

Forum members,

As a follow up to our past Forum discussions, Westmoreland County has embarked on developing its new county-wide Comprehensive Plan. The primary objective of any plan is to develop long-term strategies for land use, transportation, housing, economic development, agriculture, recreation, etc... to ensure that county policies, goals and action steps are aligned with its' resident's priorities. Although most comprehensive plans are developed with good intentions, many sit on a shelf and collect dust. This is an issue.

Westmoreland is taking a different approach. We've recognized our single largest challenge now and in the future is our changing demographic both in terms of declining numbers and an aging workforce. This demographic challenge is the center point of our focus moving forward and policies, goals and action steps will be geared towards solving that specific issue.

Now that the county is in the plan's community outreach and engagement phase, we need your help getting the word out. I'm also encouraging you to visit some key sites associated with the plan and share them on your website:

- Reimagining Our Westmoreland website: <http://www.hlplanning.com/portals/westmoreland/>
There you'll see resident and business surveys. Completion of the surveys will play a vital role in this process. Please take the survey and pass along the information to your residents and business owners.
- Reimagining Our Westmoreland Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/Reimagining-Our-Westmoreland-279601552426555/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf
 - Please share or post on your own FB page to get your friends and family engaged.
- On YouTube there is a brief video framing the issues facing the county <https://youtu.be/gACvJoocrfQ>

Here is what I need from each of you.... We need to access as many residents and families as possible to take the "resident" survey to ensure we have captured their thoughts to prepare the *Plan* for Westmoreland's future. It is my hope that you would invite your teachers, administrative staff and parents to log on and take the survey. Additionally, we are looking for guidance to create forums whereby some of your junior/senior students get involved and provide feedback on what kind of county they would like to live, work and play as they are our future residents, labor force, tax payers and leaders. We can assist with this particular element but need your guidance on how we can get students involvement. The public engagement process runs through the end of March so are asking for your assistance now. And if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If you are supportive of developing student forums, just let me know and we can get the ball rolling.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

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