



Mercer County: Better Together

Success through collaboration.

#MCBT

Sherrard Residents Empowered to Own Their Future

Mercer County, IL – February 20th, 2017 – Throughout its first year Mercer County: Better Together has worked to understand who county residents are, hear their unique stories and learn why they have chosen Mercer County as their home. This effort continues with a series of community forums, one held in each of Mercer County's eleven population centers.

The strategic planning process used by Mercer County: Better Together (MCBT), titled *Community Heart & Soul*, has successfully revolutionized decision making in small, rural communities across the United States. *Community Heart & Soul* is built around three main principles –

- Involve everyone.
- Focus on what matters.
- Play the long game.

The *Community Heart & Soul* process reaches out in a variety of ways to meet people not typically involved in community development. By getting all community voices “to the table”, decision makers are more educated on the public's needs when they begin the project prioritization phase. Understanding what projects Mercer County residents would most benefit from creates a culture of vitality and sustainability.

Sherrard area residents are invited to bring their values, hopes, ideas and concerns about their community to the MCBT forum at 6pm on Thursday, February 23rd at the Sherrard Fire Station. Led by local residents, the event will focus on small group conversation and give Sherrard area citizens the opportunity to discuss what truly matters to them in their community.

For more information on this forum or the Mercer County: Better Together initiative, contact Project Coordinator Kyle McEwen.

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