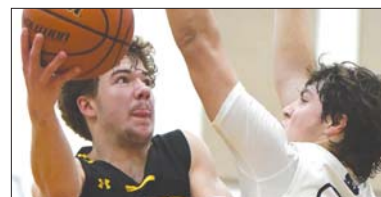




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## CMAP plans for public presentation Dec. 12

Results of research into comprehensive plan to be delivered to City Council

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

Dozens of Braidwood residents waited in line and slowly filed into the Fossil Ridge Public Library's large meeting room on Nov. 30, looking for information on the city's plan to create a new comprehensive plan.

In 2022, city officials announced that they had been awarded technical assistance from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to create the plan.

A comprehensive plan serves as a road map for future planning and development. The priorities of the plan include focusing on targeted business development, strengthening transportation, maintaining the city's integrity as a small town, diversifying housing choices, and preserving and maintaining natural areas.

The final plan would include the entirety of the city limits, as well as areas within 1.5 miles of the corporate boundary.

Comprehensive plans are designed to

encapsulate a 10-year vision for a community. Braidwood's most recent plan was developed in 2004.

While officials announced the agreement with CMAP in 2022, held a public meeting that same year, and has had a website available for residents to weigh in, the announcement of last week's open house event at the library left some people questioning the proposal.

Social media sites were busy prior to the meeting with residents questioning the need and motive for such a plan, which is standard in most municipalities.

During the open house, residents were able to view the results of 20 months of research conducted by CMAP to gauge the city's current existing conditions, including housing, business, infrastructure, land use, and capital improvements.

Residents were asked to leave their opinions on potential development plans, such as what types of housing they'd like to see built in Braidwood, what businesses and restaurants they wish would build in the city, and which roads and walkways need to be addressed for safety.

CMAP will take these final suggestions and

SEE CMAP, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

BRAIDWOOD CITY ADMINISTRATOR Tony Altieri (right) answers questions on efforts thus far to create a new comprehensive plan for the city during a town hall meeting held on Nov. 30 at Fossil Ridge Public Library.

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!



Photos by Marney Simon

HE'S BACK! Santa made his return to Braidwood during this year's holiday parade, which rolled down Main Street on Saturday, Dec. 2. The Jolly Old Elf spent time with children after the parade at Braidwood Fire Station 1. The theme of this year's parade was "ice castles" and the grand marshals/official Christmas Tree lighters were this year's RCMS State Finalist Baseball team. See photos from this year's parade and Christmas Tree lighting on page 3 of this edition.

## E-learning over snow days again the plan

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

Winter weather might keep kids out of the classroom when heavy storms blow in this season. But it won't stop the learning process.

Reed-Custer School District Superintendent Mark Mitchell told members of the

Board of Education on Nov. 15 that the district will continue to utilize e-learning days over snow days or emergency days this year, whenever possible.

Using those days means students will log in to their classes online, rather than have the day off and making it

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 2

## Final town hall explores role of city administrator

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

The city of Braidwood held the last of three town hall style meetings scheduled for this year last week. The final meeting attracted fewer than 20 residents asking some questions about how the city government is run.

At the top of the list and the issue that kicked off the meetings last summer: The

duties of city administrator Tony Altieri.

Commissioner Dale Walsh scheduled the town hall sessions in July, September and November after the election and then quickly the resigna-

SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 2



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