

# Economic Development Plan for Sheridan County ready to go public

The Strategic Plan for Economic Development in Sheridan County is ready to go public.

After months of meetings, looking at the county's strengths and challenges, considering how the strengths can be capitalized upon and the challenges overcome, Forward Sheridan and the Economic Development Strategic Planning Task Force created the draft of the Strategic plan to help Forward Sheridan achieve its goal:

To build on the foundations that have been laid in the past and revise appropriate goals and strategies to meet the economic development challenges that will confront Sheridan County's businesses and residents during the next five years.

Now that plan is ready for your review — you, the county's residents.

The main focus is on the challenges that could be barriers to a healthy economy — issues ranging from lack of an available work force to lack of child care and housing to substance abuse in the workplace.

Members of the Strategic Planning

Task Force — more than 20 county residents from employees to employers, retirees to elected officials, all of them volunteers — analyzed each challenge during their series of weekly meetings.

That analysis included why an issue is a challenge and how it could be minimized or neutralized. How, for example, can you attract more workers into the community? How can you create more child-care facilities?

How can you improve air service in the community? How can the city and county have consistent building codes, uniform subdivision codes, coordinated comprehensive plans, and clear and mutually acceptable guidelines for growth?

The result is a plan that, rather than

## A Community Affair

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*Planning for Sheridan's economic development*



merely outlining the problems — a “wish list” of what we could do better — makes specific recommendations.

It includes establishing committees to see that those recommendations are carried forward, that there is follow-through and follow-up.

This is not a plan that will be left gathering dust on a shelf. Members of the Strategic Planning Task Force have committed to continue service as monitors to see that the plan is not only adopted, but also implemented by Forward Sheridan.

But before a final plan is adopted, another element is needed: your input. Forward Sheridan wants to take the draft plan on a “road trip” through the community.

We will present it to the city and

county officials and boards, of course, but we want to take it as well to your clubs and organizations, your school districts, your businesses, your neighborhoods.

We want as many Sheridan County residents as possible to see the plan, to review it, to question and comment on it. We are inviting you to invite us to your next meeting.

If you would like to learn more about the plan, if you want others in your business or organization to learn more and to have a say in the final plan for Sheridan County's economic future, call us at Forward Sheridan, 673-8004.

We want to talk with you. Be involved. It is your community!

*“A Community Affair” is a weekly column from citizens who support Forward Sheridan, a professional business organization of invested partners whose purpose is to develop and maintain a sound economy in Sheridan County. Philippe Chino is president/CEO of Forward Sheridan.*