

WINTER 2012



## NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

This is the third newsletter providing you an update on recent events as we plan for the future of Kalispell's former industrial core. This newsletter recaps a series of open house meetings and provides an update on the expansion of the West Side Urban Renewal Plan, held in early December. Please look at "next steps" in the process of completing the Core Area Revitalization Plan for ways to continue participating.

## OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

Kalispell's Planning and Community and Economic Development Departments held three evening open houses on December 1st, 5th and 6th. Invitations to the open houses were sent to all 400 property owners within the plan area. Over 40 people attended the three meetings, including many in the residential neighborhoods, a group we had not heard from previously. Some of the new key issues discussed with staff included the following:

- The transient population living in Woodland Park and in vacant buildings to the east present a real safety issue for the nearby residential neighborhoods, especially at night.
- Residents reported the one way traffic on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues East is disruptive, negatively impacts property values and takes away the peace and tranquility of the area.
- Appleway Drive needs more lighting and better police visibility.
- A rental rehabilitation assistance program is needed to help landlords fix up their rental properties.
- Sidewalks and pedestrian access is sorely deficient along Center Street.
- Excess garbage and a large number of junk or abandoned vehicles parked in the residential alleys adjacent to the core area.



This outreach was in addition to the 80 personal interviews conducted by city staff over the summer with some of the commercial and industrial owners. The key issues discussed included:

- Removal of the existing railroad tracks.
- Help re-locating rail dependent businesses out of the downtown core.
- Cleaning up and or removing dilapidated buildings.
- The need for more north-south street connections through Kalispell.
- Development of an east-west linear trail through the core area.
- More landscaping along the streets to create a more appealing location.
- Lack of sidewalks inhibits pedestrian access throughout the plan area.
- We should encourage high density housing in the downtown core area.

The lists above are not all-inclusive of comments provided to the staff but represent ideas and concerns expressed by a majority of those attending the open house meetings and in the personal interviews. These ideas and concerns will help to form the goals and policies that will aid in shaping this neighborhood in the coming years to the desired outcome of the residents, property owners and businesses. If you would like to add your ideas or concerns or discuss any of the above issues please feel free to contact Sean Conrad or Katharine Thompson at the contact numbers provided at the bottom of this letter.

## NEXT STEPS

The Planning Department has begun the process of hiring an architectural or graphics design firm to provide conceptual redevelopment illustrations of areas within the Core Area Revitalization Plan. These illustrations are meant to visually depict the draft goals of the plan. We expect to have a draft set of goals, policies and conceptual plans available to you by the spring of 2012. Once the draft goals, policies and concepts are complete, we will be hosting another round of open houses and meetings soliciting your input to determine if we are on target. We will then incorporate needed changes and new ideas as suggested and then begin moving forward to implement those ideas.



### Contacts:

Katharine Thompson  
Community Development Manager  
[kthompson@kalispell.com](mailto:kthompson@kalispell.com)  
758-7713

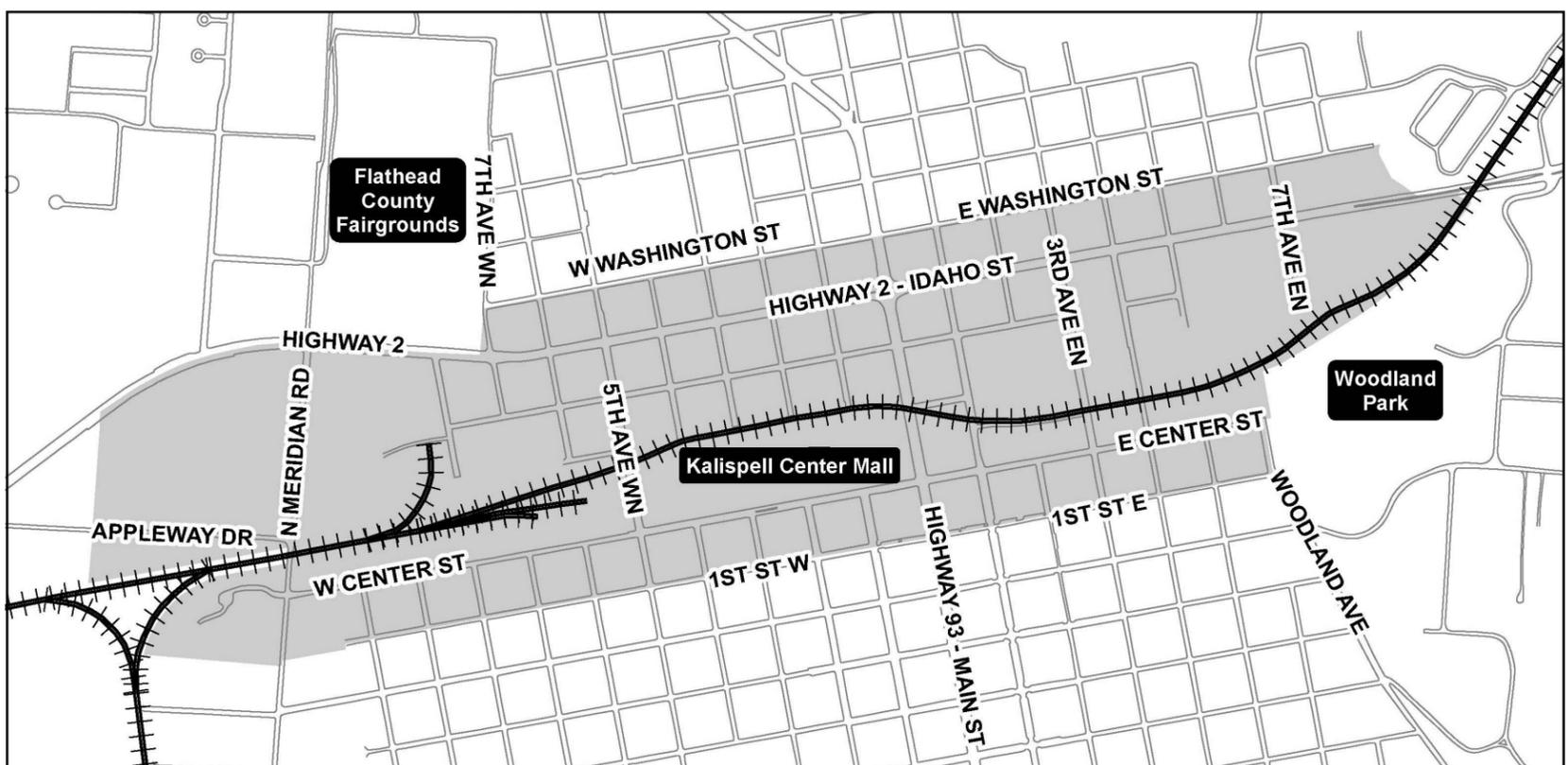
Sean Conrad  
Senior Planner  
[sconrad@kalispell.com](mailto:sconrad@kalispell.com)  
758-7942

# City of Kalispell

Post Office Box 1997 - Kalispell, Montana 59903

Telephone: (406) 758-7701 Fax: (406) 758-7758

## CORE AREA REVITALIZATION PLAN MAP



## WEST SIDE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN EXPANSION

On November 7, 2011, the Kalispell City Council approved an amendment to expand the West Side Urban Renewal Plan. The council approval came after a September 27, 2011, Planning Board hearing where expansion was unanimously supported and an October 17, 2011, public hearing held by the city council during which the majority of comments were in support of expanding the plan boundary.

The expanded boundaries of the West Side Urban Renewal Plan now include both the County Fairgrounds property and Core Area Revitalization Plan area. Adding the Core Area Revitalization Plan to the West Side Urban Renewal Plan area may open up additional financing and planning tools for this neighborhood that we did not have before.



The city council acknowledged that if we are going to be successful in revitalizing our old industrial core area, we need to look at the big picture and plan along the entire length of railroad running through Kalispell.