City Council Sets 2016 Sheridan Budget

After numerous City Council Study Sessions, two public hearings and many hours of staff work, the Sheridan City Council recently approved and adopted the City budget for 2016.

The budget is comprised of six funds: General, Capital Improvement, Stormwater, Open Space, Conservation Trust and Volunteer Fire Pension. Across all funds, expenditures of approximately $13.7 million are anticipated in 2016. Some of the highlights of the 2016 budget include:

• 3 percent merit pool for employee salaries.
• 10 percent increase in health insurance costs.
• 2 percent increase to Fire Services contract with Denver Fire Department.
• 2 percent increase in Arapahoe County Police Dispatch contract.
• $275,000 for South Platte River corridor trail and park improvements.
• 2A revenue is projected to increase slightly due to continued build-out at River Point.
• The Hamilton Bridge improvement project ($1.8 million) and the Oxford Ave. replacement project ($1 million) will greatly impact the 2016 Capital Improvements Program budget.
• $175,000 for Safe Routes To School infrastructure project.
• $74,000 for fleet replacements in Public Safety.
• Projected ending 2016 General Fund Balance of $2.2 million – represents approximately 4 months operating expenses.

“The City Council works very hard to ensure Sheridan citizens are receiving good value for their tax dollars. They take a conservative approach to our annual budget process, and they take their fiduciary responsibility very, very seriously” said Devin Granbery, City Manager.

The adopted 2016 Sheridan City Budget can be viewed on the City’s website www.ci.sheridan.co.us.

— Devin Granbery, City Manager

Sheridan Police Purchases Officer Body Cameras

The Sheridan Police Department has implemented a body worn camera program effective this month. The program will utilize Axon brand body cameras manufactured by Taser International.

The department partnered with the national and Colorado chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to develop a policy that addresses citizen privacy issues while insuring an appropriate level of transparency between the police department and our community.

The initial purchase covers the cost of ten cameras and the supporting software. The cameras will be assigned to specific officers and spread throughout all patrol shifts. The goal is to have several cameras in service at any given time within the city.

For further information contact: Commander Sam Realmuto, Sheridan Police Department, at 303-438-3239 or Denise Maes, American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado at 303-777-5482.

— Mark Campbell, Sheridan Chief of Police
Happy New Year! 2016 is brimming with great opportunities for youth in Sheridan! Thanks to a $60,000 planning grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), The Sheridan Inspire Coalition (a planning group that will include a youth advisory council, parents, teachers, and community leaders), will begin connecting youth in Sheridan with outdoor adventures close to home and farther afield.

The Sheridan Inspire Coalition, coordinated by Groundwork Denver, invites Sheridan community members to join this proactive group to help connect Sheridan kids with nature. Whether you are a student who wants to experience the mountains, a parent who wants to see safer school crossings, a resident interested in maintaining parks for kids in Sheridan, or a teacher eager to connect Sheridan youth with leadership and career opportunities - we want your input on the planning group!

The physical hub of the project is the Bear Creek watershed, which connects Sheridan youth from their backyards at the confluence of Bear Creek and the South Platte River, to the backcountry at the top of Mount Evans.

The watershed provides vast outdoor resources and a cohesive and meaningful way to connect Sheridan kids with wilderness. Just adjacent to Sheridan are over 140 acres of natural areas, providing habitat for birds and wildlife, as well as close-in places to connect with nature.

The natural areas include woodlands, wetlands and grasslands. A paved bike trail follows the creek for nine miles west through the Lakewood greenbelt to Bear Creek Lake Regional Park. Bear Creek Lake Park includes 2,600 acres of open space with camping, fishing and mountain biking. Further up the watershed are several Denver and Jefferson County Mountain parks, including Lair O’ the Bear, Mount Falcon, and Elk Meadow. The head waters of Bear Creek are located on Mount Evans, which is part of the 74,000 acre Mount Evans Wilderness Area.

GOCO executive director Lise Aangeenbrug noted, “We are funding and empowering local communities to design models that work in their neighborhoods. We know from numerous studies that time outside can lead to reduced stress, increased academic performance, and improved mental and physical health. Every child deserves the chance to connect with the outdoors and nature.”

Partners in the planning phase include Sheridan School District #2, the City of Sheridan, Groundwork Denver, Earth Force, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, Mile High Youth Corps, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, Colorado Mountain Bike Association, and the Rivers, Trails Conservation Assistance program of the National Park Service.

Contact Rachel Hansgen at Groundwork Denver for more information or to join the planning group – rachel@groundworkdenver.org or 303-455-5600.

— Rachel Hansgen, Groundwork Denver
New Children’s Parade Will Be Part of 2016 Sheridan Celebrates

The Sheridan Celebrates Committee is making improvements to the 2016 parade. At the December meeting, the Committee unanimously approved the addition of a Children’s Parade to take place as a supplement to, and before, the regular parade on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Committee members are earnestly aware of how the total distance, and the uphill climbs, in the current parade route make it difficult for our youngest participants to enjoy their involvement. The new Children’s Parade route will be much shorter and the entire route will be as level as possible.

Sheridan children, 10 years and younger, and those from neighboring communities, will be encouraged to dress in costumes that fit the 2016 theme. This theme will be listed in the February newsletter, so watch for it. Youngsters may walk, ride on self-powered, wheeled transports such as scooters, tricycles and bicycles, and pull wagons with their favorite stuffed animals or other toys. Decorating of wheeled transports and wagons is strongly promoted. All children choosing to participate on a wheeled transport will be required to wear a helmet. No gas-powered entries of any kind will be allowed.

There will not be an entrance fee for the Children’s Parade. An easy registration process will take place starting one hour prior to the beginning of the event. Participants and their parents will register at the festival grounds located on the lawn of Sheridan City Hall, 4101 S. Federal Blvd. The Children’s Parade will conclude with plenty of time for entrants to get a good seat and watch the regular parade that starts at 10 a.m.

In addition to the new Children’s Parade, the Committee is considering a change to the route of the regular parade. If you have input regarding the parade route, please post your comments on the Sheridan Celebrates Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/SheridanCelebrates or call the hotline at 303-438-3321.

Additionally, the Sheridan Celebrates Committee is always seeking new members. So, if you would like to participate or have suggestions and ideas for the Sheridan Celebrates Committee, leave a message on the hotline at 303-438-3321.

The next Sheridan Celebrates Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 pm, at the Sheridan Recreation Center, 3325 W. Oxford Avenue. There will be more exciting Sheridan Celebrates updates in each newsletter. Watch for them and stay informed and get involved.

— Jean Ray,
Sheridan Celebrates Event Coordinator

Sheridan School District 2 Says “Thank You”

Three weeks after a manhunt for three bank robbers and carjackers led to an afternoon-long, school-wide lockdown on Wednesday, Nov. 18, the Sheridan Board of Education and Superintendent Michael Clough thanked the variety of law enforcement and other community agencies that responded to assist.

Sixteen agencies were in attendance at the board meeting, held at Fort Logan Northgate School to accommodate the crowd. More than 65 individuals were in attendance for the sometimes emotional gathering. No students or staff were physically harmed during the long lockdown, but the stress inside the schools and around the community was high as police searched for the suspects and as students from schools were bused to a nearby church for reunification with their parents in the evening.

“Welcome to the safest room in Colorado,” said Superintendent Clough to the sea of uniforms and others in attendance. “It was amazing to see all the agencies, everybody coming together to help this district … It is emotional to think of the power of community and the power of pulling together.”

Board of Education President Ron Carter echoed: “Thank you for all you’ve done for us and all you do for us every day.”


“Our tremendous thank for being there in our time of need,” said Carter. The meeting closed with Superintendent Clough discussing the courage of the staff through a very tough day. “There is just no way to properly thank them, but the staff was fantastic that day!”

— Mark Stevens, Sheridan School District 2
Sheridan Welcomed Many New Businesses in 2015

The year 2015 was a good one for Sheridan business growth. According to Jennifer Henninger, planner, between January 1 and the end of November, the city issued licenses for more than 100 new businesses in the community.

“We have two new breweries in the City, both located near River Point Shopping Center,” Henninger stated.

“In River Point itself, Sportsman Warehouse opened this year, Buffalo Wild Wings will soon be open and there are three new businesses slated to open in 2016. In the Ft. Logan Northgate neighborhood, there is an increasing interest for small neighborhood office space. Several business licenses were issued for new small businesses, many with a medical focus, in existing office buildings near Lowell Street. Sheridan also continues to attract the automotive enthusiast type business. You can get just about anything for and do anything with your vehicle in the City,” Henninger stated.

“People make a community, but businesses are important to support people. Thank you to all business owners for investing in the Sheridan community this year,” she concluded.

As we reported this past fall, in just the past couple of years, Sheridan has seen better economic growth in the wake of the recession, with a vibrant business atmosphere that has seen growth in new businesses at the successful River Point shopping complex as well as across town.

In terms of improved infrastructure, Sheridan has been in what might be called a relative boom period. The Sheridan School District is proud of the new Fort Logan Northgate School serving grades three through five and six through eight that opened in January, thanks to voter support for a bond issue that helped garner a $23 million dollar grant from the State of Colorado under the BEST (Build Excellent Schools Today) program.

Earlier in the year, we celebrated the opening of the spectacular new Sheridan Public Library, thanks to the efforts of local leaders and the vision of the Arapahoe Library District.

Other noteworthy accomplishments include the development of an updated comprehensive plan, with citizen input, to plot the future direction of the city, and efforts to improve parks and trails and to improve water quality in the Lower Bear Creek watershed.

Sheridan Health Services expanded both its Sheridan Clinic sites to provide additional nurse-led primary care, dental care and pharmacy services to underserved populations of the community as well as training for nurses, physician assistants and public health students.

The Sheridan Recreation Center partnered with the South Suburban Parks and Recreation, continues to expand and offer many opportunities to the community including recreation, instruction and art classes that our residents enjoy, featuring the Creativity Lab, the 34-acre Community Park with its ballfield, skate park, picnic shelters, tennis courts, multi-purpose fields and the new Veterans Park.

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Sheridan Planning Commission Recommends Re-Zoning for Former Fort Logan Elementary School Property

The Sheridan Planning Commission unanimously recommended the plan to rezone the former Fort Logan Elementary School property and support a development planned by Habitat for Humanity Dec. 2 after a public hearing. The plan was scheduled to go before the Sheridan City Council on Dec. 28.

Planning commissioners were persuaded by the fact that the plan included home ownership under a “Planned Unit Development” (or PUD) process. The plan for 63 single-family attached houses (in duplex and triplex configurations) represents a more modest proposal in terms of density than what could be built under the city’s existing allowances.

Superintendent Michael Clough thanked district staff and Sheridan Board of Education members Ron Carter and Bernadette Saleh for providing background and remarks to the planning commission and also to board member Melissa Silvia for providing a letter of support. He also thanked Habitat for Humanity for their patience during the re-zoning process and for answering a variety of questions about lot size, infrastructure improvements, traffic projections and construction timeline.

“We believe the Habitat for Humanity concept is an ideal plan for the space,” said Clough after the vote. Noting flat enrollment trends over the past few years, he added: “The proposal will strengthen the community and will bring a welcome infusion of new students and new families.”

The planning commissioner votes were cast by Cynthia “Thea” Hutcheson, Chairman John Spishock, James Hume, Marie Pierce and alternate Leon Hartness. Commissioner Cynthia Radke recused herself as did one alternate, Arthur Covey. Hartness was appointed to fill Radke’s voting slot.

Both Hume and Hutcheson seemed to share the most concerns with opponents of the plan, but ultimately agreed that the idea of developing a new community of property owners was a better option over a larger apartment complex.

“We felt this project fit very well with what this community is trying to accomplish with home ownership,” Superintendent Clough told the commission. He noted the district’s high percent of homeless students (families sometimes doubled-up or tripled-up in living units designed for one family) and its poverty rates, second highest in the state. He also noted the “toxic stress” caused by such living conditions, where students are exposed to daily concerns about such basics as food and shelter.

The Habitat for Humanity plan includes an 8,000-square-foot park, new storm sewers to improve drainage in the greater neighborhood, and extension of Julian Street from W. Kenyon Ave. to W. Lehigh Ave.

The property became available when Sheridan voters supported a matching bond effort in 2012 that led to the construction of the new Fort Logan Northgate School. State funds covered the vast majority (76 percent) of construction costs. The Sheridan Board of Education declared the property surplus and staff discussed selling the property to a variety of potential owners, but only Habitat for Humanity forwarded a viable plan.

Valley View Church of God pastor Mark Testroet underscored the importance of building community and encouraged the commission to support a plan that would lead to more residents who are invested in the community where they live.

“Community is people,” said Commissioner Pierce prior to the vote. “And the community is going to grow. When you own something, you want to take care of it.”

— Mark Stevens,
Sheridan School District 2

New Council Member Sworn In

2016 begins with a new face on the seven-member Sheridan City Council; David Black, who defeated incumbent Landau de Laguna by two votes in the November election.

The 64-year-old Denver native has had a home in Sheridan for 40 years and is self-employed as owner of the Paradox Lounge in Englewood. Black said disagreement over a single provider for trash service promoted him to run for city council. Now, he says he wants to serve his Ward 1 constituents.

You have to watch out for your constituents and not waste taxpayer money, that sort of thing. You have to be vigilant, make it a nice place to live and be fair to everybody,” he added. Black is also a ultra marathoner, having run ultra marathons in 39 states, and hopes to run one in all 50.

Sheridan — Ward 1 City Council Vacancy

Have you ever thought you might want to serve your community as a City Council Member? If you are a resident of Ward 1, that opportunity is now available to you. Council Member Bonnie Parker has submitted her resignation effective December 31, 2015. Her Council position will be filled by appointment of City Council. This is an interim appointment to serve until the election in November of 2017. Letters of interest will be accepted with interviews to take place in the near future. Qualifications are as follows:

1. You must be a registered elector of the City of Sheridan.
2. You must have lived in Ward 1 for the past 12 months.
3. You must not have been convicted of a felony or abuse of public office.
4. When appointed, you may not be an employee of the City of Sheridan.

If serving your neighbors as a Council Member from Ward 1 is something you would like to explore, please submit a letter of interest to: City Manager, Devin Granbery, 4101 S. Federal Blvd., Sheridan, CO 80110. Letters MUST be received by 4:30 p.m. February 1, 2016. You may also contact him at 303-762-2200 if you have questions regarding this process.

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We have LARGE BAYS for your Trucks & RVs

Wonderful automatic wash
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Fleet accounts available for high volume customers
Open 24/7 at Oxford and Federal
### Arapahoe Library District Schedule of Events: January 2016

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### SSPR, Littleton Offering Christmas Tree Recycling

As holidays come to a close, and Christmas trees drop their needles, recycle your tree, and help beautify the community as well. Upcycle your Christmas tree into useful mulch!

South Suburban and the City of Littleton will offer free Christmas tree recycling at two locations within the District from Dec. 26 through Jan. 17. Locations include South Suburban’s Willow Spring Service Center, 7100 S. Holly St., in Centennial and Cornerstone Park, 5150 S. Windermere St. (corner of W. Bellevue Ave. and S. Windermere St.)

Residents within the South Suburban Park and Recreation District can drop off their tree seven days a week, from sunrise to sunset, in Cornerstone’s parking lot, adjacent to the soccer fields, or at the Willow Spring Service Center in the designated enclosure by the front gate.

All decorations need to be removed from the tree, including lights, ornaments, garland, tinsel and stands. If the tree is wrapped in a plastic bag, it must be removed at drop off. Flocked or artificial trees and yard refuse will not be accepted. Most trash and waste removal companies do not accept Christmas trees, so District residents are encouraged to take advantage of this free program.

The trees will be mulched and used in landscaping throughout the District and the City of Littleton. Residents can obtain free mulch, beginning Dec. 30. The mulch will be available weekdays, 7:30 am until 3 pm at the Willow Spring site. Mulch is available from the City of Littleton at the northwest corner of S. Prescott St. and W. Prentice Ave.

Residents are responsible for loading and are encouraged to bring bags or trash cans and a shovel or pitchfork. Call South Suburban at 303-721-8478 or visit ssprd.org; or the City of Littleton at 303-795-3863 for more information.
Older Active Adults in Sheridan treated to Holiday Cheer

A mild, sunny day was a perfect forecast for the seventh annual Free Holiday Party at South Suburban’s Sheridan Recreation Center on Dec. 2.

Nearly 80 attendees enjoyed the “Candy Cane Lane” themed event, which included a scrumptious lunch, prepared by Autumn Heights Health Care Center’s Chef Pablo Hernandez.

The Harplanders provided entertainment, along with the choir class from Sheridan High School. Jolly ole St. Nick made an appearance and several lucky people won door prizes. Other sponsors included the City of Sheridan, Sheridan Police Department, Sheridan School District and South Suburban Parks and Recreation. Sheridan Recreation Center is located at 3325 W. Oxford Ave.

— Jamie DeBartolomeis, Marketing Specialist, South Suburban Parks and Recreation

Some of the attendees at the holiday party worked on games during the annual lunch event.

Members of the Sheridan High School Choir class provided entertainment at the annual seniors holiday party.

Chef Pablo Hernandez works on providing the holiday lunch.
South Suburban Parks and Recreation Events for January

NEW MUSIC INSTRUCTOR JOINS MUSIC LAB

Hannah Levers is a talented musician who is happy to assist youth and adults in using the equipment in the Music Lab. It’s your opportunity to learn about or practice what you already know on our keyboard, drums, guitars and voice equipment. Private use of the Music Lab can be arranged by contacting Hannah Levers. The Music Lab will be open on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. beginning Jan. 6.

WORLD DANCE JAM DEBUTS!

South Suburban’s own Belly Dance instructor Rosanne Juergens will teach techniques and steps for a variety of dances styles in the World Dance Jam class. Class #438901 Jan. 13- Feb. 17; 7:15-8:15pm (ages 15+) Fee: District $38.

HIP-HOP DANCE MOVEMENT
FOR YOUTH, AGES 6-10

Explore an introduction to creative movement and hip-hop. Class # 438851 Fridays 5:30-6:30 pm. Class runs Jan. 15 – Feb. 19. Fee: District $38.

THE ADULT SPECIALTY CRAFT SERIES

The three month series introduces something new each month! In January, learn the art of Encaustic Painting, or “hot wax painting” using heated beeswax with colored pigments. All materials included. Class #439601 Jan. 12 -26, Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (ages 15+) $54 district.

ADULT PAINTING STUDIO KICKS OFF AGAIN IN JANUARY!

Join us in our painting studio at Sheridan Recreation Center. Create original art for your home or as a gift, in this relaxing class for beginners and advanced artists as alike. Bring your own painting supplies and the instructor will provide guidance on composition, color mixing and other techniques. Ages 15+ Fee: District $38.

Contact Marilyn at 303-761-2241 or marilync@ssprd.org with questions about classes or to obtain additional information.

— Jamie DeBartolomeis,
Marketing Specialist, South Suburban Parks and Recreation

Do You Remember Fort Logan Grocery?

This photo is courtesy of Nancy Gargan O’Connor showing her parents Jim and Lucille Gargan in front of their business - Fort Logan Grocery.

The store served mainly “Logan town” area of Sheridan. (Mansfield to Kenyon, east of Lowell Blvd.) It was a real “Mom & Pop” grocery with a great meat market and, of course, it had a good selection of penny candy and Royal Crown Colas! They had the store from the late 50s through the 60s. The building still stands across from Ft. Logan Northgate School on Mansfield just west of Monaghan’s.

When the store closed, Jim moved over to the Fort Logan Hospital where he worked in Food Services & later retired from the Finance Department.

— Tom Webb, Friends of Historic Ft. Logan