – which means that she is very much organized, pretty much “all the time!”

Deb hopes to help grow this community, with not only our current businesses, but also new businesses within the Village of Manhattan. At the same time help grow enthusiasm, interest and happiness with those living and working in Manhattan.

Ardan Autobody

2700 Cherry Hill Rd . Joliet. 815-723-6026

Lastly, I am pleased to introduce Mr. Steve Ardan of Ardan Autobody. Steve has owned Ardan Autobody since 1981. He is married to Mary Ann, who is a Registered Nurse. They met when she came in as a customer over 25 years ago. Their daughter, Kelly, is a photographer. who was born and raised in Joliet, Steve moved to Cherry Hill Road in 1987. He is a member of the Will County Auto Rebuilders Association and there he has served several terms as President. After teaching autobody at Wilco Career Center, he currently serves on the advisory board and is qualified to teach proper repair techniques to other body shops. Steve has been a member of the Manhattan Chamber since its inception.

Ardan Autobody started as a hobby out of Steve's grandfathers' garage, and he opened the shop as a business in 1981 in Joliet. After purchasing land, Steve built and moved to the current location on Cherry Hill Road. Each year has seen more training and new equipment. This year, new environmentally safer paint is being used.

Steve and his team invite people to stop in to see the shop before they have an accident or need work. Ardan Autobody offers collision repair and refinishing. They can also help with windows and doors that are broken or stubborn. Ardan Autobody accepts most insurance companies and work well with them to give you the best experience possible.

Because they focus on proper repairs and work on the vehicle owners behalf, they prefer not to be on any insurance company's referral list. Ardan Autobody is a small shop able to work one on one with the customer, safely and properly repair the vehicle, and ensure these repairs are done professionally and in a timely manner.



Right now, Ardan Autobody has some great winter specials!!



Any chamber members who come by will get 10 % off labor

Any member who refers a repair to us will get a \$20 gift certificate to any other chamber member

Additionally, our current board consists of the following volunteers:



Shelly Lewis is an Assistant Vice President and Bank Manager of BMO Harris Bank in Manhattan. She has been employed with BMO Harris for 17 years. Shelly, her husband Chris, and two young children have been residents of the Manhattan community for the last 5 years. Shelly and her family also attend St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Shelly was the 2011 Vice President and has been an extremely active member in the Chamber for the last 5 years.



Dr. Brian Murphy is the Director of Technology with Lincoln Way High School District 210 and has been an active member of the Chamber of Commerce for over three years. He and his wife Dawn live with their three youngsters in Butternut Ridge in Manhattan where Brian serves as President of the Butternut Ridge Home Owners Association. In his "free" time, he also serves as Treasurer for the MYAA and is extremely active in his son and daughters' sports teams.



Janine Podgorny is the head technician at Illinois Eye Associates where she has been employed for just about 4 years. Prior to coming to Illinois Eye, Janine also worked at the First Bank of Manhattan and Good Time Charlie's. She is currently attending Joliet Junior College working towards a medical billing and encoding certification. She and her husband of just over a year live in Manhattan and are expecting their first child in July! We are pleased that Janine is starting her second year on the Chamber board.

Select Perfection Construction

Bill Johnson has been on the board since the Chamber's inception and is currently serving as its Treasurer. Bill and his wife Lynne were long time residents of Manhattan, but have recently moved to Manteno, Illinois. Bill and his son own and operate Select Perfection Construction. As very busy retirees. Bill and Lynne donate many hours of volunteer work to Operation Care Package, a non-profit organization that prepares care packages for our deployed military. In addition, Bill serves as Treasurer of the Manhattan Lions Club.



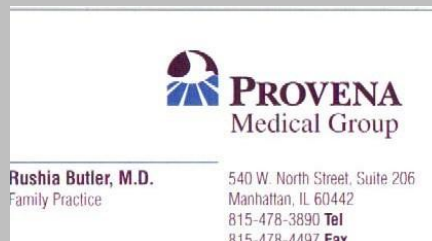
Jamie Doyle has been associated with Curtain Call Community theatre for many years. He is currently one of our own Village Trustees and will be serving as a director once again on the Manhattan Chamber board. He and his family are long-time residents of Manhattan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Glenna Johnston, our executive director has been with us for six years. She has lived in Manhattan for 25 years and has been married to her husband Brian for 24 years. Together they have 2 sons Joshua 23, and Kyle 16. Glenna works as a secretary for Manhattan School District for the last 14 years and in her spare time lives to travel and spend time with family and friends. Glenna is our planner and preparer for all large events and outings.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Judy Smith, our assistant executive director, will be starting her second year with the Chamber. She has lived in Manhattan for the last 14 years and has been married to her husband Chuck for 26 years. She has one son Charlie, 23, and is currently working with the Manhattan School District where she has been for 13 years. Prior to her Manhattan life, she lived in Orland Park where she worked at the University of Chicago Hospitals as an Office Manager in Food Service. We thank her for her commitment to help our organization and keep up with our monthly newsletters!



2011 ANGEL TREE



“Mayor Bill and Tina Borgo delivered over a 100 toys from their Christmas open house”

This year was another great year for the Angel Tree. Working together with the Manhattan School District 114, we were able to help 23 families and almost 65 children have a brighter Christmas. I would like to thank Mrs. Barb Hogan and Mrs. Pam DeBoer from Wilson Creek for their cooperation, without which we would not be able to do what we do. Mayor Bill Borgo and his wife Tina contributed once again by organizing their holiday open house to benefit the Angel Tree and collected over 100 toys for us to distribute. As always, my fellow associates of First Bank of Manhattan especially Jamie McCormack, Angie Brandau, and Amy Cosgrove, who not only supported the tree, but also were the "elves" who helped deliver the gifts. I am most thankful to the community and individuals who took tags off the tree and bought gifts for those who needed help. Your kindness and generosity is truly appreciated. We continue to do this program because of your willingness to give to others. I hope everyone has a wonderfully happy and healthy new year!

Dianne Huelsman
Angel Tree Committee Chair




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CHRISTMAS ON STATE STREET

The 2nd annual Christmas on State Street was another big success this year. We could not have asked for better weather in December for the Craft Fair and Parade of Lights. Shoppers came out looking for that last minute gift for that someone special. The vendors had all kinds of wonderful and beautifully crafted items for everyone's wish list.

The Gingerbread House contest and Chili Cook-off were once again very popular with many entries for both contests. The gingerbread houses were very creative and unique. It was obvious 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 age group was Josh Gray. Hannah Allpow was the winner in the 3rd-5th age group and for the 6th-8th age group was Gabby Gross. Each of the 3 winners received a stocking with prizes and candy. The chili entered by each contestant was tasty and original. The winner of the contest was Carly Wise, a 4th grader at Anna McDonald School. Carly was awarded a special gift as a Junior Chef.

The Manhattan Chamber would also like to extend a big "Thank You" to our three Lincoln-Way Family Consumer Science Teachers who perform as judges for the day: Beth Russler (Lincoln-Way North), Amy Madonia (Lincoln-Way East) and Missy Rowell (Lincoln-Way Central and West). They donated their time to help us with both contests.

All the festivities for the day were followed by the Parade of Lights from 2nd street to Time Square where people were gathered to see the parade, hear the choir from the Manhattan Junior High, and watch the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Claus for the annual Christmas Tree lighting.

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



(Back row –l-r, Beth Russler, Amy Madonia and Missy Rowell)

(front row, l-r, Josh Gray, Carly Wise, Hannah Allpow and Gabby Gross)

PARADE OF LIGHTS





Lincoln-Way High School District 210



The popular Spotlight and Children's Theatre Series continue with offerings for the month of January: *Theatre of Illusion*, a 21st century magical experience, will be featured Friday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m., Central High School in New Lenox. *Skippyjon Jones*, an enchanting musical appropriate for grades K-3, will be presented Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 p.m., West High School in New Lenox. Brochures and order forms are available on our website (lw210.org) under "Quick Links".

STATE OF THE VILLAGE

This year's State of the Village will be held on January 16th 2012, at 11:30 a.m. with a luncheon to be served at Wilson Creek Elementary School. This is a great opportunity for members to come out and meet our newest board volunteers – Vince Aversano, Deb Bogda and Steve Ardan! We look forward to seeing you there! Further information will be sent.

MANHATTAN
DENTAL CARE

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