



Citizens News

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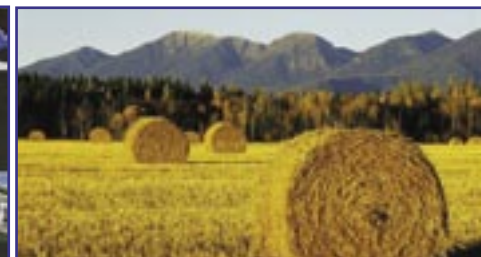
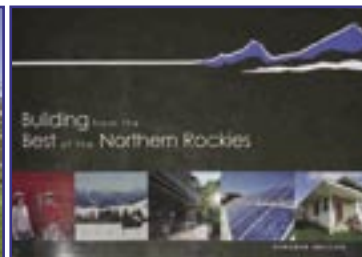
Growth That Respects This Great Place, is it Possible?

By Mayre Flowers

Yes! Growth that respects this great place—the Flathead Valley—which some 85,000 of us currently call home, is both possible, essential, and in the end, a reflection of our collective political will. In fact, in doing the

a great window into the possibilities of good design. This book is filled with photos and descriptions of projects that respect the natural environment and community character of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. This publication also outlines standards for communities

on planning in the west, “Land use-related policies have the potential to be among the most effective in both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing cost savings for communities seeking to mitigate and adapt to climate change.” (Read more about the land use-climate



connection in the article on page 6 of this issue.) The way we grow is also a pocketbook

research for this article I was excited and recharged by how many sources I found pointing the way to a hopeful vision of how growth can and must be sustainable in the West when we move beyond polarizing rhetoric and focus on forward solutions.

Growth that respects this great place is possible because there are good examples being built across the west. The recent publication, *Building from the Best of the Northern Rockies*¹, by the Sonoran Institute, is

to follow that can help ensure that town centers, community edges, and rural communities incorporate best practices as they grow.

Growth that respects this great place is essential because we live in a time of rapid change on many levels, where the local decisions we make about how we will grow are more closely tied to our collective local and global future than ever before. As Rebecca Carter of the Sonoran Institute pointed out at a recent forum

issue. Our news is inundated with information about the rising cost of fuel including gasoline prices that are expected to hit \$4/gallon. The average American family is being hit hard with rising costs and over half the population is paying more than 8 percent of its income on energy and low-income families are paying as much as 23 percent (Americans for Balanced Energy Choices, based on the US Census). I, like many of you, might dismiss a statistic like

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Your invitation ...

To the Citizens for a Better Flathead Annual Meeting and Raffle Drawing ...

Saturday, June 14, 2008 • 3:00-7:15 p.m.

3:00-5:00 pm — Bus tour of growth that respects this Great Place. Meet at The Museum at Central School,
124 2nd Ave. E. in Kalispell



5:00 pm—Drinks (no host) and lite dinner food at the Museum
5:45-6:15 pm—Welcome and Awards
6:15-7:15 pm—Raffle Drawings



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Mission Statement

“To inform and empower citizens in cooperative community development that respects and encourages stewardship of the Flathead Valley’s natural beauty and resources.”

Our Principles

Stewardship - It is our responsibility together to care for the land, air, water, and character of the Flathead Valley for ourselves and future generations.

Open Government - Fair and ethical decision making requires respect for process, transparency, inclusiveness, and well-informed participants.

Community - We must find ways to balance and bridge our differences in order to maintain the unique quality of life in the Flathead Valley.

Citizenship - It is our right and our responsibility to become informed and to participate in the decisions that affect our lives and our community.

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Think Globally, Act Locally

Message from Lynn Stanley, CBF Board Member

As a newcomer to the board of CBF, I’m still finding my way—there is a lot to learn! I have been impressed over and over again by how much this organization has been able to accomplish—the North Shore victory, education of both public and public officials on transportation issues related to the Wolford mall, and the many ways we’ve been able to provide information and inject community values into public discussion of various projects. You’ll have read plenty about those elsewhere in the newsletter, and in the e-mail alerts.

The focus of our board must continue to be on ways to ensure that CBF continues in this important role, and that our organization is able to be vigorous in the public debate about finding a balance between community values and the rights of property owners. The outcome of that debate will shape what our valley looks like in the coming years.

For CBF to sustain itself and remain in its vital public role, it seems to me we need to take some time to invite more of our membership to become involved in the process. The board is working on revitalizing committees in such areas as finance, fundraising and events, as well as in specific program areas. We would like to see the board itself have more members, and committees are an excellent way for people to get involved, find an outlet for their activist longings, and, we hope, find a path to board membership!

Now if you’ll bear with me here, I read an interesting though depressing book earlier this year: *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* by John Perkins. It provides an unforgettable view of the history of the last 60 years, involving the activities of corporations intertwined with government policy in overrunning the sovereignty and natural resources of developing countries, sending those countries deep into debt and making them unable to help their citizens, who become poorer and poorer as a result. I bring up this book, because at the end is a chapter called “What You Can Do.” And

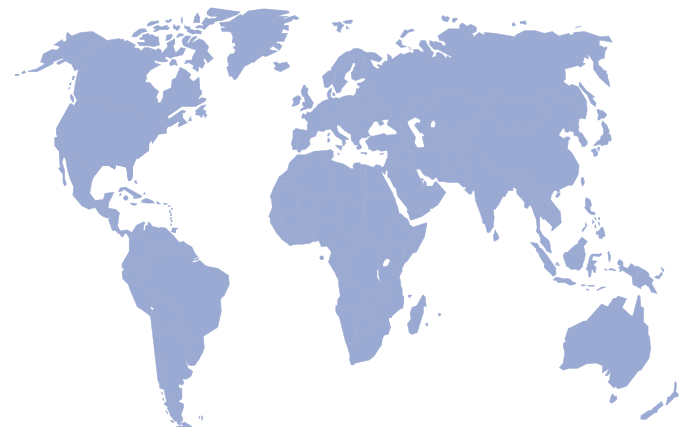
guess what? It’s all about getting involved locally. Perkins was one of the people who went around the world persuading leaders of poor countries to go deep into debt in ways that never did them much good, but served to impoverish them even further, while enriching foreign companies. It all seems far away from us, yet our actions in the public debate here where we live helps set the tone for a more just social order.

Thanks for reading this far; read that book if you haven’t already; and join a Citizens committee! We’ll have more to say about these at our Annual Meeting coming up. And let me know if you have any ideas.

See you then!

Lynn Stanley (lynn@montanasky.net)
Board member and Treasurer

THINK GLOBALLY



VOTE LOCALLY

Good design makes choices clear.

AIGA's get-out-the-vote initiative was made possible by the generous support of more than 22,000 AIGA members in 59 chapters and 225 student groups nationwide along with designers everywhere who believe in the power of design for the public good. This poster was designed by Corin A. Carroll, Atlanta, Georgia, mediamuse.com.



A public service initiative of AIGA Design for Democracy. For more information visit www.aiga.org/getthetvote.

Common Wealth, Common Vision

Shifting the debate from “what’s wrong with development” to “what’s right”

By Mayre Flowers

The March 24, 2008 issue of Time Magazine featured a cover story on 10 ideas that are changing the world. The concept of common wealth was number one on their list. Writing on this concept, author Jeffery Sachs¹ asserted, “The defining challenge of the 21st century will be to face the reality that humanity shares a common fate on a crowded planet.”

He goes on to explain that the reason this idea has the greatest potential to change the world is simply this: “By overcoming cynicism, ending our misguided view of the world as an enduring struggle of “us” vs. “them” and instead seeking global solutions, we actually have the power to save the world for all, today and in the future.” He goes on to provide extensive and hopeful examples of how this concept is already producing results on a global scale.

Applying this perspective locally is equally important and, we think, powerful. Here in the Flathead, as the primary election heats up we are already seeing the paid ads and letters to the editor spouting an “us” vs. “them” mentality and the false, divisive claims that smart growth and planning are assaults on property rights. It is past time to move on from this “us” vs. “them” rhetoric and to shift the focus to “what’s right with development.”²

This issue of our newsletter is full of examples of how smart growth³ and our work at Citizens for a Better Flathead is all about property rights—supporting the property rights of small

and large landowners with innovative planning, supporting the planning needed to sustain the “common wealth” we richly enjoy as residents of this special place. In a new effort to be proactive and recognize developers who are on the leading edge of innovative and sustainable development, we want to share with you the new endorsement criteria that Montana Smart Growth Coalition⁴ has recently adopted.

The Montana Smart Growth Coalition has created a quantitative checklist of criteria to determine if a development project is truly smart growth and deserves MSGC’s support during permitting and marketing. A developer may use an MSGC endorsement for marketing purposes after the development is half built out.

This new endorsement criteria rightfully sets a high bar so as to feature those who are boldly leading on the front edge of best development practices. For those sizing up proposed developments in their communities and neighborhoods, these criteria can also serve as a benchmark tool for the substantive public dialogue and healthy debate that should surround development proposals even before they reach the public hearing forum. We have included these two brand new checklists of criteria—one for urban in-town projects and one for rural development—for your review and feedback on pages 12 and 17. Given space limitations we have not include the endorsement procedure or other background information. The checklists and this information

are also available at www.mtsmartgrowth.org. For more information, contact Tim Davis at smartgrowth@mcn.net. No doubt as a new tool they will receive further refinement, but for now, they represent our commitment to be proactive and to challenge all of us to hold future growth to standards that respect this Great Place.

¹Common Wealth, Economics for a Crowded Planet, by Jeffery Sachs. Sachs is director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

²This is the theme of the publication, *Building from the Best of the Northern Rockies*, by the Sonoran Institute, which we featured in our cover page story. See that article for how to obtain a copy of this publication.

³Smart growth describes a pattern of land development that uses land efficiently, reinforces community vitality and protects natural resources. Smart Growth is not about stopping development. Instead, it is about promoting development that is good for the economy, community and the environment. Key benefits of smart growth include the creation of diverse housing options; protection of farm and forest land; diverse transportation options and less dependence on the automobile; greater social interaction with neighbors; lower cost for public services resulting in reduced taxes; and a higher quality of life.

⁴The Montana Smart Growth Coalition (MSGC) is a diverse coalition of more than 30 organizations representing business, government, agriculture, conservation, citizens, and urban and rural development throughout the state. Formed in 1999 in response to the need to improve land-use planning in fast-growing counties in Montana, MSGC became a project of the Sonoran Institute in 2005. Citizens for a Better Flathead was a founding member of the coalition and is a current board member. For more on the work of Montana Smart Growth visit their web site, <http://www.mtsmartgrowth.org/>

Montana Smart Growth Coalition’s Smart Growth Endorsement Criteria for Rural Development Draft 5/08



True smart growth can only take place in and around existing towns, but MSGC recognizes that rural development will take place so we have developed an endorsement criteria to define and support rural development that protects the things that define Montana—open lands, wildlife, and waters.

MSGC will not endorse rural developments with more than a total of 25 lots/units (i.e., in all phases of the development), any development above 25 lots/units will be judged as a new townsite using MSGC’s urban/suburban endorsement criteria as long as criteria 2, 3, 12, 16, and 17 below are also included in that review.

Please rate the development from zero to five. Give the development zero if it does not meet the criteria in any way and five (or more if higher points are noted in the body of the criteria) if it meets the criteria perfectly. Projects will not be rated for criteria that do not apply to the project because the project is too small - MSGC will make the determination of which criteria do not apply to the project. MSGC will not endorse a gated community.

	Criteria	Score
1	The project has or will place conservation easements on 95% of property being developed (20 points), 85% (15 points), 75% (10 points), no points for below 75% - or an equivalent amount of land has been protected through a transfer of development rights	
2	All structures are set back at least 500 feet from rivers and at least 150 feet from streams and lakes and maintain at least 100 foot vegetated buffers on the waterside (15 points)	
3	All critical and important wildlife habitat and travel corridors as identified by the County or the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks are protected in perpetuity and all structures are set back at least 300 feet from critical and important wildlife habitat and travel corridors (15 points)	

• VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER • VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER • VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER • VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER •

Streamside Setbacks Needed to Reverse Declining Water Quality in the Flathead's Rivers and Streams

By Megan McCrae

“Building in the floodplain is like setting up your tent on a highway just because there are no cars coming,” said Paul Hanson. Hanson, a scientist specializing in river ecology, spoke at a recent panel presentation hosted by the Flathead Basin Commission on streamside setbacks. He emphasized that just because you don’t see any cars at the time, doesn’t mean you won’t get hit when the traffic starts.

Stephanie Kruer, a nationally recognized land use attorney, dispelled some misconceptions that have been floating around about setbacks. Kruer stated that, “A taking is not where you want to build a two-story house, and now you can only build a one-story house. A taking is a total deprivation of all economic use. There will be a lot of rhetoric with people saying setbacks are an illegal act of government, but takings claims just aren’t applicable in this case.”

Garth Haugland, a Beaverhead County Commissioner, who was instrumental in passing the four-county setback along the Big Hole River chalked streamside setbacks



Large rivers need lots of “wobble room” to move as part of their natural cycle.

up to simple common sense. Haugland went on to state that when Beaverhead County was wrestling with setbacks it was not about protecting the viewshed for “those environmentalists that want to float the river and catch a fish only to throw it back.” For Haugland, it was about keeping the river clean so farmers and ranchers can continue to use the river the same way they have been for years.

The panelists concluded that streamside setbacks are flexible common sense regulations that protect clean water and property rights.

- Streamside setbacks provide a natural area between the stream and your home and buildings to filter pollutants that can harm water quality, fish, and wildlife.
- Setbacks reduce the risk of losing your home or business investments to flooding and erosion.
- They increase property values and retain

privacy; and protect fish, wildlife and their habitat.

• Streamside setbacks offer an intelligent solution that protects your water, your privacy, your budget, and the natural landscapes that harbor the fish and wildlife everyone enjoys.

Flathead County has been grappling with streamside setbacks for almost a year now. When the Commissioners passed the County Subdivision Regulations last June, they sent some of the more contentious issues to the Planning Board for them to consider and subsequently issue a recommendation. Since that time there have been a number of public hearings and workshops, at which there

has been a tremendous amount of scientific evidence presented in support of streamside setbacks. Yet, even with all the information showing the importance of protecting riparian areas, the idea of streamside setbacks still draws large crowds and heated debates at public meetings, particularly on whether or not streamside setbacks constitute a taking of private property rights.

At a public hearing held last October on streamside setbacks, it was evident that there were many misconceptions about how the proposal Flathead County is currently considering will affect landowners. Streamside setbacks will be implemented through the County Subdivision Regulations and the current draft proposal calls for:

- A 250-foot setback with a 100-foot vegetative buffer along the Flathead River and its three forks, the Stillwater River, the Swan River, and the Whitefish River;
- A 200-foot setback with a 75-foot vegetative

The Flathead County setbacks as proposed will only apply to landowners/developers when they subdivide, NOT existing homes, lots, or traditional land uses such as logging and farming.

buffer along Ashley Creek and Pleasant Valley Fisher River, and;

- A 60-foot setback with a 50-foot vegetative



Unstable banks are a factor for greater setbacks in some areas.

buffer along all other streams identified on the latest US Geological Survey maps.

The Flathead County setbacks as proposed will only apply to landowners/

developers when they subdivide, NOT existing homes, lots, or traditional land uses such as logging and farming.

Not surprisingly, this proposal is very similar to what is already in place in other Montana counties, such as Gallatin County and Lewis and Clark County. Flathead County is not proposing



Flooding is an issue in rural and urban areas.

anything untested or innovative. For years, other Montana counties, and many counties across the country, have been using streamside setbacks as a cost-effective tool to protect water quality. Madison County has had a 500-foot setback in place along the Madison River since 1993.

So what happens to those folks whose existing lot is too small to build on if these proposed setbacks are applied or to folks who simply feel that their property is deserving of a lesser setback?

Continued on page 7

• VOTE FOR CLEAN AIR • VOTE FOR CLEAN AIR • VOTE FOR CLEAN AIR • VOTE FOR CLEAN AIR •

Smoke in the City: Residents Can Help Enforce Flathead's Clean Air Regulations

An Opinion Piece by Kalispell Resident and Air Quality Advocate, Steve Eckels

When my wife, Barb, and I learned that I had received the job as guitar instructor at Flathead High School, we became excited about living in “The Last Best Place” and the “Gateway to Glacier National Park”. Both of us have always appreciated the beauty of nature and the simple things such as clean air and quiet. At that time, we did not know that mountain-valley towns trap air pollution due to their temperature inversions. I’ll never forget the day, during our first year here, that I noticed a sooty smell in the air and I called the fire department. They informed me that there was agricultural burning going on, and that it hangs around due to valley inversions.

A year later, we moved to the west side of town so I could walk to school. As winter approached, I began noticing a smoky smell coming into our historic house. After a little research, I learned that many people in the older part of town burn wood. Let me confess, I do have a sensitive bronchial system and do not respond well to wood smoke. Also, my mother suffered from asthma. It is not a pleasant sight for a young child to see a parent suffer and gasp for breath. Needless to say, I was not pleased with smoke invading my home.

So how did I come to be active as an air quality advocate? Being aware of the health risks of wood-smoke, and being a health and longevity buff, I became very depressed that I had moved to a town with a pollution problem. Trying to look on the bright side, I decided that being actively involved in solutions could be part of my therapy. After consulting with the folks at the Department of Environmental Quality in Helena about the situation, we jointly came up with the idea of Spare the Air Month. My job would be to write articles and talk with citizens, and the DEQ would provide me with the scientific data necessary to chart progress. The local health department would participate by improving regulations and publishing them on their web site.

Most local residents don’t know that due to excessive air pollution, Kalispell, Whitefish, and Columbia Falls are classified by the EPA as a “non-attainment area” for particulate matter. Particulate is of concern because it is so small it lodges in the lungs and stays there. Burning can

constitute up to 50% of particulate matter (air pollution) on any given day. Flathead County has established a control program to minimize the impact of this pollution source. The program requires that any person or entity wishing to burn during the established open burning season comply with county regulations.

I feel that it would be a worthy goal for our town to become an attainment area. In order for this to happen, citizens need to let their voice be heard by the county health department¹ and the Montanan DEQ. Spare the Air Month seems a like sensible way to raise awareness, and to reduce air pollution. The idea is tap into local pride by giving communities a report card for their air improvement. I would like to see towns

nationwide receive air report cards. Why not? When I was a boy, if I got an A on my report card, my folks would take me for a cherry float. I can still see the ice cream shop. Why not provide an ice cream float, of sorts, for communities that receive an A for air quality?

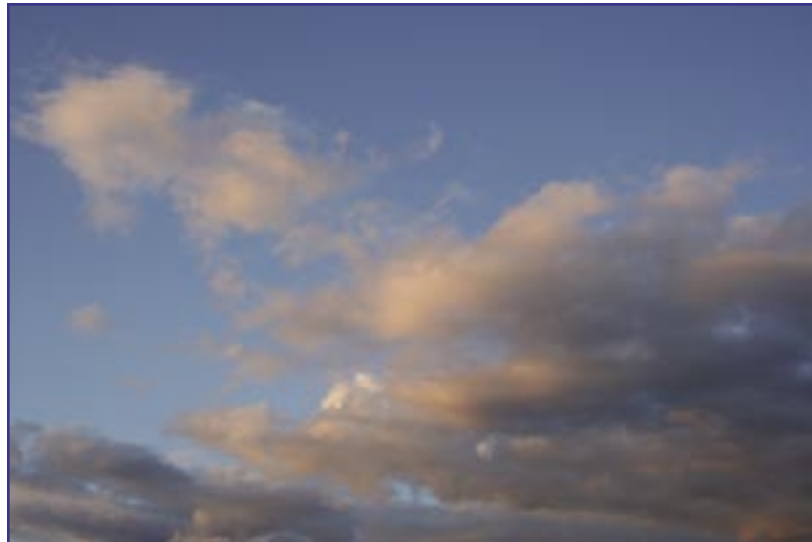
I know that there are good, socially conscious folks who are reading this article who also heat with wood. I come from northern Wisconsin, and a small college town, which is the home of the Sigurd Olsen Environmental Institute. For those of you who don’t know, Sigurd Olsen is a famed author of nature books mostly about the boundary waters of northern Minnesota. He is in a similar category with Aldo Leopold and John Muir. The point I want to make is that many of the eco-aware graduates of this college, move back-to-the land and heat with wood, and they will tell you that wood heat is a good eco-option. True. But, only if you have moved back to the land, and are living on your own forty-acre plot,

rather than living in town, where there is not as much of a concern for neighbors with sensitive bronchial tracts. Smoking anywhere use to be commonly accepted, but smoking in public places today is now widely recognized as a health risk to those who use these places to work, shop, and dine. Similarly, we needed to rethink the use of wood stoves in our cities.

Kalispell, as well as Whitefish and Columbia Falls, used to be a quaint rugged frontier town, but it has grown into a metropolis. With the current population density, we must be sensitive and aware of the comfort and health of our neighbors. One of the ethical questions we must ask is, “what if everybody did it”. What if everybody in the middle of the city burned with wood, used charcoal grills, burned their yard waste, and drove

large cars? We must, if we are caring people, do everything we can to not harm our neighbors. Even if we don’t understand them completely, and smoke doesn’t bother us, would we feel good about ourselves if we knew we were hurting them?

If you smell smoke from a source you think is not complying with county regulations, it is OK to call the police, or if you are in the county to call the sheriff. Refer to the air regulations found at the County Health Department web site <http://www.flatheadhealth.org/envhealth/burn.cfm> Ask these officers politely if they would do “drive-by” between emergencies to check on the smoke issue of concern to you. For some with asthma, heart disease, or even children, air pollution is a type of emergency. Talk with your neighbors. If you are too shy to talk directly, write them a letter. Let’s rally around the idea of the Flathead Valley



• VOTE FOR BETTR PLANNING • VOTE FOR THE FUTURE • VOTE FOR BETTR PLANNING • VOTE FOR THE FUTURE •

Proper Land Use Planning Could Significantly Reduce Carbon Emission

Changing economy, population growth and land use patterns have a major impact on the Changing Climate of the Intermountain West

(Adapted from recent Press Release from the Sonoran Institute¹, 3/08)

“Land use-related policies have the potential to be among the most effective in both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing cost savings for communities seeking to mitigate and adapt to climate change,” said Rebecca Carter of the Sonoran Institute. She was one of a number of planners and other professionals at a recent western planning workshop that explored the role of land use and transportation planning in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change in the

“Since buildings and transportation together generate nearly half of greenhouse gas emissions, the potential to mitigate future emissions through improved land use, transportation, and building methods is tremendous.”

Intermountain West. “Eight of the eleven Western states now have climate action plans, which include land use and transportation-related climate action policies.² If these policies were all implemented, they could account for about 20% of the carbon reduction goals in those plans.”

The types of policies include:

- Increasing energy efficiency in existing and new municipal, industrial, commercial, and residential buildings
- Reduction in vehicle miles traveled through a variety of transportation and land use strategies including developing a regional vision that provides residents with transportation choices in getting to work, home and entertainment, as well as fostering more compact development and a better mix of uses
- Alternative energy, especially distributed generation within urban areas



- Open space conservation
- Urban forestry
- Comprehensive drought planning and increased water efficiency measures

The urgency to implement effective climate change policies in the Intermountain West, especially land use and transportation-related policies, is particularly great. The Intermountain West—the region between the Cascades and Sierra Nevada and the Great Plains, stretching between the Canadian and Mexican borders—has been experiencing a population explosion and an unprecedented building boom for the past two decades. All indications are that these trends will continue. It is estimated that two-thirds of the residences that will be needed in the region by 2030 had not yet been built in 2000. Phoenix, for example, will need 100 percent more buildings and Tucson 78 percent more by 2030 if current population trends continue. For the state of Arizona as a whole, the figure is 95 percent.



Similar patterns exist for commercial/institutional and industrial space. Since buildings and transportation together generate nearly half of greenhouse gas emissions, the potential to mitigate future emissions through improved land use, transportation, and building methods is tremendous.

However, the Intermountain West lags behind other regions of the U.S. in committing to voluntary climate actions. Western community participation rates in voluntary programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are among the lowest in the U.S. Relatively few communities in the region have looked seriously at how changing land use policies can contribute to both mitigation and adaptation, and those that have tend to be either large urban areas or resort towns.

“At the same time, many areas of the Intermountain West are already experiencing likely impacts of climate change, including severe, sustained drought; reduced annual mountain snowpack and earlier snow melt; changes in plant and animal distributions into higher

Good News on Real Solutions for Growing Smart

- Links to dozens of articles on Green Building and Conservation Design in the Flathead, Montana and the West

<http://www.newwest.net/search/results/3bdac414c31471e665853da060caa215/>

- Energy & Climate Change On the Web Montana Resources

Montana Climate Change Action Plan:
<http://www.mtclimatechange.us/CCAC.cfm>

Center for Climate Strategies
<http://www.climatestrategies.us/>

Western Climate Initiative
<http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/>

Montana Climate Change website
<http://www.MontanaClimateChange.mt.gov>

- Montana Conservation Groups with web information on Energy and Climate Issues in Montana

Montana Environmental Information Center,
<http://www.meic.org/>

National Center for Appropriate Technology,
<http://www.montanaclimatechange.com>
<http://www.montanagreenpower.com/>

Alternative Energy Resources Organization
“Repowering Montana - A Blueprint for Homegrown Energy Self-Reliance,”
<http://www.aeromt.org/blueprint.php>

Montana Audubon
<http://mtaudubon.org/issues/global/index.html>
http://mtaudubon.org/issues/global/documents/Laundry_List_LowerCO2.pdf

Streamside Setbacks Needed from page 4

The current draft addresses both of these concerns. If the setback requirement renders your property unbuildable, you qualify for a reasonable use exemption that would allow you to build on your property with a more reasonable setback. If you feel that your property is deserving of a lesser setback and water quality issues can be addressed with mitigation, then you can submit a Riparian Resource Management Plan that demonstrates how you will meet "equivalent" water quality standards that would have been addressed by the proposed setback.



Setbacks protect homeowners and tax payers.

Given that this has been such a lengthy public process, and there are four new planning board members, it is important that you continue to make your voice heard on this issue. Now is our chance to decide our own future. What tomorrow looks like depends on what we do today!

We will keep you updated as we learn more. To read the current draft, visit <http://www.co.flathead.mt.us/fcpz/drafts.html>. The next planning board workshop on this topic is currently scheduled for May 28th in the Earl Bennett Building. Call the County Planning Office for details.

751-8200.

Photos by Montana DNRC and Montan Audubon.



Smoke in the City from page 5

being a leader in clean air and quality of life. It is a Montana tradition and a point of public pride.

¹For meeting information go to <http://www.flatheadhealth.org/boardofhealth/boh.cfm>

Road Dust In the County and Air Quality

Citizens for a Better Flathead recognizes that poor air quality in our valley's three cities is an important issue for residents to get involved in and we encourage your involvement. We also want to note that while Eckle's article focuses primarily of issues of wood smoke and burning in the city, road dust is also an issue of concern to many Flathead County residents. According to Flathead County's new growth policy, "Air quality problems in Montana are usually related to urban areas and mountainous topography or river valleys that are sensitive to temperature inversions. Particulate matter and carbon monoxide are the criteria pollutants that have the greatest adverse impact on Montana's air quality. Particulate matter generally comes from vehicles traveling on unpaved roads, sand and gravel from winter traction material, and residential wood burning. Increasing traffic levels on unpaved roads is a growing problem, which is headed towards a critical stage. This growth policy contains policies recommending county-wide dust abatement programs." Local Flathead County residents looking for more comprehensive solutions have formed an advocacy organization, Montanan's for Paved Roads. This local group is actively working for revisions to county policies to address road dust issues and the need for better roads given the rapid growth the county is experiencing. Contact them at 756-8217. Flathead County has also established a Road Advisory Board to make recommendations to the county on road issues including dust. Call the commissioner's office for meeting schedules at 758-5503.

Be a Good Neighbor

Remember that burning manmade materials is prohibited at any time. You must burn only agricultural debris and/or wild land debris in accordance within the time frames and conditions specified under County Burning Restrictions.

Please use caution when you burn. Please consider your neighbors and burn only clean, dry material. Leaves and grass clipping DO NOT burn well. Composting these items is encouraged. They tend to create excessive smoke and burn very slowly. Consider composting these items at home or at the county landfill.

Burning restrictions will be updated daily on the ventilation hotline, 751-8144. You must call each day that you burn during the burning seasons, which are described below. The report will be updated by 8:40 am on weekdays and by 5:00 pm Friday for the weekend.

Important Dates to Remember

December 1 to February 29	No open burning (Season Closed)
March 1 to April 30	Open burning. No burning permit required. Air Quality compliance required.
May 1 to June 30	Burning permit required. Air Quality compliance required.
July 1 to September 30	No burning in Flathead County and some Lake County RFD's.
October 1 to November 30	Open burning. No burning permit required. Air Quality compliance required.

Citizens' Annual Candidate Survey

Citizens for a Better Flathead invited the three candidates running for County Commissioner to answer the questions listed below. Responses were limited to 1000 words. All candidates were advised that the answers they submitted would be printed verbatim with no corrections or edits---an offer that generously allows candidates to stake their position on issues both in an open-ended narrative format, where they can clarify key positions, and in a general ranking format.

Unfortunately, two candidates chose not to respond; Gary Hall and Jim Dupont. As a non-profit, Citizens for a Better Flathead can not endorse candidates for any office. We simply make this candidate forum available to all candidates to inform voters. The democratic process, however, suffers when candidates choose not to engage in spirited and respectful debate of issues central to the office they seek.

Questions for County Commissioner Candidates

1. **Leadership**—What priorities, skills and qualities will you bring to the position of County Commissioner that you feel distinguish you from your opponents.
2. **Rapid Growth**—What overall grade (A-F) would you give the county for managing growth over the past decade and why?
3. **Leaving a Legacy**—Are there areas in the county that are so special that more should be done to direct growth away from these areas? If yes, what steps would you take to achieve this? If no, please explain.
4. **Speculative Development**—The County has some 26,000 vacant lots, or more than twice the lots need to accommodate the next 20 years of growth projected in the county growth policy. The cities have a backlog of approved, but undeveloped lots as well. With the county struggling for funding to provide services like adequate roads and emergency services to existing development and with no zoning in much of the county, is it time to consider a development moratorium for a year until more tools can be adopted to guide future growth?
5. **Air and Water Quality**—What are the most significant air and water quality issues facing the county that you want to address and how will you do this?
6. **Please rank your position on the following issues.**
 1. **Highway Corridors:** Develop highway corridor plans with greater setbacks and landscaping requirements, as well as, shared or limited access.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
 2. **Location of New Commercial Uses:** Set standards limiting new commercial development along the highways between the three cities in coordination with the growth policies of the three cities.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
 3. **Traffic:** Support the need for new standards and policies to insure that adequate roads, on-going road maintenance, and pedestrian facilities are in place concurrent with new development.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
 4. **Affordable Housing:** Adopt policies ensuring that a percentage of new annual growth includes permanent affordable housing.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
 5. **Impact Fees:** Establish impact fees for transportation infrastructure needs created by new development.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
 6. **Neighborhood Planning:** Support the use of existing and new neighborhood plans as a planning tool for geographical neighborhood areas to distinguish the character of these areas and define the density of appropriate development, the type of uses, and the standards for development in these areas.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
7. **Gravel:** Adopt clearer standards to limit the scale and impacts of gravel mining near residential areas and in sensitive rural areas.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
8. **City-County Planning:** Work to improve city/county relationships and opportunities for joint land use planning and collaborative infrastructure development.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
9. **Shallow Ground Water:** Protect water quality by directing growth away from areas of shallow groundwater.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
10. **Incentives:** Provide incentives to encourage development in some areas and the purchase of development rights away from other areas where growth should be limited.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
11. **Working Lands:** Support family farms and forest industries by directing growth elsewhere.
Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important
12. **Rural Lands Bond:** Would you, as a commissioner, support placing a ballot option for an open space or working lands bond to the voters of the county?
Support 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Do Not Support
13. **Wildlife:** Given that in addition to public lands, private lands in the county provide important winter range and other critical wildlife habitat, do you think that the County Growth Policy and Subdivision Regulations should include clearer policies to direct growth away from these areas, and limit the permitted density in these areas?
Support 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Do Not Support
14. **Water Quality:** Given the continued decline of water quality in Flathead Lake and in other county rivers, streams, and lakes, despite existing regulations to protect water quality, do you support the need for establishing greater setbacks (of generally 100 feet—more or less--depending on site-specific characteristics) for future new subdivisions to better protect water quality?
Support 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Do Not Support
15. **Parks:** Do you support the adoption of county impact fees on new development to support the increasing need for county parks and facilities?
Support 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Do Not Support

Note: All answers to questions 6 are shown in a chart on page 10.

Answers from County Commissioner Candidates



Steve Quenell

1. **Leadership**—What priorities, skills and qualities will you bring to the position of County Commissioner that you feel distinguish you from your opponents.

As candidate for commissioner, I bring energy and vision that will move our county in a new direction forward – away from unbalanced, unplanned growth that serves special interests and towards reasonable land-use planning that serves the public interest.

I hold several Montana teaching endorsements and have an undergraduate degree in History from the University of South Carolina and a Master's in Education Policy and Management from Harvard. In the Flathead I have worked in many different capacities to make ends meet. These experiences fit nicely with my education and allow me to see issues in a broad context. The commissioner's job requires communicating and coordinating with a wide-range of people on a wide-range of issues and a broad perspective is needed to find reasonable long-term solutions that benefit the most people.

I also have the on-the-ground experience needed to be effective. I serve on the boards of two non-profits that, similar to government, must negotiate a dual bottom line to ensure that the most people are served by limited resources. My planning experience comes from my service as vice-chairman of the Whitefish City/County Planning Board. In my 17 months on the board, I helped guide the planning of many new developments, I helped steer the Growth Policy through to completion, and I attended every meeting on the Critical Areas Ordinance. I listen carefully to public comment, experts and staff members and I always make careful, well-reasoned decisions that balance the individual wants with community needs.

2. **Rapid Growth**—What overall grade (A-F) would you give the county for managing growth over the past decade and why?

D. For the past ten years the county has done very little to reasonably plan for growth so that our shared economic resources are not degraded. Poor leadership has jeopardized our economic assets of clean air, clean water, and beautiful views. Rather than developing a working framework for growth that balances the rights of individuals with the rights of the community, county leaders have allowed haphazard growth that seems to be guided more by special interest than public interest. Over the last 10 years we have all watched our water quality diminish, our air quality diminish and our access to public lands diminish while simultaneously experiencing increasing taxes, stop-and-go traffic and polarization of our communities. Only by taking a reasonable approach to planning, restoring cooperation and communication, and seeking innovative, long-term solutions to our problems can we change the destructive course of the past 10 years.

3. **Leaving a Legacy**—Are there areas in the county that are so special that more should be done to direct growth away from these areas? If yes, what steps would you take to achieve this? If no, please explain.

There are certainly areas that we would all like to see prohibited from development and we need to get a clear picture from the public what they want saved and why. We must protect not only environmentally sensitive areas, but also culturally sensitive areas like farms and working forests. The long-range planning task force has not been doing enough in this area and should be given the job of prioritizing which areas are most special and develop a set of criteria for evaluating these areas. Most people in the county are reasonable and understand the need to plan growth around certain areas and we must maintain open lines of communication with property owners who might be affected and help them mitigate any effects to their property.

Reasonable people also understand that we must leave a legacy for our children if we want them to stay in the county and have access to the same legacy that was left to us. In order to do that, we must find a balance that is fair to both small and large landowners.

4. **Speculative Development**—The County has some 26,000 vacant lots, or more than twice the lots need to accommodate the next 20 years of growth projected in the county growth policy. The cities have a backlog of approved, but undeveloped lots as well. With the county struggling for funding to provide services like adequate roads and emergency services to existing development and with no zoning in much of the county, is it time to consider a development moratorium for a year until more tools can be adopted to guide future growth?

Establishing a moratorium on new development is not in the best interest of the people for several reasons. This kind of measure is reactionary and heavy-handed and would only fuel the fires of discontent already burning in our county. A moratorium is also a knee-jerk reaction to growth that is neither reasonable nor balanced. Our county is experiencing growing pains and the best remedy for growing pains is calm, consistent leadership that does not overreact to change. I know because I have helped hundreds of teens transition from adolescence to early adulthood, and from early adulthood to independence. Heavy-handed reactions to problems rarely create good solutions. Instead, they create more problems. We should not be considering no-growth policies right now. Rather, we should be focusing on creating a reasonable plan for growth that balances the many interests of our county residents. At the same time, we must develop new tools that provide options to farmers, ranchers, and forest owners. Right now the only option when faced with economic hardship is to subdivide. We must respect the stewardship that many of our farmers and forest owners have provided on their lands and find reasonable ways to help them maintain the economic assets that their lands provide.

5. **Air and Water Quality**—What are the most significant air and water quality issues facing the county that you want to address and how will you do this?

In terms of air quality, road dust and increased pollution from stop-and-go traffic rank side by side. On high-pressure days pollutants are trapped close to the ground creating smog and making our air unhealthy to breathe. We must come up with some innovative solutions to deal with these issues. Whether looking at new road gravel or installing roundabouts instead of stoplights, we can find a way to fix these problems if we are willing to work hard.

Answers from County Commissioner Candidates

Question #6 was a multi-part question where the candidates were asked to rate questions 1 - 11 with the following numerical values:

Very important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Not important

Here are the questions and how they responded:

6. Please rank your position on the following issues.

	Jim Dupont	Gary Hall	Steve Quenell
1. Highway Corridors: Develop highway entrance corridor plans with greater setbacks and landscaping requirements, as well as, shared or limited access.	?	?	2
2. Location of New Commercial Uses: Set standards limiting new commercial development along the highways between the three cities in coordination with the growth policies of the three cities.	?	?	2
3. Traffic: Support the need for new standards and policies to insure that adequate roads, on-going road maintenance, and pedestrian facilities are in place concurrent with new development.	?	?	1
4. Affordable Housing: Adopt policies ensuring that a percentage of new annual growth includes permanent affordable housing.	?	?	2
5. Impact Fees: Establish impact fees for transportation infrastructure needs created by new development.	?	?	2
6. Neighborhood Planning: Support the use of existing and new neighborhood plans as a planning tool for geographical neighborhood areas to distinguish the character of these areas and define the density of appropriate development, the type of uses, and the standards for development in these areas.	?	?	1
7. Gravel: Adopt clearer standards to limit the scale and impacts of gravel mining near residential areas and in sensitive rural areas.	?	?	2
8. City-County Planning: Work to improve city/county relationships and opportunities for joint land use planning and collaborative infrastructure development.	?	?	1
9. Shallow Ground Water: Protect water quality by directing growth away from areas of shallow groundwater.	?	?	2
10. Incentives: Provide incentives to encourage development in some areas and the purchase of development rights away from other areas where growth should be limited.	?	?	1
11. Working Lands: Support family farms and forest industries by directing growth elsewhere.	?	?	2
For questions 12-15, candidates were asked to rate the questions with a numerical value indicating their level of support. Support 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Do Not Support	?	?	
12. Rural Lands Bond: Would you, as a commissioner, support placing a ballot option for an open space or working lands bond to the voters of the county?	?	?	1
13. Wildlife: Given that in addition to public lands, private lands in the county provide important winter range and other critical wildlife habitat, do you think that the County Growth Policy and Subdivision Regulations should include clearer policies to direct growth away from these areas, and limit the permitted density in these areas?	?	?	3
14. Water Quality: Given the continued decline of water quality in Flathead Lake and in other county rivers, streams, and lakes, despite existing regulations to protect water quality, do you support the need for establishing greater setbacks (of generally 100 feet—more or less--depending on site-specific characteristics) for future new subdivisions to better protect water quality?	?	?	1
15. Parks: Do you support the adoption of county impact fees on new development to support the increasing need for county parks and facilities?	?	?	3

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Are You Ready to be Heard?

PRIMARY ELECTION

June 3, 2008 — 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There is still time to register to vote in the Primary Election! Your vote can help elect leaders who will support sound planning for the future of this great place. This primary includes candidates for federal, state, and local office. In this issue we have featured candidates for county commissioner, but the questions we asked them about a variety of issues can and should be asked of other candidates. Please take time to get informed and vote! (Remember that in 2006 less than half of the eligible voters in Flathead County took this important opportunity to vote. Your vote matters!!)

If you missed the regular voter registration—which closed May 5, you can still vote in the June 3 Primary! Here's how.

To register at the county election office, you must do so in person. You will need some identification—either a driver's license or a social security card.

Show up at the local election office up to and including ELECTION DAY, fill out a voter registration card and submit—then you can vote a ballot that you can give to the election office staff.

Between noon and the close of business on the day before Election Day, you can drop off a voter registration card, but you will need to return to the local election office on Election Day to pick up and vote a ballot.

When you are given your ballot, you will only be voting for candidates that will be serving your district. You will also be informed where the polling place is for your voting precinct.

There is no party registration in Montana. Individuals who vote in a primary election are given all the parties' ballots, and can choose in private which party ballot they wish to vote. Then they return the voted ballots to an election judge in one sleeve, and the unvoted party ballots in a separate sleeve. Voters in a primary election cannot vote more than one party's ballots. In the General Election in November, voters may vote across party lines.

LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION

Nov. 4, 2008 — 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Absentee Ballot Period for the November 4 General Election Opens August 21, 2008 — 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

August 21: An application for an absentee ballot must be made during a period beginning on this date, 75 days before the general election, and ending at noon the day before the election. Absent military and overseas electors are not subject to an earliest date to request absentee ballots.

Regular Voter Registration Period Closes On October 6 – Late Voter Registration Opens October 6, 2008 – 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Same as in the Primary Election, if you miss this deadline, you may still register by showing up at the local election office up to and including Election Day, filling out and submitting a voter registration card, and voting a ballot that you give to the election office staff.

Between noon and the close of business on the day before Election Day, you can drop off a voter registration card, but you will need to return to the local election office on Election Day to pick up and vote a ballot.

More Information Sources:

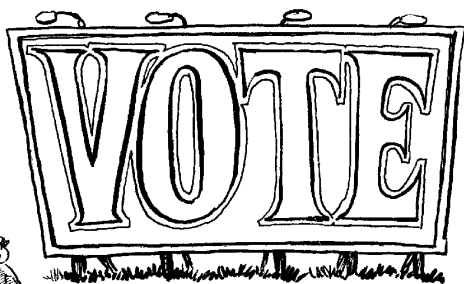
- Call Montana Voter Registration Hotline at 1-888-884-8683.
- Montana Secretary of State Website Website: <http://sos.state.mt.us>
- For a voter registration card that you can download, go to <http://www.co.flathead.mt.us/electn/>
- To see a sample Republican or Democratic Primary Election Ballot, visit our website at www.flatheadcitizens.org and click on **Republican Ballot** and **Democratic Ballot** under the VOTE section at the top of the page.

Answers from Steve Qunell from page 9

In terms of water quality, we must outline areas that are critical to protecting water quality. Some of that is already done through floodplain administration and current subdivision regulations, but there is more to do. We must also adopt a reasonable plan for setbacks and buffers from our lakes, rivers and wetlands so that riparian areas can do nature's work the inexpensive way. Otherwise we will be faced with unbelievably complex and expensive restoration efforts. Other Montana communities are far ahead

of us on these issues. It's time we catch up.

We must also all remember that clean air and clean water are vital economic assets that we all share. We must all be good stewards in protecting these assets and understand that what may benefit a few does not always benefits the many.



May 31, 2008 • 1:00 - 4:30 pm

People will be gathering to celebrate the opening of the community spirit monument in Kalispell's Woodland Park. The Tropical Montana Mirimba Band will be making music for the event. Food vendors will be there for the celebration. So grab your lawn chairs and enjoy the day.

Criteria for Rural Development from page 3

4	A) Development is clustered away from prime agricultural lands, stream and river sides, wetlands, and critical or important wildlife habitats. A single cluster of homes (10 points), two clusters of homes (5 points); or, B) Projects that are not clustered must have a density of less than 1 home per 640 acres (10 points) or 1 home per 160 acres (5 points) - no points will be given under this criteria for higher densities. Building envelopes for each home site are required qualify for these points.	
5	Streets integrate safe and comfortable sidewalks and/or pathways throughout the developed areas of the property	
6	Open space abuts open space on neighboring properties (10 points)	
7	The development uses centralized sewer systems (10 points) or septic systems that keep all mixing zones on the property (5 points), no points if mixing zones cross property lines	
8	The development uses centralized water systems or has acquired adequate senior water rights to ensure that in stream flows will not be adversely impacted as the result of the development's surface or ground water developments or diversions (10 points). A development using 35-gallon-per-minute-exempt-wells will have 1 point subtracted per exempt well	
9	The buildings are designed and use sustainable, energy efficient materials, appliances, design, and/or orientation and lighting is dark skies compliant	
10	Street trees, sidewalks, front porches, and front doors dominate the streetscape, not garage doors and driveways	
11	Cul-de-sacs are avoided except where absolutely necessary due to natural conditions. Any cul-de-acs should be connected through with a ped/bike path "shortcut"	
12	For all structures located entirely or partially within an area designated as moderate, high, or high to severe on the fuel/fire hazard map, fuels have been mitigated prior to construction in accordance with a plan for fuel reduction, defensible space, and construction prepared in accordance with the standards found on line at www.firewise.org . Any development with buildings proposed in high, or high to severe fuel/fire hazard areas will have 5 points subtracted for each building	
13	Roadways are narrow (e.g., 29 feet from curb to curb for local residential streets)	
14	Developers have attempted to meet with neighborhood and have made a good faith effort to address the reasonable concerns of neighbors	
15	The development includes wildlife protection conditions or covenants that at a minimum include requiring wildlife friendly fencing and wildlife-proof garbage containers	
16	Continued traditional public access in order to reach public lands near site, if it has been allowed before	
17	The development paves roads leading to the development and addresses and/or pays for any increase in on-site and off-site services and infrastructure needed to serve the development	
	TOTAL SCORE	

Montana Smart Growth Coalition's Smart Growth Endorsement for Urban and Suburban Development Draft 5/08

Please rate the development from zero to five. Give the development zero if it does not meet the criteria in any way and five (or more if higher points are noted in the body of the criteria) if it meets the criteria perfectly. Projects will not be rated for criteria that do not apply to the project because the project is too small - MSGC will make the determination of which criteria do not apply to the project.

	Criteria	Score
1	The project is inside city limits (20), or will be served at an urban level of service (10), or in a designated county urban growth area (5)	
2	The project includes deed restricted or otherwise controlled affordable housing - 100% of units (15), 50% (10), 30% (5)	
3	Streets are organized in a connected network internally and are connected to existing or planned adjacent streets. Blocks are short (<400 feet) - 15 points maximum	
4	There are a variety of housing density and housing density is higher the closer you get to the neighborhood center. The average net density is 8 units per acre or greater (10), the average net density is between 8 units per acre and the average net density of the nearest city (5)	
5	Streets integrate all modes of transportation, with safe and comfortable sidewalks and pathways throughout. The project has transit access (or access is planned) - 10 points maximum	
6	There are a variety of housing types and sizes that at least two distinct income levels can afford	
7	There is a neighborhood center in the development or within 1/2 mile of all residents (may/may not be part of the project) with retail, office, public meeting space, and/or a park of other green space	
8	Commercial buildings front directly on the sidewalk with parking to the side or rear, and/or open space/parks are visible and accessible	
9	On street parking is encouraged. Parking lots are generally located behind street walls and buildings with little street visibility	
10	The buildings are designed and use sustainable, energy efficient materials, appliances, design, and/or orientation and lighting is dark skies compliant	
11	Building setbacks are shallow, generally not more than one quarter of the lot width, with a maximum of no more than 20 feet	
12	Street trees, sidewalks, front porches, and front doors dominate the streetscape, not garage doors and driveways	
13	Culdesacs are avoided except where absolutely necessary due to natural conditions	
14	Traffic calming measures such as curb bulb-outs are incorporated	
15	Roadways are relatively narrow (e.g., 29 feet from curb to curb for local residential streets) and parking is allowed on both sides of streets	

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The Youth Vote: Will it Shape the Future of the Flathead?

By Megan McCrae

Nationwide, between 2002 and 2006, the percentage of eligible young people, 18-29 years, that voted increased by three percentage points to 25%. Here in Montana the numbers are even more impressive. Between 2002 and 2006 the youth voter turnout rate jumped 13 percentage points, from 26% to 39%.¹ Young voters played a pivotal role in electing Jon Tester as Montana's new US Senator; a victory that the media reported he could not have claimed without the Montana youth vote.

In 2006, Flathead County had a voting age population of 65,692 residents of which 83% or 54,959 were registered to vote. In 2006, however, only 61% or 33,525 of those registered to vote cast a vote. That means roughly half the voting age population of the county is exercising their right to decide who will play a primary role in shaping how Flathead County grows among other issues.

In Flathead County in 2006, 15.5 % of the population² was 18-29 years of age making them a potential force for tipping a tight election race—an increasingly common situation in the Flathead. Young adults 18-29 years of age in 2006 numbered 12,797 potential voters.

Former Montana Secretary of State, Bob Brown, recently pointed out in an opinion piece that appeared in the Flathead Beacon that the youth vote is worth watching. He summarized the impact youth across the nation are playing already in this year's presidential election. He also noted that based on an informal poll he had done of 183 high school students, in his visits to six mostly senior high school classrooms across the state—including Kalispell—that in each location if the vote was left to Montana youth, they would have gone for a Democrat and more specifically for Obama for President. That would be a shift in presidential politics that has not been seen in the state for years.

Young people born between 1978 and 1996, creating a group ranging from 18 to 29 year olds, have been dubbed by the media as the "Millennial" generation. From the time 18-year-olds won the right to vote in 1971, turnout among youth voters had been decreasing until recently. This trend resulted in the youth vote being labeled as apathetic, uninterested, and politically disengaged. But this tide began to turn beginning with the 2004 presidential election and continued into the 2006 midterm election, as millennials came out to the polls in greater numbers than they have in the past 40 years.

So what does this mean for the country now that young people are re-engaging in politics? Well first of all, this puts issues that affect young people back on the political radar. Politicians are increasingly realizing that engaging this demographic is crucial to winning elections. In the 2004 presidential election Howard Dean was the only Democratic candidate for President that had a youth director. This election cycle, both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have national youth directors and a significant number of staff dedicated to targeting the youth vote.

The political leanings of the millennial generation have increasingly been Democratic. Polls have shown that millennials have serious concerns about the growing gap between the rich and the poor, the economy, the war in Iraq,

healthcare, college affordability and strongly believe in racial and gender equality. Regarding the environment, millennials overwhelmingly believe that the country should do "whatever it takes" to protect the environment; that stricter environmental laws are worth the cost; and that people should be willing to pay higher prices in order to protect the environment.³

A recent poll conducted by Rock the Vote, a non-partisan organization dedicated to registering young voters, found that 68% of young voters feel the country is on the wrong track. What's encouraging is that 89% of those voters also believe they have the power to change our country, and 75% believe young people are making more of a difference than usual this election season.⁴

There are high hopes for the millennial generation. Some have even compared them to the GI Generation that was a tremendous force in bringing progressive politics to the forefront under Franklin D. Roosevelt. This year it is estimated that eligible millennial voters will be close to 50 million strong. By the 2016 Presidential election, millennials will comprise 30% of actual voters—one-third or more of the eligible electorate. Millennials have the numbers and the potential to drive a new progressive era that could change the direction of this country as well as local elections here in the Flathead and in communities like ours across the country. Millennials have the numbers to successfully take on the challenges of the twenty-first century and leave a legacy for future generations that we can be proud of.

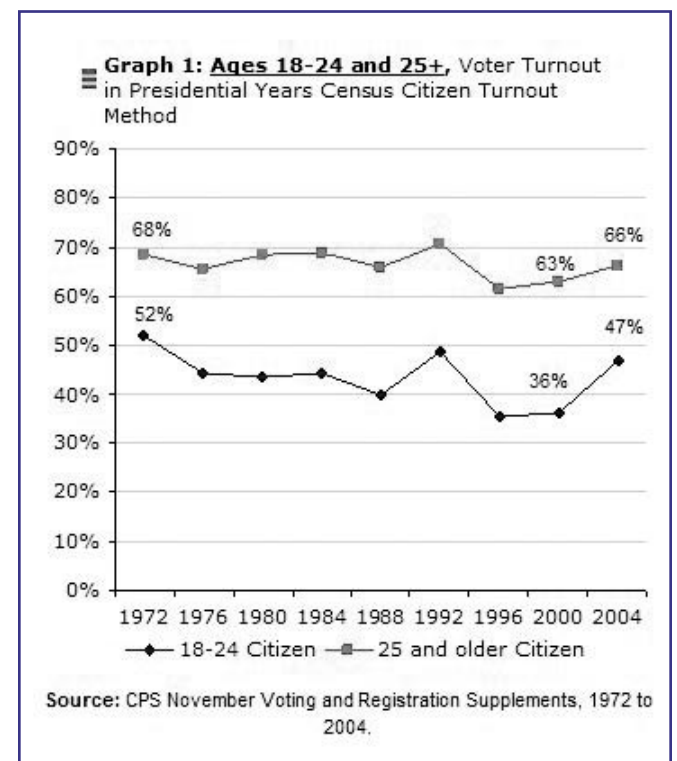
In 2006, Flathead County had a voting age population of 65,692 residents of which 83% or 54,959 were registered to vote. In 2006, however, only 61% or 33,525 of those registered to vote cast a vote.

¹Lopez, M.H., Marcelo, K.B., & Sagoff, J. *The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement*. "Quick Facts about Young Voters in Montana: The Midterm Election Year 2006," June 2007.

² U.S. Census, Data Set 2006 American Community Survey, S0101. Age and Sex.

³New Politics Institute. "The Progressive Politics of the Millennial Generation." June 2007.

⁴Rock the Vote Post Super Tuesday Poll, 2008.



Growth That Respects This Great Place from page 1

this as not really relevant to Montana, but I read some facts recently that surprised me. It drove home (an appropriate analogy for this point) the significance of how much we drive in Big Sky Country Montana and why energy efficient design of new building and retrofitting of existing buildings is so important.

Did you know that we Montanans contribute an average of 36 tons of CO₂ per person per year, nearly double the US average? This ranks Montana as one of the worst emitters of CO₂ in the US, according to the Dept of Energy². Since CO₂ is the primary greenhouse gas that is causing global warming, the choices we make today have a big impact on our world tomorrow. While coal-fired generation facilities for electricity are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the state, transportation accounts for 15-20% of these emissions. Residential, commercial, and industrial buildings consume 40% of all electricity nationwide, making building design a critical cost factor for how we grow in Montana³.

So, if I have made my arguments effectively, we should both agree at this point that growth that respects this great place is both possible and essential. Possible because it is a design and policy issue, a choice, which innovative planners, visionary architects and developers like those featured in *Building from the Best of the Northern Rockies* have demonstrated is possible. Essential because the connection between land use and transportation decisions are a pocketbook issue few can ignore these days. Essential because the choices we make about how we grow are part of the “inconvenient truth” that the local choices we make are linked to the significant consequences of climate change. Essential because as we prepare to welcome a projected 50% increase in population growth in the Flathead by 2025—that’s some 35,000 new residents, or two new cities the size of Kalispell, or some 14,000 new homes—we must be proactive. Proactive because each day our elected officials are making land use decisions that are defining the legacy we will leave for future generations.

That brings us to the issue of political will. Last fall, our newsletter featured research we had done with Montana Department of Revenue data that revealed that 80% of Flathead County residents own less than five acres of land and 62% own less than an acre. We also cited research that shows 66% of Flathead County residents cannot afford a median-priced home and 47% had not lived in the same home for more than five years.

This led us to point out that this 80% of

Flathead County residents, who own less than five acres, likely own homes and businesses whose value is closely tied to the quality of growth occurring in the Flathead. It also led us to point out that protecting the “property rights” of the majority of Flathead County residents who own less than five acres is more closely tied to ensuring quality growth with good planning and not to the potential of being able to subdivide future lots anywhere with as few regulations as possible for quick personal financial gain. When poorly planned growth degrades the quality of life here, existing home values are likely to follow this decline. For example, a home on a rural county road with little traffic loses value when increased development, without adequate road improvements, brings clouds of dust that degrades the air quality such that even sitting outside becomes unpleasant.

The “common wealth” that we all share here in the Flathead is directly related to the investment we make to secure the quality of our clean water and air, the quality of growth in our town centers, at the edge of our towns, and in rural areas. When this “common wealth” is allowed to be degraded by a failure to plan, by a failure to implement known win-win solutions for small and large land owners like TDR’s (transfer of development rights⁴), or simply by a failure to exercise our political will by voting or speaking up for better planning, the majority of Flathead County property owners are on the losing end of this scenario.

As yet another election cycle rolls around, it’s time to ask how have our leaders performed? Have we done enough to support and hold them accountable? Are we growing smarter? Is there a plan in place that will ensure we leave a legacy for our children’s children? Will there be affordable housing and good paying jobs? Will businesses want to locate here and invest in expansions? Will tourists still point to the Flathead as a special place, retaining tourism as one of our top economic engines?

Promises! Promises! Promises! Politicians will and do promise us favorable outcomes to questions such as these. But, on Election Day, you must judge if they do indeed have the vision and leadership skills to deliver. In this issue of our newsletter, we urge you to get informed and ask tough questions of those running for office. And most importantly, we ask you to vote and to get involved by speaking up for the future of this great place. Citizens for a Better Flathead believes that our future depends on careful analysis, dialogue, cooperation and leadership. With your

support, we are committed to speaking up and providing essential leadership to help shape how the Flathead grows.

¹*Building from the Best of the Northern Rockies* is now available from Sonoran Institute. To order your complimentary copy, call 406-587-7331 or email sbrodie@sonoran.org.

²<http://www.bozemanhouse.com/>

³<http://www.mtclimatechange.us/CCAC.cfm>

⁴Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) is a market-based mechanism that promotes responsible growth, while conserving areas such as prime agricultural and environmentally sensitive lands. It is designed to steer growth -- not to limit or stop development. Through individual, voluntary transactions, development rights are transferred from our region’s privately owned farmland, forestland and natural areas (sending sites) to areas that can accommodate additional growth (receiving sites). Landowners in sending areas receive compensation for giving up their right to develop, while developers in receiving areas pay for the right to a bonus in the receiving area, such as additional height or density than would otherwise be allowed. When development rights are removed from a parcel, a conservation easement is placed on the sending site.

Proper Land Use Planning

from page 6

elevations; and increases in the frequency and severity of wildfires,” Carter said. “These impacts are likely to continue and increase over time, making the West a vulnerable region and calling attention to the need for adaptive responses to these changing circumstances.”

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Sonoran Institute created the Joint Venture partnership to pursue projects that further their respective, overlapping missions and interests around land conservation, planning and urban form in the West. The core themes of the Joint Venture’s work includes integrating conservation with development, sustainability and climate change, and fiscal and economic policy analysis relating to planning and urban form. For more information, visit lincolninst.edu or sonoran.org.

¹The Sonoran Institute’s mission is to inspire and enable community decisions and public policies that respect the land and people of western North America. Learn more about their work and that of the Montana Smart Growth Coalition of which Citizens for a Better Flathead is a founding member at sonoran.org and at http://sonoran.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=79&Itemid=172

²This includes Montana. See Montana Climate Change website <http://www.MontanaClimateChange.mt.gov>

• VOTE FOR RECYCLING • VOTE FOR RECYCLING • VOTE FOR RECYCLING • VOTE FOR RECYCLING •

WasteNot Education Program Helps to Shape the Future of Recycling in the Flathead Valley

By Jordan Tesar



In late March 2008, I became the new WasteNot Project Program Assistant, a spring seasonal position, providing outreach in the community on a variety of recycling and waste-reducing programs. I was both excited and nervous to come aboard. Excited because this is on the right path of what I want to do with my life and nervous because compared to previous WasteNot program assistants, I had relatively little time to prepare for my first WasteNot classroom presentation. By the time school is out, I will have given classroom presentations to over 1100 kids and tours out at the landfill and compost garden to over 500 kids.



As much as I thought I knew about recycling, my knowledge regarding the matter increased substantially by being involved in this project. In fact, I don't think it is possible to know everything about recycling unless it is a part of your everyday vocabulary.

There are several reasons for this. One, this county (and state) in general is very behind the times when it comes to recycling. We don't recycle glass, we only recycle #1 and #2 types of plastics (there are 7 kinds!), we don't have curb-side pickup for recycling, and the blue recycle bins are only located in certain areas throughout the valley. Secondly, we are not making recycling as important as it needs to be.

Part of my job is to go around to classrooms and teach kids about recycling. Such as, what can be recycled, what cannot be recycled, and then where to take those items. I even squeeze in some time to talk about smart shopping and a new concept call "zero waste." More and more businesses are embracing the concept of zero waste by redesigning the products they produce or the services they provide so that they generate no waste. Interface Carpet was one of the first industry leaders in the U.S. this field. They no longer sell carpet, but instead only lease it with an agreement that it will be returned to them for recycling when it is worn out or replaced. They have also designed a production system that does not pollute and is energy efficient.



photo caption

Every year the number of schools and classes that participate in the outreach programs that we provide for schools and youth groups each spring increases, which is great. However, I could be reaching more students and covering more topics for different grade levels if this position was full time. Many schools are now implementing recycling programs with great success, and the WasteNot Project offers four \$500 mini grants to schools annually to encourage this.

I tell the kids that if their family doesn't recycle at home, that they could be in charge of their families' recyclables. As simple as it may sound, an adult still needs to provide the transportation to take the family's recycling to one of the blue recycling bins or one of the three recycling businesses located throughout the county, as well as listen to the advice of a grade schooler.

Probably the biggest surprise I have learned from teaching in the WasteNot Project is how excited and into recycling the kids get. They enjoy sorting recyclables from non-recyclables and determining if a plastic is a number 1 or 2. Part of the presentation I give entails sorting a bag of

continued on page 16

New Recycling Opportunities in the Flathead Valley:

✓ Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Compact fluorescent light bulbs save energy and last longer than regular bulbs. However, fluorescents contain a small amount of mercury, a neurotoxin. Ace Hardware in Kalispell and in Whitefish (Nelson's Hardware) are now taking compact fluorescents, tubes shorter than 4 feet, and thermometers containing mercury for recycling. Flathead Electric is also supporting this program.

✓ Electronic Equipment

On May 3rd, Valley Recycling, Flathead County Solid Waste District, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Citizens for a Better Flathead, and the Montana Conservation Corps hosted "Erase Your E-Waste", an electronic recycling event. 19,134 lbs of electronics were dropped off by individuals and businesses to be recycled. Staples Office Supply stores are now offering year around drop-off for a fee of computers and printers.

✓ Composting

As much as 30% of all waste that is thrown away can actually be composted. The WasteNot Project maintains a compost garden at the Flathead County Landfill that is available to the public to tour. It includes a variety of compost bins for comparison and information on where to purchase these.

✓ Appliances

Every year, the Flathead County Landfill receives 1700-1800 tons of appliances, like refrigerators, stoves, washers, and other miscellaneous appliances. Originally, these appliances were simply buried in the landfill like other trash. Now they are recycled into low-grade steel such as rebar and angle iron.

✓ New: Where to Recycle in the Flathead

brochure: For more information regarding recycling in the Flathead Valley and to download a free brochure, go to <http://www.wastenotproject.org/>

WasteNot Education Program from page 15



Photo caption

“garbage”. Once they have gone through it and made two piles, one of which is recyclables and the other is actual garbage, they are shocked to see how small the pile of garbage is, and from the original pile of “garbage”, most of it could be recycled.

Recycling is a mindset. Just as you make sure you’ve turned off all

the lights and locked the doors before you leave your house, we should all be in the mindset of thinking twice before we throw something away. And not only should we be thinking twice before throwing something away, we should all be thinking twice before buying something in the first place. But the reason why most of us don’t even think twice before buying something or throwing it away is because most of us don’t realize where our trash ends up. It’s an amazing figure, but worth remembering that for every can of garbage a home produces, seven cans of garbage were produced to make the things now being thrown away!!

The second part of the WasteNot Education Program entails giving tours to classes at the Flathead County Landfill. It is quite an eye-opener, not just to a kid, but to anyone—particularly if you’ve lived here for a long time. Every single piece of garbage that you throw away ends up at the landfill and anything that has ever been buried there will be there forever.

A drive up to the top of the highest point of the landfill is known as

“Garbage Mountain” and it originates back to 1970. It started off as a hole in the ground, but stand on top of it and you can see the entire contents of the current landfill and much of the valley, plus the open field to the south along Hwy 93 that the county has licensed for future landfill expansion for the next “Garbage Mountain”. The Flathead County Landfill is filling up faster than it ever has before. While it took over thirty years to make the original “Garbage Mountain”, the second mountain is expected to fill up much more quickly.

Sure, the Flathead is growing at a rapid pace and that is partially the reason for the fast rate at which the landfill filling up, but the fact is that the recycling rate for the Flathead Valley is barely at 5%, and in 2007 close to 128,653 tons of waste was disposed of in the local landfill. More than a third of trash that goes into the landfill is actually paper. Every kid I ask knows that paper can be recycled. If kids know this, why can’t we lead by example?



If one thought about the fact that it can take up to a million years for a Styrofoam container or plastic to decompose, maybe we would think twice about getting our leftovers from a restaurant put in a Styrofoam food container. Does this mean that you can’t go out to eat anymore? Absolutely not. Bring your own container from home and bring your own reusable bag to the store.

I have yet to encounter a kid who was anti-recycling and very few who were reluctant to participate in the hands-on recycling activities. So then what is the problem? Why is it that well over 50% of trash going into the landfill can actually be recycled? The problem is us. Recycling is not a complicated task if we just all take the time to educate ourselves. It’s time to work together with our kids and share the responsibility of recycling.



About the Project

The WasteNot Project is now in its fourteenth year. The school outreach component began in 2001. The WasteNot Project is a collaborative project of Flathead Valley Community College Service Learning Program, the Flathead County Solid Waste District, and Citizens for a Better Flathead. In addition to school programs, the WasteNot Project publishes a brochure on *Where to Recycle in the Flathead* (a new update is at the printers) and maintains a website with great resources for anyone wanting information on a wide variety of waste-reducing topics. The WasteNot Project also provides support for

the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center located at the county landfill and open to residents every third Saturday of the month at no charge, the annual Small Business Hazardous Waste event (May 30th this year), the annual Electronic Waste Collection event, and the WasteNot Project is currently working to help the county establish a Take-Back Program for Pharmaceutical Drugs to keep them out of the landfill and to reduce the potential of these drugs getting into our groundwater. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Call us at 756-8993.



Endorsement for Urban and Suburban Development from page 12

16	Sidewalks are 4-5 feet and detached or >10 feet at the neighborhood center	
17	Buildings front on to collectors. Street intersection design of collectors and arterials is sensitive to the surrounding land use and usable for all modes of transportation	
18	Developers have attempted to meet with neighborhood and have made a good faith effort to address the reasonable concerns of neighbors	
TOTAL SCORE		

- 1-20 additional points may be awarded for projects that protect in perpetuity sensitive environmental lands, waters, and other natural features that might be important to the community – (20) points will be given for a project that has or will place conservation easements on 95% of property being developed (20 points), 85% (15 points), 75% (10 points), or an equivalent amount of land on a different property that has been protected with conservation easements through an official or unofficial transfer of development rights.
- 1-10 additional points may be awarded for unique or historic design of the development and its structure. In order to receive additional points for design, the design of the development shall enhance the community’s character and may include traditional neighborhood design and/or innovative or historic features.

Additional points:

MSGC staff are responsible for deciding if additional points shall be awarded to projects and the number of points to be awarded. Additional points may be awarded for:

Total possible points – 135 (or 180 for a new townsite that must include rural criteria 2, 3, 12, 16, and 17)
 Points needed to get an endorsement – 100 (or 140 for a new townsite that must include rural criteria 2, 3, 12, 16, and 17)

BAD OFFICIALS
 ARE ELECTED BY
GOOD CITIZENS
 WHO DO NOT VOTE

Good design makes choices clear.
AIGA's public service initiative was made possible by the generous support of more than 22,000 AIGA members in 59 chapters and 28 student groups nationwide, along with designers everywhere who believe in the power of design for the public good. This poster was designed by Kristin Jones, Raleigh, North Carolina.

AIGA
 A public service initiative of
 AIGA Design for Democracy.
 For more information visit
www.aiga.org/getoutthevote.

Your ticket purchase supports better planning for the future of this Great Place!

GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS NOW ... 60 FANTASTIC PRIZES!

WITH GREATER THAN A ONE-IN-FOUR CHANCE OF WINNING!!!

Help keep the Flathead a Great Place! Not only does every ticket you buy increase your chances of winning, it also supports the work of Citizens for a Better Flathead, ensuring good planning for the future of this Great Place.

THE GREAT PLACE RAFFLE TICKET

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

1ST PRIZE CHOICE: _____

2ND PRIZE CHOICE: _____

3RD PRIZE CHOICE: _____

RSVP: YES-(NUMBER OF PEOPLE) _____ WILL BE ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING / RAFFLE

YES-(NUMBER OF PEOPLE) _____ WILL BE GOING ON THE BUS TOUR



Drawing to be held Saturday, June 14, 2008, at Annual Meeting.

Need not be present to win. Sorry, ticket purchases are not tax-deductible.

Please make checks payable to Citizens For A Better Flathead, \$25 per raffle ticket • P.O. Box 771, Kalispell, MT 59901.

• Premiums • Premiums • Premiums • Premiums • Premiums • Premiums •

CALL TO PURCHASE THESE PREMIUMS: These items will not be raffled off. Instead, a price is listed next to the Premium description. If any of these exceptional items appeals to you, call the CBF office at 756-8993 to purchase.

Natural history hike in Glacier National Park: Delight in an unforgettable natural history hike in Glacier Park guided by local geologist, Dr. Lex Blood, that will take you through remarkable terrain (6 people max). **Premium Price: \$350**

High country ecology hike in Glacier: Explore the wild mysteries of Glacier National Park with renowned wildlife biologist and author Doug Chadwick (6 people max, valid August through September). **Premium Price: \$350**

Upper Stillwater Lake canoe trip & picnic for two: Gary & Mary Sloan will share their vast knowledge of loons and the scenic beauty of this remote lake with the lucky pair who purchases this prize. **Premium Price: \$200**

Weekend at a remote North Fork cabin: Enjoy the spectacular beauty of the North Fork and get away from it all! Cabin is car-accessible and holds up to 4 people. **Premium Price: \$200**

Garden Wall Inn and Whitefish Theatre Tickets: Put your guests up in a charming bed and breakfast inn, a magnificently restored 1920s house that sits on a shaded corner in Whitefish—plus an evening of theatre for the 2008-2009 season. (excludes Jul.- Aug., and Dec. 24-Jan. 2 for the Inn). Value: \$200, **Premium Price: \$165**

Half-day of birding: Enjoy an extraordinary opportunity for a small group (2-4 people) birding expedition complete with lunch! Led by Dan Casey of the American Bird Conservancy. **Premium Price: \$200**

Flash a brighter smile: Doug Morehouse, DDS, will provide a casting for a personal teeth bleaching kit to use in your own home. Value \$250, **Premium Price: \$200**

Simple will: Imagine the relief to have your affairs in order now, long before you need to! **Premium Price: \$300**

Smoking Cessation Program: Need to stop smoking in a fast, painless and easy manner? Breathe Easy can help you quit any kind of tobacco without the expected withdrawal through hypnosis. Value \$250, **Premium Price: \$150**

Spend an afternoon making your own chocolates and keep the treats! Neil Brown of Mojo Chocolates will open his kitchen to you to learn about the art of making chocolates. (Valid Nov. 15 – Feb. 28). **Value: \$250**

Brightly colored dog portrait: A cheerful painting of a lovable Beagle by Brooke Nelson. **Value: \$75**

HOW DOES THE RAFFLE WORK? IT'S EASY!!

- Choose your top 3 prizes from the 60 great prizes listed inside and fill out the form included in this mailing and mail it with your \$25 (per ticket) check back to the Citizens office.
- If your name is drawn and one of your items is still available (in the order of preference you have listed), you win that prize! If your desired prize has already been won, you get your choice of the remaining prizes!
- We will sell no more than 240 tickets, so each ticket gives you greater than one-in-four odds of winning!
- With the average prize worth \$90, you are entering to win a gift well worth the \$25 ticket price.
- Just clip and mail back your raffle ticket today and be sure to RSVP to let us know if you are attending the Annual Meeting and Raffle Drawing. You can also call us at 756-8993 and let us know. **Need not be present to win, but it'll be a great party. Please join us!**

• RAFFLE PRIZES • RAFFLE PRIZES • RAFFLE PRIZES • RAFFLE PRIZES •

Health & Wellness

Month of Introductory Taekwondo Lessons:

Get an introduction to martial arts skills at Big Sky Martial Arts studio in downtown Kalispell. **Value: \$75**

Hot Yoga at Healing Sun: Stretch away pressures with a hot and humid yoga session. A 10-class punch card from the Healing Sun Hot Yoga Studio. **Value: \$95**

Private Yoga lesson: Enjoy an individualized program with instructor Jane Adams. **Value: \$60**

75 Minute massage from Touch of Jules: Get some much-needed relaxation. Come out to Jules' place or to her studio in town. **Value: \$65**

Head, neck & back massage: Relax and unwind in a one-hour session with Bill Hunger. **Value: \$60**

TRAGER approach to body work: This is a gentle rocking kind of bodywork that is relaxing and helps to relieve most restrictions to movement-by Maria Arrington (RN, CTP, NCTMB). **Value: \$75**

Cranio-sacral therapy session: Bring your body in line-presented by Scott Lampshire, D.C. **Value: \$84**

One-Hour Massage (two of these): Forget the stress of the day with a rejuvenating and relaxing massage By Linda Katsuda & Natalie Norrell. **Value: \$75 each**

Reflexology Session with Velvet Phillips: Enjoy a gentle therapy which works feet and hands to help heal the whole person-not just symptoms. **Value: \$50**

90-Minute Massage in your home: Enjoy a massage from Valerie Fajt in your home. **Value: \$95**

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Flathead River float trip: Half-day of fishing, picnicking and sightseeing for two. A great day of warm beer, small fish, soggy food, and good humor (!!) with Dan Short (non-pro). **Value: \$175**

Two-hour sailing adventures for two on Flathead Lake: A two-hour sailing adventure for two on Flathead Lake, complete with wine and cheese. **Value: \$150**

Half-day raft trip for two: Hold tight and ride the whitewater with Montana Raft Company. This half-day trip is on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. **Value: \$100**

Two-day sea kayak rental: Explore hidden shorelines from a new perspective! Good for one kayak from Whitefish Sea Kayaking. **Value: \$80**

Half-day of sea kayaking for two: Enjoy an afternoon of sea kayaking with your own private instructor. Equipment provided. **Value: \$200**

Half-day sailing adventure for two (two of these): Win one of two sailing excursions on Flathead Lake. **Value: \$150 each**

Rocky Mountain Outfitter gift certificate: Get geared up for your adventures with at RMO! **Value: \$150**

Gift certificate from Windflower Native Plant Nursery: Help beautify your yard. **Value: \$50**

Learn to skate or classic ski: Outback Ski Shack will provide a private skate or classic ski lesson for two people. Rental package included. **Value: \$90**

Tune up your bike: Get your bike into top condition for summer riding. Bring it into Wheatons for a tuneup. **Value: \$50**

Private Telemark or yoga lesson--you choose: Improve your skill on cross country skis or learn some yoga techniques from a local private instructor. (must provide own ski equipment) **Value: \$100**

Flathead Lake fishing trip for 2-3 people: Pack a lunch and enjoy a day on Flathead Lake fishing for whitefish in July or August with Chuck Williams (non-pro) **Value: \$250**

Day long sailing workshop for two: Learn the ropes of sailing from Dayton Yacht Harbor. **Value: \$150**

THE ARTS

"Glacier Park" black & white print: Marshall Noice and Frame It! bring you this 26x32 inch framed photo of the ever-exquisite Lake McDonald. **Value: \$150**

"Ear Mountain on the Rocky Mountain Front": A beautiful 16x20" matted photo by Dee Blank. **Value: \$110**

Deerskin shoulder purse: Hand-crafted, tobacco-colored shoulder purse by buckskin clothier, Elaine Snyder. **Value: \$89 each**

Necklace & earring set: An exquisite necklace and earring set made of jasper by Jolene Smith. **Value: \$55**

Hand-made necklace: A long, hand-crafted necklace in tones of blue with a sun pendant by Melissa Franklin. **Value: \$40**

Animal Sculpture: Mixed media sculpture by local artist, Kay Lynn. **Value: \$160**

Framed, matted photo of Big Horn Sheep: By local photographer, Karen Nichols. **Value: \$100**

"Evening on Flathead Lake" framed print: Beautifully captured by Brett Thuma of Bigfork. **Value: \$60**

OTHER GREAT PRIZES

Color photo poster, t-shirt, or calendar: Make those favorite pictures into more at the Paper Chase. **Value: \$50**

Two-three hours of electrical work OR an energy efficiency consultation: Richard Cohen, certified electrician, will lend his expertise to your project or check your home or office for energy efficiency—your choice. **Value: \$100-\$150**

Intro Adobe Photoshop lesson: Learn the basics of turning those digital images into permanent memories in a three-hour session with Kris DeMeester. **Value: \$180**

Computer aid: Resolve those technical troubles! Win 1-2 hours of expert computer consulting (3 prizes available by Virtual Circuit Design and Kris DeMeester). **Value: \$50-60/hour**

Ukrainian egg dyeing or knitting lessons (2)—you choose: Two one-hour sessions of beginner to intermediate knitting or learn the art of Ukrainian Egg Dyeing by Susannah Casey (one to four people). **Value: \$100**

Canvas hanging chair: Coon Hollow Canvas chair will make any summer more enjoyable. **Value: \$85**

Pet acupuncture/chiropractic treatment: Keep your dog or cat happy and healthy with treatments from Barbara Calm, DVM. **Value: \$100**

Dog boarding for two nights: Leave town for a couple nights secure in the knowledge that your dog is well cared for at Stolte's Pet Stop. **Value: \$38**

Kettle Care skin products plus a mug and gift certificate: Love your skin with unique products from Kettle Care. Enjoy a mug and gift certificate from Whitefish Pottery. **Value: \$60**

Emu oil personal care products: Rejuvenate your skin with a gift certificate for Emu personal care products from the Laid in Montana Stillwater Emu Ranch. **Value: \$80**

Wonderful Food and Unique Get-Aways

Barbeque Heaven: Win 10 lbs. of mesquite smoked beef BBQ brisket, smoked by a Texasraised pit master for your summer barbeque event. **Value: \$55**

A growler of beer: Enjoy a 1/2 gallon growler from Great Northern Brewing accompanied by a 6(!) time growler of beer refill card. **Value: \$66**

Mountain Valley Foods gift certificates: Organic groceries, goodies, and gifts! (Two \$50 certificates available) **Value: \$50 each**

A week's worth of fresh organic produce and a delicious carrot cake: Produce is grown and donated by Valerie Edwards at Raven Ridge Farm. This prize also comes with a delicious homemade carrot cake chock full of good stuff! **Value: \$50**

Organic produce & birdhouse: A week's worth of fresh produce (expires 9/30/08) and a handmade bluebird/swallow house from Swallow Crest Farms. **Value: \$50**

Organic Flathead Lake cherries: All 20 pounds of these delicious and juicy local gems could be yours! Share with your friends! Donated by Don Schwennesen. **Value: \$50**

Greens n' garlic, eggs n' basil: Create those fresh favorite summer recipes with delights from Purple Frog Gardens and Terrapin Farms. **Value: \$55**

Bread, wine, cheese and a Dee Strickler plant identification book: Ceres Bakery bread, some cheese, wine, and an interesting book make a Sunday afternoon picnic special. **Value: \$60**

Single cup coffee maker and chocolates: Treat yourself to a cup of coffee from your own single serve coffee maker. Indulge in special chocolates from Copperleaf Chocolat. **Value: \$95**

Two-night stay at Alameda's Hot Spring Retreat: A relaxing stay at a 1930's vintage motel in Hot Springs recently remodeled for great style and comfort (Valid Sun. - Thur.). **Value: \$150**

One night stay at remote cabin: Near Dickey Lake in Trego. **Value: \$100**

Two-night getaway for two at Full Circle Herb Farm: Enjoy an October weekend in this rustic, yet modern, turn-of-the-century Kila log home. **Value: \$140**

Two nights at the Square Peg Ranch: Spend a fall weekend in a charming log cabin complete with Polebridge's spectacular views of Glacier's Livingston Range. **Value: \$140**

Coffee basket from Coffee Traders plus a gift certificate from Simply Sweet: Enjoy a basket of goodies from a local eatery and a \$15 gift certificate for your sweet tooth. **Value: \$60**



"There is no use trying," said Alice; "one can't believe impossible things."

"I dare say, you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

--Lewis Carroll



Photo by Karen Nickels

Join us in imaging and working together to secure a bright future for the Flathead Valley.

Citizens for a Better Flathead is committed to the long-term leadership necessary to secure a future that respects the quality of our environment and the character of our communities as our greatest assets. Serving the community for 15 years—Making a difference! **We are transforming dreams into actions and better planning by:**

Promoting Best Practices and innovative land use tools from around the country and finding the best ways to manage our rapid growth..

Holding Decision Makers Accountable to following existing plans and giving meaningful consideration to public comment. Providing the research and facts for sound decision-making.

Keeping You Informed by providing the research and analysis that enables you and your neighbors to more easily get involved in the issues of importance to you.

Imagining Impossible Things at least six times a day, because it's the first step to great ideas and new solutions!!!

The North Shore of Flathead Lake was recently recognized by the Flathead County Commissioners as a place unsuited to high-density development. They cited flood easements covering this property, unresolved water quality issues, and wildlife issues including the presence of the seven-mile-long US Fish and Wildlife Waterfowl Reserve that borders the proposed North Shore Ranch as reasons for this denial. The North Shore Ranch proposal included 290 units of high-end homes for this site.

Hundreds of Flathead county residents urged the commission to reject this subdivision proposal noting that some places are so special that development should be directed elsewhere. Citizens for a Better Flathead did the extensive research that documented that this entire development was proposed on property that was covered by a flood easement associated with the operation of Kerr Dam. We also provided detailed documentation prepared by a licensed hydrologist and a water quality specialist that showed significant flaws and weaknesses in the water quality data submitted to justify this development. This factual documentation and the significant public and agency comments provides strong justification for the action taken by the commissioners and provides the kind of factual basis the courts look to in reviewing such land use decisions.

Citizens for a Better Flathead Needs Your Support Today

We simply can't exist without your generous support. To the many who do support our work with an annual pledge; Thank You!!

To those who have been procrastinating—Don't wait.

Change is upon us. Give today for a better tomorrow.

2008 Contribution Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

- _____ **Champion of the Flathead**
 \$250 Friend of the Flathead
 \$100 Hometown Hero
 \$50 Stepping Up
 \$35 Family
 \$30 Individual

*Please send to Citizens for a Better Flathead
 P.O. Box 771, Kalispell, MT 59903*