

TOWN OF MERRIMAC

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News Release

For Immediate Release:

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Town to Conduct Open House for Public Comment on Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Merrimac is hosting an Open House to get public input on the Town's Draft Comprehensive Plan. The Town Planning and Zoning Commission have been dedicatedly working on the Plan since November 2003. The Town's Comprehensive Plan is intended to help guide the growth, development and preservation of the Town of Merrimac for the next 20 to 25 years. The Forum will take place on Wednesday, October 20th, from 5:00 until 7:00 at the Town Hall, located on STH 113.

The Open House is an opportunity for residents to learn about the Comprehensive Plan and the vision it lays out for the Town of Merrimac. The Plan provides goals, policies and recommendations on each of the nine elements required by the State Comprehensive Planning Legislation including agriculture, natural and cultural resources; land use; housing; economic development; transportation; and intergovernmental cooperation. Plan consultants from Vandewalle & Associates will give a brief presentation of the highlights of the Plan, including a presentation of the Planned Land Use map. There will also be exhibits from the Plan on display. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of Plan Commission members, and the Town Planners.

The Open House is one of the final steps to the Town's comprehensive planning process. The Town distributed a survey to all landowners in the Town to better understand the public's views on future growth and development in Merrimac. This effort resulted in an excellent response rate of over 30 percent and demonstrated public desire for preservation of the Town's natural resources and protection of water quality, woodlands, and natural areas. The Town also held a Vision Forum in March 2004. This interactive public workshop helped to shape the goals, policies, and recommendations of the Plan. The plan adoption process is scheduled for the end of the year, with a public hearing before the Plan Commission and Town Board tentatively scheduled for early December.

Additional information about the Town of Merrimac's effort to update its Comprehensive Plan and conduct this Open House is available. Please direct calls to Mike Slavney or Dana Jensen, Vandewalle & Associates at (608) 255-3988; or Judy Ashford, Town of Merrimac at (608) 493-2588.

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