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DOWNTOWN MANTUA REVITALIZATION FRIENDS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your interest and involvement with our DOWNTOWN MANTUA REVITALIZATION CORPORATION (DMRC) in the past and of course in the upcoming year! The "FRIENDS" of any organization are the glue that enhance the ability of the organization to raise funds, improve community pride and support or participate in events throughout the year.

You, our "FRIENDS" helped DMRC directly by raising approximately \$5,000.00 last year.

Your donations contributed toward the \$12,238.00 in matching funds that DMRC donated to The Village of Mantua at the end of December, 2017 for the Buchert Park Walking Trail grant.

For those of you who may not realize, our DMRC belongs to the Heritage Ohio organization and we follow the National Main Street Organization. In order to better understand our framework, I retrieved the following from The Heritage Ohio website.

*Edie Benner
DMRC President*

THE FOUR POINTS

The four point methodology works to create a total image for the community: Providing the retail/professional area with its necessary market niche, creating a cohesive visual identity unique to the community, and nurturing a cultural ambiance associated with the community's location, appearance, and way of life. The Main Street Approach gradually builds on existing resources and fosters improved community leadership and support on behalf of the Central Business District for the long term.

ORGANIZATION is the building of consensus and cooperation between the groups that play a role in the downtown. Many individuals and organizations in the community have a stake in the economic viability of the downtown.

DESIGN involves improving the downtown's image by improving its physical appearance—not just the appearance of the buildings—but also of street lights, window displays, parking areas, signs, sidewalks, streetscapes, landscaping, promotional material and all other elements that convey a visual message about what the downtown is and what it has to offer.

PROMOTIONS involves marketing the downtown's unique characteristics to shoppers, investors, new businesses, tourists and others. Effective promotion creates a positive image of the downtown through retail promotional activity and special events utilizing the downtown as a stage area of community activities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT involves strengthening the existing economic base of the downtown while diversifying it. Business enhancement activities include helping existing downtown businesses, recruiting new businesses, providing a balanced mix, converting unused space into productive property, and sharpening the competitiveness of downtown merchants.

HEADWATERS TRAIL MILL STREET CONNECTOR COMPLETED

In Early November 2017 Mantua Village saw the completion of the Headwaters Trail Mill Street Connector.

In 2014 Mantua Village collaborated with Downtown Mantua Revitalization to apply for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources RTI Grant to build the trail connection between the trail head at the Cuyahoga River and the trail head of the west Headwaters Trail

That picked up behind the McDonald's on Main Street.

Construction began in October 2017 after the Village fine-tuned the plans and finalized the right of ways needed to create the connection.

The new trail connector is asphalt and begins by the trail head at the bridge, runs to where Mill

Street begins by Advanced Rehabilitation and then along Mill Street to Route 44. Trail users cross Mill Street and then can cross State Route 44 to continue the trail beside McDonalds and then on to the west part of the Headwaters Trail.

The new connector is popular with hikers, runners and bikers from our area as well as visitors.



Mantua Revitalization members celebrate the completion of the Mill Street Connector. The Headwaters Trail now is continuous through Mantua Village.



DMRC President, Edie Benner, points out the designated trail west of Main Street as it passes McDonald's.

MANTUA VILLAGE RECEIVES ODNR GRANT

Mantua Village received word in October that they had been awarded a NatureWorks grant through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The \$32,642 grant will be used to resurface part of the Buchert Park walking trail in the area south of High Street. DMRC has provided the \$12,238 match for the grant.

DMRC and the Village Parks Committee collaborated on the grant application with DMRC

preparing the grant application and Mantua Village Parks with CT Consultants revising the document for specifications and costs.

The original limestone trail, which had disappeared under grass, will be asphalted to improve use.

The Village said that the project design will begin in January in order that work can be bid out in time to begin construction this summer.

MANTUA REVITALIZATION UPCOMING EVENTS

REVERSE RAFFLE April 7, 2018 —contact us for tickets in March.

QUILTS IN THE VILLAGE May 5, 2018 This event was rescheduled for spring after last September's cancellation.

ART ON THE HILL--July 14, 2018

MANTUA POP-UP ART GALLERY WAS SUCCESSFUL VENTURE



The Mantua Pop-Up Gallery on Main Street, operated by Downtown Mantua Revitalization, featured high end art created by local artisans and worked to improve the economic viability of Mantua Village.

When Renee’s Reloved Furnishings chose to close, DMRC decided to take over the space on a temporary basis. The result was the Mantua Pop-Up Art Gallery.

Located on the corner of Prospect and Main Street in Mantua Village, local artists primarily from Mantua, Hiram, Garrettsville, Aurora, and Ravenna, displayed their art for sale.

The DMRC Arts Initiative committee, headed by Marian Phillips , Edie Benner,

Sue Steinberg , Pat Frost, Carrie Frost, and Kate Cunningham planned, organized and initiated the shop. A gala Grand Opening opened our operations and drew the attention of more artists and the community. Often heard was the statement “I didn’t know that Mantua could do this.”

The shop is now closed, but remained open during the holiday season. A group of artists involved are presently planning to form an Arts Co-operative. DMRC will support them.

MANTUA REVITALIZATION CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMUNITY



DMRC DONATES BENCH

Also donated to the Village of Mantua by DMRC this year is this park bench.

DMRC hopes to garner donations in order to purchase new benches to replace the old cement benches that now are scattered throughout the village. Benches cost \$1800. Anyone interested in purchasing a bench in someone’s honor or in making a donation for a bench should contact DMRC.

POTATO FESTIVAL

Mantua Revitalization, fully supportive of last year’s plan to bring life back to the Potato Festival, voted to make a monetary contribution towards the building of the World’s Largest Pierogi.



SMALL BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT FUND

Twice yearly the DMRC Small Business Encouragement Fund opens the application process to Downtown Village business owners for a small \$250 grant that can be used to enhance their business. This fall Pam Holiday and Doug Hershman from Breakaway Excursions were awarded the grant at Arts and Ales on November 18.



DMRC donated new red Happy Holidays banners to the Village of Mantua for the 2017 Holiday season.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS

DMRC purchased two pedestrian crossing signs as donations to the Mantua Village Police Department. They were Officially presented to the Village Council on January 16. These pedestrian signs are movable and will be used for special events in the Village.



QUILTS IN THE VILLAGE



Quilts in the Village, DMRC's very successful Quilt Show of 2016 unfortunately was cancelled last September.

It is now rescheduled. Mark your calendars for May 5, 2018 at the historic Hilltop Christian Church.

Joy Krushinski, *Quilts in the Village* Chairperson, says that she believes spring is an ideal time to celebrate the art of quilts.

In 2016, the Mantua Village Garden Club's High Tea, so delightfully envisioned, reminded us of gentler days of Ladies' Teas. They have agreed to once again offer to complement *Quilts in the Village* with tea, finger sandwiches and amazing cookies.

QUILTS IN THE VILLAGE & HIGH TEA
May 5, 2017
10 -5
Hilltop Christian Church
4572 W. Prospect Street
Mantua Village

For more information see **QUILTS IN THE VILLAGE** on our website under Events.

Reverse Raffle 2018

Plan on attending the **2018 Reverse Raffle** on April 7, 2018 at the Sentinel Party Center, K of C Hall, at Mantua Corners. Tickets are \$100 per couple and will go on sale in February. Contact any DMRC member to obtain your ticket or email /call us. 330-274-4040 DMRCemail@gmail.com

FRIENDS

Thank you **FRIENDS** for your on-going support.

Your donations provide a basis of funds for us to use to further the revitalization of the Village of Mantua.

You should have received our request asking you to donate for 2018 and if you haven't already, please consider becoming a **FRIEND** in 2018.

Contact **DMRC** at 330 274 4141 or at our email, dmrceail@gmail.com if you need another form.

DOWNTOWN MANTUA REVITALIZATION OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Edie Benner—President

Tom Tubalkain—Vice President

Sue Steinberg—Secretary

Jodi Fiala — Treasurer

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DMRC 2018 CALENDARS
ON SALE NOW
\$10

Featuring winning photos of Mantua Village
Calendars may be purchased at
Jake's Market
Jake's Restaurant
Advanced Rehab
Breakaway Excursions

FRIENDS' PERK

Cut out the **FRIENDS' PERK** Coupon for one free entry to *Quilts in the Village* At the Hilltop Christian Church On May 5, 2018 from 10 AM to 5PM.

This coupon may be exchanged for one free entry ticket to the **DOWNTOWN MANTUA REVITALIZATION** **QUILTS IN THE VILLAGE** May 5, 2018 Hilltop Christian Church Mantua Village