

## Tremont residents speak up

### Meetings to gather public input start tonight

Thursday, February 8, 2007

**BY KAREN MCDONALD**

OF THE JOURNAL STAR

**TREMONT** - Residents have a chance to share their thoughts on challenges the village faces and opportunities to develop a plan for the future.

The Tremont Winning Communities planning committee will host a series of public meetings, starting tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the high school library, to gather input for the planning process. The group will discuss village strengths and areas that need improvement.

"We're hopeful that we get a good turnout (at the community meetings) because the involvement of as many people as possible will help us better define the direction of the community," said committee co-chairman Brock Butts. "It's already a strong community, but we'd like to continue to keep it strong and make it stronger."

The Tremont Winning Communities "action plan" will outline goals and objectives for issues such as streets, services, schools, business and more, similar to a mapping process many other communities already have undergone. It will include a timetable and list of costs and resources needed.

Butts said the time is right because numerous businesses, organizations, churches and even taxing bodies, including the park district, Fire Department and Village Board, want to be involved. Beyond that, the school district is expanding and two new subdivisions are planned.

"It's not like we haven't tried some of these types of things in the past, we just didn't have support from as many organizations as we do now," said Butts, the longtime former Tremont School District 702 superintendent. "The time is right. We're a community that is in need of developing a long-term plan."

A community-planning consulting company, Winning Communities Inc., will facilitate the process and help develop the plan. Area businesses and organizations donated money to support the effort.

Other community-wide planning meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22, March 8 and March 22 at the high school library. To confirm attendance, call Chris Workman at 925-3779.

Karen McDonald can be reached at 346-5300 or [kmcdonald@pjstar.com](mailto:kmcdonald@pjstar.com).

---