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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TO WEIGH IN ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County young professionals are invited to participate in an interactive discussion of the county's comprehensive plan March 27 at the State Theatre Center for the Arts in Uniontown.

Hosted by the Fayette Chamber of Commerce and Mackin Engineering, the free event begins at 5 p.m. with refreshments and networking, followed by the discussion.

Mackin Engineering Planning Services Manager Brandi Rosselli said Fayette County is required to update its comprehensive plan every 10 years, and the latest update is still in the beginning stages of what she expects will be a year-long process.

"We really wanted to do this process to update the county's key priorities and goals for the next decade, so what we have now is kind of a blueprint plan or guiding document to outline the vision for the county's future," Rosselli said. "We're working with the county commissioners and planning office to facilitate the project for them."

Rosselli said Mackin is kicking things off with public outreach meetings, including several focus groups targeting young professionals and other stakeholders.

"It's very important that we gather public input for the plan, especially young professionals, because they're hopefully the county's future residents, employees and business owners," she said. "Often, the needs of young people are very different than older generations, and sometimes their voices are not heard.

"Maybe they feel they don't have anything important to say or haven't been around long enough to share their opinions, but it's actually the exact opposite. We really do need to hear from all types of people, because to be sustainable, we need to attract other young people to live and work in Fayette."

Rosselli said she's looking forward to meeting the county's young professionals to learn about their priorities for the future.

"I'm excited to hear what they have to say and see how it all fits into our process," she said.



Fayette Chamber Executive Director Muriel Nuttall said the county's young professional community has a "true desire to see things grow."

"Fayette County is on the brink of change. There is a movement about that is almost palpable when I'm out working with the different groups, organizations and individuals who are collaborating to see positive growth and development in the area," Nuttall said. "Whether the discussion is about business or quality of life, we are at a point where we need to understand our past, but envision a stronger, more vital future."

"These are our future leaders and parents of the future generation. We want them to stay here in Fayette, and many of them have a strong desire to do so, but they acknowledge that there are things that need to be different."

Fayette County Commissioner Vincent Vicites said he has always believed in getting young people involved in county government and other happenings.

"It is great to see that the (Fayette) Chamber is organizing an event that will have a forum to share the ideas and any concerns our young professionals have about the future of our county and our comprehensive plan," Vicites said.

Fayette County Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink said that reviewing and updating the county's comprehensive plan is not only a requirement, but "it is in the best interest of all residents because future development is governed by the plan."

"Young professionals are part of Fayette's future and having their input in how Fayette County evolves is vital, because it is their future," Zimmerlink said. "We are reaching out to not only the young professionals, but all of our residents."

Nuttall said next week's opportunity to bring young professionals together for an interactive conversation about what Fayette County can be is an exciting part of building the new comprehensive plan.

"Their opinions are not only welcome, but vital to framing our future for growth," she said.

To RSVP for next week's young professionals meeting, email info@fayettechamber.com or call 724-437-4571. For more information, visit www.fayettechamber.com or www.mackinengineering.com.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.info.

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