

Progress Report on the Morganza Revitalization Project

The Morganza Revitalization movement is picking up momentum and moving in the right direction. Thursday, May 31, 2018, a meeting was held at St. Ann's CCD building for locals to share ideas on how to highlight Morganza's assets. It was a motivated group consisting of people who not only voiced their ideas, but also committed to take active roles. Carla Rivet, Barbara Raub, Rhonda Adams, Lorie Grezaffi and Angie Ramagos were first time attenders of a revitalization meeting who came with wonderful ideas. Pretty soon supporters of this movement will begin knocking on doors, explaining their goals for the community. Stacy Gabor and Angie Ramagos showed an interest in getting the word out and shaking the hands of their fellow neighbors.

In addition to raising awareness, the group also plans to kick off a few fundraisers this fall to raise money that will go directly back in to the town. Lorie Grezaffi proposed the idea of a Morganza t-shirt sale as well as a pewter ornament sale with beloved Morganza buildings on them. If you are an artist, please consider submitting a design for the t-shirt. A raffle and BBQ plate lunch fundraiser will be held in August. The group would like to use this opportunity to graciously ask if you would consider making a donation or contacting a local business for the donation of an item that can be raffled off. **Donations are needed by July 1, 2018.** For more information, please contact the group via their email address: themorganzaproject@gmail.com.

One of the group's first restoration projects will be to help Donnie Derbes, Jr. restore and reopen the historic malt shop in town. Not only has over \$500 been donated for this project, but also labor and materials have been donated. An artist in Baton Rouge saw a social media post about the restoration of the malt shop and offered to use his talent to make a nostalgic sign for the malt shop. It is very encouraging to see people coming together to help bring Morganza back to life! The group is planning a work day at the malt shop later this summer to paint and plant landscaping.