

Beyond the Borders

Community, Economic Development and Leadership
Newsletter

Building Communities - "Practical Tools and Information"

Kathleen Tweeten, Community Economic Development Specialist

This newsletter is meant to share practical tools and information to assist you in your important role in community and economic development work.

We welcome comments on current letters plus encourage your advice for future articles.

Newsletter Topics:

- Editorial: What you should know about Meth
- 10th Annual Conference of Business Retention and Expansion International - Bismarck
- ND Business Procurement Opportunities
- Cultural Heritage Tourism
- The State of North Dakota: Economic, Demographic, Public Service & Fiscal Conditions

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What You Should Know About Meth

Editorial

If you think for one second that Meth doesn't have much to do with community and economic development, you're wrong! In fact, the increased costs for local service providers such as law enforcement and emergency responders are becoming an overwhelming burden to local budgets. Those budgets are being stretched to the limit to pay for overtime hours of enforcement officials, drug site cleanup and prosecution of drug sellers and users.

What can you do? Report suspected drug activity or labs. Wayne Stenehjem, North Dakota Attorney General, asks all citizens to report suspect behavior to the drug hotline at 1-800-472-2185.

The signs that a lab might be in your neighborhood are:

- ∨ unusual late night behavior
- ∨ strong smell of ammonia, ether, toluene, acetone or other chemicals
- ∨ lots of traffic and frequent visitors stopping for only a short time, particularly at night
- ∨ renters who pay cash and are willing to pay inflated prices
- ∨ excessive amounts of trash

Meth not only costs your community money but it destroys lives and families. Report suspected drug activity immediately! For your copy of the brochure "What You Should Know About Meth" call 701-328-2210.

10th Annual Conference of Business Retention and Expansion International

The BREI 10th Annual Conference will be held in Bismarck June 19-21, 2003.

Selling to federal agencies is also a great opportunity for North Dakota businesses and requires a separate registration, according to Tom Linnertz, Business Opportunity Specialist with the Small Business Administration. Go to the SBA North Dakota website at <http://www.sba.gov/nd/ndopp.html>, for procurement opportunities. Tom recommends that you print out the CCR (Central Contractor Registration) handbook before registering because you will need the information. Just follow the instructions on the PRO-Net web page but if you have trouble or need additional information please contact Tom at fargomedbos@qwest.net or 701-239-5131.

The biggest difference between the two systems is that the state will notify you if there is a bidding opportunity. The federal system does not do this. You will need to regularly conduct your own search at FedBizOpps found at <http://www.sba.gov/nd/ndopp.html>.

Cultural Heritage Tourism

Source: America's Byways Resource Center, June 5, 2002. Tele-Workshop Fact Sheet

According to Amy Jordan Webb, Heritage Tourism Program Director, Cultural Heritage Tourism can be built in four ways.

- ∨ Understand what cultural heritage tourism is and what your byway has to offer.
- ∨ Be aware of national, state and local research
- ∨ Monitor travel trends
- ∨ Check available resources

She also says that the difference between cultural tourism and heritage tourism is that heritage tourism is "place" based. Heritage tourism programs create a sense of place rooted in the local landscape, architecture, people, artifacts, traditions, and stories that make a particular place unique.

Co-hosts for the conference are the NDSU Extension Service and the Economic Development Association for North Dakota. Major sponsors are the North Dakota Department of Commerce and TVA.

This year's conference theme is "Leadership in a Changing World: Dynamic Approaches for Economic Development." The conference will focus on strategies to assist economic development practitioners and educators in their programming efforts in business retention and expansion. The two and a half day conference will feature three keynote speakers, one plenary session and several concurrent sessions. Pre and post tours, golfing and birding will also be available for participants, family and friends.

Prior to the conference, June 17-19, participants will have the opportunity to become certified in the Community Leadership BR&E model. For more information on the certification program and the conference go the <http://brei.org>

ND Business Procurement Opportunities

Source: Tom Linnertz, SBA and Sherry Neas, ND State Procurement Office

The State Procurement Office purchases for all state agencies in the executive branch of government, and conducts cooperative purchasing with the ND University system and political subdivisions. Approximately \$50 million was for purchases in the 2001 fiscal year. Doing business with the state is a good idea and it doesn't cost you anything but a little time to register. You must register with the State Procurement Office by submitting a vendor application and selecting the commodity codes of the items for which your company wishes to receive bids. According to Sherry Neas, Procurement Manager, she states that it is extremely important that all codes are submitted. For example if you sell computers you must include separate codes for monitors, cables, printers, etc. When the procurement office is looking for a vendor they do the search by code so if you haven't included the code your business name will not be on the list.

Complete instructions and forms are available at www.discovernd.com/csd/spo.

To contact the State Procurement Office call 701-328-2683.

Cultural tourism then is a program which celebrates the same kinds of experiences, though with less emphasis on place. The content is the same while the context is different. "Cultural tourism suggests something more urban, possibly imported, and maybe a bit highbrow, Webb says, "Heritage tourism connotes something more rural, more place-related, and more grassroots-oriented." There is an overlap with the word usage. The National Trust's definition of cultural heritage tourism is "traveling to experience the places and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present." The article lists several tourism opportunities in this area. They include storytelling festivals, tribal tourism, folk life celebrations, African-American heritage tours, farm tours, and agritourism, living history, timber and manufacturing heritage and scenic byway programs.

For information on promoting tourism in rural America go to the National Agricultural Library at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/tourism.html> and for information on the Byways program call Chel Ethun, Byways Resource Specialist at 1-800-429-9297, extension 5.

The State of North Dakota: Economic, Demographic, Public Service and Fiscal Conditions

Source: Randal C. Coon and F. Larry Leistritz, NDSU Dept. of Agribusiness and Applied Economics

This publication is a general reference about conditions and trends in North Dakota. Coon and Leistritz present and compare counties, regions, non-metro and metropolitan areas. The report is a compilation of existing data and provides considerable information on historical trends. Single copies are available by calling Carol Jensen at 701-231-7441 or email cjensen@ndsuxt.nodak.edu. This publication and others from the department are also available electronically at <http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/ndsu.html>



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