"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** 









March 14, 2024, 8am-4pm

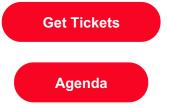
Covenant Pines Bible Camp 43696 245th Place McGregor, MN 55760

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:



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

Tami Jacobs: tjacobs@growthiv.org

### 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** 

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency offers homeowner opportunities



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.



**Contact a 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

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



**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

Sign up today at recyclops.com/aitkin

Coming March 1st, 2024

MINNESOTA POLLUTION

CONTROL AGENCY

The first 625 customers

pay \$10/month for



Leap Day Soiree: February 29, 2024





### RIPPLE CENTER



Featuring The Jazz Authority

ssional Intimate & Prevalent Music

Food provided by:



To order tickets scan the QR code or visit unitedwaynow.org

**Tickets** 

Includes entertainment



Funds raised will benefit programs in Aitkin County!

> Lakes Area **United Way**





### **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.

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

### **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













Palisade Events Committee

### Cities







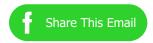
**Contact Us** 

**AITKIN COUNTY** 



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218-513-6188

Visit our Website



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