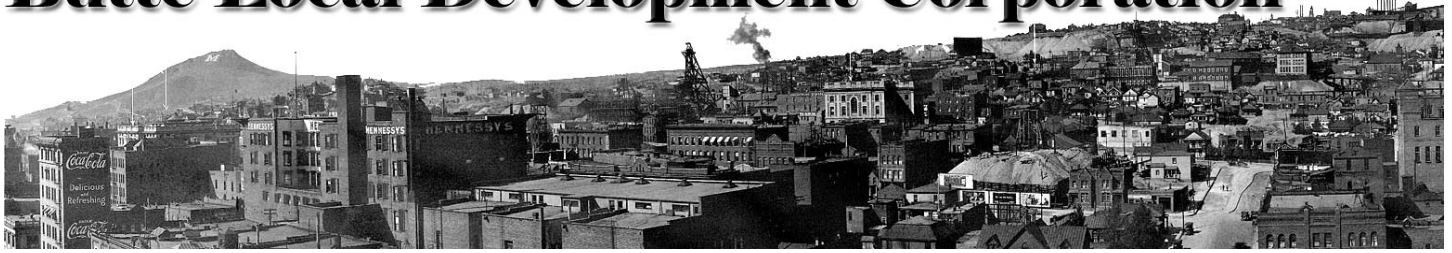


Butte Local Development Corporation



SPRING 2010

It's BLDC

Membership Time!

The Butte Local Development Corporation has begun its annual membership drive. The BLDC offers a number of membership levels and benefits for its members. All members will receive our newsletter and are invited to the Annual Meeting and Dinner.

As of this date there are 76 individuals and businesses that have shown their support for the BLDC. Their membership donations have raised more than \$22,000. If you haven't sent in your membership pledge, there is still time to do so.

The BLDC would like to welcome new members:

Advanced Wireless Technologies Inc - Arc Electric Inc - Career Futures Inc - Creative Illusions - Dotty's Casino - Dr. William Brennick & Dr. Tara Eller - Everly & Associates - Finlen Complex Inc - H & R Block - Interior Solutions Inc - Management Consultants Inc - Mike Mondloch CRNA PC - New York Life - Quality Supply of Butte - Ray's Heating & Sheet-metal LLC - Shea Realtors - Summit Beverage - and United Way of Butte & Anaconda.

Butte Chosen for Southwest Montana Veterans' Home

Butte-Silver Bow Local Government, the Chamber of Commerce and the BLDC have been working with a group of local veterans to put together a site proposal for the proposed Southwest Montana Veterans' Home. This project was brought about through legislation passed during the last legislative session. It identified the need to establish a new veterans' home to be located in one of six southwest Montana counties (Butte-Silver Bow, Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Powell, Jefferson, Beaverhead and Madison).

The legislation spelled out the site selection process and the timeframe to choose the site for the new facility. The bill established a site selection committee that consisted of nine people, three non-voting members from the State Architect's Office and six voting members (one representative from each of the six counties). Bob Pavlovich was chosen by the Governor to represent Butte-Silver Bow.

The site selection committee met in September 2009 to establish the criteria by which they would evaluate each of the sites proposed for the veterans' home. This process was completed by early November. The communities then had until February 4, 2010 to submit their formal site proposal packets. Five communities turned

in information on their proposed site or sites. Madison County opted not to submit a site. Starting the first week in March the committee met in each of the five communities to allow the local groups to formally present their proposals and view their sites. The committee gathered in Helena the week of March 15th to review all the proposals, score the sites and make their final decision.

The group working on the Butte-Silver Bow proposal started meeting in September 2009. As the site selection committee established their scoring criteria, the local group started identifying possible sites. One of the first criteria was that the land must be donated to the project. Chief Executive Paul Babb issued a notice to the community asking for anyone who would like to donate land (between 7 and 10 acres) to the project. Two private parties stepped up to the plate offering land and Butte-Silver Bow identified two pieces of property they owned that would meet the requirements. The local group then evaluated each property and the veterans groups voted on which site they preferred.

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The site donated by M&H Livestock located on Blacktail Loop, south of Three Bears Alaska, was chosen.

On March 4th Butte hosted the site selection committee. Chief Executive Paul Babb opened the meeting with introductions and an outline of the day's activities. He then turned the program over to Karen Byrnes, BSB Community Development Director, who went through a power point presentation that addressed each of the site selection criteria point-by-point. This excellent presentation spelled out in detail all the amenities that Butte offers the veterans' home. The committee and the local site selection group boarded the historic HUB bus to visit the site. From the site they went to St. James Healthcare for a tour. They then went back to the War Bonnet for a lunch followed by additional community presenters and comments. All together

there were approximately 70 individuals presenting or voicing their support for locating the veterans home in Butte.

All of those present at the March 4th meeting felt that Butte really put forth a first class presentation. The chair of the site selection committee also praised Butte for the effort they put forth. The entities and individuals that worked hard to prepare Butte's proposal really appreciated the outpouring of community assistance during the proposal preparation and the show of support during the War Bonnet meeting. The communities in the other six counties made similar presentations to the site selection committee.

On March 16th, the site selection committee met at the Capital in Helena to evaluate all of the site proposals. After deliberating for three days, they unanimously chose Butte for the site of the new Southwest Montana Veterans' Home.

Worker Training Program

The Montana Department of Labor has initiated a new Incumbent Worker Training Program. This new program will grant employers funds to offset the training costs their current employees may have to enhance business productivity and efficiency, reduce employee turnover and provide a direct benefit to the employee's occupation.

If you are a small business with 50 employees or less, with no more than 20 in one location and having been in business for at least one year, you may qualify. The grant allows a maximum of \$2,000 per full time employee per year and \$1,000 for a part-time employee per year.

For training taking in place in Montana the employer has to match \$1 for every \$4 requested. For training taking place outside Montana, the employer must match 50% of the employee's travel expenses.

If this sounds like something you would like to pursue, please contact Jim Smitham or Andy Zdinak at the BLDC, 723-4349 or bldc@bldc.net.