

Downtown thoughts sought to revitalize

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MARTINSVILLE

The quest for information to develop plans for revitalization of downtown Martinsville will continue at 6 p.m. Monday at the Art Sanctuary, 190 N. Sycamore St.

While previous meetings have been designed for the steering committee, including Rediscover Historic Martinsville members, and elected officials to coordinate plans and involve downtown building owners, this gathering is designed to hear comments from the general public and answer questions. The invitation to the general public includes people not living, working or with a business downtown.

Representatives of the architectural firm of Odle McGuire Shook Corp., which has been hired for the study, and a firm that is preparing a market research study also are slated to be present.

Joanne Stuttgen, a RHM member and president of the Morgan County Historic Preservation Society, said 20 to 25 downtown buildings owners have been involved in the planning process. Those property owners who agreed to participate will be eligible to receive financial assistance for facade improvements from A pool of money as large as \$500,000 that the city may seek after the study is completed.

The city is using a \$50,000 grant from the state Office of Community and Rural Affairs plus local funds to prepare a plan for the revitalization of the downtown area. For more information, contact Sharyn Kersey in the mayor's office at 765-349-4928 or call Joanne Stuttgen at 765-349-1537.

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