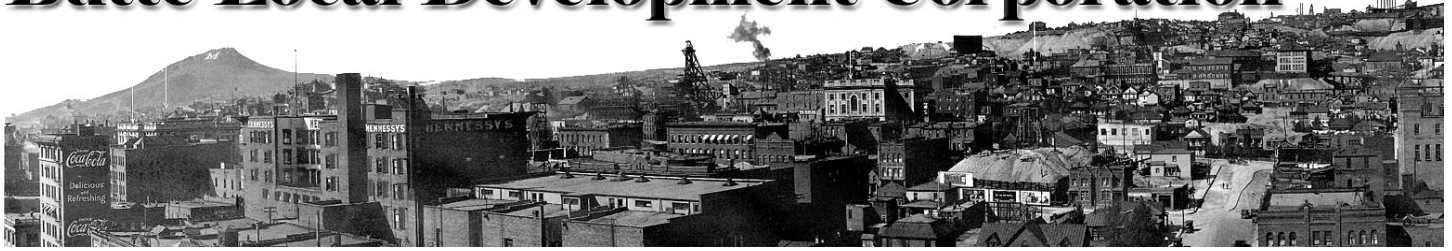


# Butte Local Development Corporation



WINTER 2008

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## **BLDC Grants Two New Loans**

The BLDC approved loan requests from The Craftman's Corner and Abbey's Furniture Showcase to support expansion of their business operations in the Uptown Business District. Both loans were in the amount of \$150,000 using funds from Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Program.

The Craftman's Corner is located at 223 East Park Street and specializes in countertops and cabinets for residential and commercial buildings. This project represents one of the several development projects on East Park Street, which was recently considered a blighted area of the community.

Abbey's Furniture Showcase located at 926 South Arizona Phoenix Street is a retail distributor of furniture and appliances. Bob and Kelly Hanni took over ownership in 2006 and have increased sales by over 30%. The expansion will include providing additional product lines, includ-

ing mattress and bedroom suites, and household appliances. This project provides another local retail option for the community to hopefully reverse sales outside of our community. According to Bob Hanni, "Business has been better than expected indicating a strong local economy. Without the BLDC, we would not have been able to complete our expansion efforts needed to continue our market share not only locally, but also regionally."

Both projects represent another example of how financial assistance from the BLDC promotes economic development in our community.

*The BLDC would like  
to welcome new Board  
Members*

*Herb Leuprecht and  
Tom Downey*



480 East Park Street  
Butte, Montana 59701

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## State of Montana to locate Super Computer in Butte

Butte received an early Christmas present this year when the State of Montana announced it will locate its new super computer in Butte. The super computer will be placed in the Thornton Building data center. The machine has been ordered and is scheduled to be delivered on December 29th.

MERDI, owners of the Thornton Building, are busily upgrading the infrastructure in the data room to handle the increased electrical and cooling demands of the new super computer. They are also in the process of constructing a new data center in the former ballroom. This space will be needed to house the computer equipment for those entities who wish to be connected to the super computer. The cost of the data center expansion and construction is approximately \$500,000. Funding for this work came from the Economic Development Administration, Montana Department of Commerce and Butte-Silver Bow Urban Revitalization Agency.

When the super computer is operational, it will have the capability to perform 3.8 trillion operations per second. In addition, the supercomputing center has been designed with a new one-of-a-kind distributive computing system. If problems require more computing capacity than this machine can handle, it will seek out via its broadband connectivity any unused supercomputing capacity on other machines located throughout the country. Once the problem is complete the results will be available to the customer here in Butte.

Even though the super computer is located in Butte, public and private entities throughout the state will have access to it through Centers of Excellence. These access points will be established in Missoula, Helena, Dillon, Bozeman, Billings, Great Falls, Havre and Miles City. The Centers of Excellence will be connected to the super computer through existing broadband fiber optic networks.

Since the announcement of the super computer, there have been

several entities expressing an interest in locating in Butte to utilize the system. These organizations include the US Air Force Simulation Training Center. This project would establish a 3-D simulation environment for the training of the forces special forces. The simulation center operating at full capacity could employ approximately 140 employees.

Funding for the ongoing operational costs of the super computer will come from a one million dollar per year appropriation from the State Government and user fees.

The location of the super computer in Butte could be a magnet for many new entities to establish operations in our community. As per our Community Business Plan, technology-based businesses are a target industry sector for the future growth of Butte.

*Happy Holidays from the staff  
of the  
Butte Local Development  
Corporation.*