

# Planning Commission Hosts Community Vision Session

**July 11, 2005.** The Town of Buchanan Planning Commission hosted a visioning session this evening as part of its effort to develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Buchanan. This is the second meeting in the 20-month planning process.

At the meeting, Amy Emery and Jeff Sanders from OMNNI Associates facilitated the discussion. To begin, Ms. Emery reviewed the results of the Value and SWOT Exercises conducted at the Kick-Off Meeting in May. A copy of DRAFT Chapter 1, 2 and 3 are posted to this web site. These chapters include the same results reviewed during the meeting. Specifically, these chapters include a compiled list of all of the values, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats identified by residents at the May Kick-Off Meeting.

Next, participants engaged in a visioning exercise by providing ideas about what they would *like to see* in the Town (or would not like to see) in the year 2025. This exercise is important for establishing visions for the plan. Ultimately, a vision statement will be created for each of the nine required plan elements (e.g. issues and opportunities, housing, transportation, utilities & community facilities, agricultural & natural resources, intergovernmental cooperation, economic development, land use and implementation).

To help facilitate discussion, OMNNI provided a series of partial statements for residents to try to complete. These statements included:

- *In the Year 2025, natural and cultural resources protected in the Town included....*
- *In the Year 2025, recreational opportunities in the Town include ...*
- *In the Year 2025, Buchanan Residents take pride in ....*

All ideas expressed by participants were recorded by OMNNI on a wall graphic. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants were given 3 dots to stick next to the top three priorities on the wall graphic. This portion of the exercise helps in ranking ideas and establishing a direction for planning. Pictures of the wall graphic are provided on this page, as well as in Chapter 2. The information from the wall graphic (including the priorities identified) will be used to prepare DRAFT vision statements for each of the nine (9) plan elements. These draft vision statement will be reviewed and finalized by the plan commission with public input over the next several months.