

Visioning workshop this Saturday

Times staff report

La Plata County invites interested citizens to a community visioning workshop as part of updating the Comprehensive Community Plan this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Durango Community Recreation Center.

Lunch and licensed child care will be provided to participants at no charge.

This workshop is the first step towards establishing a community vision for La Plata County. A community vision is a critical component of a comprehensive plan as it defines the shared values residents have in common, as well as articulates what

the community desires to be in the future.

While the visioning process includes six open houses to help residents identify their shared values and aspirations for La Plata County, the full day Visioning Workshop will be the most interactive event with the greatest opportunity for neighbors and community members to discuss and understand each others' perspectives.

The meeting will include a welcome and introduction by the County Planning Department staff and consulting team CommunityByDesign. The consulting team, led by Charlie Deans, also includes

the Sonoran Institute and Durango-based RPI, Inc.

According to Planning Department Director Erick Aune, La Plata County's population has increased 159 percent since 1970 and is estimated to have increased 13.2 percent, nearly 6,000 residents, since completion of the county's current comprehensive plan in 2001.

Aune states, "This rapid change demands the county to step back periodically to make sure we are on the right course. This effort began with La Plata County completing its strategic plan, the County Compass. The comprehensive plan update

will allow us to both review where we are in light of new growth as well as align the comprehensive plan with the County Compass. We really want the community to be engaged in this process."

While citizens may just show up, it would make the event more successful if attendance is confirmed. To RSVP, please contact Marjo Curgus, (505) 699-8532 or email mcurgus@sonoraninstitute.org.

For additional information on the county comprehensive plan update, visit the planning process website at: www.laplatacountyplan.com