The Northern Rocky Mountain Economic Development District has a new “Doing Business As Name.” We are now the Bridger District. The Bridger District will have a new website in the coming months. The District is working on growing a social media following.

BRIDGER DISTRICT EVENTS:

Quarterly Board Meeting:
This meeting will be at the Museum of the Rockies on May 15th from 11:30-1pm. The meeting will be followed by a tour of the Paleontology Department. Details to follow.

Voice of the Bridgers:
Doug Eck of the Google Brain Team will present at an upcoming Voice of the Bridgers Event. The date and place have not been narrowed down yet.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- The City of Belgrade and the Park County have signed the Bridger District’s Memorandum of Understanding. The purpose of this document is to define roles and responsibilities related to providing economic development to the County.

- The Belgrade and the Manhattan Chambers of Commerce are assisting in networking the TOPS Team Program. The Belgrade Chamber hosted the Bridger District for their March Lunch and Learn presentation.

- The Montana State University Extension Center in Livingston is working with the Bridger District to refer businesses to the TOPs Team Program.

- At the recent Montana Photonics Industry Alliance, the Bridger District outlined the Big Sky Trust Fund Grant, Incumbent Worker Training Program and the TOPs Team. Four TOPs Team Members were recruited at this meeting.

- The Bridger District presented at the Bozeman Job Service Office in January. Job Service is offering assistance in networking the Districts TOPs Program.

- The City of Bozeman is sponsoring an Impact Study for the Bozeman Public Library. The District and Library are also collaborating on the TOPS Team and Business Assistance Programs in the area.

- The Bridger District is coordinating with the Belgrade Public Library to provide the TOPS Team Resource to its patrons.

For More Information Email Our Office at info@nrmedd.org
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  Q1, 2019

TOPS (TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS) UPDATE:

The TOPS Team Program is off to a great start. The Bridger District currently has 30 TOPs Team members. Examples include El Mercadito (A Spanish Grocery Store). The store has received assistance from the TOPS Team and gave glowing reviews of the Program. The Town of West Yellowstone needed website assistance and we referred them to a great Website Designer who made the changes free of charge. Currently, we are working on marketing the program to local Chambers of Commerce and Libraries. The District is also working with local business networking groups to announce the program to the area’s business community. The TOPS Team website is up and running at the following link: http://nrmedd.org/tops-team/. An online business assessment can be completed.

If you know of small businesses that need assistance, please don’t hesitate to make the referral. The Bridger District will make the appropriate referrals to the TOPS Members.

VOICE OF THE BRIDGERS RECAP

On December 6th, the Bridger District hosted a Voice of the Bridgers Event at the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center. The presenter for this event was Jonathan Reeves, the CEO of Arvizio, Inc.. Arvizio is an Augmented Reality technology company. They specialize in creating enterprise software solutions for rich 3D visualization and collaboration in augmented, virtual and mixed reality. Jonathan not only offered a very interesting presentation, but he also provided the ability to try out the Hololens in addition to other Virtual Reality Headsets. All in all it was a positive event. The District’s next Voice of the Bridgers Event will be in May with Doug Eck of the Google Brain Team. Stay tuned for a date and time.

For More Information Email Our Office at info@nrmedd.org
The Yellowstone National Park (YNP) and West Yellowstone (WY) Project is underway. After several months, the YNP - WY stakeholder team which includes representation from Gallatin County, West Yellowstone and the National Park Service, outlined the Request For Proposal (RFP) elements and the project was advertised on Feb 6, 2019 - immediately following the government shutdown. On Mar 6, the Bridger District posted to its website and by email its list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). The Bridger District received 4 inquiries from prospective applicants and on March 10, the bid closing date, we received a single bid response. The District selected the Fehr & Peers and Sanderson-Stewart who united in response and were joined by Mandi Roberts. For the District the contract offers a comprehensive Plan that covers all elements of the Bridger District’s RFP.

The next tourist season is close at hand and we are moving as expeditiously as possible to maximize the opportunity. Currently we are looking at a Final Report Submission of November 15th, 2019.