



REDC Summer Newsletter

Sidney Clean Up Day 2017



Thanks to Seitz Insurance and the City of Sidney, over 420 volunteers rolled up their sleeves, donned gloves, and grabbed garbage sacks to spiff up properties within the city limits. Our office was no exception. Katie and Leslie started the day, May 12, with a hearty breakfast offered by the Seitz employees. We decided to clean up our parking lot and the area around the building, as it catches the west winds frequently. The dumpsters often lose their contents, which snags in the grass, trees, shrubs, etc. Katie and Leslie were joined by Jillian Stanek, and Amelia Messer. The foursome worked for over two and half hours to tackle the task. We brought the day to a close by gathering with the Seitz employees at the Meadowlark to discuss all the accomplishments of the event.



July 2017



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Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Updates



The saga continues..... REDC has kept as informed as we possibly can on the LYIP / Intake project. On April 19, Judge Morris ruled in favor of the project, and lifted the injunction. Construction of the fish by-pass and modifications to the weir are expected to begin in early July. Then on May 4th, the Defenders of Wildlife and the Natural Resource Defense Council filed a new injunction with the Court. In this filing, the plaintiffs are seeking to completely remove the weir itself, and permanently close the headworks so no water may pass into the canal system. Once again, REDC worked in collaboration with Richland County Commissioners, Sidney Sugars, Best Western, Party Central, Johnson Hardware, Midrivers Communications, Blue Rock, and LYIP to make sure our area was aware of what's going on. We arranged two buses to carry 59 folks to Great Falls on Monday, June 19th, to attend the hearing. Honorable Brian Morris listened to both sides of the injunction issue, which took over two hours. At the time of this printing, the Judge had not made his decision.



Leadership MT Class of 2018:



Leslie volunteered to serve as the chair of this year's selection committee, along with 15 other individuals, including Cami Skinner.

There were over 80 applications received for this year's class. Each committee member reviewed 15 applications and scored them based on criteria and then submitted their scores into a software system. Two conference calls were held to discuss the tallies and the final 42 were chosen.

There were also 10 additional finalists chosen, in the event that someone isn't able to participate this year. Once everyone has accepted, the complete listing of the class of 2018 will be announced.

It is an absolute honor to serve in this capacity for this very worthy program.



Sidney Chamber Leadership Graduation

July 2017

After 2 years of active participation, Katie has officially graduated from the Chamber's Leadership Class. The first year was spent participating in classes every month that highlighted different industries and aspects of the Sidney community. The classes were each a day long and each day would focus on something different. Some of the classes were Energy, Agriculture, and Education among others. Along with the class days, the group had to come up with a class project. Katie's class picked 3 different projects, each addressing a different need for the area. The first project was a beautification of Gartside. The project included widening the dirt road and putting in new (and more) picnic tables. The group did fundraising and worked closely with the county road department to complete the project that will have a lasting affect on family outings at Gartside for years to come. The second project was to aid the Montana Department of Transportation in creating a unique design for the roundabout that will replace the flashing light south of town. The group presented 3 different ideas that highlighted different things that make up our community. After working with their engineers and regulators, MDT finalized a design incorporating many of the ideas presented by the class. We are all excited to see the final project. We just wish it wasn't going to mean months of road construction first! The final project is still in process. It is an Instagram and Facebook Hashtag that aims to highlight the community. Using the hashtags of #spiritedsidney and #richesofrichland, the group hopes to be able to ultimately change the images that are searched via google for our area, and demonstrating all the wonderful things our area has to offer. This particular project is reliant on community participation and will be around as long as people utilize the hashtags.



Sidney Chamber Leadership Graduation

The second year of the class was spent planning class days for this year's class members. Katie was the co-planner for Government Day, and the lead planner for Small Business Day. Both days were fun to plan and both received very positive feedback from the participants as well as the speakers. Then in March, the Chamber hosted graduation. Katie was asked to speak about the hashtag project. Thank you to the Chamber for hosting this class for our community as well as to REDC for allowing and sponsoring participation!



Sidney Young Professionals

July 2017

Sidney Young Professionals (SYP) had a fantastic first year. In April, we hosted an event that saw a wonderful turn out for a forum of local small business owners. The event, entitled “If you Build It, They will Come” featured conversations with Leif Anderson of Beagle Properties, Trish Klemple of Trish Klemple Designs, Jennifer Moore of Pizza House, and Lorilee Norby of True North Consulting. Over 30 young professionals came out to the Depot to listen to these small business owners share their advice and stories of pains and success of starting your own small business in Richland County. The participants were left with some wonderful one line pieces of advice including “The best part of being told NO is thinking WHY NOT?” and “It's okay to let someone else be good at what they're good at, so you have time to be good at what you're good at. Letting go of some control can be good”. It was a wonderful night full of learning and growth for our young professionals. In May, SYP hosted a wrap up social at the Meadowlark. The event fell in the middle of soccer, men’s league golf, and running club, but we still saw a strong turn out of about 15 people. SYP used this time to get input from our participants about where they would like to see us go in the future, along with what they felt were successes for our group. The resounding thing we heard is that SYP has given people a great way to connect and stay connected within our community. Following up with those conversations, in June we enlisted the help of others to begin planning for next year! We had a small BBQ where we added the new voices of Abbe Baisch (Seitz Insurance), Chad Molden (Stockman Bank), Josh Emmerson (OneOk), Allie Nelson (Richland County Housing Authority) and Ian Walker (Boys and Girls Club of Richland County). With their insight and suggestions, we were able to begin planning our events for next year! We also will be launching our membership drive in July. It will be \$40.00 a year for 10 events and VIP offerings! Get involved today!



SYP Upcoming Calendar

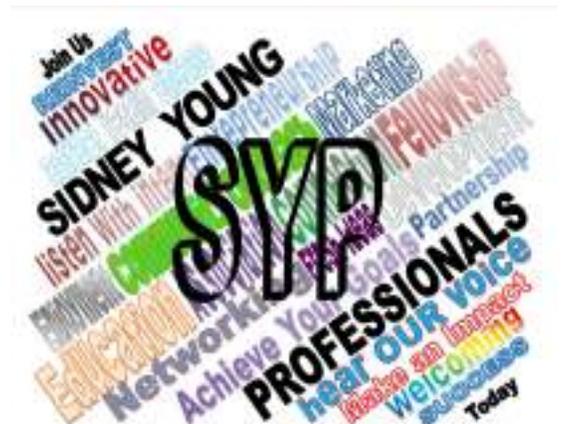
August 10th– SYP will be hosting a mayoral debate for the election in November. The event will be from 7:00-8:00 pm at the Sidney Elks Lodge (SYP members get in at 6 for a meet and greet with the candidates). We are excited that all three candidates are able to participate!

September 14th– Game Night Social– We will be hosting a game night for young professionals to kick back, relax and network while reaching out to the competitive spirits! Join us for a fun night of networking and a game of Life (or two!) More Details Coming Soon!

October 12th– Trail of treats.... Small Business style– Join SYP for a scavenger hunt in which you will get to interact with small businesses in downtown Sidney! The purpose is to network with businesses, educate yourself with all the offerings of downtown Sidney (shop local!) and work together with other SYP members to win a small prize! More details coming soon!

November 9th– Get the VIP tour of Sidney Sugars-****SYP EXCLUSIVE!!!!**** Join us for a night of behind the scenes action of one of Sidney’s largest employers. More details coming soon!

December 14th– Clothing Drive– SYP is back for the second time with a cold weather gear drive for area schools. More details coming soon!



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Don't forget
to stop by our
fair booth between
August 2-5, 2017!
Can't wait to see you
there!

