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Shelby residents invited to offer input at master plan open house

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SHELBY TOWNSHIP — From 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, the Shelby Township Planning Commission invites the public to drop in at its master plan open house at the township municipal building, located at 52700 Van Dyke Ave., south of 24 Mile Road.

Planning Director Glenn Wynn said residents can expect some interactive stations, background information on the community's characteristics, and the opportunity to sit down and talk to Planning Commission members, staff and consultants in a structured but informal way.

The purpose of a master plan is to provide a long-term vision for the community. The target date to implement the master plan update is spring 2016, Wynn said.

So far, the township has put out surveys for residents and business owners in the community.

Wynn said 576 residents submitted surveys, which sought to glean information such as demo-

graphics, housing, transportation, where people shop and what entertainment activities they prefer. With that information, the township can address demands that it hasn't been reaching.

The business survey, he said, solicited information from business owners about site selection, business promotion, employment, competition and obstacles to growth to understand what the township can do to make a better business environment.

LSL Planning, hired by the township to help with the master plan update, also met one-on-one with 14 local developers, architects and engineers to discover what they are looking for in a community, Wynn said.

"We are looking ahead in the next 20 years for a pattern of growth, new opportunities for development and redevelopment," Wynn said. "We're largely developed, but that doesn't mean our character can't evolve and be defined and change more."

Wynn said he has been involved with multiple planning

studies, including some predating the Internet, and that the 2015 visioning process has been the most interactive and exciting so far.

"Every comment is meaningful," he said.

Wynn said providing layers of options to add input has aided tremendously in increasing engagement, from the surveys to the public open house.

"The master plan update is a natural extension of our annual community visioning process to set the year's priorities for local government," Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. "Where the vision sessions give us a to-do list for the next calendar year, the master plan process will shape how we seek to develop different portions of our township's infrastructure and economy."

At press time, a date for the top 10 visioning session for the public had not yet been set. For more information about the master plan update, call the Planning Department at (586) 726-7243 or email wynnng@shelbytwp.org.

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