

Keep the big picture in focus

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Word Wrangler

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I had the opportunity this week to observe two different, but equally effective examples of collaborative efforts.

One was a presentation put on by the National Main Street Center, and the other was the Western Greater Yellowstone Consortium meeting.

In both environments, a number of complex concerns were addressed.

I have to give a shout out to St. Anthony City Clerk and Treasurer Patty Parkinson for being bold enough to express her honest observations about her city in a constructive but non-sugar coated manner.

Parkinson explained her concerns and frustration to the audience, but then turned around and suggested a wonderful idea to enhance downtown St. Anthony that will certainly delight both patrons and visitors if its accomplished.

I don't want to steal any of Parkinson's thunder, so if you want to know more about her great idea, ask her, or talk to her about what she learned from the Main Street Center presentations.

Prior to seeing Parkinson speak at the Yellowstone Consortium meeting and at the Main Street Center, I've only observed her at city council, which of course she does a great job at, too...but this was a great example of Parkinson being able to show off a little more creativity and flair that undoubtedly exists in many more members of Fremont County.

Whether you're a fan of bringing in outside influence to help solve problems, or prefer to just watch your bird fly in an eternally straight line, stopping only occasionally to rest itself and stare down at the fray below, it's pretty important to acknowledge and/or salute one of your own when they're brave enough to go out on the limb and be proactive.

There were many more striking moments that occurred at the Main Street Center meetings and the Yellowstone Consortium.

Listening to people speak all day can be exhausting, but it's a good excuse to break up the monotony of a typical work week with some new, mentally stimulating information.

I learned a lot about issues Fremont County will need to address in the coming months and years.

A little restaurant called 'Five 11 Main' in Ashton's downtown is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished with some vision, and of course, some funding.

Part of Wednesday's Main Street activities consisted of a tour of downtown and a hosted lunch at the restaurant.

Seeing all of the attendees enjoying a chance to relax and engage with each other was definitely inspiring, and I hope everyone walked away from that day feeling like they had something to be excited about.

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