

HYPE for economic, community development

Sheridan has been buzzing with vigor due to area initiatives within the business community.

Adding to this buzz is HYPE (Helping Young Professionals Engage), a newly formed organization whose mission is to recruit and retain young workers and their families to the Sheridan area by enhancing and promoting our local community as a destination to live, work and play.

You may have heard about this group on the radio, on the streets, or attended our kickoff social event in early August. We've had a strong launch and are actively gaining more momentum.

Forward Sheridan, along with the community, identified 10 challenges that face our community during the creation of the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

One of the 10 challenges that need to be addressed in the next five years includes Sheridan's shortage of jobs with careers (to attract young professionals). HYPE is one of the many task forces formed from the Strategic Plan and addresses this very issue.

HYPE is accepting this challenge head-on with a bold plan of action. Five execution teams have been organized, and each is keen on making Sheridan more attractive not only for the young work force, but for the general community as well.

The teams and their initiatives are as follows:

Welcome Team

This team is dedicated to welcoming new arrivals into our Sheridan community

by introducing them to local activities and events.

The point of this is to make these folks feel excited

and motivated to join our community.

If your business is interviewing or has recently hired any out-of-town candidates who would like to be welcomed to the community, please contact Liz Dearcorn at liz@forwardsheridan.com.

Restaurant Recruitment Team

Many Sheridan citizens would like an increased number of restaurants and increased variety for dining-out options.

This team's goal is to assist Forward Sheridan and the Downtown Sheridan Association to recruit more restaurants to the Sheridan area through research in the community and outreach.

Outdoor Recreation Team

This team is going to organize outdoor recreational events and promote the outdoor recreational events of others. It will also strive to maintain existing resources and to further develop and support existing facilities for recreation.



Liz Dearcorn

A Community Affair

Planning for Sheridan's economic development



Elizabeth Wood

Community Enhancements Team

This group strives to better enhance the Sheridan community through political means to gain enhancements that will benefit everyone.

So far this group has teamed up with the city of Sheridan to refurbish the sand volleyball courts at Thorne-Rider Park and is currently supporting the city to create a disk golf course at a local park.

Future goals include promoting increased outdoor seating for restaurants and bars in the downtown, increasing volunteerism for community events, installing new "Welcome to Sheridan" signs on every entry way into Sheridan, and landscaping the commercial strip along Coffeen Avenue with trees and other vegetation.

Music and Events Team

Many young workers have complained that there is a lack of activities in which they can participate after work for entertainment, especially during the winter months.

This group will publicize and support existing live music and events and strive to generate more of these activities in Sheridan. Be listening for the announce-

ment of our fall fundraising event, a 1890s' style authentic barn dance.

Together these teams will be a powerful force in addressing Forward Sheridan's challenge of increasing the number of young workers in town.

HYPE is going to add more vibrancy and lifeblood to our community.

"I have been amazed at how the members of HYPE have been working together in mobilizing the 21-40-year-old community. They are vibrant, full of ideas, organized, and are the future of Sheridan," said Philippe Chino, president and CEO of Forward Sheridan.

If you need help promoting an event, an organization, or cause or would like to receive our electronic newsletter, please contact one of our co-chairs: Liz Dearcorn at liz@forwardsheridan.com or Elizabeth Wood at ewood@city-sheridan-wy.com.

Liz Dearcorn graduated from Rocky Mountain College in Billings with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication. She serves as project coordinator for Forward Sheridan. She is co-chair along with Elizabeth Wood for HYPE and a member of the Sheridan Jaycees.

"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.