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



October 2024



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

25 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

Paul Bunyan Communications Broadband Update





Contact: Brian Bissonette (218) 444-1127

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 northerm Minnesota's certified Apple Service Center.

GigaZone celebrates 10 year Anniversary

GigaZone Announcement Ceremony September 18, 2014 - Bemidji, MN

Paul Bunyan

GIGAZONE

Lelebrating 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 allfiber 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.



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!



Minnesota Housing Finance Agency offers homeowner opportunities

Contact a Lender



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

learn more

AFire Safety Week in Palisade

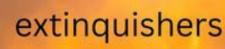
Fire Safety week open house Join the Palisade Fire Department

OCT 12th, 2024 from 11-2 for a kids safety day and open house. **GET A FREE HOTDOG AND CHIPS** Donations will be accepted

Drag the teddy bear







Taste Of Aitkin, October 9, 2024



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.

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

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





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@grenergy.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: <u>shainey@northspan.org</u> Website: <u>https://www.northlandconnection.com</u>

NORTHSPAT

Documents

Listing Flyer.pdf

Availability

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: 135 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

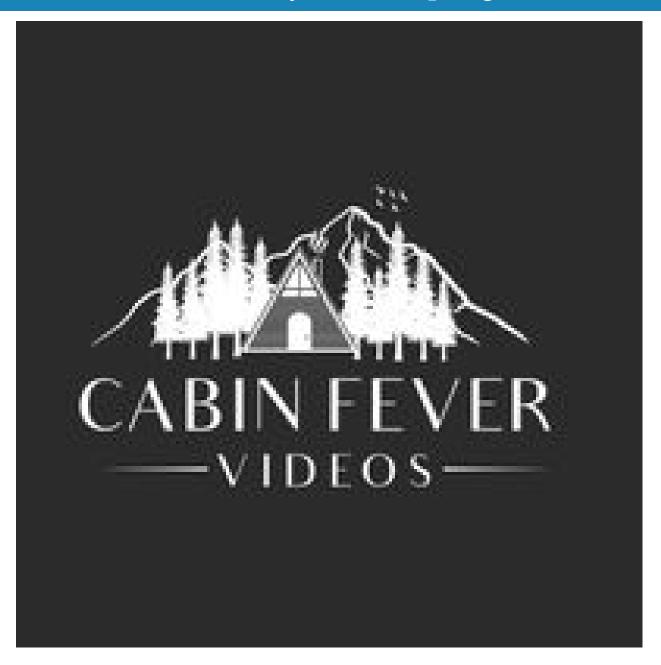
Contact me directly for any details and additional opportunities: mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us.

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

+ Wedding Packages

Full recording of first look Full recording of speeches Full recording of first dance

Full recording of first look Full recording of first dance Lapel mic for bride and groom

+ Other Services

\$4000

25-30 minute edited video Full recording of ceremony



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!



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



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

Videos

Contact us for a quote today!

Cabin Fever Videos

Community

Hilkin



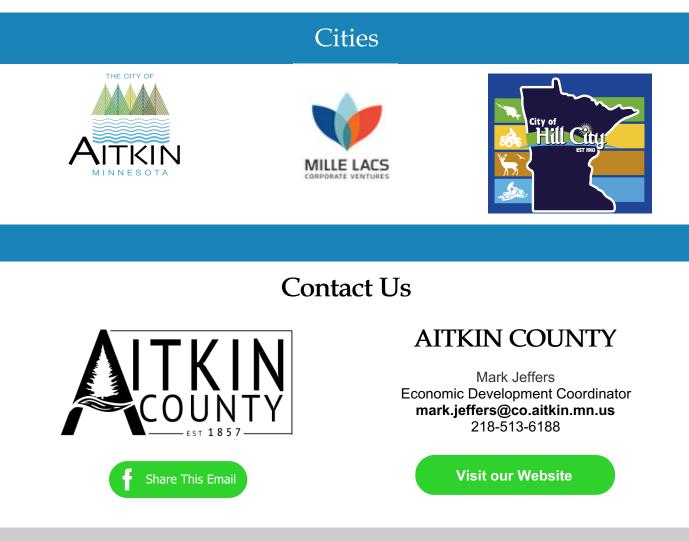




PROUD PARTNER



Palisade Events Committee



Aitkin County Government | 307 2nd St NW | Aitkin, MN 56431 US

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