

Residents asked for input on survey regarding Senior Center

By Carmen Rideout

Sheridan

Does the Sheridan Senior Center adequately meet the needs of the community in the foreseeable future?

What improvements or modifications would make services for the older adults and elders of our community better?

These are just two of the questions posed to the community in a survey being distributed throughout Sheridan County.

The Sheridan Senior Center, with sponsorship from the city of Sheridan, received a Community Development Block Grant from the Wyoming Business Council to help evaluate current and projected senior citizen needs in Sheridan County.

The Center has retained Community Builders Inc., a Wyoming consulting firm, to prepare this plan. The consultants will conduct a needs assessment and help develop a long-term plan for program growth and development.

They will evaluate current and projected programs, building space needs and then create an implementation plan for the development of expanded senior services for the next five to 10 years.

In order to successfully and responsibly serve our communities, the Sheridan Senior Center must position itself for the inevitability of the baby boomer generation's "coming of age." This generation, in numbers alone, will place greater demands on existing services than have been seen in modern times.

We want to develop services and supports that enhance our already high reputation in the community and throughout the state of Wyoming.

A key part of the planning process is to engage the public. A Community Survey is being circulated throughout Sheridan County to get the public's input with a separate "provider" survey distributed to senior service providers and community partners.

I ask you to help us in this planning project by completing a survey. The future development of the Senior Center depends on the community being involved. Your ideas and input are invaluable to us!

The Senior Center newsletter, Center Stage, is in the mail today and will have a survey enclosed. You may complete the survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sscsurvey>, obtain a copy by calling Carmen Rideout at 672-2240, or by picking one up at the Center, located at 211 Smith St.

Survey links will be also available on the Sheridan Senior Center website, <http://www.sheridanseniorcenter.org/>. The target date for completing surveys is Feb. 21.



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Carmen Rideout has been executive director at the Sheridan Senior Center for 11 years.