



March 16, 2007

Photo Caption: Bambi Puckett, left, and Leah Woodard, right, are the co-chairs of West Carrollton's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

News Release

FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BENEFIT FROM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio - What will West Carrollton look like in 50 years?

The 37-member Comprehensive Plan steering committee met for the first time on March 7 to start planning for the future of West Carrollton. The group is composed of local residents, business owners and neighboring community officials.

Bambi Puckett, executive director of the West Carrollton YMCA, and Leah Woodard, a West Carrollton resident, agreed to co-chair the steering committee. "I believe West Carrollton has a lot of hidden potential," Woodard said. "I have a vested interest in doing what I can to keep the community vibrant for another 100 years," she said.

Puckett, who is also the 2006 president of the Rotary club, said the strategic planning process keeps people working in the same direction and has been helpful to the YMCA. "I believe strongly in lively, strategic long-range planning," Puckett said.

Much of the discussion during the first meeting focused on the possibilities for future development along the river, the importance of a successful school district as well as the need for maintaining the small-town, old-downtown charm and friendly neighborhood feel.

During the several months, citizens will be asked to participate in brainstorming sessions and small-group meetings on topics such as community service, economic development, infrastructure and environment in order to help write reports and plan action steps. The city hopes to have a final version of the comprehensive plan in 12 to 18 months.

"When there is a shared vision in the city, great things can happen," said Tracy Williams, city manager.

Bill Grunkemeyer, co-leader of the Sustainable Development Center at the Ohio State University Extension office will work with Greg Gaines, city planning director, to coordinate the city's comprehensive plan process.

The Sustainable Development Center has worked with communities in Salem, Kent and Carrollton County, Ohio, to help develop "sustainable" comprehensive plans.

According to Grunkemeyer, a sustainable plan is different than other types of strategic planning. “It recognizes a shared community ethos, provides guidance to elected officials and balances social, economic and environmental interests.”

For more information about the City of West Carrollton’s comprehensive plan, call the city’s planning and development office at (937) 859-5783.

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For media interviews, contact **Greg Gaines** at (937) 859-5841 or **Tracy Williams** at (937) 859-5183. Call **Bill Grunkemeyer** at the Sustainable Development Center at (330) 263-3799 ext. 2669.