

EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OCTOBER 20, 2021 NEWSLETTER 50

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Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF)-
Quarterly deadline for job creation and/or planning.
June 16, Sept. 15, Dec. 15, 2021 and March 16, 2022.
<https://marketmt.com/BSTF>

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)

Applications accepted year round. Grant funding resource, used to help off-set a portion of skills-based training costs for existing workers employed by MT small businesses and nonprofits.
<https://wsd.dli.mt.gov/employers/incumbent-worker-training-program/>

MT History Foundation Grant Program

Deadline- January 14, 2022

The MT History Foundation invites proposals for projects that preserve, restore, and interpret Montana's rich and important past. Funding areas include: historic building/structure, oral histories, collections/artifacts, outreach & project development and more.
<https://www.mthistory.org/grants/>

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Deadline March 30 & November 1, 2022

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/>



Gov. Gianforte visits eastern MT

EPEDC Staff met with Governor Gianforte in Baker, Glendive, Fallon and Terry the week of September 6th. We shared with the Governor the challenges and opportunities facing eastern Montanans. In Glendive the Governor was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, who also held a tasting of the Yellowstone Caviar that is processed and packed there. There were discussions of the drought impacting our region, the opioid epidemic, downtown revitalization and much more.

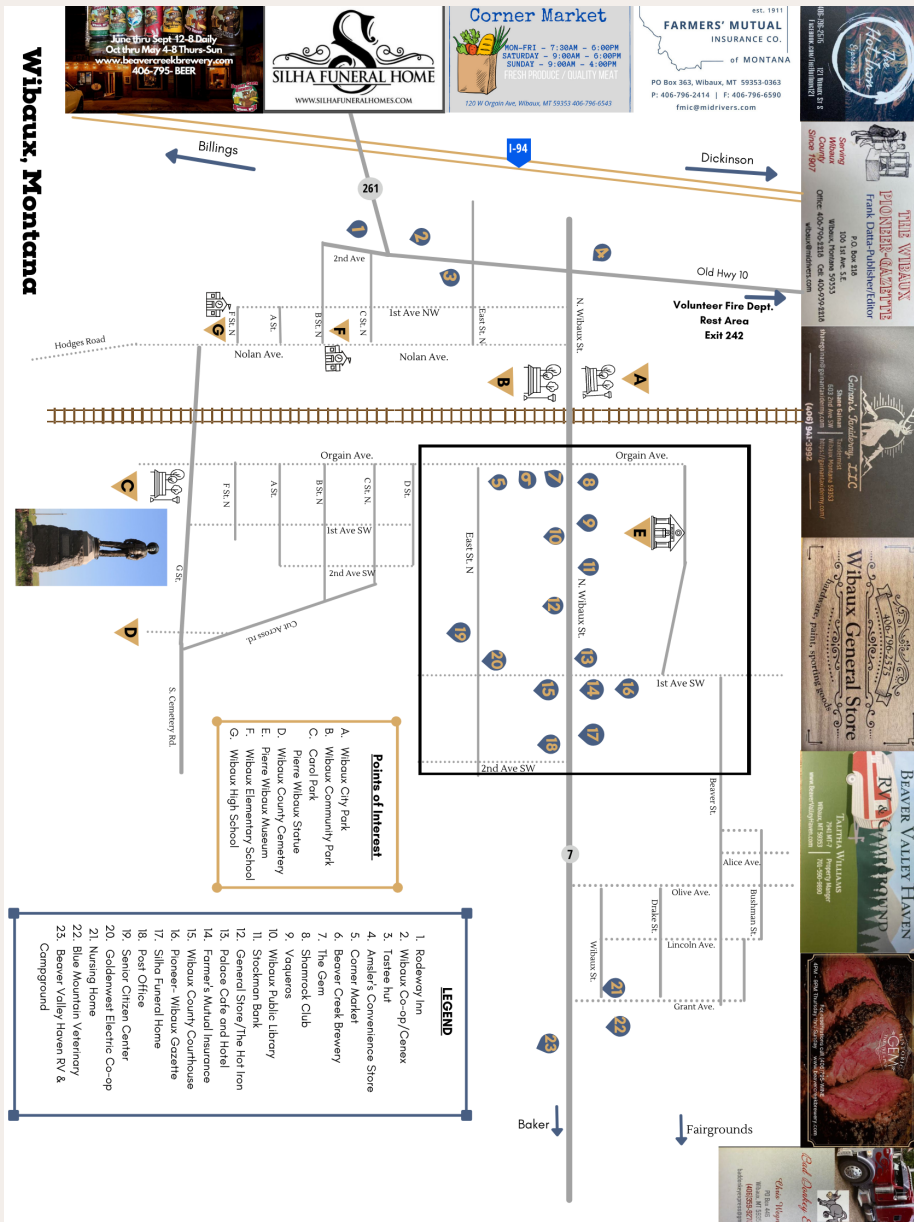
In Baker, the Governor met with a number of residents to discuss issues facing them including expanding remote work opportunities to eastern Montana. EPEDC Downtown Development Specialist, Melissa Higbee, shared with the Governor about the Remote Worker Class that she is taking. Prairie County Commissioners, along with other, took Governor Gianforte to the Fallon Flats to discuss the Fallon Flats Irrigation Project. We shared the value that such a large-scale agriculture project could bring to the region and different funding options. The group considered what a phased-construction approach would look like and how it would be implemented.

In Terry, a crowd gathered at newly reopened Lewis Family Hardware. The group discussed a variety of issues ranging from the pandemic to drought to infrastructure to government regulation. Thank you to all of the EPEDC Board members who also met with the Governor during his visit.

Wibaux Town Map Project

The Wibaux Chamber of Commerce is working on providing an updated map of the community. The map below is the front side of what will be their new town map. On the back side will be business information such as promotions, menus and more of the local businesses. In addition to physical maps, the map will be made available in a digital version, by scanning a QR code. EPEDC has put together the map and look forward to completing this project!

“It’s very easy to be different but very difficult to be better”
— Jonathan Ive



Tourism Grants in the Region

The Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development, tourism grant applications were due on September 15th and in the EPEDC region we completed four applications. Four out of our five counties had organizations apply for the funds. The request of funds range from interior and façade improvements of museums and galleries to new projects and initiatives in communities. All of the proposals focused on bringing in more tourists and enhancing the experiences that they have while visiting. As we continue to see tourism in the region increase, it's important to take advantage of these granting opportunities. Awarding of these grants will likely be announced prior to the end of 2021.

Next Board Meeting
January 19, 2022

Contact Information

<p>Beth Epley Executive Director eepley@epedc.com (406) 853-6471</p>	<p>Alissa Miller Food and Ag Development Assistant fada@epedc.com (406) 852-3735</p>	<p>Melissa Higbee Downtown Development Specialist dds@epedc.com (307)620-5612</p>	<p>Dara Deines Community Development Specialist cde@epedc.com (406) 939-3864</p>
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Visit epedc.com for more information

The EPEDC serves the following counties and municipalities: Carter County, Dawson County, Fallon County, Prairie County and Wibaux County, as well as the City of Baker, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna, the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry and the Town of Wibaux.