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OUR VIEW: Revitalized Mantua downtown a big asset REJUVENATION OF HISTORIC AREA HAS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR VILLAGE

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AN EFFORT TO REJUVENATE DOWNTOWN MANTUA APPEARS CLOSER TO COMING TO FRUITION AND THAT IS GOOD NEWS.

At a recent meeting of the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Corporation, hired consultants E.G.&G. of Akron put the price tag for a total revitalization at \$4.25 million, but suggested it could be started with a \$300,000 net egg, something the consultants said was within the financial capabilities of the village government. Beyond that, the consultants said, federal earmarks, Issue 2 money, Community Development Block Grants and private contributions could make up the difference.

Six years in the making, the rejuvenation efforts have grown out of a realization that Mantua's well-preserved historic downtown, like many downtowns throughout Ohio, is an asset well worth some extra attention and investment.

Downtown movements are taking hold. People appreciate the beauty and sense of continuity that historic downtowns offer and in that context Mantua's downtown has great potential.

The benefits of rejuvenation are many: improved property values, more commerce, a sense of destination and enhanced community pride are some of the more obvious ones.

E.G.&G. said a bond with on-going payments of approximately \$22,000 annually would enable the raising of the \$300,000 seed money to get things started. Whether the village can afford that is a question for its officials, particularly its fiscal officer, to estimate.

Usually when revitalization projects of this sort get started, they snowball, creating greater values and spin-offs than are foreseen at the outset. With that in mind, we commend the Revitalization Corporation for its forward thinking approach to the downtown. We add that we hope the village is able to see its way to supporting a bond that can raise the seed money to get the project started.