

# Green House Living taking bids on four homes

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Green House Living for Sheridan opened the bidding process this morning for construction of its four assisted living homes and administration building.

Doug Osborn of Buffalo, president of the board of directors of Alternative Elder Living Inc., said construction is slated to begin in March, and the Sheridan Green House should open by early December.

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Green House Living for Sheridan Secretary Carmen Rideout (left) is pictured with Chris Szymanski, who was hired in January to help guide the facility. Szymanski's responsibilities will focus on coaching, directing and monitoring the quality of life of elders in the Green House homes, as well as overseeing regulatory compliance and operational issues.

Courtesy photo



# Bidding

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The homes will be built in the Cloud Peak Estates subdivision a mile west of Sheridan Memorial Hospital. The land was donated by Don Roberts Jr. of Big Horn. Osborn said the board has no estimate for the cost of construction at this time.

Separately, the board has selected Christine Szymanski of Alliance, Neb., as the organization's guide. Green House Living for Sheridan is hosting a reception in her honor from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Sheridan Senior Center Dining Room.

As guide, Szymanski will act as administrator for the Sheridan Green House while coaching and mentoring elders and fellow staff members alike, according to the board's executive director, Kay Wallick.

"Chris is more than qualified for the job," said Osborn.

According to a press release from Green House Living for Sheridan, she holds a BS degree in business management and an MS degree in physical and health education from the University of Wyoming in addition to a Master of Public Administration degree with a minor in nonprofit management from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

Most recently, Szymanski was administrator for the Good Samaritan Society, a nonprofit, long-term care campus in Alliance.

"We're fortunate to have someone with Chris' expertise to lead the organization in this important culture change and to further our important mission of transforming long-term care to the Green House model, where the focus is on elders continuing their life's journey with dignity and respect," said Osborn.

He added, "She has a great attitude ... we are all very excited to have her here."

The Sheridan Green House, the first Green House in Wyoming, will consist of four homes, each of which hosts 12 elders. Because the organization offers around-the-clock care, approximately 40 employees will work with Szymanski and the 48 elders, according to Osborn.

"The Green House Project creates small, intentional communities for groups of elders and staff to focus on living full and vibrant lives," reads the Green House mission statement. "This model is a radical departure from traditional nursing homes and assisted living facilities — altering facility size, interior design, staffing patterns, and methods of delivering skilled professional services."

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