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NRMEDD
311 W. Main St., Rm 311
Bozeman, MT 59715.

Phone: 406.577.2541
406.586.2042
Fax: 866.847.8033
Email: info@nrmedd.org

Northern Rocky Mountain Economic Development District (NRMEDD)



Monthly Newsletter Vol 1-2

This Months Top Stories

- * District gets a new Mayor in Three Forks
- * Bozeman City Manager presents goals
- * NRMEDD welcomes new Program Director
- * WYED Consortium
- * Executive Director's Quick Notes
- * IWT Grant \$\$ available
- * Gardiner Gateway on target
- * List of TOPs

New Mayor in Three Forks

It's official — Three Forks has a new mayor. Steven B. Hamilton was sworn in shortly after 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, 2014 by outgoing Mayor Gene Townsend. The new mayor then administered the oath of office to two new and one reelected council member. Hamilton, who will preside over his first meeting of the City Council Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, has served on the council since 2010. He was elected mayor in November 2013 after running against the incumbent Townsend, who spent 28 years in the position. (Three Forks Herald, 1/6/14)



Outgoing Three Forks Mayor Gene Townsend, left, administers the oath of office to incoming Mayor Steven B. Hamilton at City Hall Monday afternoon, Jan. 6, 2014. (Three Forks Herald, 1/6/14)

Updates planned for the NRMEDD website

With the new year comes change. The NRMEDD website is looking to overhaul its look and functionality. If you have any ideas that you would like to see implemented in the new design, contact Mike Hedegaard at hedegaard-mike@gmail.com.



NRMEDD welcomes new Program Director

In late January, the NRMEDD welcomed Mike Hedegaard as the new Program Director. Mike is from the Bozeman area, is a retired military officer and a 1987 graduate of MSU. He is married with two kids and has been a Bozeman small business owner for the past five years.

Bozeman City Manager presents goals to City Commission

Bozeman City Manager, Chris Kukulski, is presenting his administration's goals to the City Commission in early February. The goals include initiatives to promote growth in the outdoor, photonics, high technology, bioscience, and social sectors. Kukulski also focused on enhancing downtown development opportunities to continue to bolster the state's most vibrant downtown. Finally, the City of Bozeman, in partnership with NRMEDD is building a coalition of broadband users to make fiber optic infrastructure a driver of business development. Planning for future growth continues to be a city goal. "Our charge, our obligation, is that as this town evolves it evolves in a way that it doesn't lose its heart and soul," said Brit Fontenot, Economic Development Director. "Having a meaningful job that pays a wage that allows the individual to buy into the lifestyle here is a critical component to the community."

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West Yellowstone Economic Development Council teams up with NRMEDD for expanded use of Yellowstone Studies Center Consortium (YSCC)

In 2012, WYED began a consortium of Universities focused on utilizing the community assets, specifically the Yellowstone Studies Center Consortium, a 11,500 sq. ft. building, to entice University departments to the YSC to build the premiere 'hub' for all the research and education that occurs on an annual basis within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE).

Since the summer of 2006, the West Yellowstone Economic Development Council (WYED), a 501 C 3 non-profit organization, has been creating solutions to develop a healthy, vibrant, and progressive local economy in West Yellowstone. By working with others, WYED is the organization by which great things can be accomplished. In response to a lack of funding for marketing, WYED lead an effort to establish a Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) for the Town of West Yellowstone. Launched on May 1, 2009, this was just the second TBID created in the State of Montana.

Many other towns and cities have since followed their lead. The TBID raises over \$250,000 annually in new funds to market the region. In 2012, WYED began a consortium of Universities focused on utilizing the community assets, specifically the Yellowstone Studies Center Consortium, a 11,500 sq. ft. building, to entice University departments to the YSC to build the premiere 'hub' for all the research and education that occurs on an annual basis within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). The WYED Center and the YSC program will provide the infrastructure and services required for

education and research in and about Yellowstone National Park. Targeting the education and research market holds the promise of economic growth year-round, as opposed to a seasonal economy tied to tourism and other outside events outside of the local community's control. The NRMEDD is intimately involved in helping the WYED encourage participation in the consortium. The consortium currently includes Montana State University, Montana Tech, Montana Western, Indiana State University, Kennesaw State University, Syracuse University, and Rocky Mountain College.

Quick Notes:

- Over a coffee last Fall, Greg Gianforte and Rob Gilmore laid plans to establish the Montana High Tech Alliance. The Alliance held its first meeting in January with an impressive gathering of high tech leaders. Along with the Rob and Mike Hedegaard at NRMEDD, the initiative is supported by Brit Fontenot and David Fine of the City of Bozeman and Warren Vaughan of Gallatin County.
- Gallatin County Fairgrounds has contracted with members of the NRMEDD TOPs team to develop a sustainability study. The study includes assessing governance issues, reviewing core assets including deferred costs and capital value, assessing marketing and sales programs and competitive positioning and making recommendations.
- Serving Gallatin County, the NRMEDD is conducting an economic impact analysis of the I-90 Interchange at the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport.
- The NRMEDD is assisting not-for-profit organizations understand the value of the 'economic footprint'. The District prepared impact analysis for the Emerson Center and also Eagle Mount.

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) grant dollars still available

The Bozeman/Gallatin County Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) team would like businesses to know that grants are still available to fund the training needs of local businesses. The Incumbent Worker Training Grant (IWT) program can fund up to \$2,000 per employee per business an-

nually to help address training needs. Training can be used to obtain critical skills for business owners or employees and can either be directly customized to business or used to reimburse the cost of training opportunities. To qualify, businesses must have 20 employees or less and have been in operation

for at least a year. To learn more, please contact Warren Vaughan, coordinator for the Bozeman BEAR program, at warren.vaughan@gallatin.mt.gov or check out the BEAR webpage at www.bozemanbear.com

“The Incumbent Worker Training Grant (IWT) program can fund up to \$2,000 per employee per business annually to help address training needs.”

Gardiner Gateway Project on target for 2016 completion

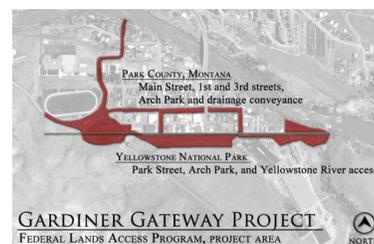
The Gardiner Gateway Project is on track for 2016. The ambitious goal is to complete the core of this infrastructure work in time to host a signature celebration of the National Park Service Centennial in the shadow of the Roosevelt Arch in Gardiner, the World’s first gateway community.

The project earned \$10.3 million in Federal Lands Access Program funds in 2013 that will be matched with \$1.7 million of Park County and Yellowstone Park funds to perform the bulk of the work before the August 25, 2016 Centennial. The project team hit the 30% design mark in the fall of 2013 and will be holding a public meeting at the 70% mark in March. The Roosevelt Arch was built to accommodate stage-coaches, allowing one from either direction at a time, a constraint that now applies

to cars, motorhomes and tour buses. In the 110 years since it went up we’ve transitioned from horses to cars, visitors have increased from under 20,000 to well over 3,000,000 and the zigzag pattern required to bring visitors into Gardiner, through the Arch and into Yellowstone has created traffic flow challenges for decades.

The Gateway Project is intended to improve circulation, parking, and safety for locals and visitors and highlight Gardiner’s history while preserving the town’s character. The Gardiner Chamber and Community Council are work-

ing on integrated efforts to provide a welcome center with public restrooms and to construct a building that evokes the original depot to serve as a multi-function modern library. The Chamber has advanced a petition for and the community should be taking a vote on a resort tax this spring to help fund and maintain these improvements into the future. Some utility work may begin in the fall of 2014 with the bulk of the work to be done in the off-peak months of 2015. Learn more about the project and check in for updates at <http://gardinergatewayproject.org/>.



Core project area targeted for completion 2016



Gardiner gateway arch on December 31st, 2013

(Lower-Left) View of Gardiner from just inside Yellowstone National Park



Bozeman City Manager (cont from Page #1)

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Existing sector development initiatives continue to gain momentum. A team consisting of Economic Development Director, Brit Fontenot, Prospera Business Network Executive Director, Stuart Leidner, and John Rogers from the Governor's Office of Economic Development served as ambassadors from Bozeman's optics community at the Optec Conference in San Francisco. Bozeman is a growing player in the global photonics sector with over 25 companies doing business in the area. The conference outreach served to build Bozeman's presence in the industry for marketing products and recruiting talent to the region. The recently formed Montana Photonics Industry Alliance (montanaphotonics.org) will continue to spearhead activities benefiting the photonics sector.

The Economic Development Department has also launched its social media outreach to help community members follow the region's growth. Follow Bozeman Business and Economic Development on Facebook at facebook.com/bozemanED.

TOPs Team 2014

Jake Anderson – President: *The Pulse Marketing Group*
Rebecca Baker – President: *Digital Velocity*
Dave Bayless – Principal: *Evergreen Innovation Partners*
Benjamin Bennett – Principal: *Massive Studios*
Shannon Benser – President: *Promo West*
Jessica Burch – Founder: *Betula Creative*
Steve Caldwell – Finance & Economics Consultant
Karen Cates – Leadership and HR Strategy Consultant
Jon Cousin – Patent Attorney PLLC: *MSU*
Brit Fontenot – Dir. Economic Devel: *City of Bozeman*
Rob Gilmore – Executive Director, NRMEDD
Mike Hedegaard – Program Director, NRMEDD
Rick Keller – Certified Public Accountant
Dr. Christophe Lambert – Chairman: *Golden Helix, Inc.*
Robert Kent Levi – President: *Rocky Mountain Bank*
Deb Matus – CPM, CPMM, Product Dev. Consultant
Russ Nelson – Senior Vice President: *First Security Bank*
Surale Phillips – Business & Marketing Research Consultant
Jerry Pape – Principal & CTO: *Excalibur*
Scott Pogh – VP: *Northwest Farm Credit Services*
Dr. Mike Reilly – Professor of Marketing: *MSU*
Jeff Riggs – Owner: *Clark's Fork Restaurant*
Drew Schug – Website & SEO Consultant
Jon Shafer – Exec. Director: *Northern Rocky Mtn. RC&D*
Dr. Andreas Scherer – CEO: *Golden Helix*
Tom Starner – Investment Advisor: *Gene Cook Real Estate*
Warren Vaughan – Planner, Community Dev - *Gallatin Co.*
Kathy Wojcik – CPC, SPHR: *Bluheron Coaching*
Lew Wilks – Director: *ARC9*

Team Of Professionals

NRMEDD identified its Team Of Professionals (TOPs) for 2014. This distinguished team is comprised of entrepreneurs from throughout Gallatin and Park counties and offers new and existing businesses mentorship and advice on topics ranging from financing and small business basics to use of social media, legal questions and workplace efficiency. This program is a consortium of business development programs that offer consulting throughout Gallatin and Park Counties. Any company or not for profit organization has access to a unique network of business resources. There are three options, 1) complete the assessment including their contact information and fax it to (866) 847-8033 or 2) go online at <https://www.research.net/s/TOPSTeam> or 3) just send us an email to info@nrmedd.org and provide their name and contact email/phone and ask for a business assessment. Either way they will be contacted. NRMEDD has assembled a group of business professionals offering customized fee-based services. There are no costs for a business assessment and if the business use a TOPs Team member the fees will be discounted. In some cases there will be no charges for consulting. NRMEDD works with a network of local business providers and can help access no fee services offered in Gallatin and Park Counties.

