

WESTERN CENTRAL CHAPTER *Review*

a publication of the Western Central Chapter of the
American Planning Association

APA

Bozeman's Main Street a Top 10 Great Street for 2012

Bozeman, Mont. – The American Planning Association (APA) today announced the designation of Main Street as one of 10 Great Streets for 2012 under the organization's Great Places in America program. APA Great Places exemplify exceptional character and highlight the role planning and planners play in adding value to communities, including fostering economic growth and jobs.

APA singled out Main Street for its frontier-town charm, concentration of late 19- and early 20th-century buildings, adaptive reuse of historic structures, and diversity of uses. Most of this nine block stretch, which runs from North Broadway Avenue on the

east to North Third Avenue on the west, is part of a 1987 national historic district.

Bozeman Mayor Sean Becker said: "Historic Main Street is Bozeman's gem--certainly one of the State of Montana's last best places. Main Street has been a leader in preservation planning practices since the mid-1980s, a streetscape comprised of preserved historic landmarks and leading examples of innovative infill and redevelopment."

Through Great Places in America, APA recognizes streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces featuring unique and authentic

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photo from: <http://sixyearsater4x8.wordpress.com/>

WCC Executive Board

Address/Email Changes

If your mailing or email address has changed, please contact the American Planning Association at www.planning.org. Log-in on the right- or left-hand column of any APA web page, under the "My APA" heading. Click the "Go to My APA" link, and then click the "Edit" button in the contact information area.

American Planning Association
205 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60601
p: 312.431.9100
f: 312.786.6700
e: membership@planning.org

Newsletter Information

This newsletter is published by the Western Central Chapter of the American Planning Association. Circulation is to the APA members of the Western Central Chapter (WCC). The WCC Executive Committee welcomes submissions of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to both professional and citizen planners. Submissions should be made to the newsletter editor:

Meagan McColloch
City of Cheyenne
Planning & Development
2101 O'Neil Avenue, Room 202
Cheyenne, WY 82001
p: 307.637.6352
c: 720.394.7922
e: meaganmccolloch@gmail.com

2013 WCC Newsletter Schedule
January/February 2013 Issue:
January 2, 2013
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President

Ken Markert, AICP
Community Planning Consultant
MMI Planning
2319 Davidson Avenue
Cody, WY 82414
p: 307.213.0059 (cell)
p: 307.587.4480 (work)
e: markert@mmiplanning.com

Secretary/South Dakota State Director

Dave Mingo, AICP
Community Development Director
City of Yankton
Community Development Department
P.O. Box 176
Yankton, SD 57078
p: 605.668.5252
e: dmingo@cityofyankton.org

Past President

April D. Getchius, AICP
Senior Administrator
Wyoming Department of Health
Aging Division
6101 Yellowstone Rd., Suite 259B
Cheyenne, WY 82001
p: 307.777.8938
e: april.getchius@wyo.gov

Professional Development Director

Vacant

Western Planner Representative

Vacant

Vice-President

Allyson B. Brekke, AICP
Associate Planner/
Neighborhood Coordinator
City of Bozeman
Department of Planning &
Community Development
P.O. Box 1230
Bozeman, MT 59771
p: 406.582.2274
f: 406.582.2263
e: abrekke@bozeman.net

North Dakota State Director

Steve Zimmer
Senior Planner
City of West Fargo
800 4th Ave E Ste 1
West Fargo, ND 58078
p: 701-433-5320
e: steven.zimmer@westfargond.gov

Treasurer/Montana State Director

Jeff Bollman, AICP
Area Planner
Montana DNRC
1371 Rimtop Drive
Billings, MT 59105
p: 406.247.4404
f: 406.247.4410
e: jbollman@mt.gov

Wyoming State Director

Brett Walker, AICP
Senior Planner
City of Cheyenne
2101 O'Neil Avenue, Suite 309
Cheyenne, WY 82001
p: 307.637.6305
e: bwalker@cheyenne city.org

President's Message

by Ken Markert, AICP

“So what does the Western Central Chapter do? To answer that, as a famous line from the film, *All the President's Men* goes, ‘Follow the money.’”

Did you know that most of APA's 47 chapters are for individual states? Our Western Central Chapter is one of only two multi-state chapters, the other being Northern New England. We are one of the smaller chapters in terms of membership—we are about 33rd in category. However, we can boast that we are the second largest chapter in land area, second only to Alaska.

In most states, the chapter is the main planning organization for professional planners. We are different because our four-state organizations, Montana Association of Planners, North Dakota Planning Association, South Dakota Planners Associations, and Wyoming Planning Association, are the more visible organizations, each with their own conferences, legislative committees, awards, programs, websites, and so on. These are the things chapters do in the single-state chapters.

So what does the Western Central Chapter do? To answer that, as a famous line from the film, *All the President's Men* goes, “Follow the money.”

The Chapter has a modest budget of about \$11,000 this year. With that, the Chapter does several things supporting planning in our region. This year, roughly 26% of the budget helps support Western Planner and the WP Conference. We increase our support in years when the conference is held in our four-state region as it is this year in Billings, August 7-10. We also provide a scholarship to help students or other first-time WP Conference attendees.

Another 14% of our budget provides financial support to our four-state planning associations to the tune of \$400 apiece. Professional development claims 18% of the budget for such things as AICP exam preparation programs and fees for being a Certification Maintenance umbrella provider. The umbrella provider designation allows our state organizations to offer CM credits without paying provider fees.

We spend another 9% of our budget on our newsletter and website, two things that APA requires each chapter to maintain. APA also expects all chapter presidents to attend twice-yearly leadership meetings—president's travel costs account for another 20% of the budget.

All of our revenues come from APA member dues and occasional APA grants. About 12% of our budget goes back to APA for administrative expenses. This surcharge is fairly new and amounts to \$5 of the \$25 chapter dues we each pay per year and has caused us to spend reserves in the past few years.

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{President's Message continued from page 3}

Though our budget is small, the Chapter does a lot to support planners and the planning organizations in our four-state region. Beyond the programs and activities mentioned above, the Chapter plays a critical role linking national APA with our members and our four-state planning organizations. That role is a two-way street where our chapter gives APA feedback on APA initiatives that affect our members. We also act as a conduit of information, informing our members of APA initiatives and on-going programs.

Lately, the Chapter's board has provided its opinion on the AICP Tenured Faculty Proposal, which would have

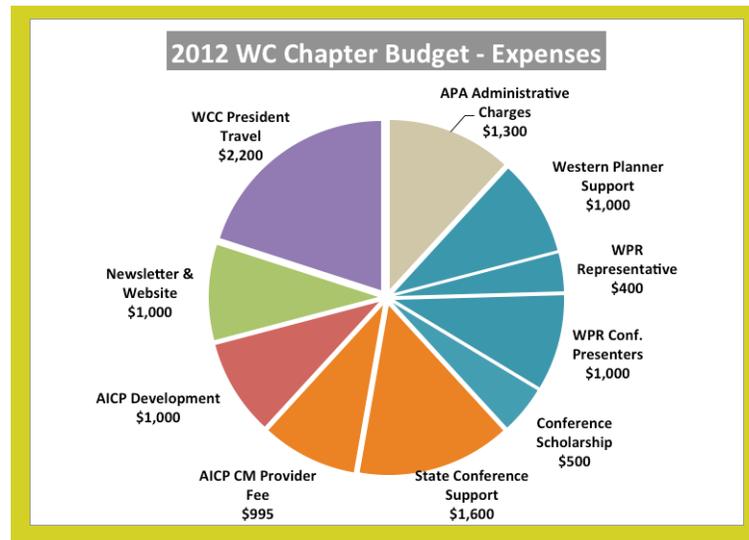
allowed certain tenured professors to obtain AICP certification without taking the AICP exam. This proposal was controversial. Most chapters provided input (usually critical) and the result was that the proposal has been taken off the table for now. There are other APA initiatives that we are following, including one to change our chapter election cycle so it coincides with the APA national election cycle. This is a good idea that should help increase participation in both elections.

There are a few new and exciting things happening at APA:

- Communications Boot Camp, a webinar series that ran this past winter, was essentially a

strategy session for how to counteract a lot of the anti-planning rhetoric out there. Most planners in our region will get a lot out of this series. It is still available free to APA members at <http://www.planning.org/policy/communicationsbootcamp/>.

- APA has a new website—



including an app that allows you to download and access it on your smart phone and iPad. Move over Fruit Ninja.

- The Community Planning Assistance Teams, in which planners from around the nation volunteer their services to help communities with planning problems, is an opportunity for communities lacking planning support. It is also an interesting opportunity for individual planners to do some planning in another part of the country. More on this elsewhere in this newsletter.

- Current APA President Mitchell Silver, AICP, is an articulate and captivating speaker advocating for planners and planning in America. If you haven't seen him

or would like to hear him again, you can do that on the APA website at <http://www.planning.org/multimedia/video/>.

- APA has conducted a survey of the general public nationwide to understand how they view planning in general and the issues we care about. We are just now receiving the results and there is some very encouraging news about the public's support of planning. We hope to have more details for you soon.

Sorry for the stem-winder. But there is a lot going on that you should know about.

Congratulations if you read this far. We hope to have more dispatches for you in the near future.

Ken Markert, AICP
Chapter President

Community Planning Assistance Teams:

A Resource for Communities Facing Rapid Growth

APA's Community Planning Assistance program is seeking more communities to apply for assistance. The program provides planning expertise to selected counties, cities, towns, and non-profit community groups. The program is a potential resource for our communities that are experiencing rapid growth and development related to the oil-and-gas boom in the Bakken and Three Forks shale underlying western North Dakota and Eastern Montana.

The APA established the "Community Planning Team" initiative in 1995. In 2005, program efforts were notably increased after the tragic and devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast Region. APA immediately embarked on a number of initiatives and projects, including Planning Assistance Teams in the affected cities of Henderson Point, Mississippi, and Mandeville and Slidell in Louisiana.

The CPAT program selects community projects through an application process that occurs twice annually. Once a community project is selected, APA staff works with community residents and other stakeholders to select a team of planning experts who volunteer their time to study and engage a community issue and make recommendations. Team members are selected based on the specific expertise needed for the project.

In terms of costs, APA covers the costs of APA staff time, and the team of experts provides its time and expertise pro bono. Community applicants are required to submit a budget demonstrating how all other costs will be covered. Communities are encouraged to seek in-kind services, partnerships, and sponsorships to help cover costs.

The next application period deadline is December 5, 2012. Visit the website for more information (<http://www.planning.org/communityassistance/teams/>) or contact the program at CPAT@planning.org. Also if you know of any communities that may be good candidates for a CPAT, consider contacting Western Central Chapter President Ken Markert (markert@mmiplanning.com) who can help with the application process.

CPAT PROJECTS

Current Projects

Wakulla Gardens, Florida
Dubuque County, Iowa

Completed Projects

February 2012
Seven Ranches Area
Maricopa, Arizona

October 2011
Story County, Iowa

July 2011
Crestdale
Matthews, North Carolina

November 2009
Buzzard Point
Washington, D.C.

McColloch Volunteers as New Newsletter

Editor

by Ken Markert, AICP



The Western Central Chapter is turning a new page with its newsletter as editor Meagan McColloch takes

charge. Meagan replaces long-time editor Allyson Brekke (formerly Bristol). Meagan is an associate planner with the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming. She volunteered to help her profession and to get to know the planners and planning issues of the greater region.

Meagan brings strong credentials to the editor role. She is highly skilled in all aspects of design, owing to her bachelor's degree in fine arts. On top of that, Meagan studied architecture at Washington University in St. Louis and interned in London, England. She has strong planning credentials and has received both a Master of Architecture and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado, Denver.

Watch for changes in the newsletter going forward. With Meagan's help, the Chapter board intends to make the newsletter even more useful and accessible to our members. Chapter members can submit article proposals and announcements to Meagan at meaganmccolloch@gmail.com.

WCC Webcasts

Planning in Dangerous Times

Planners know that planning and zoning discussions at the community level have always had the potential to be contentious. Recently some groups have suggested that local efforts are somehow aligned with an international "conspiracy" known as Agenda 21. While these accusations are without merit, the concerns of these members of the community should be respected and addressed within the context of advancing local planning for sustainability. This webcast will provide planners with tools and techniques for conducting successful public meetings in this new environment.

DATE: Friday, November 2nd.
TIME: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
(11:00 - 12:30 Mountain Time).

Register for the webcast at the Utah APA Chapter website. The session will provide 1.5 CM credits. Questions or comments? Please email Ken Markert, markert@mmiplanning.com

Call for Webcasts!

APA Western Central Chapter is a member of the Planning Webcast Series, a co-op comprised of APA Chapters and Divisions that provides cost-free webcasts to a national audience. The Series is currently soliciting topics for the 2013 calendar year. The Chapter has reserved March 15th, 2013 for our webcast. If you or your organization have a topic that would be of interest to a national audience, please contact Ken Markert, Chapter President, at markert@mmiplanning.com.

{Bozeman, continued from page 1}

characteristics that have evolved from years of thoughtful and deliberate planning by residents, community leaders and planners. The 2012 Great Places illustrate how the foresight of planning fosters tomorrow's communities and they have many of the features Americans say are important to their "ideal community" including locally owned businesses, transit, neighborhood parks, and sidewalks.

Since APA began Great Places in America in 2007, 60 neighborhoods, 60 streets and 50 public spaces have been designated in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Bozeman's Main Street is

APA singled out [Bozeman's] Main Street for its frontier-town charm, concentration of late 19- and early 20th-century buildings, adaptive reuse of historic structures, and diversity of uses.

the second Great Place designation in the State of Montana, joining Red Lodge's Broadway Avenue (recognized in 2010).

"Main Street is Bozeman's time capsule, capturing the city's history from the 1870s when the street was a gateway to Southwestern Montana mining camps to today's role as the economic anchor of Gallatin Valley," said APA Chief Executive Officer Paul Farmer, FAICP. "An intense focus on planning and preservation during the past quarter century has protected Main street's lively and unique character and helped continued the economic and cultural prosperity found here."

Once home to tents and cabins, Main Street today features outstanding examples of commer-

cial Queen Anne, Italianate, Romanesque, Neo-gothic Revival and Art Deco architecture, punctuated by the occasional touch of kitsch – such as the revolving yellow horse, now a Bozeman landmark, atop the marquee of the 1883 Gallatin Masonic Lodge No. 6 (137 East Main). The Bridger Mountain Range forms a picturesque backdrop, enhancing Main Street's beauty.

The evolving streetscape that greeted early rail passengers to Bozeman included the 1911 Northern Pacific Railroad Freight Building constructed on East Main Street. One of the city's finest examples of adaptive reuse, the renovated structure, now home to Montana Ale Works (611 East Main), features an outdoor patio that activates the streetscape and serves as a venue for local events.

Main Street is home to Bozeman's oldest building, the 1872 Cooper & Black Building Armory (118 East Main), which used brick to evoke a sense of permanence in this frontier settlement. The building was home to Walter Cooper's buffalo hide business as well as the city's first library. Bozeman's current public library, which opened in 2006 on East Main Street (626 East Main), is a 53,000 square-foot LEED silver facility.

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WCC scholarship brings planning grad home to Montana



Jeanette Blize has been interested in working on solutions to society's problems ever since high school. A

Missoula native and UM graduate in political science, Ms. Blize worked several years as an organizer in Montana, Colorado, and Pennsylvania for various causes, including clean, affordable energy, clean air and water, affordable healthcare and improving women's access to reproductive health information and services.

Today, Ms. Blize's primary focus is on sustainable community and economic development in Montana. She earned her master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from Temple University's School of Environmental Design in Pennsylvania, with the intention of moving back to Montana in the summer of 2012. Her interest in planning issues took root while living in Denver and further developed while serving for six years as

Chief of Staff to Pennsylvania Rep. Babette Josephs in Center City, Philadelphia. "I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to work side-by-side with an elected official on Philadelphia's urban issues, all while attending planning school part-time at night; it provided the perfect synergy between planning theory and practice. It is so important for planners to understand the political process, the crucial role of effective communication, and the role of community-based decision-making," said Ms. Blize.

Ms. Blize chose her master's program at Temple University's School of Environmental Design for its focus on sustainable development, but found that most of the case studies were based on issues specific to the mid-Atlantic region. Knowing she wanted to work on issues specific to Montana, Jeanette developed a special, two-semester independent study focused on Montana planning issues. She then applied for, and was awarded, a \$500 scholarship from the WCC that enabled her to travel to Montana in the fall of 2010 to conduct personal interviews with 13 professionals working on critical issues concerning energy, transportation and water usage. "I developed

three papers over two semesters: one on wind development in Montana, one on restoring Amtrak service along Montana's southern route (the North Coast Hiawatha), and one on the proliferation of exempt wells. All three were based primarily on the personal dialogues I had with people working directly in the field, and the project could not have been possible without the WCC scholarship."

After ten years of living out of state, Jeanette Blize is pleased to have finally moved her family back to Montana over the summer and plans to develop a career focused on promoting sustainable community and economic development in Montana.

If you'd like to read Jeanette's papers from her study of Montana planning issues, they are available on the WCC website at <http://www.wccapa.org/resources/essays>. Jeanette can also be reached at jblize@gmail.com. To support the APA WCC Student Scholarship Fund, please contact Ken Markert at 307-587-4480 or email markert@mmiplanning.com.

JOB CORNER Looking for a job? Several online planning job listings are free to search. Here are just a few:

American Planning Association: <http://www.planning.org/jobs/search/>

Planetizen: <http://www.planetizen.com/jobs>

USA.gov: [http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Work for the Government.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Work%20for%20the%20Government.shtml)

Montana Association of Planners: <http://www.montanaplanners.org/jobs.htm>

If interested in posting a job listing on the WCC website, please contact the website editor, Allyson Brekke at abrekke@bozeman.net. The job must be located within one of the WCC states.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

National Planning Conference
April 13 – 17, 2013
Chicago, Illinois

National Main Street Conference
April 14 – 16, 2013
New Orleans, Louisiana



Visit us on the web at
www.wccapa.org or follow
us on Twitter:
[@WestCentralChap](https://twitter.com/WestCentralChap).

{Bozeman, continued from page 6}

As a cultural center, Bozeman's Main Street hosted three theaters by the mid-1920s. The most opulent, the Renaissance Revival-styled Ellen Theatre (17 West Main), was designed by Fred Willson. This prolific, local architect worked on more than 1,050 projects including the 1929 eclectic, Art Deco Baxter Hotel (105 West Main), Gallatin County's 1911 Gothic Revival jail (317 West Main) and 1936 Moderne-style courthouse (311 West Main), and the 1931 Art Deco Hamill Apartments (427 East Main).

Downtown living is a focus of Bozeman's 2009 Downtown Improvement Plan which recommends the city "build hundreds of units of housing." The resulting Downtown Residential Incentive Grant Program helps fund the creation of residential units within the city's tax increment financing (TIF) district, which includes much of Main Street.

The TIF district was created in 1995 to jumpstart the urban renewal by funding infrastructure improvements such as pedestrian-friendly streetscapes along Main Street. Five years

later a business improvement district formed to ensure downtown's long-term preservation and vitality. To maintain Main Street's character, the city passed a 2003 ordinance limiting retail to 75,000 square-feet and enacted historic preservation guidelines three years later.

Main Street's resiliency is viewed by many as a harbinger of continued growth and prosperity.

These initiatives have been integral to redevelopment of the 200 block of East Main Street, partially destroyed by a natural gas explosion and fire in 2009. Three of four properties have been rebuilt despite the national economic downturn. Main Street's resiliency is viewed by many as a harbinger of continued growth and prosperity.

The nine other APA 2012 Great Streets are: Duval Street, Key West, FL; Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO; Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY; Fifth Avenue, New York City, NY; Wall Street, Kingston, NY; Shaker Boulevard, Cleveland, Shaker Heights and Beachwood, OH;

Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA; Broad Street, Charleston, SC; and Gay Street, Knoxville, TN.

For more information about these public spaces, as well as APA's top 10 Great Neighborhoods and top 10 Great Public Spaces for 2012 and previous years, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces. This year's Great Places in America are being celebrated as part of APA's National Community Planning Month during October; for more about the special month, visit www.planning.org/ncpm.

The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of good planning – physical, economic and social – so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Members of APA help create communities of lasting value and encourage civic leaders, business interests and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, Ill. For more information, visit www.planning.org.

State Updates



photo from: <http://www.prairieriders.net/node-gallery/wyoming-2007>

Western Planner Update

by Amber Vogt

The Western Planner has seen some great changes this past year, the new e-newsletter, the new format of the Journal and we will continue to see more photos and greater detailed articles. Rachel Girt from Girt Communications is constantly working on re-vamping the image of The Western Planner. Please let her know if you have suggestions. She can be contacted by emailing Rachel@girtcommunications.com

As every organization, we have seen a decrease in our numbers over the past year, but we are still holding strong and the new and improved Journal is drawing in new activity from people. All of our past WP Articles are being archived at the Casper Wyoming College and a few facilities in New Mexico.

The WP has partnered with SCOTie. The WP encourages planners to check out the Successful Communities Online Toolkit (SCOTie), which equips communities to preserve quality of life by highlighting tools and best practices across the West. The new partnership with SCOTie assists our readers by providing practical tools used in peer communities that can be adapted to fit their area. Visit <http://scotie.sonorainstitute.org>

The Website has also been updated to be more user friendly and we now have a blog associated with the site where articles will be downloaded and discussion can take place.

Montana State Update

MAP Legislative Committee: Even though the 2013 session does not start for a few more months, the MAP Legislative Committee has been active. One of the areas with the most activity has been the Education & Local Government Committee and their study of the “subdivision for lease or rent” issue. MAP has been actively engaged in this process. The Legislative Committee is also putting together a RFP that will go out to prospective lobbyists for MAP. If you know someone that might be interested in being a lobbyist for MAP, please contact the Committee so we can make sure they get a copy of the RFP. Additional details on various legislative activities will also be posted on the MAP website, www.montanaplanners.org, or you can contact Jeff Bollman or Anne Cossitt.

MAP web site forums: If you have not already done so, make sure to register for the forums on the MAP website. The forums are open only to MAP members and are intended to provide a place for discussion of the variety of issues that can crop up while trying to be a planner in Montana. So, make sure you take advantage of this resource!

{state updates continued from page 9}

South Dakota Update

The SDPA's membership guided some legislative changes through the process during the 2012 South Dakota legislative session. New legislation approved included language that cleaned up the notification process for land use related actions, some minor changes to the annexations statute and the creation of a clearer definition of a "Major Street Plan." Proposed legislative changes that are endorsed by the SDPA are evaluated by a SDPA

legislative subcommittee prior to consideration by the membership.

Legislation dealing with billboards and a community's right to regulate them was considered during the 2012 session in South Dakota. The proposal was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. Most anticipate that the issue will return during the 2013 session.



photo from: <http://www.travelsd.com/>

Wyoming State Update

by Brett Walker, AICP

Most of the regulatory hurdles have been cleared for the construction of a coal gasification plant near Medicine Bow, Wyoming, a town about 100 miles west of Cheyenne. Earlier this year, Carbon County Commissioners passed resolutions in support of issuing bonds to help finance the plant. Construction of the plant and associated coal mine could create 2,300 construction jobs and the facility would employ 400 people full-time once it's in full operation by 2016. The Wyoming State Engineer's Office already has signed off on allowing the mine operation to use billions of gallons of groundwater for dust suppression and other purposes, and a legal challenge by the Sierra Club has been rejected.

Cody, Wyoming recently received the results of a Community and Economic Development Survey which will be used to identify community preferences and potential opportunities as the City moves forward with the process for the Master Plan Update. The survey was made available to all Cody residents, including business-owners, developers, and other stakeholders.

The Wyoming Economic Development Association (WEDA) presented the Linda Hewlett Scholarship Award to Jo Ferguson, Senior Specialist with the Wyoming Rural Development Council. The Award highlights her established commitment to foster

ing economic development in rural areas through the coordination and direction of Community Assessments for towns and counties with limited resources. The Wyoming Rural Development Council assists rural communities in Wyoming on such issues as land use, community development and leadership.

Lummis Livestock Co. plans to develop 2,300 acres in Laramie County, southeast of Cheyenne city limits. The Laramie County Planning Commission recently approved the preliminary planned unit development for the SweetGrass project and the final version is expected to be presented to the Planning Commission and the Laramie County Commission by the end of 2012. The project includes 1,100 acres of residential use, 325 acres of open space, 75 acres for schools and parks, about 170 acres of commercial development, and 417 acres for a golf course, possibly in concert with a hotel and possibly convention space. The total build-out ranges from 2,500 to 5,000 residential units, and is expected to take about 50 years. Bruce Downing, a consultant on the project, has stated that the first phase of development, which could be presented to the county as early as next spring, will include the village center, and both high and low-density residential.