

"To develop and promote resources for Economic Growth in our community."



February 2024



Community Calendar

Economic Development Priorities to Invoke Change



## Priorities to Invoke Change

Promote Recreation  
and Tourism

Improve  
Broadband

Support  
Childcare

Support Career  
Development

Business Retention,  
Expansion and  
Attraction

Support Housing  
Initiatives

## County Economic Development What you need to know:

### 1st Annual Aitkin County Workforce Summit

*Aitkin*

 McGregor





**March 14, 2024, 8am-4pm**

**Covenant Pines Bible Camp  
43696 245th Place  
McGregor, MN 55760**

The Aitkin County Workforce Summit is a dynamic convergence of industry experts, local businesses, and community leaders dedicated to revolutionizing the workforce landscape.

This immersive event focuses on the entire employment cycle, from attracting top talent and refining hiring strategies to fostering seamless onboarding processes and implementing innovative retention techniques. With engaging panel discussions, informative sessions, and networking opportunities, attendees will uncover invaluable insights to address workforce challenges, drive growth, and cultivate a thriving environment where businesses and employees flourish.

Join us to shape the future of our county's workforce while exploring transformative solutions that empower both employers and individuals for sustained success.

Tickets are \$10 per person, register:

[Get Tickets](#)

[Agenda](#)

**Interested in sponsoring this event?  
Sponsorship opportunities are available!**

**\$200** sponsorship gets you two free admittance tickets. This includes breakfast and lunch. It also gets your business name on all advertising and social media communications.

Deadline for sponsorship is February 26, 2024.

Contact:

Stan Gustafson: [sgustafson@growthiv.org](mailto:sgustafson@growthiv.org)

Tami Jacobs: [tjacobs@growthiv.org](mailto:tjacobs@growthiv.org)

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## Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant is now open

The purpose of this grant fund is to leverage county funds, private funds and volunteer efforts to increase small business development activities in Aitkin County, with an emphasis on increasing sustained tourism and recreation activities.

Several organizations may submit a single application or organizations may apply individually. Organizations need only to commit one hundred dollars (\$100) in good faith to ensure commitment to the grant request.

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, have approved funding to be used to directly impact the Community of Aitkin County by executing the Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant.

Funding Limits: Minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$2,000 per grant application.

Eligible Project Examples:

- Sustainable marketing and advertising materials including but not limited to permanent signage materials, etc.
- Menu signs (interior)
- Technology or training programs
- Any other activities to develop your business

Eligible Event Examples:

- Annual events promoting tourism & recreation
- Events must provide incremental tourism growth

Grant Funds shall be used to market business development activities that create sustainable tourism or recreation growth or activities/businesses that will enhance the Aitkin County economy.

[Guidelines and Application](#)

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## Minnesota Housing Finance Agency offers homeowner opportunities





## Downpayment and Closing Cost Loans

Don't let a downpayment prevent you from buying a home. Minnesota Housing loans go up to \$18,000 to help make homeownership work for your budget.

Need help with your downpayment? Concerned about paying for closing costs? We can help! Minnesota Housing downpayment and closing cost loan programs provide up to **\$18,000** to help you bridge the gap and become a homeowner. Depending on your need and eligibility, choose from the Monthly Payment Loan with the same affordable interest rate as your first mortgage or a Deferred Payment Loan with no interest.

Additional eligibility requirements, including income limits, minimum credit score, and home cost limits apply. Loans must be fully repaid.

### Monthly Payment Loan

- Loans up to \$18,000
- Available with Start Up and Step Up loan programs

### Deferred Payment Loan

- Loans up to \$16,500 (up to \$18,000 for borrowers who meet criteria for Deferred Payment Loan Plus)
- Available with the Start Up loan program

**Contact a participating Minnesota Housing lender to start your path to homeownership.**



651.296.8215  
[www.mnhousing.gov](http://www.mnhousing.gov)

In connection with Single Family Division loan programs, Minnesota Housing does not make or arrange loans. It is neither an originator nor creditor and is not affiliated with any Lender. The terms of any mortgage finance transactions conducted in connection with these programs, including important information such as loan fees, the annual percentage rate (APR), repayment conditions, disclosures, and any other materials which are required to be provided to the consumer are the responsibility of the Lender.



03.01.2023

[Contact a Lender](#)



**Dream it. Do it.  
We'll help you  
afford it.**

Hassle-free home improvement loans up to **\$75,000** from the Minnesota Housing Fix Up Loan Program.

[LEARN MORE](#)

In connection with Single Family Division loan programs, Minnesota Housing is neither an originator of loans nor a creditor and is not affiliated with any Lender. To find out if you are eligible, or to apply for a loan, please contact a participating Lender.



**Home sweet renovated home.**

**Hire it out or DIY** with flexible home improvement loans from the Minnesota Housing Fix Up Loan Program.

[LEARN MORE](#)

In connection with Single Family Division loan programs, Minnesota Housing is neither an originator of loans nor a creditor and is not affiliated with any Lender. To find out if you are eligible, or to apply for a loan, please contact a participating Lender.

[learn more](#)

## Attention Businesses! DEED office of Small Business Development offers Small Business Calls



### Small Business Call

**Join the conversation every month  
on the 2nd Tuesday at 2pm.**

Scan to join video call →

[MN Office of Small Business Development](#)

## Workforce Training Available for Minnesota Employers

### Need Help Training or Retraining Your Workforce? We Can Help!

The state of Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) program offers grants to help train or retrain your workforce. We've helped train thousands of workers in the state.

### MJSP works with a broad range of businesses, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations to:

- train or retrain workers
- expand work opportunities
- keep high-quality jobs in the state
- 

Your business may qualify for one of our training grant programs that help offset training-related expenses.

**Find out more at [mn.gov/deed/mjsp](http://mn.gov/deed/mjsp)**

Or contact the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Office: [deed.mjsp@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.mjsp@state.mn.us)

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If you need **help paying for training**  
& have been on unemployment  
anytime in the past year  
please contact us to  
see if you qualify  
for our services.

**JET**



**218-421-6070**

**[www.nemojt.org](http://www.nemojt.org)**

**[holly.miller@nemojt.org](mailto:holly.miller@nemojt.org)**

JET is an equal opportunity employer & service provider. Proud partner  
in the American Job Center Network & Careerforce. This material can be  
made available in an alternate format by contacting 218-623-5978.



JET

**Aitkin County offers unique recycling opportunity**



# recyclops

*Recycling could never be easier!*



Curbside recycling pickup is now available in Aitkin County! Availability starting in the following townships;

- Aitkin (Township Only)
- Farm Island
- Fleming
- Glen
- Hazelton
- Kimberly
- Lakeside
- Malmo
- Morrison
- Nordland
- Spencer
- Unorganized 48-27
- Wealthwood

The first 625 customers pay \$10/month for the first 10 months

Sign up today at [recyclops.com/aitkin](https://recyclops.com/aitkin)

Coming March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**m1** MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY



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**Leap Day Soiree: February 29, 2024**

Jazz • Food • Fun

Feb. 29 • 6-9pm

# Leap Day Soirée

A Lakes Area United Way fundraising event



Featuring The Jazz Authority

Food provided by:



To order tickets scan the QR code or visit [unitedwaynow.org](http://unitedwaynow.org)

Tickets  
**\$60**

Includes entertainment and hearty appetizers



*Funds raised will benefit programs in Aitkin County!*



Tickets



**NATURE ROCKS IS BACK!**



# THE KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS

WITH PERT NEAR SANDSTONE + WHISKEY RIVER

**JUNE 21** 4:30 - 10 P.M.  
AITKIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

**NATUREROCKSCONCERT.COM**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER

# Properties Available in the Aitkin Area

[Tour the Properties](#)



Contact me directly for any details and additional opportunities: [mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us).

26838 U.S. 169 Aitkin, MN 56431 USA

Are you ready to move you, your family and/or your business to an amazing area? We welcome you to visit anytime. Tour any of our available properties, enjoy our recreational assets, amazing dining and our unique entertainment offerings. We think you will agree, it is Naturally **Better** here. Aitkin County is a community with momentum. We are confident once you visit, you will live here!

[naturallybetterhere.com](http://naturallybetterhere.com)

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## County Business Spotlight





# Rosallini's

## Aitkin, MN

119 Minnesota Avenue North  
218.927.6412

Curtis Ross and his business partner, Christian Collins, assumed ownership of the restaurant this new year and said they are excited to be a part of the community and use the knowledge they've gained through years in the food industry.



Rosallini's

What makes Aitkin County Naturally Better



## Community



**PROUD  
PARTNER**



*Palisade Events Committee*

## Cities



## Contact Us

**AITKIN COUNTY**



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Economic Development Coordinator  
[mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us)  
218-513-6188

[Visit our Website](#)

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