

## Community meeting set for Rush County 'vision' process

### Republican Staff Report

May 8, 2006

A community meeting for the 4Community planning process has been set for the public to participate in the creation of a Vision/Action Plan for the Rush County community.

A retreat format will be used beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Rush County Schools administrative offices, 330 W. Eighth Street, Rushville. The meeting is expected to conclude at 8:30 p.m.

The Rush County United Fund is leading the process, along with these partners who make up the Steering Committee: the City of Rushville, Rush County, the Rush County Economic and Community Development Corporation, the Rush County Chamber of Commerce, the Rush County Community Foundation and Rush Memorial Hospital.

The Rush County Leadership Academy, class of 2006, is providing research and survey assistance. They have completed a preliminary analysis of opinions and have categorized them in nine different goal areas. They also have done a review of existing plans and surveys that are contained in the report that will be given to the public at the meeting.

People in attendance will be asked to join one of the groups that have been established as a result of responses from previous community surveys stating their ideas of the issues of the community.

The goal areas are: Arts, Recreation and Leisure, Community Development, Countywide Communications and Coordination, Economic Development, Image and Beautification, Infrastructure, Lifelong Learning, Social Services and Technology.

Pam Leisure, executive director of the Rush County United Fund, encouraged as many people as possible to attend.

"We are looking for ideas to help build an even greater community. We know that the future offers many challenges, and we, as citizens, need to be creative on meeting those challenges," she said.

Participants will help develop a vision of the future, goals and objectives to attain it and an action plan for implementation.

A draft of the results of the ideas from the previous surveys and plans that have been developed over the last three months will be shared and additional input sought about the assets, the challenges and the opportunities for Rush County.

There will be follow-up action planning team meetings to establish details of how things get accomplished, who is responsible and a timetable for action and resources needed.

The date for completion is the end of June for the whole plan. The Steering Committee will then submit an implementation grant for funding for one or more related projects to the Indiana Association of United Ways.

Jim Dittoe of Winning Communities, Inc. ([www.winningcommunities.com](http://www.winningcommunities.com)) has been facilitating the process.