

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



March 2024



Community Calendar

Add an event to the 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:

**Progress Continues on Housing Projects in Aitkin
County!**

OPENING FALL 2025

1,2 &
3 BDRM

Community
& Fitness
Rooms



IH Properties
Stoeb, Iller, Nothnagel & Co.
Established 1978

320.258.6000



GI
GROWTH INNOVATIONS

Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Deadline May 31, 2024

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](#)

McGrath Broadband Project Construction is Complete!



Aitkin County and their partners, Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative are excited to announce that the McGrath Broadband Project construction is complete.

A few highlights:

- 535 potential customers. This number includes any location that has an electric service.
- The overall take rate for the project is at 36%.
- 104 miles of main line fiber was placed along with 39 miles of service drop fiber.
- All fiber was placed underground in the road right of way.
- Installation started in early March and as of 4/15/24 MLEC has connected 107 residents.
- Currently 13 residents are taking 1 Gbps symmetrical service.
- The total cost of the project was \$5,097,635.
- Cost per passing is \$9,528 based on the potential 535 customers.

Thank you to Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative, for their continued commitment and dedication to service to our County residents.



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

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](#)



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

Or contact the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Office: deed.mjsp@state.mn.us

SAVE THE DATE: 2024 LEGISLATIVE

LUNCHEON

JUNE 7, 2024, 11AM-1PM,

AITKIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

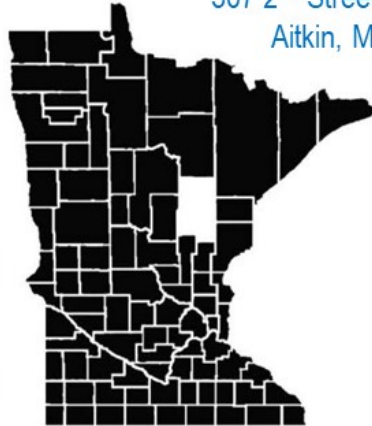
2024 Aitkin County, Aitkin Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon

Friday June 7, 2024, 11:00am-1pm

Aitkin County Government Center Boardroom

307 2nd Street NW, 3rd floor

Aitkin, MN 56431



The annual legislative luncheon is an opportunity to discuss business opportunities for growth with our lawmakers. Join for a moderated panel discussion, Aitkin Chamber member Q&A, followed by lunch with the legislators.



Please RSVP to the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce,
upnorth@aitkin.com or 218.927.2316



LAKES AREA UNITED WAY PARTNERS WITH LUEKEN'S VILLAGE FOODS FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL UNITED WAY FISHING TOURNAMENT



PARTNERING WITH THE LAKES AREA UNITED WAY


LUEKEN'S VILLAGE FOODS PRESENTS THE 5TH ANNUAL UNITED WAY FISHING TOURNAMENT

**2 Day Tournament
July 20-21, 2024**

6 AM SATURDAY - 6 PM SUNDAY

*FISH AS MUCH AS YOU WOULD LIKE DURING
THE 36 HOUR TOURNAMENT!*

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Teams of 2
- Fishing on any lake within Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing counties along with the Cass Lake chain of lakes
- Teams record measurements virtually 
- Live updates & awards will be broadcast on Fishing Paul Bunyan Country 104.5 FM and 93.3 FM

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE. PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL UNITED WAY.



United Way agencies and programs improve the lives of more than 70,000 people in our communities each year.





JULY 20-21, 2024 SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

Support your local United Way as you fish on any lake in Beltrami, Hubbard, Clearwater, Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing counties, along with the Cass Lake Chain of Lakes.

WALLEYE SPONSORSHIP: \$2,000

- Two fishing teams in tournament
- All media, all advertising, all promotional items
- Special recognition during Award Broadcast
- Logo on flyers and all other marketing materials
- Logo on the tournament app
- Recognition on all Fishing Paul Bunyan ads prior to the event

SMALL MOUTH BASS SPONSOR: \$1,000

- One fishing team in tournament
- Included on social media, press releases, and email promotions
- Special recognition during Award Broadcast
- Logo on flyers and all other marketing materials
- Logo on the tournament app
- One Radio ad on Fishing Paul Bunyan prior to the event

ANGLER SPONSOR: \$500

- Logo on flyers and all marketing materials
- Recognition on website, and social media
- Business name recognition during Award Broadcast

CONTACT INFORMATION:

ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

CHECK PAYABLE TO UNITED WAY OF BEMIDJI AREA (PO BOX 27, Bem dji MN 56619)

THIS SPONSORSHIP IS FOR WHICH UNITED WAY?

UNITED WAY OF BEMIDJI AREA
(Supporting Beltrami, Clearwater, & Hubbard counties)

LAKES AREA UNITED WAY
(Supporting Crow Wing, Cass, and Aitkin counties)

PLEASE INVOICE ME

ONE-TIME

QUARTERLY

OTHER: _____

Please return this form and send business logo files to Kari@UnitedWayBemidji.org

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

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

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.

36559 US-169, Aitkin, MN 56431

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

County Business Spotlight



Hello Gorgeous

Aitkin, MN

205 Minnesota Avenue North
hellogorgeousstylists@gmail.com

Our Mission

Through Inspiration, education, and determination the Creative Artists at Hello Gorgeous strive to push the boundaries of beauty with our extraordinary products, exceptional service, and dedication to our clients helping them achieve the look that best represents their personality and lifestyle. We want everyone to leave the salon feeling confident and looking gorgeous.

Hello Gorgeous

205 Minnesota Avenue North, Aitkin, Minnesota 56431

Clair Taylor 218-270-9933

Justice Ramos 218-228-2155

Mariah Kern 218-245-4788

hellogorgeousstylists@gmail.com

Hello Gorgeous

What makes Aitkin County Naturally Better



Community

Aitkin

 **McGregor**



**PROUD
PARTNER**



Palisade Events Committee

Cities



Contact Us



AITKIN COUNTY

Mark Jeffers
Economic Development Coordinator
mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us
218-513-6188

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Visit our Website

Aitkin County Government | 307 2nd St NW, Aitkin, MN 56431

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