

Downtown Mantua Revitalization Meeting

The Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee is holding a Town Meeting & Idea Exchange on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 6:30 - 8:30 at the Mantua Shalersville Fire Department. Their question is: “What would YOU do to make Mantua look better?” and YOU are being asked to attend to “express your ideas

to improve the appearance and protect the character of downtown Mantua.” An RSVP is being requested to proper seating and refreshments can be prepared. Please call 330-274-0881 and leave name and number in your party or email to bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com.

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What would YOU do to make Mantua look better?

Last March, we all had the chance to share our thoughts about downtown Mantua during a town hall meeting at the Mantua Shalersville Fire Department. Over 100 people attended and when the Portage County Regional Planning Commission had us break-out into small groups to identify assets and critical issues facing our area, almost *everyone* mentioned the ugly appearance of downtown (some said it more politely than others).

While the Village of Mantua is losing a major employer and a significant amount of tax revenue (Eaton), there's residential and commercial growth all around us. We need to decide what to do about our aging town or risk becoming a ghost town in the middle of sprawling development.

On September 12th, you'll have a chance to say what *you* want Mantua to be in the future...What products, services, or activities should be offered in the Village...What industries should be recruited to replace the companies that leave...Where should new growth occur and what should it look like? This is the time to forget about all the obstacles and describe the Mantua of your dreams.

No, changes won't happen overnight and every vision won't become reality. But we have to start somewhere...and your opinion only matters if others know what you're thinking. Revitalization consultants from E.G.&G., Inc. will lead the discussion on September 12th, giving everyone who attends a chance to talk (and they'll make sure no one is allowed to dominate the discussion).

If you care about Mantua, here's what you can do:

- ♦ Keep up-to-date on revitalization efforts at www.MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com (click on Downtown Revitalization on the right side).
- ♦ Visit the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee booth at the Potato Festival and pick-up a brochure, make a donation, ask questions, or share your thoughts.
- ♦ Send your suggestions to DMRC, PO Box 111, Mantua 44255 or email info@MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com or call Edie at 274-2747, Becky at 216-990-5086, Ellie at 274-8230, or Michelle at 330-603-5519
- ♦ Gather your thoughts and attend the next **town hall meeting on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm in the conference room (around back) of the Mantua Shalersville Fire Department.**

Please RSVP for the September 12th meeting, so there will be enough seating and refreshments. Leave a message with your name and number in your party at 330-274-0881 or send an email to bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com. Please attend even if you don't have a chance to RSVP. Your input is important! See you there!

Recordpub.com

Mantua Future downtown look is focus of planning session

Don Jovich
September 17, 2007

By Don Jovich

Record-Courier staff writer

MANTUA -- With the goal of preserving the historic character of the downtown community, many villagers are doing their part to make it happen.

A recent town meeting, sponsored by the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee, drew interested residents who offered their suggestions.

"Our goal was to collect ideas from residents and business owners about how they would like the downtown area to look," said committee president Edie Benner.

The question, "What would you do to make Mantua look better?" was the main topic.

Community revitalization consultants E G & G, Inc. invited each attendee to share their ideas about how the village should look.

Suggestions included improved parking, an updated commercial district and more exposure to the hike and bike trails and the Cuyahoga River.

"We're hoping to preserve the rural character of downtown Mantua," E G & G President John Grossmann said.

The committee has been working with E G & G, Inc. on a plan to fix some problems in Mantua, including parking and an improved streetscape.

"Mantua has a lot of strengths to build on," Grossmann said. "Revitalizing downtown will add value to the community."

Committee vice president Michelle Barnauskas said, "It's interesting to see where we were years ago, versus where we are now and where we want to go."

Benner said preserving the past, protecting the present and preparing for the future are all important aspects of their revitalization project.

"We want to preserve the past and stimulate economic development downtown," she said. "It's our town, our community, and we're trying to move forward."