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## Poll

A flying Jenny with the usual test warbler hit the city, according to the March 23, 1906 Early County News. Have any idea what that is? If yes please comment.

- Yes
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## Front Page

### A vision for Early County's future...



Early County now knows what a "charrette" is, and most now know that Early County's future can be bright if they keep the vision.

Creating that vision was a vision in itself for Charles Barton Rice, whose family foundation made the charrette possible.

"I once had a vision," Rice stated at a meeting Thursday. "I was able to make that vision come true."

"This vision is a tool for the community to work with," emphasized charrette director Bill Dennis, noting that some may consider the vision for Early County a pie-in-the sky. "The worst possible thing you can do is set your vision too low, and not reach it."

Over a hundred people showed up in the Early County courtroom Mother's Day to see the closing presentation by the PlaceMakers team which worked with people in the community to develop a plan to spark and guide growth in Early County over the next 50 years.

"This is about ideas that can enhance your quality of life," said Nathan Norris, Principal with PlaceMakers, in welcoming the crowd. "We're creating a plan that tells you what you need to do and how to go about doing it. But the doing is up to you. You're the ones that will make this a reality, should you choose to do so."

According to Dennis, the source of Early County's greatest value is its rural character. "The protection of this character is paramount if the community is to increase its economic viability moving forward."

"Let's not junk it up," he mentioned lightly. "Otherwise, you'll lose your greatest asset."

PlaceMaker's plan is centered on directing future growth to those areas where it's most appropriate. Those places include current towns, but could also include a new town built on a village model within a natural landscape like the place shown by Dennis dubbed New Hilton.

New Hilton could provide a mix of primary and secondary residences, and appeal to both retirees and families through proximity to the river, golf, hunting and other natural recreational pursuits.

The plan also incorporates mixed-use neighborhoods which would include small-scale shops or places to work, allowing people greater choice and flexibility. For example, the plan shows that shops on the Court Square could be renovated to include second story residences, offices or both.

"Ultimately," said Dennis, "it just makes a place more satisfying and interesting." "So what comes next?"

asked Norris, "You all have amazed us with your ideas and we've responded with all kinds of plans. Let us get a few hours sleep and then we'll start putting together the reports that will guide EC2055 for the next 50 years."

Covering the entire county, with individual recommendations for each town, the finalized plan will examine land use, community design, rural preservation, growth, and economic and community development.

It is expected to be completed within six weeks. It will be available in downloadable files at [www.earlycounty2055.com](http://www.earlycounty2055.com).

May 17, 2006

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Over 200 people crowded into the Early County courtroom for Sunday's presentation of the vision developed for the county during the PlaceMaker's week long "charrette" planning process.

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