

# City looks to 2012

## ■ City begins discussing future.

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Twenty years from now, you could be taking your family to see one of most famous museums in the Midwest. From there you could go swimming and have a picnic at beautifully restored Canyon Lake.

In the year 2012, you could be working for a company that came to Rapid City, or expanded its operations here, because of the help and financial incentives offered through a special economic development fund.

Or, your children could be doing research for their school science projects in a brand new satellite of the public library.

Those possibilities, and others, are being discussed at public meetings in a process city officials have named Vision 2012.

At the meetings, people are being asked how Rapid City should invest its resources for the next 20 years.

At stake in the discussion is a city half-cent sales tax — currently being used to pay the debt on Rushmore Plaza Civic Center — which is scheduled to end in 1995.

The sales tax, which generates more than \$3 million a year, already is being seen as a funding source for proposals like a new museum, indoor recreation center and expanded library and arts center facilities.

But Mayor Ed McLaughlin says that is putting the cart before the horse.

First, the people have to decide whether those projects or others are important to them. Then they decide how they want to pay for them.

Vision 2012 was launched last December when a group of city, county and school district officials and

*Voters may get choice of whether or not to extend Rapid City sales tax*  
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## Proposed projects

Here are some projects that may be possible recipients for city funding.

- **Canyon Lake restoration.** Clean up Canyon Lake and make the park more appealing
- **Spirit of the Black Hills Museum.** House collections from four museums in the community.
- **Expand downtown parking.** Build a parking ramp.
- **Expand Dahl Fine Arts Center.** Double the space at the Dahl and create a new, larger theater.
- **Expand Rapid City Public Library.** Some expansion will be needed in the next 10 years.
- **Indoor recreation complex.** Would encompass many activities, with no definite plan so far.
- **New outdoor aquatic park.** A park with shallow water, slides, fountains, play areas for the whole family.
- **Recycling plant.** A plant at the landfill to recover glass, aluminum and other materials.
- **Rehabilitate outdoor swimming pools.** Studies will determine if the four existing pools can be repaired.
- **Economic development fund.** A revolving loan fund to bring new jobs to the city.
- **Park Drive extension.** Extend Park Drive to Corral Drive (and the new Corral Drive school).
- **Visitor information center.** Joint project of Rapid City and other Black Hills communities to build visitor information center outside the city.

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