

"To develop and promote resources for Economic Growth in our community."



October 2024



Community Calendar

Add an event to the 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:

**Did you know it is Naturally Better in Aitkin
County?**



[Listen to all of the reasons why](#)

Hill City install awesome new sign!



Thanks for including Naturally Better on your signage!

Aitkin County teams with U of M Extension to request ATV survey information: We need you!

Take our Survey here!

We need to hear from you!

Aitkin County is working with University of Minnesota Extension to understand the ATV and OHV riding experience and impact in the county. We are surveying ATV and OHV riders.

Please consider taking the survey. Questions will address your recent experience riding in Aitkin County.

Your responses will help inform future decisions for communities serving ATV and OHV riders in the region.



Thank you!

To complete the survey, visit
z.umn.edu/atvohv



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

Paul Bunyan Communications Broadband Update

Paul Bunyan Communications Aitkin County Broadband Expansion Update

**Construction is almost done in areas of Kimberly, Spencer, Jevne, Flemming, and Morrison Townships of Aitkin County
Construction set to begin in areas of Ball Bluff, Cornish, and Verdon townships**

(Bemidji, MN) (September 11, 2024) –Paul Bunyan Communications is making good progress on its broadband expansion in Aitkin County.

Construction is almost done in the areas of Kimberly, Spencer, Jevne, Flemming, and Morrison Townships east of the city of Aitkin and west of the city of McGregor. The fiber splicing phase of the process will begin in October with service installations expected to start this winter.

After a delay in expansion construction in Ball Bluff, Cornish, and Verdon townships of Aitkin County, construction will start within the next week and is expected to take 4-6 weeks. The fiber splicing phase will follow that in November and service installations are expected to start over the winter.

Anyone in these expansion areas interested in getting connected to the all-fiber optic broadband network should sign up for service now before construction is done. That can be done online, over the phone, or in person at our Grand Rapids Customer Service & Technology Center or Cooperative Headquarters in Bemidji. To check to see if a specific location is within an expansion area and learn more about the expansion construction process, visit www.gigazone.com.

The cooperative's services will become available once the network is operational including GigaZone® Internet with its unprecedented broadband speeds of up to 10 Gig and low cost unlimited local and long distance GigaZone® voice telephone service. There is no membership fee to join Paul Bunyan Communications, membership is included by subscribing to either local phone service or GigaZone® Internet service.

Paul Bunyan Communications has the region's largest all fiber optic network with over 6,000 square miles throughout most of Beltrami County and portions of Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, and St. Louis Counties. The Cooperative provides Broadband High Speed Internet Services including the GigaZone®, digital and high-definition television services, digital voice services, Residential and Business IT services, and is also the home of northern Minnesota's certified Apple Service Center.

GigaZone celebrates 10 year Anniversary



*GigaZone Announcement Ceremony
September 18, 2014 - Bemidji, MN*

Celebrating 10 Years of the GigaZone Transforming Life in Northern Minnesota



Paul Bunyan Communications was one of the first in the country to start implementing an all-fiber optic network beginning in 2004. The cooperative began replacing its existing infrastructure, and all new expansion areas were built with only fiber optics. Initial internet speeds offered were up to 1 Mbps and as the technology progressed that would increase over time setting the stage for a ground-breaking announcement.

On September 18, 2014, the cooperative unveiled plans to be one of the first to bring Gigabit Internet speeds to customers through an all-fiber optic network known as the GigaZone. Today, the GigaZone stands as one of the largest rural all-fiber optic networks in the United States. Beyond delivering

state-of-the-art connectivity with speeds now up to 10 Gig, the GigaZone has been a cornerstone for local economic growth, remote education, telehealth services, and numerous other community initiatives. Its reliable performance was crucial during the recent global pandemic, facilitating seamless remote work and learning for over 30,000 homes and businesses.

Our commitment to bring high-speed fiber optic connections to our membership and more underserved areas each year is as strong now as it was ten years ago.

We are Minnesota's largest broadband cooperative. We are Paul Bunyan Communications, powered by the GigaZone.



PAULBUNYAN.NET

POWERED BY

GIGAZONE

THE REGION'S
LARGEST
& FASTEST
ALL-FIBER OPTIC
NETWORK

Building the Future of Childcare: Future Childcare Provider summit

The North Central SBDC will be hosting the Future Child Care Provider Summit on October 24th!

This is an action-packed half-day event aimed at educating and empowering those

interested in starting their own business and community child care champions. It has been intentionally designed to provide practical, tactical information so that attendees can walk away knowing the next steps they can take and who is available in the region and state to support their journey.

A huge shout out to the partners who have come together to help plan the summit including **Central Lakes College** Early Childhood Education Department, East Central Regional Development Commission, Initiative Foundation, MAHUBE-OTWA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP INC, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Region Five Development Commission, and Sourcewell.

The number of folks coming together to plan this event is a testament to both the severity of the child care shortage and to the resiliency and determination of our region.



Building the Future of Child Care

FUTURE CHILD CARE PROVIDER SUMMIT

10.24.2024 | 9:30AM-2:00PM | Central Lakes College

Future Provider Track

Learn the practical steps you need to take to start your own successful childcare business. This track is perfect for anyone considering a career in childcare or who has owned their own business for less than 3 years.

Community Champion Track

Are you ready to do something about the childcare shortage in your community? This track is perfect for elected officials, community leaders, and employers to learn how to help increase the quantity and quality of childcare.

\$50 Visa Gift Card for First 50 Future Provider Attendees | Lunch Provided for All

Register online at www.clcmn.edu/small-business-development-center

Register



Interested in showcasing your product, service, or idea? **Register for the DAWNtrepreneur Showcase and Pitch Competition!** Free to enter and win cash prizes!



NOVEMBER 12



5-8PM



BRAHAM EVENT
CENTER
655 8TH ST. SW
BRAHAM, MN
55006



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER!**

Have a question? Email Elissa Hansen at ehansen@northspan.org for more information



Powered by NORTHSPAN



Minnesota Housing Finance Agency offers homeowner opportunities

Contact a Lender



**Dream it. Do it.
We'll help you
afford it.**

Hassle-free home
improvement loans up to
\$75,000 from the
Minnesota Housing
Fix Up Loan Program.

[LEARN MORE](#)

In connection with Single Family Division loan programs, Minnesota Housing is neither an originator of loans nor a creditor and is not affiliated with any Lender. To find out if you are eligible, or to apply for a loan, please contact a participating Lender.



**Home sweet
renovated
home.**

Hire it out or DIY with flexible
home improvement loans from
the Minnesota Housing
Fix Up Loan Program.

[LEARN MORE](#)

In connection with Single Family Division loan programs, Minnesota Housing is neither an originator of loans nor a creditor and is not affiliated with any Lender. To find out if you are eligible, or to apply for a loan, please contact a participating Lender.

[learn more](#)

AFire Safety Week in Palisade

Fire Safety week open house

Join the Palisade Fire Department
OCT 12th, 2024 from 11-2
for a kids safety day and open house.

GET A FREE HOTDOG AND CHIPS

Donations will be accepted



Taste Of Aitkin, October 9, 2024

AITKIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



October 9th, 2024 5-7pm
The 40 Club Convention Center
\$30 in advance | \$35 at the door

Properties Available in the Aitkin Area

[Tour the Properties](#)



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Offered at
\$1,500,000

Features & Amenities

45,504 SF industrial building located on a 21.57 acre +/- site at 36559 US Highway 169, Aitkin, MN. The building functions as the headquarters for Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative.

- Highway traffic, visible location
- High-speed Fiber-to-the-Premise Internet
- Spacious yard and maintained landscaping
- Semi truck assessable driveway
- 2 large storage buildings
- Fenced equipment yard
- Recent interior renovations



About the property

Take the opportunity to move your business or add another location! Office spaces with a combination of heated and cold storage. This industrial site provides room for large trucks and equipment to keep them out of the weather.

The property includes a main office/shop and two pole buildings. The main office/shop (100 ft. x 125 ft.) constitutes about 60% of the total Gross Building Area, with concrete block construction and a mix of office and shop space. The pole buildings include one 60 ft. x 120 ft. insulated storage building with in-floor heat and one 60 ft. x 170 ft. cold storage building with concrete floor. The quality/appeal and condition of the improvements is rated average. The property includes a fenced/secured outdoor storage area and significant frontage on US Highway 169.



Contact details

Jeff Borling, Great River Energy
(218) 355-8088
jborling@greenergy.com

Mille Lacs Energy Headquarters

36559 US Hwy 169, Aitkin, Minnesota 56431 - Aitkin County



Property Details

Latitude/Longitude: 46.5344, -93.6834

Type of space: Industrial, Commercial

Min Size: 45,504 sqft

Max Size: 45,504 sqft

Last Updated: 6/4/2024

Northspan Contact

Company: Northspan

Contact Name: Shaun Hainey

Address: 202 W Superior St, #600

City: Duluth

State: Minnesota

Phone: 218.481.7737

Email: shainey@northspan.org

Website: <https://www.northlandconnection.com>

NORTHSPAN

Documents

[Listing Flyer.pdf](#)

Availability

For Sale: Yes

Sale Price: \$1,500,000.00

Description

Take the opportunity to move your business or add another location! Office spaces with a combination of heated and cold storage. This industrial site provides room for large trucks and equipment to keep them out of the weather. The property includes a main office/shop and two pole buildings. The main office shop (100 ft. x 125 ft.) constitutes about 60% of the total Gross Building Area, with concrete block construction and a mix of office and shop space. The pole buildings include one 60 ft. x 120 ft. insulated storage building with in-floor heat and one 60 ft. x 170 ft. cold storage building with concrete floor. The quality/appeal and condition of the improvements is rated average. The property includes a fenced/secured outdoor storage area and significant frontage on US Highway 169.

Building Details

Total Building sf: 45,504 sf

Office sf: 12,500 sf

Amenities: 45,504 SF industrial building located on a 21.57 acre +/- site at 36559 US Highway 169, Aitkin, MN. The building functions as the headquarters for Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative. •Highway traffic, visible location •High-speed Fiber-to-the-Premise Internet •Spacious yard and maintained landscaping •2 large storage buildings •Fenced equipment yard •Recent interior renovations •Semi truck assessable driveway

Site Details

Total Acres: 21.57 acres

Incentives

Opportunity Zone: Yes

Transportation

Nearest Airport: Aitkin Municipal Airport

Distance to Airport: 1.2 miles

Port: Yes

Distance to Port: 86.0 miles

Nearest Interstate: I 35

Distance to Interstate: 50.4 miles

Nearest Highway: Hwy 169

Distance to Major Highway: .04 miles

Utilities

Electric Service Provider: Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative

36559 US 169, Aitkin MN

Contact me directly for any details and additional opportunities: mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us.

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

Aitkin County Business Spotlight



Cabin Fever Videos
Hill City, MN

218.576.3215

Bronze

\$2000

3-5 minute highlight video
Full recording of ceremony
Full recording of first look
Full recording of speeches
Full recording of first dance
8 hours of coverage
2 videographers

Silver

\$3000

10-15 minute edited video
Full recording of ceremony
Full recording of first look
Full recording of speeches
Full recording of first dance
Lapel mic for bride and groom
9 hours of coverage
2 videographers

Gold

\$4000

25-30 minute edited video
Full recording of ceremony
Full recording of first look
Full recording of speeches
Full recording of first dance
Lapel mic for bride and groom
10 hours of coverage
2 videographers

+ Other Services



Family & Newborn Films

1-2 Hour Session
1 Videographer
2-4 Minute Video Set to Music
Up to Two Locations
*Starting at \$400



Drone Services

Available for all of your ariel needs, lets get your custom shot!
The most beautiful photos and videos come from up above with our drone.
Contact us for a quote today!



Special Event Videos

8 Hours of Coverage
2 Videographers
3-5 Minute Highlight Video
Set to Music
*Starting as low as \$1200



Promotional Videos

Need a promotional video for your business? We would be happy to put something together for you!
Contact us for a quote today!

Cabin Fever Videos

Community

Aitkin

McGregor

JET
NORTHEAST MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF JOB TRAINING



Palisade Events Committee

Cities



Contact Us



AITKIN COUNTY

Mark Jeffers
Economic Development Coordinator
mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us
218-513-6188



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