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## Downtown group plans activities Has booth at Potato Festival, will be part of parade

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By Don Jovich

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MANTUA -- The Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee wants to breathe new life into the village.

"We may be losing a prime tax revenue source when Eaton Corporation leaves, but we can't let our town fade away because of it," said committee president Edie Benner.

She said several area residents have purchased the old Mantua Grain buildings at auction.

"The bricks on the primary building have already been cleaned and restored and replacement windows are on order," Benner said. "The old livery is scheduled for repair and a paint job very soon."

The Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee will have a booth with the Mantua-Shalersville Chamber during the Potato Festival, held Friday through Sunday at Buchert Park.

The committee will feature a continuously running slide presentation of 1900s Mantua during its heyday versus the present.

"Some have previewed the show and expressed interest in purchasing the CD, so orders will be taken at the booth," Benner said.

The committee's also will be included in the parade, to be held at 2 p.m. Sunday. Its display will show the logo objective of "Preserving the past, protecting the present, preparing for the future."

The parade begins at the high school, travels south on Main Street and east on Prospect Street and around the corner to the festival grounds on High Street.

Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee's award-winning parade "float" represented their efforts to:

- Preserve the Past  
(horse & carriage with long-time residents)
- Protect the Present  
(sports car with current residents)
- Prepare for the Future  
(bikes & scooters with young residents)



The festival booth portrayed the theme with signage, photos, and a slide show of historic and present-day images of key downtown properties.

