

**Local News**

# Milford group continues to examine growth options

By WENDY DAVIS Reporter

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Last Wednesday the Milford Community Improvement Association had a meeting to further discuss growth of the town.

The group has begun dividing into breakout groups, said Barb Davis, who is with the improvement association.

"We've identified goal areas as attitude/outlook on life, community development, economic development, infrastructure, life-long learning and social sciences," she said.

The group continues to have a good turn out of "very dedicated, very involved" individuals, said Davis.

She said Jim Dittoe, president and community coach with Winning Communities Inc., has prepared a preliminary vision and action plan for Milford.

The vision, he said, begins with community wide meetings for developing ideas and substance to further a plan. In this a survey has been sent out to get the people of Milford's opinions regarding challenges and opportunities faced as individuals and as a community. This will all be analyzed in group sessions at the community meetings. Final action will take place after a consultation with the village's leaders.

"The mission of Winning Communities is to improve the quality of life in Milford, to increase the pride of current residents and to entice new people and businesses to live and work here," said Dittoe.

The group has identified opportunities in developing the east side of town, new school, wind farm revenue, assisted living development, expanding recreational opportunities, retaining the youth as adults, developing co-ops in businesses and making Chicago Street (Route 1) more attractive, said Dittoe.

Ideas the community has presented to the group have included encouraging yard of the month awards to beautify the village, replacing old or outdated signs throughout the community, developing a community website and developing an elderly care program.

She said Dittoe encourages setting up timetables for ideas to take action.

"Relationships of the citizens and the groups they represent have built a solid foundation upon which the action dialogue must continue," said Dittoe. "The values, ideals and priorities must continue."

Davis said, "The meetings are going very well," but said it takes more than just a few people to make change.