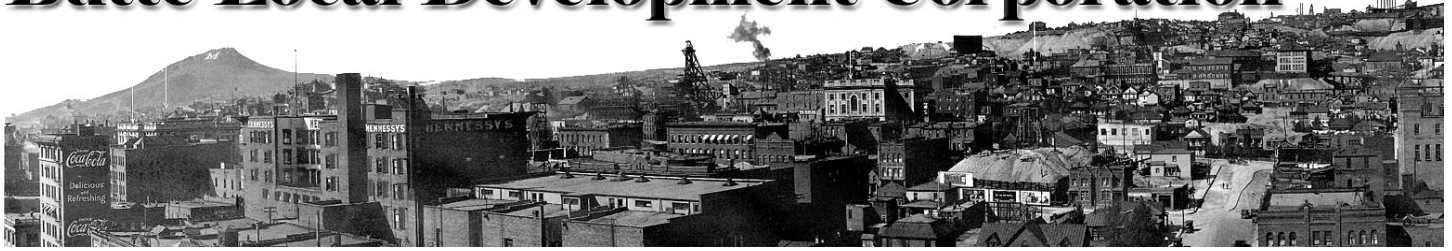


# Butte Local Development Corporation



SPRING 2006

MARCH 28, 2006

## Announcements

- The BLDC annual dinner will be held May 11th. For ticket information, please contact the BLDC
- Welcome to new BLDC Board members, Shelly Davis of NCAT and Margie Thomas of Dick & Thomas PC
- BLDC welcomes Russ Connole, new Butte-Silver Bow Director of Economic Development
- In early November, the BLDC welcomed Andy Zdinak to the staff as the new Marketing Director
- Headwaters RC&D will be holding a Business Assistance Workshop on April 11th from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Call 406-782-7333 to register
- The BLDC would like to commend Brooks Hanna for supporting Butte's 4th of July fireworks show

## WET Leads the Way in East Butte Development

With participation from the BLDC, Water and Environmental Technologies has secured financing to begin construction of a new office building located at 400 East Park St.

At the BLDC Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, March 23rd, the BLDC Board unanimously approved a \$160,000 loan.

The loan from the BLDC finances a portion of the \$760,000 project. WET also received \$450,000 in grants and loans from the East Butte Revitalization and Rehabilitation agency and a private loan.

WET plans on breaking ground for the new building in early April and completing construction around September.

"This is not only a new building

in our community, it's a new building in an area we've been trying to get some development in," said Jim Smitham, BLDC Executive Director.

There are hopes that a project of this caliber in East Butte will trigger additional development.

WET started in 2000 with three workers in an office located in the Business Development Center. They later relocated to their present location at 1485 Continental Dr. and currently employ 10 full-time and four part-time workers.

With a full workload in the pipeline, WET already has \$1.6 million in projects scheduled for 2006. They also plan on hiring two engineers within the next year and five additional staff members in the next two

years.

WET will use all local contractors in the construction process.

The 7500 sq. ft. building will be consistent with Uptown Butte's historic architecture. It is also energy efficient and uses modern solar panels. Approximately 2000 sq. ft. of the building will be leased out.

Smitham said, "The quality of the building they're going to put up is going to establish a threshold for development in that area."

Several BLDC Board members praised WET for their dedication to the high quality of their work and for being the first to initiate a substantial development in the East Butte area.



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## Learn to Sell on eBay like a Pro

The BLDC, in conjunction with Headwaters RC&D, is hosting a series of workshops titled, "The Basics of Selling on eBay."

The workshop provides new users with the tools needed to be a successful seller on eBay, the World's Online Marketplace. With over 147 million registered users worldwide, eBay offers sellers more than 50,000 categories to market their goods including antiques, art, books, business & industrial products, vehicles, clothing, collectibles, electronics, & computers, home furnishings, jewelry, movies, music, potter & glass, sporting goods & memorabilia, tickets, and toys & hobbies.

More than 724,000 sellers make a full- or part-time living on eBay. In the first quarter of 2005 alone, eBay reported \$10.6 billion in

gross merchandise volume. eBay has an average of 50 million items available and approximately 5 million items added per day, with a presence in 33 international markets.

The course, instructed by Lisa Jones, teaches attendees the fundamental skills needed to become a successful eBay sell. Lisa is the BLDC Administrative Manager as well as an instructor certified by eBay University. She also operates a successful eBay business part-time.

Lisa stated, "With the remarkable growth in e-commerce and eBay, there is a lot of opportunity out there for local businesses and individuals."

The first workshop was held in January and was a great success. Since that time two workshops have

been held and another is scheduled for April 22nd from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM. Each class has filled up very quickly.

Registration and class size is limited. The cost for the course is \$40.00 and lunch will be provided. Call Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. at 406-782-7333 to register or to get more information.

### **BLDC Members**

The BLDC would like to thank the following members for supporting Butte and the BLDC:

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