

RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT REPORT

for

STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA

SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

**In partnership with
Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Economic Developers Association,
USDA/Rural Development, Montana Associated Technology Roundtables,
Region 1/Region 4 USDA Forest Service and the people of Stevensville.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stevensville, Montana, is a very rich community. The team heard about the many strengths of your community and enjoyed the beauty that surrounded us. Perhaps best of all, Stevensville is rich in good people who care deeply about the future of your community. Thank you for your hospitality, your time, and for sharing with the team the vision you have for Stevensville.

Before digging in to the report itself, I would like to give recognition to Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC), USDA/Rural Development and MEDA – Montana Economic Developers Association. MDOC sponsors Resource Team Assessments across the state, while USDA/Rural Development provides funding for training team members and follow-up costs. MEDA provides the contractual services that make Resource Teams possible. You can join MEDA and become a part of this economic development network at <http://www.medamembers.org>.

Special thanks are due the Stevensville Main Street Association for making the assessment possible. Mel Walters served as the champion behind the scenes, making sure everything was organized and ready for the team. Mel and Joan Prather had help from the community, but in every project there has to be those people that say, “let’s do it” and then make it happen. Thank you, Stevensville Main Street Association.

More thanks are extended to the Stevensville Town Council, the Stevensville Civic Club, Stevensville Public Schools, the Senior Citizens and individuals such as Karen Powers, David Anderson and Julie Foster. Without this support, and all of the people that came to the Community Input Sessions, the assessment could not have been a success.

In addition, I applaud each and every team member that dedicated hours of work and travel in order to participate on the team: Scott Bell, Rural Community Assistance Coordinator for Region 1/Region 4 USDA Forest Service; Russ Fletcher, Business Development Facilitator and Director of Montana Associated Technology Roundtables; Eric Hanson, Western Rural Development Officer for Montana Department of Commerce and Chris VanRonk, Community Development Manager for USDA/Rural Development. Each team member’s contact information is provided in the following report. Please feel free to call on any of us for additional information or support. It would be our pleasure.

The stage is now being set for Stevensville’s future. There are a number of short term and long term accomplishable recommendations that the resource team has provided in this report. Each of you individually must decide what it is that you want to do—what kind of project you want to tackle. It is also important for the entire community to be involved in finding ways to accomplish its goals. A few celebrations at the successful conclusion of an activity that has involved a large number of citizens will lead to a feeling of accomplishment that will carry over into other activities. Look through the suggestions, pick out one, and get started. It can be done. It is your choice, your decision; you can do it!

Be sure to attend the follow-up Town Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 18th at 7:00pm.

Gloria O’Rourke, Montana Economic Developers Association

PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REPORT

Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) provided staff support for the coordination of a resource team to assist Stevensville, Montana, in evaluating the town's assets and liabilities and in developing suggestions for improving the environment, social and economic future of the area.

Mel Walters served as the local contact and local team leader for the project. Mel took the lead in agenda development, logistics, budgeting and publicity for the assessment. Resource team members were selected to visit, interview citizens, business and community leaders and develop a plan of recommended action for the region. The team members were selected based on their fields of expertise that Stevensville officials indicated would be needed to respond to the problem areas identified.

The Resource Team interviewed over 100 people on September 27th, 2004. The notes from the community input sessions are included in this report. The team was available for listening to the following groups: Housing/Population Growth, Historic Development/Renovation, Economic and Business Development, Civic Groups/Homemakers, Retired Community/Senior Citizens, Youth Services/Activities, Utilities and Transportation, City, County and State Government/Law Enforcement.

Each participant was asked to respond to three questions designed to begin communications and discussion and to serve as a basis for developing the action plan. The three questions were:

- What do you think are the major problems and challenges in Stevensville?
- What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Stevensville?
- What projects would you like to see completed in two, five, ten and twenty years in Stevensville?

Upon completion of the interviews, the team met in a work session to compare notes and share comments. The team then agreed that each team member would analyze the things said, synthesize what they heard with their knowledge of programs and resources, prepare their notes and suggestions, and forward these items to be combined into this final report to Stevensville.

A preliminary oral report and a summary of group recommendations were presented to the people of Stevensville the evening of September 27th.

Following the oral report, this formal written report was prepared and is presented to Stevensville. Copies will be made available in print and electronically. The report is available on the MEDA website at <http://www.medamembers.org>.

A meeting is planned for November 18th to review the report with the people of Stevensville and to set priorities and initiate action plans.

**STEVENSVILLE RESOURCE TEAM
SEPTEMBER 26 - 27, 2004
STEVENSVILLE, MT**

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Ogden, UT 84401
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<http://www.fs.fed.us>

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<http://www.discoveringmontana.com>

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<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt>

STEVENSVILLE COMMUNITY PLAN 2005

RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT

A Joint Effort of the Stevensville Main Street Association, the Stevensville Civic Club and the Town of Stevensville

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSIONS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

<u>TIME</u>	<u>COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION *</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
8:00 – 8:50	Housing/Population Growth	Council Chambers
9:00 – 9:50	Historic Development/Renovation	Main Street Office
10:00 – 10:50	Economic & Business Development	Council Chambers
11:00 – 11:50	Civic Groups/Homemakers	Main Street Office
12:00 – 1:15	Retired Community/Senior Services	Senior Center
1:30 – 2:20 Purpose	Youth Services/Activities	H.S. Multi-
2:30 – 3:20	Utilities & Transportation	Main Street Office
3:30 – 4:20	City, County & State government; Law Enforcement	Council Chambers
7:30 – 8:30	Town Meeting **	H.S. Multi- Purpose

* Stevensville residents are invited to attend any number of the Community Input Sessions. Your input is most valuable and is requested.

** Stevensville residents are invited to attend the Town Meeting whether they attended the Community Input Sessions or not.

**STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA
RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT
SEPTEMBER 26 – 27, 2004**

MAIN TOPIC AND ISSUES

Note: These main issues are a summary of the comments made by the people of Stevensville throughout eight community input sessions in which challenges, strengths and vision for the future were discussed.

MAIN TOPIC: HOUSING AND POPULATION

Issues:

- Growth - our biggest issue - involved in each and every Input Session today
- Coordinated, proactive planning for growth
- Sidewalks, walkways and trails
- Common sense/reasonable priced housing
- Youth - want to be involved in the business of the community
- Inclusive - Lone Rock, Stevensville and 59870

MAIN TOPIC: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Issues:

- Maintain our historic integrity
 - Historical property primer
- Keep a "working" downtown while maintaining Stevensville identity
- Take advantage of and promote our history
- Grant writing expertise and funding possibilities
- Historical tourism

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Issues:

- Some ideas expressed:
- Use creamery history - produce own cheese
- Brick yard
- Straw bale construction
- Art/Business Incubator
- Niche businesses

MAIN TOPIC: CIVIC GROUPS AND HOMEMAKERS

Issues:

- Information Flow - coordination and scheduling
- People live here but do not work here - hard to access volunteers
- Increase community participation and resources
- Increase family resources and support services (daycare, community center, etc.)
- Grant writing expertise
- Library - upgrade and expand services

MAIN TOPIC: SENIOR CITIZENS

Issues:

- Transportation
- Sidewalks
- Fitness programs
- YMCA type service
- More in home services
- Urgent care hours expanded
- Hotel for family visits
- Foster grandparent program

MAIN TOPIC: YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Issues:

- More after school activities
 - Skatepark, ski club (Flagship Project), Bowling, Band Concerts
- Place to hang out
- Want community involvement
 - for example - basketball court vs. skatepark
- Volunteer and internship programs
- Smoker education
- Job applications - don't hear back
- Drug education
- Want to stay and/or return to Stevensville area

MAIN TOPIC: UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

Issues:

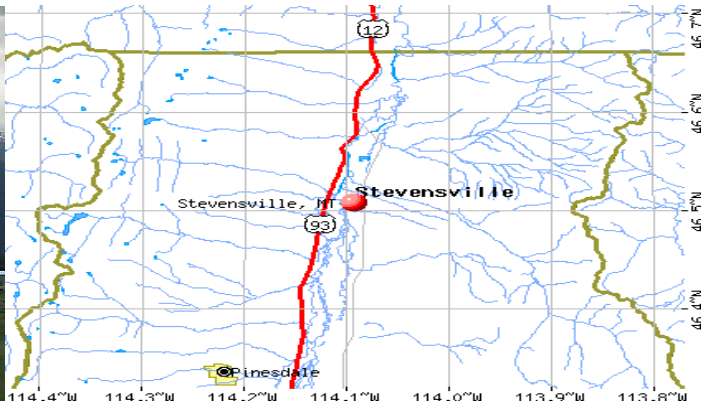
- High Speed Internet - explore cooperative options
- Alternative energy - choices and options
- Traffic grid layout for future growth
 - Highway 93 impacts - plan ahead
- Leapfrog effect prevention

MAIN TOPIC: CITY, COUNTY, STATE GOVERNMENT and LAW ENFORCEMENT

Issues:

- Communication and coordination between City and County in providing planning and services
- Annexation - cost factors, planning and service factors
- Park District
- Pro-Active - prepare infrastructure for growth
- Identify and consider overall funding sources - impact fees? TIFID?
- Education - address funding needs, mill levy, etc.
- Police - drug education, domestic violence prevention
- Realize some needs are being addressed - takes time!

Resource Team Assessment Report



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INTRODUCTION:

On September 27, 2004 a team of professionals from economic development and government fields traveled to the City of Stevensville to work with the local population on issues that concern the area. It was the job of the Resource Team Assessment to listen and understand the demographics, the culture, and the economy of Stevensville. The team member reports are for the purpose of assisting the City of Stevensville through ideas, suggestions, possible solutions and resources to certain problems and tribulations within the local area.

The framework and issues regarding the City of Stevensville are the following:

1. Housing and Population
2. Historical Development
3. Business and Economic Development
4. Civic Groups and Homemakers
5. Senior Citizens
6. Youth Services and Activities
7. Utilities and Transportation
8. City, County, State Government, and Law Enforcement

The team found many sub-categories under each main issue that included, but not limited to:

- A. Affordable/Common Sense Housing
- B. Water/Sewer
- C. Budgets
- D. Sidewalks
- E. Rental/Housing
- F. Downtown Identity
- G. Education
- H. Diversification of the economy
- I. Tourism
- J. And many others

This document will try to address the concerns of Stevensville residents and provide feedback that the local government, businesses, and civic leaders can use to target some common goals and improve Stevensville as a whole.

MAIN TOPIC: HOUSING AND POPULATION

ISSUE: A housing shortage and the lot sizes in the Stevensville area are the predominant problem in most people's minds.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Problems from low-income housing to regular middle class housing needs to be addressed in the future growth plan. Stevensville needs to designate areas for housing from low-income, housing for the elderly, the remodeling of existing structures, and housing for the middle class. Local HRDC's in Missoula have programs such as the reserve equity (for remodeling), the first time homebuyers program, and the sweat equity homebuyers program. During the growth plan stage, it may be a good idea to find a good ethical developer from Western Montana to get ideas on a win-win situation. Housing grants are primarily focused on low-income and do not reflect the middle class. If a developer can come in and work with the City Council, then new subdivisions can be developed and help the tax base for the local area. Of course all of the above will have to fit into an adopted growth plan that will need to be implemented first. In that growth plan annexation will be a large issue and in Stevensville it sounded like the south and east end of town need to be annexed.

Extending city sewer and water, providing smaller lot sizes, protecting the area from sprawl, and keeping the character of the current downtown could be the main focus for the growth policy. Keep in mind that in Montana Growth Policy and zoning can be a four-letter word, so the more you educate the local citizens the better.

Other areas and/or districts such as housing, business, and even tourism need be considered. Structures and business that already have a presence may need to grand fathered into the new policies. Stevensville and Ravalli County are at the point to where it is going to grow and people will need infrastructure services. This will cost the city, county and the taxpayers more

money up front but the tax base will increase for the County, which in turn can help will other infrastructure needs.

Smart growth and/or a growth policy, is currently the most important issues for Stevensville and the County. What is planned for the future will affect commerce, business development, housing, the local economy, and how decisions are made for future growth. As a whole the residents of Stevensville wanted to control growth through the “Z word” (zoning). Both the City of Stevensville and the County will have to find a medium that works. With growth and zoning, the area will have to capitalize on the resources the area does provide and base the growth policy on them. The assets of Stevensville include the local Airport, being near Missoula and Salmon, Idaho, great recreational opportunities, and historical sites. With these resources there will be a need for more sewer and water projects.

RESOURCES:

HOUSING & COMMUNITY FACILITIES RESOURCES

USDA Rural Development

Rural Housing Service 406-585-2515
P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771 406-585-2565 FAX
Deborah Choriton, Program Director
Deborah.Choriton@mt.usda.gov
www.rurdev.usda.ciov/mt

Commerce Department 406-841-2704
301 S. Park, P.O. Box 200501, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2701 FAX
www.commerce.state.mt.us

Community Development Division
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) 406-841-2777
P.O. Box 200523, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2771 FAX
Gus Byrom, Program Manager
qbyrom@state.mt.us

Housing Division 406-841-2844
P.O. Box 200528, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2841 FAX
Bruce Brensdaal, Division Administrator
bbrensdaal@tstate.mt.us

Horne Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) 406-841-2819
Box 200528, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2841 FAX
Connie Onstad, Program Manager constad@state.mt.us

Board of Housing - Single Family 406-841-2849
P.O. Box 200528, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2841 FAX
Bob Morgan, Program Manager bmorgan@state.mt.us

Board of Housing - Multi-Family 406-841-2845
P.O. Box 200528, Helena, MT 59620-0528 406-841-2841 FAX
Mat Rude, Multi-Family Program Manager
marude@state.mt.us

Section 8 - Project Based 406-841-2801
P.O. Box 200548, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2810 FAX
Dave Parker, Program Manager
dparker@state.mt.us

Section 8 - Tenant Based 406-841-2830
P.O. Box 200545, Helena, MT 59620-0545 406-841-2810 FAX
Pat Birnie, Administrative Assistant
pbirnie@state.mt.us

Fannie Mae 406-449-7490
828 Great Northern, 2nd Floor, Helena, MT 59601 406-495-9613 FAX
Maureen Rude, Director
rude@fanniemae.com

Mary Lou Affieck, Senior Deputy Director 406-259-7059
404 N. 31s' St., Suite, 220, Billings, MT 59101 406-259-7077 FAX
mary-iou-affieck@fanniemae.com
www.fannierna.com

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
www.hud.gov/local/hei/index.html

Community Builder 406-449-5050
7 West 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59601 406-449-5052 FAX

Tom Friesen, Community Builder 406-449-5050
Tom Friesen@hud.gov

Larry Gallagher, Community Builder 406-449-5040
[Lawrence Gallagher@hud.gov](mailto:Lawrence.Gallagher@hud.gov)

Faith Ballenger, Associate Community Builder 406-449-5042
[Faith A. Sallenger6a@hud.gov](mailto:Faith.A.Sallenger6a@hud.gov)

Lyle Konkol, Associate Community Builder 406-449-5050
Lyle Konkol@hud.gov

Federal Housing Administration 406-449-5046
7 West 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59601 406-449-5052 FAX
Don Smith, Marketing & Outreach Specialist
DonSmith@hud.gov

Montana Continuum of Care Coalition406-586-1572
3001 Westridge Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715 406-522-8232 FAX
Bob Buzzas, Director

Montana Migrant and Seasonal Farm workers Council, Inc 406-248-3149
3318 3rd Ave. N., Suite 100, Billings, MT 59101 406-245-6636 FAX
Maria Stephens, Executive Director

Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc406-761-5861
509 First Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59401 406-761-5852 FAX
Shelia Rice, Executive Director
nhs@montana.com
www.nhscif.org

Rocky Mountain Development Council406-447-1680
201 South Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59624 406-447-1629 FAX
Gene Leuwer, Executive Director
hrc@rmdc.mt.net
www.rmdc.net

Department of Public Health & Human Services
www.dphhs.state.mt.us

Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau406-447-4260
Emergency Shelter Grants Program/Weatherization/ 406-444-2547 FAX
Low Income Energy Assistance Program
1400 Carter Drive Helena, MT 59620

Department of Veterans Affairs 1-888-349-7541
VA Regional Loan Center
Box 25126, Denver, CO 80225
www.homeloans.va.gov

Infrastructure Resources:

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

USDA Rural Development
Rural Utilities Service 406-585-2520
P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771 406-585-2565 FAX
Mitchel R. Copp, Program Director
[Mitchel.Coi\)p6@mt.usda.gov](mailto:Mitchel.Coi)p6@mt.usda.gov) www.rurdev.usda.ciovlmt

USDA Rural Development
Rural Utilities Service (Distance Learning; Telemedicine; Broadband) ... 406-388-2494 PhFAX

1645 Regal Drive, Belgrade, MT 59714
Jacobs, General Field Representative
keacobs@cbrus.usda.gov

800-383-7353 Voicemail Kim

Commerce Department 406-841-2704
301 S. Park, P.O. Box 200501, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2701 FAX
Mark Simonich, Director
www.commerce.state.mt.us

Community Development Division 406-841-2772
P.O. Box 200523, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2771 FAX
Newell Anderson, Administrator neanderson@state.mt.us

Community Development Bureau 406-841-2776
Dave Cole, Bureau Chief
dacole@state.mt.us

Community Development Block Grant Program (CD) 406-841-2777
Gus Byrom, Program Manager qbyrom@state.mt.us

Community Technical Assistance Program (CTA) 406-841-2783
Gavin Anderson, Program Manager gavina@state.mt.us

Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) 406-841-2785
Jim Edgcomb, Program Manager edqcomb@state.mt.us

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation406-444-2074
1625 11 th Avenue, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620 406-444-2684 FAX
Bud Clinch, Director
bclinch@state.mt.us
www.dnrc.state.mt.us

Conservation and Resource Development Division 406-444-6671
P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620 406-444-2684 FAX
Ray Beck, Administrator
rbeck@state.mt.us

Loan & Financial Management Bureau 406-444-6689
Anna Miller, Financial Advisor
annam@state.mt.us

Resource Development Bureau 406-444-6687
John Tubbs, Bureau Chief
Robert Fischer, Civil Engineer 406-444-6688
rfischer@state.mt.us

Montana Department of Environmental Quality406-444-2544
1520 East Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620 406-444-4386 FAX

Jan Sensibaugh, Directorsensibaugh@state.mt.us
www.deg.state.mt.us

Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau406-444-6697
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620 406-444-4386 FAX

State Revolving Fund
Mark Smith, Drinking Water 406-444-5325
marks@state.mt.us

Todd Teegarden, Water Pollution Control406-444-5324
tteegarden@state.mt.us

Midwest Assistance Program
www.map-inc.orci

Bill Leonard, Rural Development Specialist 406-863-4900
P.O. Box 1456, Whitefish, MT 59937

Judy Sass, Rural Development Specialist 406-273-0410
P.O. Box 516, Florence, MT 59833

Paul Torok, Rural Development Specialist 406-449-0332
P.O. Box 54, Helena, MT 59624

Montana Association of Water and Sewer Systems 406-273-3197 Ph & FAX
P.O. Box 1336, Lolo, MT 59847

Jeff McCleary, Executive Secretary

Montana Rural Water 406-454-1151
925 7th Avenue S., Great Falls, MT 59405 406-454-3116 FAX
Donna Wadsworth
Executive Director
www.mrws.org

Nick Clos, Waste Water Technician406-458-0490
Bill O'Connell, Ground Water Technician406-782-6166
Shelley M. Nollan, Program Specialist406-262-9809
Harry Whalen, Water Circuit Rider406-745-3376
Craig Pagel, Water Circuit Rider406-454-1151
Laura Nicolai, Solid Waste Technician 406-362-4313

Water Resource Center - MSU 406-994-6690

Huffman Building, MSU, Bozeman, MT 59717
Gretchen Rupp, Director

Publications available from the Montana Department of Commerce:

- Montana's Annexation & Planning Statutes --- 13th addition, Sept 1999
- Montana's Subdivision & Surveying Laws & Regulations --- 18th addition 3/2000
- Montana's Growth Policy Resource Book --- June 2000
- Montana Capital Improvement Plans
- CDBG Guidelines
 - 2002-2003 - Public Facilities Projects
 - 2002-2003 - Housing Projects
 - 2002-2003 - Economic Development Projects
- Building it Right - A public facilities construction administration manual --- Nov 2000
- County Bridge & Road Capital Improvement Planning and Financing manual --- Jan 2001
- Montana Consolidated Plan / Annual Action Plan --- April 2002 - March 2003
- Montana HOME investment Partnership Program (HOME) application guidelines
- Energy conservation & Housing Rehabilitation under the HOME program

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE: DOES STEVENSVILLE HAVE A POTENTIAL BROWNFIELD PROJECT?

Brownfield's are: abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real **or perceived** environmental contamination. The Brownfield's Program is a grant-funded program for clean up of contaminated sites, and it can also create a revolving loan fund.

For information check out: www.epa.gov/brownfields
www.hud.gov
www.mtrdp.org/brownfields

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation just received funding from the EPA to create a one million dollar revolving loan fund for Missoula County. Dick King and Jennifer Blumberg would be great contacts to use to help get a regional fund operating for all of western Montana.

RESOURCES:

Dick King, Missoula Area Economic Development Corp.

dking@maedc.org

See attachment A1 titled – Financial Assistance Programs Funding Water, Waster Water, and Solid Waster Projects in Montana

MAIN TOPIC: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE: Historical Development, Tourism, and Downtown Character Appearance:

The issues of historical development, tourism, and Downtown Character are by far one of the top concerns for Stevensville.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Tourism assets such as the Eastside Scenic Byway, Bitterroot River, Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge, Lewis and Clark Trail, and St. Mary's Mission & Visitor Center give Stevensville and Ravalli County character. There is a lack of good signage to some of these assets and there could maybe be an education center explaining the history of the area. A kiosk could possibly work. Since Stevensville is off the Highway 93 there will have to be signs to draw tourists into the town, since the downtown is off the beaten path and probably gets missed by potential tourists. The signage should have a consist theme with how the town will position and market itself.

As with anything a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis should be done to look at what Stevensville has for motels, campgrounds, boat launch sites, trail head signs, *etc.* The Montana Department of Commerce Promotions Division has a program called the Community Tourism Assessment Program (CTAP) to help an area figure out if tourism is right for them. There are also grants for brick and mortar structures related to tourism under the Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program and special event grant programs under the SEGP program.

RECOMMENDATIONS Regarding Town Appearance

With historical tourism being the main theme, there needs to be a way to draw people off of Highway 93 to shop in downtown Stevensville. A town theme or character such as ones in the Whitefish downtown area or in Bigfork let people stroll, shop, drink and eat. With Stevensville already having a great historical theme and architecture, the town itself just needs to capitalize on it. The river could also be utilized as a draw. The key is to advertise that

theme and keep the advertising consistent with the theme. Travel Montana may be able to help and give ideas. There are planning grants available through the Montana Department of Commerce Business Resource Division. The grants are competitive, but each town could use the funds for a feasibility study on what would work. In Stevensville the downtown merchants supported the theme of historical renovation. If there is strong interest from this group, there are historical tax credits to individuals through the U.S. Department of Interior, the Montana Historical Society, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Having a bigger Internet presence was discussed at one of the Listening Sessions along with finding a grant writer to assist all the local civic groups. There are many grant writing courses that are offered across the state the MEDA list serve, and the University of Montana are most likely the best resources.

RESOURCES:

Tourism

Marketing and Training Assistance:

CTAP/TOURSIM

Community Tourism Assessment Program

Montana Department of Commerce/Travel Montana manages the (CTAP) Community Tourism Assessment Program and the (TIIP) Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program. Both programs work with local entities to develop their Tourism industry.

CTAP communities in the area that have received funding are:

\$15,000 CTAP grant to Libby was awarded in April 1996; the Libby Area Chamber of Commerce used its CTAP funds to convert a portion of a "new" city hall building into a meeting and convention facility.

2002 - 2003 - Eureka, St. Ignatius and Sanders County are the three communities participating in the CTAP process.

Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (for brick and mortar projects related to tourism):

Special Events Grants Program

This program will help market events or start new ones to have people come to the area.

Contact: Victor Bjornberg

406-841-2795

victor@visitmt.com

Planning Grant funds from the Montana Department of Commerce Business Resource Division

Contact: Eric Hanson
406-257-2259
erjhanson@centurytel.net

Listed here are Montana firms in advertising and public relations:

Ad Scripts, Inc., Advertising & Public Relations
% Kathryn D. Hubbell, APR
Box 8168, 700 Simons Dr
Missoula, Mt 59807
406-728-4595
adscript@montana.com or www.adscript.com

Advantage One Marketing LLC
% Michael Utter, President
210 Cirque Dr.
Bozeman, Mt 59718
406-587-5779
michael@advantageone.com

Marketing Works
% Leesa Nopper, President
3175 Fieldstone
Bozeman, Mt 59715
406-539-3499
lnopper@attglobal.net

Munson Consulting
% Vicki Munson, President
8505 East Shore Route
Polson, Mt 59860
406-887-2126
vmunson@cyberport.net

Ripple Marketing LLC
% Kitch Walker, President
Box 10221, 2245 West Koch, Suite C
Bozeman, Mt 59719
406-585-8168
kitch@ripplemarketing.com or www.ripplemarketing.com

Wendt Kochman
% Carl Kochman, President

615 2nd Ave. N.
Great Falls, Mt 59401
406-454-8500
ckachman@wedntkochman.com or www.wedntkochman.com

Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program

TIIP grant awards in the area:

2001 - \$ 30,000 - Northwest Montana Historical Society / Central School Museum Timber Products Industry History Exhibit, Kalispell

1999 - \$ 20,361- Friends of Savenac – Historic Savenac Nursery Infrastructure Restoration, Haugan

Cultural Tourism Corridors

Contact: Mark Martin

Missoula Cultural Council, 721-9602 or mcc@bigsky.net

RESOURCES: Historical Renovation and Tax Credits:

Place Economics

Donovan D. Rypkema, Principle

1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20036

www.placeeconomics.com

This is a consulting firm that specializes in the revitalization of downtowns and redevelopment of historic properties.

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Cultural Resources/Heritage Preservation Services

Preservation Tax Incentives

Technical Preservation Services

1849 C Street, NW

Washington D.C. 20240

www.2cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/index.htm

State of Montana – Montana Historical Society

State Historic Preservation Office

1410 8th Avenue

Helena, MT 59620

<http://www.his.state.mt.us/shpo/servicesdir.asp>

Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.gov/businesses/small/industries/article/0,,=95799,00.html

www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/IRS.htm

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE:

Business development is a challenge in Montana but not impossible. Based on the geographic location, Stevensville and its surrounding area could be capitalized on. With Highway 93, the East-side Highway and rail running through the center of Ravalli County transportation and access are not an issue. Stevensville has the following assets for business development and business retention:

1. City Airport
2. Broadband for internet is available
3. Highway 93 and Montana Rail-Link
4. Scenery/Quality of living
5. Location to Missoula and population centers
6. Strong economic development volunteers
7. Great town character

RECOMMENDATIONS:

During the town meetings and/or listening sessions there were discussions about business recruitment and retention. Recruitment does cost a lot of money on a national scale, but there could be a focus on companies from Missoula, Spokane and even Idaho. Missoula's real-estate costs are soaring and this could benefit Stevensville. There could be opportunities for companies wanting to expand. These companies could be looking for a certain type of work force and work ethic. Retention is also very important, it is much easier to keep the companies that are already in the area and to help them grow than to recruit new companies. There are probably companies in Stevensville that have potential or are selling a product or service out the area. Perhaps a business survey and local imitative should be put together on how some these local businesses can grow. A type of needs assessment could be put together based on what the common goals are for the citizens and business owners of Stevensville.

A committee could be formed to focus each month on a different types of businesses such as manufacturing (value-added and light manufacturing), retail, tourism and general service. This effort could help diversify the community and the economy. Other areas of discussion were having a "niche businesses" for Stevensville and not becoming a "bedroom community to Missoula." Those points are very valid, but figuring out what type of specialized businesses that could draw people in from out the area is a challenge.

Groups such as the County Community Foundation and the Small Business Development Centers do an excellent job assisting business looking for financing, marketing, and business development.

Resources:

Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200501, Helena, MT 59620
Mark Simonich, Director
www.commerce.state.mt.us

Board of Investments
P.O. Box 200126, Helena, MT 59620
Carroll South, Executive Director
www.investmentmt.com

Regional Development Bureau
Andy Poole, Division Administrator - 841.2707- P.O. Box 200505, Helena, MT 59620

Gary Morehouse, Bureau Chief - 841.2732 - P.O. Box 200505, Helena, MT 59620

Regional Development Officer
Eric Hanson (North West)
15 Depot Park, Kalispell, MT 59901
257-2259

Trade and International Relations Bureau
Mark Bisom, Bureau Chief - 841.2752 - P.O. Box 200505, Helena, MT 59620

**USDA Rural Development
Rural Business/Cooperative Service.**
P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771
John D. Guthmiller, Program Director www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt
John.Guthmiller@mt.usda.gov
406-585-2540

BUSINESS & COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Ravalli County Economic Development Authority
Betty Davis, Executive Director
105 E. Main
Hamilton, MT 59840
Ph: 406.375.9416
badvais@rceda.org
<http://www.rceda.org>

Montana Department of Commerce
Made in Montana406-841-2756

Montana Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200505, Helena, MT 59620
www.madeinmontanausa.com

406-841-2711 FAX

Micro Business Finance 406-841-2751
Montana Department of Commerce 406-841-2711 FAX
P.O. Box 200505, Helena, MT 59620
Janice Wannebo, Program Specialist

Small Business Administration406-441-1081
1 0 West 15th St., Suite 1100, Helena, MT 59626 406-441-1090 FAX
Michelle Johnston, District Director
www.sba.gov/mt

Small Business Development Centers
www.sba.gov/mtlmtsfdc.html

Helena - Lead Office

Department of Commerce 406-841-2746
P.O. Box 200505, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2711 FAX
Ann Desch, Bureau Chief
adesch@state.mt.us

Missoula

Montana Community Development Corporation 406-728-9234
103 East Main, Missoula, MT 59802 406-542-6671 FAX
Steve Grover, Director
mcdc@mtcdc.org

BUSINESS & COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Cooperative Development Assistance

Mission Mountain Market 406-676-0676
A Project of Lake County Community Development Corporation 406-676-5902 FAX
P.O. Box 722, Ronan, MT 59864
Jan Tusick, Ag & Coop Development Specialist
www.mtmountainmarke

Montana Cooperative Development Center 406-265-3771
207 Brockmann Center, P.O. Box 7751, Havre, MT 59501 406-265-3776 FAX
Ty Duncan, Center Director
mcdc@msun.edu

www.mcdc.coop

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
John Rogers, Economic Development Representative
P.O. Box 578
Helena, MT 59620
406-449-5380
406-449-5381 FAX

Stevensville may want to position itself not only a friendly place to do business, but also a place for the arts featuring the local theatre and artists around the area.

MAIN TOPIC: CIVIC GROUPS AND HOMEMAKERS

ISSUE: INFORMATION FLOW

While in Stevensville the group found out that there are 18 different organizations with some of the same goals and others with similar goals. The biggest problem that was discussed was the fact that there is little to nothing in information flow between all these volunteer organizations. Others brought up the problem that some groups were territorial and that it is hard to access volunteers. The common theme through all of above was finding the funding resources to help these all of these organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

After listening to all the problems a consensus was made that all these groups need to hire and or find a central grant writer that could assist in grant applications for non-profit organizations.

A bi-yearly newsletter could be put together about each organization and all its events to assist coordination, scheduling, and information flow.

With a lack of volunteers, a volunteer database could be created using Access software. This software could list all the volunteers' contacts and also what they like to volunteer for.

The problem of finding enough volunteers occurs over the entire United States with dual working spouses, longer commutes to work, and just being a busier society than we used to be. Providing a list of which organizations are looking for volunteers in a Visitors Guide might spur more people to volunteer. There could be more family type activities that meet in the evening versus during the day.

RESOURCES:

Grant Resource:

<http://www.grants.gov>

Volunteer Resource

<http://www.fiu.edu/~time4chg/Library/recruit.keep.html>

<http://www.drcharity.com/voluntee.html>

MAIN TOPIC: SENIOR CITIZENS

ISSUES:

The senior citizens from Stevensville are a great asset to the community. There is already a great senior center in Stevensville, but there needs to be better recreation opportunities. Suggestions of having a YMCA type facility, safer sidewalks, and walking paths topped the list of what needed to be addressed.

Other issues included:

- Longer hours for the current Urgent Care if feasible
- Having a foster grandparent program in the schools
- A place to stay for family visits

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Having a better trail/sidewalk system comes mostly from transportation and infrastructure side. This problem would most likely be tackled by the City Council, but the council would need local support to fund a better sidewalk and trail system.

The local schools have gym hours and maybe they should be opened in the morning for senior exercise classes or walking groups. Having these groups are great for keeping fit and for starting a relationship with the school system.

The foster grandparent program is a great program and there are many models to follow across the country. Both seniors and children alike learn more when they have someone tutoring them or even having a role model.

A motel in Stevensville is currently being remolded and is a much-improved facility.

Resources:

Foster Grandparent Program

<http://www.drcharity.com/voluntee.html>

<http://www.nafgpd.org/>

Rails to Trails and Sidewalk

<http://www.railtrails.org/>

www.americantrails.org

MAIN TOPIC: EDUCATION, YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

ISSUE: YOUTH ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDATION: Start that Ski Club!!!!

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION:

<http://www.ed.gov/>

<http://www.nwlincs.org/mtlincs/>

<http://www.education-world.com/vocational/administration/index.shtml>

<http://www.dhttp://www.doleta.gov/whatsnew/WIA%20INCENTIVE%20AWARDS%20--%20FINAL%20-%202005-14-03.cfmoleta.gov/whats>

Also see resources and other RTA member reports

MAIN TOPIC: UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

ISSUES:

Transportation and Utilities in and around Stevensville are very challenging. It sounded like the sewer system was only at a 1/3 of its capacity, but that the water system needs to be updated to meet any future demand. Other concerns were the lack of any high-speed Internet to help with business recruitment and just in-home service. Internet service is difficult since the technology is so new and that infrastructure is very costly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Stevensville may want to look into setting up a cooperative of businesses and households that could show a demand and help curb the costs to the Internet provider.

With the new construction on Highway 93, the impacts of that highway improvement will affect Stevensville both economically and culturally. A plan for the future needs to happen to help prevent leapfrogging. A contact with the Montana Department of Transportation should be made.

Alternative energy uses such as solar and biomass came into discussion, but it seems that typically that is used per an individual household. The fuels to schools program could be addressed if needed at any of the Stevensville schools.

RESOURCES:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2004/10/0430.xml

http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/initiatives/index_initiatives.htm

Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1001
Mdt.state.mt.us

<http://www.fuelsforschools.org/>

<http://www.altenergy.org/>

<http://shop.altenergystore.com/>

<http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do>

Also see resources and other RTA member reports

MAIN TOPIC: CITY, COUNTY, STATE GOVERNMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

ISSUES:

During the local government and law enforcement meeting, many problems were addressed, but none of them were really prioritized. Stevensville will need to pick the top three or four issues and deal with them as a goal. Everyone will have to be patient, proactive, and stay positive.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Problems of growth, affordable housing, annexation, and others will not be solved in just a few days, weeks, or even months. There has to be some planning on how the town and its citizens get from here to there. The City of Stevensville will have to communicate with the County and the State in order to get funding to assist with the top goals. Since it was suggested that the Civic groups get together and find a grant writer from funding, the City may want to have one person designated to write applications for low interest loans and grants that can help with infrastructure, housing, and even parks.

A lot of the above problems fall back to the fact that the City has a very small tax-base and limited staff. Volunteers or the Councilman will have to recruit and learn from the experiences of others in order to complete applications, work on annexation, and administer the projects.

Note some of the resources may be a repeat:

Resources:

**U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration**
John Rogers, Economic Development Representative
P.O. Box 578
Helena, MT 59620
406-449-5380
406-449-5381 FAX

Montana Department of Environmental Quality406-444-2544
1520 East Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620 406-444-4386 FAX

Jan Sensibaugh, Director sensibaugh@state.mt.us
www.deg.state.mt.us

Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau406-444-6697
P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620 406-444-4386 FAX

State Revolving Fund
Mark Smith, Drinking Water 406-444-5325
marks@state.mt.us

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**USDA Rural Development
Rural Utilities Service** 406-585-2520
P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771 406-585-2565 FAX
Mitchel R. Copp, Program Director
[Mitchel.Coi\)p6@mt.usda.gov](mailto:Mitchel.Coi)p6@mt.usda.gov) www.rurdev.usda.ciovlmt

**USDA Rural Development
Rural Utilities Service (Distance Learning; Telemedicine; Broadband)** 406-388-2494 PhFAX
1645 Regal Drive, Belgrade, MT 59714 800-383-7353 Voicemail Kim
Jacobs, General Field Representative
keacobs@cbrus.usda.gov

Commerce Department 406-841-2704
301 S. Park, P.O. Box 200501, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2701 FAX
Mark Simonich, Director
www.commerce.state.mt.us

Community Development Division 406-841-2772
P.O. Box 200523, Helena, MT 59620 406-841-2771 FAX
Newell Anderson, Administrator neanderson@state.mt.us

Community Development Bureau 406-841-2776
Dave Cole, Bureau Chief
dacole@state.mt.us

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) 406-841-2777
Gus Byrom, Program Manager gbyrom@state.mt.us

INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCE: Treasure State Endowment Program

Are your city's water lines leaking? Have you reached the capacity of your town's wastewater treatment plant? Do you have a bridge that has deteriorated to the point that it may have to be closed? These issues, along with other infrastructure problems, are a dilemma for local governments trying to maintain their community's vital infrastructure. Local officials, staff and engineers are encouraged to consider whether TSEP funds could help finance a local infrastructure project.

The Montana Department of Commerce's research findings, along with comments from local government officials and citizens, indicate that the principal reason why so many local public facilities are deficient is that most options for correcting deficiencies are simply not considered affordable by local residents. The Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) is a state-funded program that has been designed to help address that "affordability" problem by assisting local governments with financing public facilities projects.

Eligible projects

- Drinking water systems
- Wastewater treatment facilities
- Sanitary or storm sewer systems
- Solid waste disposal & separation systems
- Bridges

Eligible Applicants

- Incorporated cities and towns
- Counties
- Consolidated governments
- Tribal governments

- County or multi-county water, sewer, or solid waste districts

For more information about the Treasure State Endowment Program or copies of the publications, contact: Ellen Hanpa, 841-2770 or jedgcomb@state.mt.us.

ISSUE: LAW ENFORCEMENT

Drug problems in Ravalli County seem to be prevalent because I-90 and Highway 93 are close to the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Community leaders may want to try to work with the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) and also the Forest Service law enforcement division. With Homeland Security issues, the Forest Service Law Enforcement division has a substantial budget and is one of the growing sectors of jobs within the federal government. Coordination must happen between all the levels of law enforcement and is crucial for the entire county. Communication with all agencies and some sort of protocol should be established for all types of situations from a lost hiker to a drug bust.

RESOURCES:

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/>

<http://www.policecenter.com/>

<http://www.ncjrs.org/fedgrant.html>

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/>

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=884>

<http://www.grants.gov/law.html>

MAIN TOPIC: YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

ISSUE:

Youth Activities – in every town meeting there was a worry that there was not enough to do for the younger crowd. Assuming that the younger crowd means middle school and high school, this is the hardest group to find activities for. Are there after school clubs ranging from an outdoor recreation club to a chess club? Are there active church youth

groups? Are there after school real business intern programs with local businesses within the county? If all these exist do people know about them?

Not really knowing what is already in place makes it difficult to give any ideas to the community. In every small town kids complain about not having anything to do, but most of them want to move back home after a while.

RESOURCES:

Individual communities have also set up Leadership training through their Chambers to address local issues. Contact the Chambers in Missoula, Great Falls and Billings to learn more about their programs. Set up a steering committee that puts together a community leadership-training program for the community that would be open to anyone within driving distance.

Montana Leadership Development Association can be contacted at:

MLDA
% Henry Nagamori, President
Box 146
Loma, MT 59460
406-622-5356

MLDA
% Gloria Gregg, Executive Secretary
250 Reid Hall, MSU-Bozeman
Bozeman, MT 59717

As a group we appreciated the hospitality of the people from Stevensville and hope that some of the above ideas can be implemented. These issues cannot be fixed overnight, but are challenges for the long run and future of Stevensville and Ravalli County. Just restating the issues are not going to help the area but following-up on the progress and demonstrating a solution to the problem can. If there are any questions please feel free to contact any one of the RTA members.

Eric Hanson – 257-2259
Russ Fletcher – 542.9395
Scott Bell – 801-625-5259
Gloria O'Rourke – 563-5259
Chris Van Ronk - 406-829-3395, ext. 4

A complete summary of Financial Assistance Programs Funding Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waster Projects in Montana are available at: <http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/cardd/wasact/wasactFINANCIALOptions.doc>

REPORT BY: SCOTT BELL
Rural Community Assistance Coordinator
R1/R4 USDA Forest Service
324 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401
Ph: 801.625.5259 Fx: 801.625.5716
sbell@fs.fed.us
<http://www.fs.fed.us>

MAIN TOPIC: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES:

Being the oldest white settlement in Montana, Stevensville has a long cultural and historic heritage, much of which is preserved. It is one of the primary draws to the city. The citizens of Stevensville want to take advantage of this heritage by preserving the historical nature of its buildings, maintaining the small historical nature of the downtown area and encourage tourists to come and experience historical Stevensville.

Stevensville is on the Lewis and Clark trail as the Corps of Discovery came through the valley in 1805-1806. The Bicentennial celebration expects to bring many visitors to the area as they follow the Lewis and Clark trail.

The valley, which is the ancestral home for the Salish tribe is an important place to tribal members.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Maintain the historical integrity of the community and historical structures through: 1) development of historical guidelines for property owners, 2) develop guidelines/ordinances for specific areas, such as downtown area to insure historical integrity of those areas are maintained.

Promote heritage tourism through: 1) market existing heritage sites, such as St. Mary's Mission, Stevensville Museum, 2) promote Lewis and Clark in the Bitterroot Valley, 3) support and promote Salish Tribe activities in the area and 4) learn from other communities who have promoted themselves as heritage areas.

RESOURCES:

Maintain Historical Integrity:

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has staff and programs available to assist with technical advice and financial support to foster historic preservation. "Save America's Treasures" and "Main Street" programs are examples of programs that the MT SHPO has, in partnership with the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to fund restoration projects. They can also provide assistance in providing property owner guidance on historical preservation. The contact at SHPO is Kate Hampton at (406) 444-2694.

The Rural Information Center publication, "Historic Preservation Resources" provides additional information. This publication can be found at www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/preserve

Promote Heritage Tourism:

Marketing Assistance:

The Travel Montana (Department of Commerce) helps develop tourism markets and programs. Travel Montana's Tourism Development and Education efforts are focused on helping the State's communities and businesses utilize tourism as a tool to improve the local, regional and state economy while protecting or improving the quality of life for Montana's residents. Victor Bjornberg, Tourism Development Coordinator, (406) 841-2795 is the contact.

In addition, the Travel Montana, in partnership with the MSU Extension and UM's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research provide a "self help" process entitled "Montana's Community Tourism Assessment Program (CTAP)". This 9-month program helps a community action committee analyze local resident attitudes about and interest in tourism, their communities' tourism potential, gaps in visitor services, and the identification of affordable projects or action that could strengthen the role of tourism in the local economy. Following completion of the process, the community is eligible to apply for CTAP grant funds to help in the development of a tourism-related infrastructure project deemed a priority by the community. Victor Bjornberg can provide information.

The Rural Information Center publication "Promoting tourism in Rural America" provides additional resources. This publication can be found at www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/tourism

Other sources of information include:

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Website: www.nationaltrust.org

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities.

National Trust Rural Heritage Program

Website: www.ruralheritage.org/

The Rural Heritage Program is dedicated to the recognition and protection of rural historic and cultural resources.

Rebuild America Program

Website: www.rebuild.org

Rebuild America is a program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that focuses on energy-efficiency solutions in communities. Through Rebuild America, hundreds of communities and businesses are saving energy dollars and reinvesting in their communities by improving buildings and stimulating the local economy. Mission is to build partnerships among communities, states, and the private sector to improve building performance and connect people, resources, ideas and practices for energy solutions to community needs.

Community Partners

Website: www.nthp.org/community_partners/

Community Partners (CP) assists preservation organizations, local governments and community development corporations in revitalizing historic properties, central business districts and urban neighborhoods. CP functions as a family of four integrated programs that offer financial and technical assistance as well as real estate consulting services.

Barn Again!

Website: www.agriculture.com/barnagain/

BARN AGAIN! is a national program to preserve historic farm buildings sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Successful Farming magazine. BARN AGAIN! provides information to help owners of historic barns rehabilitate them and put them back to productive use on farms and ranches.

Lewis and Clark:

Grants are available for Bicentennial projects. Apply for grants with;

1. The Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission
(www.montanalewisandclark.org/funding)
2. Apply for grants from the National Park Service (www.nps.gov/lecl)

Tribal:

In addition to working directly with the Confederated Salish, Kootenai and Pend O'reille Tribes, the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance is a non-profit intertribal organization that works to promote culturally appropriate economic development through tourism. MTTA activities include training for tourism businesses and interpretive training; coalescing encampment and reenactment opportunities; assisting and organizing opportunities that ensure the tribal stories will be heard and shared; development of appropriate education tools for visitors about proper cultural etiquette while visiting reservations; cultural gatherings and pow-wows; and to serve as hub of information for Montana's tribal communities and tourists interested in learning more about Montana's first people. The MTTA contact is Dyani Bingham. Her contact information is (406) 259-4600, dyani_b@hotmail.com.

Examples of successful communities:

Research what other rural communities have done to promote themselves as heritage areas. Three local communities that have been successful in promoting heritage tourism are Hamilton, Darby and Philipsburg. Websites for other examples include:

- <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/>
- http://www.heritageconnection.org/heritage_tourism.htm

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) is a nation-wide, private, non-profit organization that encourages partnerships among heritage constituencies, develops educational activities that support heritage development, and advocates for sustainable heritage programs.
<http://www.nationalheritageareas.com>

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE: JOBS

Approximately one third of the workforce in Missoula commutes from the Bitterroot Valley. The citizens of Stevensville want to create more jobs in Stevensville to keep the community viable and to allow the children of Stevensville to stay in the area. This will encourage more services locally. In keeping with the desire to maintain a “small town” feeling, smaller businesses taking advantage of niche markets/products may be preferred over trying to bring in a larger business.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Complete a market research and needs assessment for business opportunities that would take advantage of the unique community assets in Stevensville.

A few of the community assets, which could be created into niche businesses include the history of the area (creamery, hotel, mission), the Stevensville Art and Sculpture Society, Stevensville Chantilly Theatre, use of the natural resources of the area (river, timber, refuge, wildlife) through development and/or use (guided and unguided).

The opportunity for growth in the wood industry is create sustainable markets for small diameter wood through 1) full utilization of this natural, renewable material, thus eliminating the concept of waste, 2) targeting value-added products while pursuing a broad array of possible uses, 3) developing capacity for wood processing and product manufacturing that promotes local economic stability.

Potential value-added uses for small wood include:

1. Biomass energy
2. Molded wood floor products
3. Landscape timber
4. Log construction
5. Post and pole construction
6. Wood fiber composites
7. Surfacing material
8. Specialty furnishings

RESOURCES:

Historical Development: Information is provided in the Historical Development/Renovation section.

Business Development:

The Montana Department of Commerce has many programs and expertise to assist communities with Business Development. Regional Development Officers provide on the ground assistance. Terry Dimock, in Helena, is the RDO for Southwest Montana. His number is (406) 841-2737.

Small Business Development Centers can provide free business technical assistance, counseling and low-cost training. The local SBDC is the Montana Community Development Center in Missoula. The number is (406) 728-9234.

The USDA Forest Service Rural Community Assistance Program (RCA) can help fund community planning, needs assessments, business plans, market analysis and marketing plans. Projects proposals are usually requested in the winter with monies being granted in the spring. Nan Christianson, Bitterroot National Forest, (406) 363-7113.

Other National Programs are also available. They include:

National Business Incubation Association

Website: www.nbia.org

NBIA advances business incubation and leadership by providing the information, education, advocacy and networking resources to bring excellence to the process of assisting early-stage companies.

National Main Street Center

Website: www.mainstreet.org

The National Main Street Center's mission is to empower people, organizations and communities to achieve ongoing downtown and neighborhood district revitalization based upon the principles of self-determination, resource conservation and incremental transformation represented through the comprehensive Main Street approach.

National Retail Federation

Website: www.nrf.com

The NRF conducts programs and services in research, education, training, information technology, and government affairs to protect and advance the interests of the retail industry.

Rebuild America Program

Website: www.rebuild.org

Rebuild America is a program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that focuses on energy-efficiency solutions in communities. Through Rebuild America, hundreds of communities and businesses are saving energy dollars and reinvesting in their communities by improving buildings and stimulating the local economy. Mission is to build partnerships among communities, states, and the private sector to improve building performance and connect people, resources, ideas and practices for energy solutions to community needs.

Rural Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program

Website: www.ezec.gov

This site describes the Rural Community Empowerment Program, describes the activities and accomplishments of participating rural communities, and offers access to resources that may be helpful to all rural communities that seek to enhance the quality of their futures.

Arts:

The Montana Arts Council mission is to boost the local economies, revitalizing communities and improving education through the arts. They have technical assistance support and funding for art projects. They can be contacted at (406) 444-6430 or mac@state.mt.us.

The USDA Forest Service Rural Community Assistance Program (RCA) can help fund arts and cultural projects. The FS also has a grant program in partnership with the National Endowment for the arts. Projects proposals are usually requested in the winter with monies being granted in the spring. Nan Christianson, Bitterroot National Forest, (406) 363-7113.

National Programs include:

National Endowment for the Arts and the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities: Their purpose is to foster the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts in the United States and to broaden public access to the arts. Contact information is (202) 682-5441 or www.nea.gov.

American Express Foundation, Cultural Heritage Funding: (202) 640-5661 or <http://home3.americanexpress.com/corp//philanthropy/>.

The Nathan Cummings Foundation: (212) 787-7300 or <http://www.ncf.org>.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Office of Grants Management: (312) 726-8000 or <http://www.macfdn.org/>.

Metropolitan Life Foundation:
<http://www.metlife.com/Companyinfo/Community/Found/Docs/cultural.html>.

The Pew Charitable Trusts: (215) 575-9050 or <http://www.pewtrusts.com/>.

Target Stores, Arts in Education Program: (800) 800-8800 or <http://www.target.com/>.

Natural Resources:

Small Business Development Centers can provide free business technical assistance, counseling and low-cost training. The local SBDC is the Montana Community Development Center in Missoula. Craig Rawlins is a Small Wood Utilization specialist who can provide technical assistance about uses of small wood. The number is (406) 728-9234.

Several **Economic Action Programs** are available through the USDA Forest Service that provides technical assistance and grants to state, federal, county, local, and tribal governments (and not-for-profit organizations) to help communities develop opportunities and enterprises that will diversify uses of forest resources and hazardous fuels byproducts and increase state utilization and marketing capabilities. Information can be found at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1-r4/spf/coopfor.html>. The local contact is Nan Christianson, Bitterroot National Forest, (406) 363-7113.

The **Forest Legacy Program** allows the State to acquire conservation easements on private forested lands. The purpose of this program is to prevent fragmentation and conversion of productive forestland, maintain traditional land uses, and protect significant environmental values on private lands. This may be useful to protect the existing values along the river. The Montana Forest Legacy Program coordinator is Steve Knapp, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (406) 444-4717.

The **Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks** has several grant programs to help develop outdoor recreation programs. They include the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Off Highway Vehicle Program, Recreational Trails program and Snowmobile Program. Additional information can be obtained by searching the following website: <http://fwp.state.mt.us/parks/grants.asp>.

Professional outfitters and guides can provide important services to the recreating public, especially in the use of the natural resources of the area. **The Montana Outfitters and Guide Association** can assist an individual or companies organize and become established. The mission of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association is to provide leadership in:

- (1) ensuring opportunity for a high-quality, ethical, and viable Montana outfitting industry;
- (2) ensuring opportunity for the public to experience, enjoy, and learn about Montana and its natural resources; and
- (3) promoting conservation and stewardship of Montana's natural resources and cultural heritage for future generations.

Their website is <http://www.moga-montana.org/>.

Local hunting and conservation groups can help with wildlife projects. Some of these groups include Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (www.rmef.org), Montana Wildlife Federation (www.montanawildlife.com), Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association (Dale Burk President: daleburk@montana.com), Montana Trout Unlimited (www.montanatu.org) and the Bitter Root Chapter of the Montana Trout Unlimited. They can provide funding and volunteers to assist in projects.

MAIN TOPIC: HOUSING AND POPULATION

ISSUES: A WALKABLE COMMUNITY

The citizens of Stevensville were adamant about maintaining a “walkable” community. Sidewalk, walkways and trails are essential facilities in promoting community tourism and eco-tourism.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Form a “walkable” community committee to:

- Inventory sidewalks, walkways and trails in the community.
- Identify needed maintenance.
- Develop a plan for additional sidewalks, walkways and trails
- Coordinate fund raising
- Oversee project completion.

RESOURCES:

The **USDA Forest Service Rural Community Assistance Program (RCA)** can help fund community planning, needs assessments, project design and construction projects. Projects proposals are usually requested in the winter with monies being granted in the spring. Projects are normally limited to under \$20,000. Nan Christianson, Bitterroot National Forest, (406) 363-7113.

The **National Main Street Center's** mission is to empower people, organizations and communities to achieve ongoing downtown and neighborhood district revitalization based upon the principles of self-determination, resource conservation and incremental transformation represented through the comprehensive Main Street approach. Website: www.mainstreet.org

The **Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks** administer the Recreational Trails program to help establish recreational trails. Additional information can be obtained by searching the following website: <http://fwp.state.mt.us/parks/grants.asp> or calling Bob Walker at 444-4585.

The **Montana Transportation Enhancement Program** provides funding for transportation related projects that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the Montana's intermodal transportation system. The CTEP allows for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, such as walkways. More information can be found by calling Ross Tervo at 444-9209 or Kevin Malone at 444-9457 or at <http://mdt.state.mt.us/ctep/>.

The **Montana Department of Transportation** also has a program that allows construction of walkways for air quality purposes. However, projects are mostly in larger cities, such as Missoula. This program is titled "Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality". The contact is David Jacobs at 444-7647.

The Montana Department of Transportation also can construct sidewalks and walkways as part of an existing highway project. The contact would be the project engineer for that highway project.

Community Tree programs that can help beautify walkways, streets and parks are listed below:

The **USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program** that is delivered through the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division can provide technical expertise and funding for inventory, maintenance and planting of trees in the community. Kelley Gundale is the contact. Her number is (406) 542-4284 or kgundale@state.mt.us.

The **Community Tree Planting Program** of the National Tree Trust facilitates tree planting on public land (parks, schools, cemeteries, etc.) and along roadsides with the aid of volunteers. Grants fund one-year-old, regionally appropriate tree seedlings, two-gallon plastic container, and money to pay for soil. All projects must utilize volunteers. Grant recipients must maintain seedlings for at least two years after planting and complete an annual report form each year. www.nationaltreetrust.org.

The **4-H Community Tree Planting Grant** Program will provide community action grants in the amounts of \$500 to \$1750 to stimulate community tree planting and/or reforestation projects nationwide. Grants will be awarded to communities in support of ongoing community tree planting and/or reforestation projects or to stimulate new and creative youth-lead projects. The role of adults is to provide guidance to young leaders in the tree planting and/or reforestation projects. For more information see <http://www.fourhcouncil.edu/pGrntTreePlanting.aspx>

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MAIN TOPIC: CIVIC GROUPS AND HOMEMAKERS

ISSUE: MISC. NEEDS

Many citizens live in Stevensville but work elsewhere. The community is concerned Stevensville will become a bedroom community. Attracting new volunteers is a challenge as people are gone throughout the day and busy with family and school obligations evenings and weekends. There is a need for good child-care and support services for families. Someone is needed to write grant applications. The library needs to be upgraded with an expansion of services. Some people are interested in volunteering but would like to know more about the organizations, what their mission is, and the meeting schedule.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Publishing and distributing this assessment with recommendations may result in some new volunteers coming forward. Some may just need to be asked. Organizations should market their mission statement, advertise/promote their group and always state that volunteers are needed. Someone who is good at organizing could volunteer to work through the Main Street Assoc. to coordinate new volunteers who are matched to their interests.

Publish a weekly calendar of events in local newspaper; add upcoming activities and call for volunteers. Develop a community web site (through the library or city hall) and post events to reach rural residents and Seniors who have access to a computer. Someone who knows web design may volunteer to create the web site and maintain it.

The assessment identified several potential business/employment opportunities, day-care, senior in-home care, grant writer, down-town business ideas. Publishing the assessment may inspire some people to start-up new businesses. The CAC could advertise for a volunteer grant writer; inquire with the U of Montana for student assistance to earn college credit for grant writing experience. When the Community Center becomes a reality, several activities could be coordinated out of that facility. Meeting rooms should be included in the design along with a public billboard. Maybe a local business will sponsor the billboard.

RESOURCES:

Rural Development offers loans/grants to public bodies and non-profit organizations for child-care facilities (for profit or non-profit), senior centers, fire dept./trucks, emergency care centers, assisted living and health facilities, libraries, and community centers. etc.

USDA, Rural Development, Attn: Christine Mullaney, 3550 Mullan Road, Ste. 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125, 406 829-3395, Ext. 107.

Business and Industry Loans/grants contact USDA, Rural Development, P. O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771, 406 585-2540.

MAIN TOPIC: SENIOR CITIZENS

ISSUE: NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Seniors would like to have regularly scheduled transportation to Missoula and Hamilton for appointments and shopping; to activities in the community and to bring in seniors from the Lone Rock Area - A Senior Bus!

They want to see on-going sidewalk repair and installation where there are no sidewalks to provide safe walkways around town. There is a need for a fitness facility with an indoor swimming pool to maintain health (they now use the gym). When their families come to visit from out of town, they would like a motel to accommodate their stay.

Access to the local urgent care facility beyond current hours. A foster grandparent program. There is a need for a grant-writer to lead a search for resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Create a Community Action Committee (CAC) from each of the 8 listening venues to initiate an action plan which identifies and addresses the easier, no-cost fixes first (i.e, Growth Policy, meeting notifications/coordination, downtown ordinances, volunteer coordinator, historic issues) on one list and prioritize; then create a list of long-term issues which require volunteer/funding resources and prioritize. Don't be afraid to eliminate the impossible. Progress updates regularly reported in weekly newspaper to solicit citizen support and volunteerism. This action committee will be on-going for years to come. New issues will be assigned as they are identified.

Many of the community concerns will be resolved with the completion of the Community Center. This should be a top priority, as it will provide a focal point of most Stevensville activities for all ages.

The CAC could look towards U of Montana for student assistance with writing grant applications (for college credit); they could advertise for a volunteer grant writer. As a last resort, they may have to find funds for a p/t grant writer and include the salary in the fund request.

Visit with other communities to get ideas (Philipsburg has made great progress towards town improvement with historic preservation).

The Senior group should request Urgent Care to extend their hours on a trial basis to determine what the need is (2 hrs, 3 hrs.) and if it warrants the expense.

Town-owned property along the river could be developed into a fee campground for tourists and families visiting the Seniors. The fees would go into a parks maintenance fund. A local contractor may donate equipment and time; the high school can be enlisted to donate labor. This project just needs a coordinator and a plan. The highway contractor for 93 South may provide assistance, if asked. Asphalt/roadbed materials not meeting engineer standards for the project could be used in the campground or any other community needs.

RESOURCES:

Rural Development has loan/grant programs available to public bodies and non-profit organizations for projects such as a bus for the Seniors, sidewalks, curbs, gutters/drains, water/waste disposal facilities, the community center, business loans, historic preservation; business loans, fire stations, senior centers, day-cares etc. Most loan/grant applications originate at the Missoula Area Office at USDA, Rural Development 3550 Mullan Road, Ste. 106, Missoula, MT 59808-5125; 406 829-3395, Ext. 107, Attn: Chris Mullaney. The Business and Industry program is handled by the state office in Bozeman. USDA, Rural Development, P.O. Box 850, Bozeman, MT 59771; 406 585-2540.

The Economic Development Admin. offers grants for water/sewer systems. The State of Montana offers several loan/grant programs for infrastructure projects; websites are below:

www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt

www.doc.gov/eda

Dept. of Environmental Quality www.deq.state.mt.us

Dept. of Natural Resource/Conserv. www.dnrs.state.mt.us

Dept. of Commerce www.commerce.state.mt.us

Housing & Urban Devel.-HUD www.hud.gov

Most of these programs have funding cycles so the sooner the application is received, the quicker the project will get in line for funding.

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MAIN TOPIC: YOUTH SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

ISSUES:

The challenges and concerns voiced by the youth of Stevensville aren't that different as those voiced by all kids. There is never enough to do or jobs to go around. Drugs and cigarettes are too visible and available. The youth of Stevensville think they have to go out of town to find entertainment so they'd like more after school activities like a skate park, ski club, bowling alley and student organized band concerts. They don't feel that are given the opportunity to get involved with the future of the community. Decisions are made without their input (skate park decision).

We were made aware of considerable friction and consternation between students, parents and school administrators and would have addressed this in my response but I now see that there have been ongoing discussions <http://missoulia.com/articles/2004/10/29/news/top/news01.txt> to address the concerns. This friction was visible enough to affect all discussions so developing solutions is paramount.

It was surprising then to ask a good sized group of high school students if they feel that they'll either still be living in Stevensville or will have moved back in 20 years. A very large percentage all said that they loved their community and saw themselves living here in 20 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOURCES:

When the students found out that the skate park that they thought was going to be built was abandoned in favor of an adult decision to use the money for a basketball court because of perceived liability issues, they were surprised and unhappy. These are the future leaders of Stevensville. Much can be learned by both adults and youth if the younger citizens are encouraged to participate in decisions that affect their future.

The community leaders should talk with other communities that have overcome the liability issue and have or are in the planning stages of developing skate parks. Some of these local communities are Great Falls <http://www.matr.net/article-10338.html> , Missoula <http://www.ymcamissoula.org/SkatePark/default.htm> and www.ci.missoula.mt.us/parksrec/Docs%20to%20distribute/04-05-14RFQskateparkFinal.doc

Dedication ceremony held for Butte skateboard park
By Thad Kelling of The Montana Standard - 10/16/2004

<http://www.mtstandard.com/articles/2004/10/16/newsbutte/hjffijidjbjehg.txt>

A handful of young skateboarders watched in the background Friday as county officials and supporters dedicated the new skateboard park site at McGruff Park off Continental. The kids didn't seem too interested in what the adults had to say about the park, which has been in the works for nearly four years, but they are anxious to eventually see it built.

Fourteen-year-old Tyler Anzik was among the skateboarders who attended. He has skated for about six years and believes Butte can really use a skateboard park.

"It's well needed and it would be nice if we get one," Anzik said, adding that he has built his own ramp at home to use until the park is built.

Anzik's friend, Dakota Stormo, 13, also attended the dedication. He moved to Butte from Los Angeles about a year ago, and he said it is difficult to skateboard in Butte because they get kicked off many of the places they go.

"It's just stupid how nobody in Butte can skate," he said.

During the ceremony, both Anzik and Stormo stood behind the crowd practicing tricks on their skateboard.

"Sometimes you fall on your face, but sometimes you don't," Stormo said between attempts to land a trick. "It's just exciting."

Others at the ceremony included about 30 county officials, political candidates, parents and Butte Skateboard Club members. They unveiled the new location sign, which was edited after a site near the Civic Center fell through.

Butte-Silver Bow Chief Executive Judy Jacobson, who has consistently supported the project, cut the ribbons draped across the sign.

"I want to thank these skateboard kids," she said. "They have been so patient with us."

County commission candidate Jim Fay was among the skateboard club members in the crowd. His sons grew up skateboarding, and he was one of the people who initially got the project rolling.

Fay discussed the recent construction bid for the skate park that the county denied last month because it was the only bid that came in and because it was over budget. Club members are hopeful that more competitive bids will be submitted in February, but they will need more money, Fay said.

"In my mind we are going to need about \$250,000 to have a decent park," he said, estimating that they still must raise about \$40,000 to start construction by next

summer.

"It think it will come around," he said. "We have been approaching businesses and foundations."

Only time will tell how much more money can be raised and when the park will be built, but kids like Anzik and Stormo will likely continue to wait anxiously in the background.

Reporter Thad Kelling may be reached via e-mail at thad.kelling@lee.net or by phone at 496-5511.

Considerable additional information is available on the Net by searching on "liability and "Skate Park"

Regaining the trust of the youth is important and it wouldn't take a great deal of effort if the community invites them to participate in this and subsequent decisions that will directly affect them.

After school activities such as a ski club can also be jointly investigated. Here again, there is a wealth of information available. It just takes communication and a willingness to compromise when different objectives arise.

Here's an example from Ennis that combines skiing with school performance:

Youth excited for new ski program

<http://www.mtstandard.com/articles/2004/10/04/newsthreerivers/hjjfjahaigeffe.txt>

By Keeley Fitzgerald - 09/29/2004

ENNIS — Madison County students will have an added incentive to get good grades this year thanks to a new program being offered by Moonlight Basin Ski Area.

The newly introduced Moonlight Basin Aspirations Reward Team, or M-Bar-T, has students excited about achieving top grades in exchange for free skiing at Montana's newest ski area, Moonlight Basin.

Newly opened last ski season, Moonlight Basin has been earning great reviews from Madison Valley schools, students, and families for its commitment to programs designed to make skiing a reality for all students. Doing its part to share one of Montana's favorite winter time activities with thousands of youngsters, the ski areas newest program will reward all students in grades 6-12 with honor roll level grades in Madison and Gallatin County with free skiing. As an added bonus, Lone Mountain Sports of Big Sky will contribute free ski rentals to students active in the M-Bar-T program.

According to literature from the program, a student's eligibility for free skiing will be measured through report cards. Students with a 3.0 and above GPA as well as students increasing their GPA by .2 points in a period will be eligible for the program. First quarter will be considered the base quarter for Ennis students, with the program resetting at every mid-quarter, which is a period of four and a half weeks. Moonlight will have electronic scanners at the hill. Passes will be de-activated if a student drops below the required level.

M-Bar-T has created a lot of excitement for students and faculty in participating schools. Many see it as a great motivational tool for educational success.

"I hope it will create more interest in academic achievement. I'm excited that the students get a major contribution for their academic performance," said Ennis school guidance counselor Ross Lingle.

Lingle also commended the Moonlight Basin ski area for its continued commitment to Madison Valley youth, adding, "It's such a huge gift for Moonlight to not only provide free skiing but also free rentals for every student. Moonlight is going above and beyond what any other ski area would even think about doing. We are lucky to have them."

He also says that Moonlight's commitment to young skiers and snowboarders is unprecedented. The program will potentially reward thousands of students in a two-county area with free skiing. Moonlight already provides all Ennis students in grades 4-6 with two free ski passes. Those 10 and under ski free any day of the week.

"Lots of ski areas will give reduced price tickets and then have the kids pay for rentals," said Lingle. "Moonlight is offering a great deal for the kids by offering free rentals with free skiing. They are paying out of pocket for the kids to come and ski. That's rare."

Ennis High School principal Greg Fitzgerald is excited for all students to have an equal opportunity to take part in a favorite winter recreational activity. His hope is that the program will motivate students to work harder in the classroom.

"I think it's a fantastic incentive for students. Every student has the opportunity to take part in, continue, or learn a lifetime sport. I think kids are excited and will work hard. There is certainly a buzz about the program. Hopefully it translates into harder work and better grades," said Fitzgerald.

The incentive program has also caused many Ennis

students to get an early case of the "ski bug." Ennis junior Gene White is one such student excited for the ski season. An honor roll student, White says this program will definitely affect his family's ski season. With four younger siblings and parents that ski, White is excited for what this winter will mean for his family.

"I'm way excited to go skiing. I don't know how much it will affect me but it will affect which resort I go to. I just want to thank Moonlight for giving the kids in my school and the kids in my family this opportunity. It will definitely help my family get to the hill," said White.

Sophomore Phillip Principe, who also has three other siblings that ski or snowboard, says the financial limitations he once faced will be a thing of the past. Especially if he keeps his grades in par.

"I'm excited just to go skiing. I don't get to go skiing too much because it costs so much. Now I get to go for free. I will definitely be keeping good grades," said Principe.

Other Madison and Gallatin County schools eligible to participate in the program include those in Twin Bridges, Harrison, Alder, Sheridan, Bozeman, West Yellowstone, Belgrade, Three Forks, Manhattan, Willow Creek, Gallatin Gateway, and Big Sky. Approximately 36 schools in the two counties were invited to participate in the program, which will become an annual part of school grading incentive programs after the 2004-2005 inaugural year.

According to Moonlight Basin CEO Bert Mills, 12,000 kids in the two counties are eligible for the program. Approximately 200 Ennis students in grades 6-12 will be eligible for the program.

Keeley Fitzgerald is a correspondent for The Montana Standard's Three Rivers Edition. She can be reached at keeleyfitz@hotmail.com

The kids we talked with were very open and enthusiastic about participating in civic events. The Boys and Girls Club in Missoula is a good example of a simple idea taking on a larger purpose and providing creative and challenging after school activities. They also had a genuine interest in dealing with the growing drug and cigarette problem.

The adult leaders of Stevensville could harness a great deal of energy by working with the youth leadership to develop programs to educate and influence those who partake. Communities that make it "cool" to not do drugs or smoke have seen excellent results.

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES: MAXIMIZE THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN STEVENSVILLE

Scott Bell has done an outstanding job in his report describing the wealth of economic development resources available to Stevensville. I'd like to add a few more local resources.

RESOURCES:

A good source for Montana economic and business information is <http://www.matr.net>. The home page is updated daily and there is a weekly newsletter which you can subscribe to on the home page. All on MATR is free and submissions of business and economic success are gladly accepted for posting. Getting the word out about our collective success will bring more success, innovation and vibrancy to the Stevensville and Montana economy. (Disclaimer- I run this site.- Russ)

The small-diameter effort is a major focus in Montana. The best contact for local assistance and guidance is Craig Rawlings of MCDC in Missoula. 721-2518 ext 102 crawlings@mtcdc.org He also has a great listserve for a steady flow of information and ideas.

The State of Montana and the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity have designated Wood Products as a focus cluster development. (<http://montanajobs.org/> see "Cluster Study" Word Document in middle of page) Kreg Worrest of MMEC at UM is directing the effort. Kreg is at kreg@selway.umt.edu (406)243-6615

Developing a Straw Bale construction effort was mentioned. The National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte could provide extensive information about the viability of an undertaking.
<http://www.ncat.org/>

The State of Montana and the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity have also designated the "Creative Enterprise" (How do we do creative business better) cluster as a focus. Coordinating this effort is Geoff Sutton of the MWTC. geoff@mwtc.org 243-5260

Geoff will be leading a group of Montana artists to a major arts show in Kentucky. Stevensville area artisans should be informed of this opportunity:

Montana crafting efforts to boost arts industry

Jason Clary liked tinkering in his garage with old weathered pieces of barn wood. One night, wired after drinking too much Starbucks coffee, he stayed up until 2 a.m. building a hutch for his family's living room.

By GAIL SCHONTZLER Chronicle Staff Writer

<http://bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2004/10/17/news/econ.txt>

Friends saw his hand-crafted rustic furniture, and, Clary said, pretty soon "the word-of-mouth chain erupted."

So many orders have come in from friends, merchants, Chico Hot Springs and the exclusive Yellowstone Club, he decided in February to make furniture full time. Thus began Rusty Nail Designs, based in the garage of his Manhattan home.

"I'm just going to go for it with everything I've got," said Clary, a 29-year-old father of three.

He's excited about the artistic side of making furniture. He likes using wood with a history, pointing out its woodpecker and bullet holes.

But Clary has had no training in running his own business or marketing. Apart from advice from a longtime potter friend, Clary said, "It's been trial and error, in all honesty."

Now the state of Montana is trying to give artists and craftsmen like Clary better skills and more support to make their businesses successful -- recognizing that the arts have a lot of potential to boost the state's economy.

Gov. Judy Martz's Economic Development Office is investigating ways to market Montana arts and crafts nationally and internationally, and to develop all the state's creative enterprises.

If you're trying to bring in high-paying jobs, having museums and a vibrant arts community attracts entrepreneurs and new jobs, said Geoff Sutton. He was hired in February by the governor's Economic Development Office to promote all the state's creative enterprises.

"Montana is an incredibly creative place," Sutton said, "and the moniker 'Montana' is an incredible brand name in the world. It conjures up the romance of the West.

"The governor's office recognizes that the arts and specifically crafts is the only economic entity found in all 56 counties of Montana."

Other states have been more aggressive in promoting their arts and crafts. A leader in the field is Kentucky, which draws more than 8,000 buyers annually to its nationally renowned Kentucky Crafted wholesale arts market, organized by the state's Craft Marketing Program.

Sutton and arts officials want to find out whether Montana, perhaps with other Western states, could create a similar arts market that could become a national draw.

One concrete example of what Montana can do to promote its homegrown arts and crafts enterprises is a new series of courses that started this fall at Montana State University's College of Technology in Great Falls.

Called TRACE, for Transforming Regional Artisans into Entrepreneurs, the new COT course is teaching artists and crafts people how to make their businesses succeed.

"Montana just has so much talent out there," said Mary Moe, COT dean, who helped get the courses started with \$100,000 in federal workforce funds from the commissioner of higher education's office. "Teaching artists how to make a business out of their work is a real need."

One of the secrets of marketing arts and crafts is having a story to tell, said Cindy Kittredge, TRACE project manager.

"When you buy fine crafts, you're not only buying a handicraft, a thing of beauty or something functional, but something that has a story behind it, that has a little about the artist, or the landscape they move in," she said.

Clary, the Manhattan furniture maker, has discovered the importance of storytelling in his own business.

Customers love "knowing where a piece came from, knowing its history," he said. They're intrigued to hear that the wood came from an old school house, an abandoned mercantile or even a pig farm.

Clary is finishing building a desk for the Bent Lens in Bozeman, using wood from the owner's family homestead, which had been torn down and stored in a chicken coop.

Artisans taking the TRACE course also learn how to create Web sites, develop a business plan, work with mentors and use Montana as a marketing "brand." Classes are offered on weekends and online, to make them more accessible.

On the weekend of Nov. 19, the TRACE program will hold a public workshop to teach such practical skills as how to design booths for arts-and-crafts shows.

In its first year, the TRACE course has 20 students, including a weaver, potter, doll maker, pearl-inlay artist and woodworker.

Another idea being tried in Great Falls is similar to a successful program in North Carolina -- producing guidebooks for tourists who want to visit rural studios and workshops.

Meeting artists in their studios is a powerful reason for people to buy arts and crafts. It can help artisans get the prices they need, and bring badly needed out-of-state dollars into Montana's rural economy.

"Rural people up here are really desperate," Kittredge said. "We've had drought, we've had low ag prices. If you can add \$10,000 to a farm income, that pays the taxes and may keep that farm or ranch in the family for another generation."

University towns like Bozeman and Missoula are farther along in promoting their creative economy, Sutton said.

In Bozeman, for example, the Emerson Center for Culture and the Arts held a workshop on marketing for artists last year that drew 65 people, said Jeane Alm, executive director.

Bozeman and Livingston also hold art gallery walks and studio tours to bring art lovers to meet local painters, sculptors and weavers.

Montana Arts Council director Arni Fishbaugh is excited about the potential of such activities to build Montana's national reputation as an arts destination.

"Our vision," she said, "is that in 10 years, Montana will be known as a state of creativity."

For more information on the TRACE course, contact Kittredge at 406 268-3713 or by e-mail, ckittredge@msugf.edu.

Gail Schontzler is at gails@dailychronicle.com

The arts already have a big impact on Montana's economy -- \$85 million a year, according to a study done for the Montana Arts Council.

And that's just counting the non-profit artistic groups -- like Shakespeare in the Parks, the Bozeman Symphony and Emerson Center for Culture and the Arts, according to the study by the Bozeman consulting firm Arts Market Inc.

The governor's Economic Development Office is now working on a study of the for-profit arts businesses as well, said Geoff Sutton.

When you add in creative enterprises like architects, ad agencies, Web page and product designers, it's estimated that the arts amount to 5 percent of Montana's economy, Sutton said.

Arni Fishbaugh, executive director of the state's Montana Arts Council, said the Arts Market study found that just the non-profit arts groups:

€ Create 2,000 full-time jobs statewide. That's more than the 942 jobs in petroleum and coal products manufacturing and the 893 jobs in fishing.

€ Create, in Bozeman alone, 259 jobs and have an \$11 million impact.

In Kentucky, the state craft marketing office, started in 1981, reports that just the crafts industry contributes \$252 million a year in sales to that state's economy. It estimates that nationally, crafts are a \$14 billion-a-year industry.

All of these folks can be exceptionally helpful in helping Stevensville maximize its economic opportunity and I highly recommend contacting them.

See also information under: MAIN TOPIC: CIVIC GROUPS/YOUTH

MAIN TOPIC: CIVIC GROUPS/YOUTH/ACTIVITIES

ISSUES: INFORMATION FLOW, COMMUNITY, YOUTH, ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Missoula has started "**City Club Missoula**" in an effort to expand the civic discussion and information flow so necessary for a connected and proactive community. The goal of City Club Missoula is to foster communication, discourse and creative thought within our community. The slogans used by some existing City Clubs will give you a sense of what City Clubs are all about. See the following websites:

Tacoma- Inquiring Minds Embracing the Future <http://www.cityclubtacoma.org>

Cleveland- A Free Exchange of Thought <http://www.cityclub.org>

Portland- The Conscience of the City <http://www.pdxcityclub.org>

Denver- To inform rather than reform <http://www.cityclubofdenver.org/>

San Diego- Dialogue of Democracy <http://cityclubofsandiego.com/index.asp>

Eugene- Where Minds come out to Play- Building Community Vision through Open Inquiry
<http://www.cityclubofeugene.org/>.

City Club Missoula Inaugural Luncheon, 10/22, Missoula
October 19, 2004

We are excited to be participating in the inaugural meeting of City Club Missoula. Many communities across the United States host City Clubs; some have been in existence for many years. The goal of City Club Missoula is to foster communication, discourse and creative thought within our community.

City Club Missoula will be membership supported with fees on a sliding scale to make it possible for everyone to participate from city leaders and business executives, to students and senior citizens. The strength of the organization will be in the volunteers who organize the speakers, arrange the meetings and help maintain the organization's neutrality and openness.

Next lunch will be on November 12, 2004. Please mark you calendars and plan on attending.

Thank you, Barbara Koostra, Sue Talbot, Claire Olivier, Tom Bensen, Daniel Kemmis, Russ Fletcher

First City Club Missoula gathering a success. More are planned
October 28, 2004

Garnering interest and finding a purpose were the main points on the agenda at the inaugural meeting for City Club Missoula on Friday.

"Many cities have city clubs," said Russ Fletcher, founder of Montana Associated Technology Roundtable and one of the organizers for City Club Missoula.

"For Missoula, the city club can be a wonderful thing," he said. "We hope that the city club will be a forum where we as citizens can openly discuss the big issues of the day in a non-partisan environment."

The lunch meeting, which took place at Holiday Inn Parkside in downtown Missoula, brought nearly 80 participants. "It's a really nice mix of people here," said Tom Bensen, executive director of Missoula Cultural Council, another organizer. "There are business people, people from the university, cultural people, and entrepreneurs."

“I’m here mostly out of curiosity,” said David Irwin. “Missoula has its share of polarization, and if the city club can help reduce that, I want to be a part of it.”

Irwin co-owns several small businesses in the Missoula area, such as Sunburst Sensors, LLC, which manufactures chemical sensors, and Endless Summer, LLC, which sells greenhouse kits and lighting.

“We need a learning process to position ourselves for the future,” said Dr. Larry Swanson to an attentive audience. “Open discussion brings better leadership. The notion of the city club is to talk things over, to encourage discourse in an open forum.”

Swanson gave examples of various partnerships and forums across the state, such as Celebrate Billings, that are comparable to what City Club Missoula could become.

The idea of City Club Missoula sprung out of Missoula on the Move, an economic forum sponsored by the mayor’s office, the Center for the Rocky Mountain West, the University of Montana, Montana Community Development Corporation, Missoula County, and others.

“This principally came up as a way to communicate, not as a way to educate,” said Chief Administrative Officer Janet Stevens for the City of Missoula. “I hope this is an opportunity for us to start working together and learning from each other so we can make Missoula a better place for us all.”

Eugene, Ore., Tacoma, Wash., Denver, and Cleveland have had active city clubs for several decades.

The clubs have proven successful at bringing interesting speakers, facilitating networking among community members, as well as encouraging dialogue, said Barbara Koostra from the podium. She envisioned the club to be financed by membership dues and sponsors.

After each speaker, the participants were encouraged to discuss their thoughts and ideas around the ten or so tables in the room.

“It’s hard to maintain autonomy if the industry helps with financing,” a concerned lawyer said.

“I think that’s a legitimate concern,” another agreed. “Are we competing with local government, or are we augmenting government?” a nurse wanted to know.

“City Hall is for solving problems. City Club should create visions,” a business owner offered.

“So, it looks for pot holes before they develop?” the nurse said.

“Exactly. It’s an opportunity for learning in a common forum, and then go back and influence our other organizations.”

“It takes time to set up a club like this,” said President Steve Witz of St. Patrick Hospital afterwards. “We all heard legitimate concerns around our tables today, and that’s good. I’d like to see the city club being developed and I’d very much like to be a part of it.”

“I thought it was a good first meeting,” said former Rep. Pat Williams, now of the Center for the Rocky Mountain West. “The club still needs to figure out what it is and where it wants to go. Ideally, it will ultimately help Missoula define itself.”

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12 at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula. For more information contact any of the members of the initial organizing committee:

- Barbara Koostra Bakoobra@aol.com
- Claire Olivier colivier@ci.missoula.mt.us
- Tom Benson mcc@missoulacultural.org
- Sue Talbot jtalbot11@msn.com
- Dan Kemmis kemmis@crmw.org
- Russ Fletcher russ@matr.net

Article by Eric Segalstad - (303) 775-0056 segalstad@yahoo.com

I would encourage anyone, especially youth, from Stevensville to attend any future City Club meetings to see if this is a concept that could be developed in Stevensville. The next meeting will be on Nov. 12 at 11:30 at the Holiday Inn Parkside where the Creative Cluster and "Branding" Missoula will be discussed.

RSVP to Barb Koostra by Nov. 8 Bakoobra@aol.com

One of the other thoughts was to better involve Youth in business. A great way to do this at the high-school level is the **DECA** business and marketing program. Mr. Dan Kucera is the mentor for the program at Sentinel High in Missoula. He would be an excellent person to contact about this program. dkucera@mcps.k12.mt.us

MAIN TOPIC: UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

ISSUE: HIGH SPEED INTERNET

There is a perceived very large need for high speed connectivity.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I contacted Rick Hays of Qwest and asked him what it would take to get connectivity to Stevensville. Here's his response:

"Best case is a show of interest sheet that perhaps one or two of the proponents at the community assessment could circulate. We could provide you a simple form -- essentially a name, phone number with short note at top asking for "people interested in high speed Internet within 2 miles of downtown Stevensville" to help us determine the interest as we consider possible expansion plans in '05. The 2 miles is on the conservative side but people tend to be overly liberal on their estimates anyway.

Nothing that elaborate or scientific but certainly helps tell the true level of interest."

Rick Hays 406-441-7700 Rick.Hays@qwest.com

RESOURCES:

The people of Stevensville

Rick Hays 406-441-7700 Rick.Hays@qwest.com

Report by: GLORIA O’ROURKE
Montana Economic Developers Association
Montana Economic Development Services
118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A
Anaconda, MT 59711
Ph: 406.563.5259 Fx: 406.563.5476
Email: gloria@medamembers.org
Web: <http://www.medamembers.org>

INTRODUCTION

It was my privilege to spend a day and a half with the people of Stevensville. Over and over the team heard that your greatest strength is in your people. As this is truly the case, Stevensville already has the key factor required for community and economic development success. All of the programs, all of the grant money imaginable, cannot work without great people to make things happen. Stevensville truly does have great people – and therefore, a bright future.

OVERALL RESOURCES:

I would like to share with you some overall resources that could be useful in just about every project you undertake. First, Montana Economic Developers Association is a great organization to meet other economic and community development worker-bees. Countless times, I have sought the advice and input from a MEDA member. If he or she did not have an answer, they knew someone who did. Join MEDA at <http://www.medamembers.org>

Second, visit the Thriving Hometown Network: Case Studies at <http://www.smallcommunities.org/ncsc/THN.htm>. At this website, you can find a community similar to Stevensville that has gone through a similar situation – whatever it may be – and learn from their experience.

Third, print out or mark in your “favorites” the Economic and Community Development Resource Directory. It is located at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt>. This directory is like a “bible” in that it lists just about every agency and organization imaginable that is involved in community and economic development in our area.

Fourth, visit from time to time <http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org>. This is the Department of Labor Research and Analysis Bureau information site. You will find interesting data that could affect decisions you make in Stevensville.

And finally, a terrific financial resource website is <http://www.mtfinanceonline.com>. From this website, you will find all sorts of avenues for funding, resource information and project direction.

The Stevensville Resource Team has done an incredible job in responding to the issues raised by the people of Stevensville. I have only a little information to add.

MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNITY - CIVIC GROUPS AND HOMEMAKERS

ISSUE: SOCIAL CAPITAL

Comments were heard in Stevensville that are heard in just about every town these days: we need more people involved, we need better communication among our groups, better coordination and improved leadership; we want to maintain our close-knit community.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The baseline of all economic development comes down to the people within a community. This social capital is built through hundreds of actions, large and small, that we take every day. Here are some ideas from the Heartland Institute as to how Stevensville can build "social capital" and through your relationships, build your community:

1. Invite local government officials to a lunchtime discussion with your staff and volunteers.
2. Host a blood drive for employees, volunteers, and clients.
3. Provide release time to employees for volunteering.
4. Provide meeting space for local community organizations.
5. Form a fitness/health group with your co-workers.
6. Think about how to involve different types of volunteers. If you serve the elderly, how can you bring in children? If you serve children, how can the elderly help?
7. Join the United Way campaign.
8. Form social groups-softball teams, hiking clubs, bridge circles, theater clubs, etc.
9. Have a barbecue picnic for staff and nearby residents.
10. Schedule a half an hour "get together" before staff meetings.
11. Log into www.bettertogether.org and learn more about the growing national discussion around strengthening social capital.
12. Participate in your local United Way Day of Caring.
13. Have a movie night at your organization-with popcorn during and discussion afterward.
14. Establish a matching grants program: match charitable contributions by your employees.
15. Set up a voter registration table in your organization.
16. Invite school groups to have a field trip at your site.
17. If a plow clears the snow from your lot, offer to plow the lot of the local daycare center.
18. Invite kids from a community or school art program to paint a "community mural" on the side of your building.
19. Hold staff and/or volunteer discussions about social capital, and what you can do to help increase it.
20. Your ideas: _____

RESOURCES:

SOCIAL CAPITAL RESOURCES:

"Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community" by Robert D. Putnam
<http://www.bowlingalone.com>

Better Together: a social capital website report. <http://www.bettertogether.org>

Heartland Center for Leadership Development
1.800.927.1115
<http://www.heartlandcenter.info>

MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNITY – CIVIC GROUPS AND HOMEMAKERS

ISSUE: VOLUNTEERISM, PARTICIPATION and LEADERSHIP

In Stevensville (as in other communities) comments are heard such as:

- * we need new members/volunteers
- * we need younger members/volunteers
- * the same people are doing all of the work
- * people are getting burned out
- * how do we get people to stop talking and start doing?

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Heartland Institute has some suggestions for dealing with the problem. "Take a look around you at your next meeting. Who is missing? Why are they missing? What has been done to invite missing residents? What would strengthen your association? Is the place where you meet, is it the way new people are welcomed? Is it communication?" Answer these questions and actively make changes in your group.

Be sure that barriers are not keeping folks from participating. For example:

- * Place - look at the place you are meeting (is it accessible? comfortable?)
- * Purpose - examine your purpose for meeting - is it of interest to a wide variety of people?
- * Promotion - is everyone keeping informed about the meeting?,
- * Price - how much time do we require of volunteers? Dues expensive?
- * People - are new folks welcomed? Do new people receive training? Do you try out different meeting formats so everyone is comfortable?

The Heartland Institute also has some key qualities that need to be found in local leadership. Look for people that meet some of these qualities and ask them to get on board:

- * Positive mental attitude
- * Commitment to the goals of the group
- * Ability to listen and reflect
- * Neutrality (hear both sides of an issue without prejudice)
- * An awareness of what is NOT being said
- * The ability to "seize the moment"
- * Good interpersonal communication skills like equal treatment and listening.

RESOURCES:

Hold a half day or one-day meeting to focus on strengthening your organization's membership. Using tools provided by the Heartland Institute, I would be happy to conduct a "Strengthening Membership" workshop with you.

Gloria O'Rourke

406.563.5259
gloria@medamembers.org

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE: NICHE BUSINESSES, YOUTH AND ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING

Several months ago, I traveled the state with Julie Foster of Montana Jobs Network (<http://www.montana-jobs.net>) to visit high school business classes. One purpose in visiting the students was to let them know about a terrific website/project called Come Home Montana (<http://www.comehomemontana.org>). This project showcases small rural communities and puts the communities in touch with young (or old) professionals that want to “come home” to Montana. The second purpose of our visit was to get a feel for how students looked upon going into business for themselves. We found that the majority of students want to leave their hometown to go to college or attend some kind of higher ed/vo-tech program, but eventually return to their hometown. The catch, however, was that the majority did not feel they could ever make a living returning to their Montana hometown.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is an obvious need to instill in our students (young and old) the concept of becoming an entrepreneur. There is also a need to encourage our young people to use their history of growing up in a small town – to become a leader in that small town. The comment was made that a student could return home, make a living, and become a big fish in a little pond – influencing current and future events for their community. The “making a difference” concept is applicable to any town we choose to live in, but relationships are already established in our hometowns.

According to research conducted by the National Commission on Entrepreneurism (NCOE), the 5% or so of all companies that are classified as entrepreneurial growth companies account for two-thirds of net new jobs, one-third of economic growth differentials and one-half of technological innovation in the U.S. Is it any wonder that the economic vitality of a community is correlated with the relative ability to support entrepreneurs? **If Stevensville is going to thrive, some sector must be devoted and available to the support of fostering entrepreneurs.**

RESOURCES:

Here are some thoughts from David Bayless, a successful entrepreneur in Bozeman, MT:

- Think in terms of generational change – consider Economic Gardening <http://www.littletongov.org/bia/economicgardening/default.asp>
- Economic change occurs as a result of sustained effort over a generation or more – not the next election cycle.
- Realize your community may have to work twice as hard for twice as long as Montana’s larger communities.
- Work at making your community more receptive to newcomers.
- Find ways to support the entrepreneurs that already exist in your town. Peer networks <http://www.peerspectives.org> are a great place to start.

- Celebrate entrepreneurial effort and success.
- Recognize that early, relatively inexpensive failure is an essential feature of entrepreneurial learning
<http://radio.weblogs.com/0111718/stories/2003/11/26/economicDevelopmentAndTheStigmaOfFailure.html>

Also, see below the section on
 YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES – ATTRACTING AND RETAINING YOUTH.

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES: Stevensville’s ideas re: creamery history, brick yard, straw bale construction, art/business incubator, nice businesses

RECOMMENDATION:

Stevensville is fortunate to be in the service region of the Bitterroot RC&D and Ravalli County Economic Development Authority. These two agencies offer numerous resources, professional advice and funding opportunities. Do not hesitate to knock on their door!

The RCEDA works on business recruitment, business infrastructure and development. They act as a liaison between local governments in reviewing growth and development in Ravalli County. The RCEDA assists clients with marketing, relocation and available financing.

Bitterroot RC&D programs combine people, rural development needs, opportunities and solutions. This organization serves as a framework for local individuals, groups, businesses, and units of government to cooperate regionally to meet common needs and tackle common problems. Local RC&D offices identify and solve human, economic, and environmental problems. They provide conservation technical assistance, forestry incentive programs, resource conservation and development programs, stewardship incentive, wetlands reserve, and many other programs and services.

RESOURCES:

Ravalli County Economic Development Authority

Name: Betty Davis, Executive Director
Address: 105 East Main. Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: 406.375.9416
 E-mail: bdavis@rceda.org
Service Area: Ravalli County
Available Loan Programs: CDBG and local RLF

Bitterroot RC&D

Name: Kit Sutherland, Coordinator
Address: 1709 N. First Street, Hamilton, MT 59840

Phone: 406.363.5450

E-mail: kit.sutherland@mt.usda.gov

Service Area: Ravalli, Mineral, & Missoula Counties

MAIN TOPIC: YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

ISSUE: ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF YOUTH

The article below seriously examines what needs to be done to attract and retain our youth. The article was written by Milan Wall and Vicki Luther, Co-Directors for the Heartland Institute of Leadership Development. It is obvious by reading the article that attraction/retention tools are available, Stevensville just needs to put them to work!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Listening and Encouraging Youths

If we live by the adage, "Children should be seen and not heard," it won't be long before we completely lose sight of them, because they will have left us behind! Community leaders must make a point to actively listen to and engage young people. This is going to need to happen on both an informal and a formal basis.

Informally, adults need to take the lead in initiating conversations, asking young people about how things are going, get specific, and keep probing, because having an adult (other than a teacher, parent or minister) pay attention may be a total surprise to many young people. What is important to this young person? How does s/he feel about some community issue? What are his or her dreams and passions? When we listen to their answers, however, we must refrain from our natural tendency to interrupt them or to offer unsolicited advice. Imagine if every youth in our community had at least one adult whose role was simply to listen to them and encourage them.

There are lots of ways to listen to our youth in a formal situation, but these need to be more than just token efforts. Young people need to know that their opinions matter and that we take their ideas seriously. Consider holding formal youth forums outside of the school environment, but collaborate with the schools to encourage participation. For example, give youths an assignment and invite them to participate at village board or chamber meetings. Go beyond "the usual suspects" by rotating participation. For example, all 10th graders whose birthdays fall within a given month are expected to participate in that month's meeting. Consider sponsoring regular young adult focus groups to brainstorm ideas on both personal and community issues, and consider holding these events where the young adults normally gather, which may be at the local bar instead of the corner cafe.

Scholarships and Apprenticeships

Again, go beyond the usual suspects, and don't wait until high school graduation. If a young person is a gifted artist, support her participation at a regional summer arts camp. There are numerous statewide conferences, workshops and seminars for youth in every subject from government to environmental stewardship to entrepreneurship, as well as religious retreats and music institutes. Take a risk. Don't send the first young person who comes to mind. Send the young person who will remember and appreciate the new opportunity he was afforded. And then hold that young person

accountable. Give that young person an opportunity to report back at service clubs, classrooms, or town meetings.

Provide community-based college scholarships to young people who want to return to the community after graduation and gaining some career experience. Match up business opportunities in the community with student education goals. For example, if the community needs more construction contractors, why not sponsor a student who is planning to get a degree in construction management and then help him get his business established locally or buy an existing business from a retiring contractor in the region.

Encourage business owners to offer apprenticeships that teach real skills. For example, young people who mow lawns should also be taught about advertising, bookkeeping and machine maintenance. Then make this relationship reciprocal by asking for assistance with computer maintenance or Internet research. Create learning environments where trust and commitment can grow.

Financial Planning Tools

Young people have high levels of energy and creative ideas, but most lack the experience-the know-what and the know-how-to put their plans into action. Even if our schools offer business courses to students, nothing replaces real life and real time learning. Communities need to provide experienced people (either volunteer or paid staff) who can share models for financial management, marketing strategies and accounting methods that relate directly to the young person's entrepreneurial venture. The most effective way to deliver this service is on a one-to-one basis, which again reinforces feelings of mutual trust, understanding, accountability and commitment between the young person and his/her community.

Micro-Lending Pool

The earlier young people begin to try out business ventures, the more likely they will eventually succeed. Or as Robert Kiyosaki puts it in his book, *Rich Dad/Poor Dad*, small failures when you are young give you time to recover and learn from your mistakes. In some communities, local businesses contribute small amounts of capital and collaborate with banking institutions to support a micro-lending pool for young entrepreneurs. These small loan programs provide the seed money for emerging ventures, and they also create a network of interested investors who can provide additional support in the form of coaching, mentoring and consulting.

Business Incubator and Support Services

With or without walls, business incubators can be a helping "hand-up" that a young person needs to survive during the early stages of an entrepreneurial venture. An incubator can provide a group of young business people shared equipment and services such as Internet access, copy and fax machines, bookkeeping services, answering services, legal advice, assistance with securing patents and intellectual property rights, or anything else a group of young entrepreneurs may be able to share. Even a common space, such as a large conference room, can be a significant community contribution.

Peer Networks and Adult Mentors

The tools discussed above can lead to the development of peer networks and adult mentorships with youths. These relationships will be significantly strengthened and sustained if they are formalized in

some manner. By "formal" we actually are talking about making a specific effort to nurture opportunities for peers and mentors to come together on a regular basis, even if it is in a very "informal" manner. As with all relationships, networking and mentoring requires time, which is often in short supply. But having an ongoing support group, in an environment where progress, ideas, setbacks and encouragement are all shared, can be well worth the effort. This is where solutions emerge and where opportunities for collaboration can arise.

Generational Business Transfer

Losing established small businesses in rural communities can severely impact economic sustainability. Community leaders and citizens must commit themselves to supporting local businesses, encouraging their youth, and working with people who can help them successfully implement business transition plans. Most importantly, local leaders must start early if they are to be successful, perhaps five or ten years before the current owner plans on retiring. This period allows the new buyer time to learn the business, build the equity needed to secure financing, and perhaps create new economic enterprises within the business. This period also provides the current owner the opportunity to plan for transition out of the business on their time schedule.

RESOURCES:

Milan Wall and Vicki Luther
Heartland Institute
1.800.927.1115
<http://www.heartlandcenter.info>

MAIN TOPIC: CITY, COUNTY, STATE GOVERNMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

ISSUE: PARK DISTRICT, RECREATION

In this Community Input session, the idea was mentioned of creating a Park District, improving tennis courts, realizing recreation opportunities, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Explore using the Land & Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), which is administered by Montana State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). Since 1965, Montana has received over \$33 million in grant funds for outdoor recreational projects.

The kinds of projects that have been approved and funded in the past include such facilities as ball fields, open space acquisitions, golf courses, public parks, swimming pools, skating rinks, picnic facilities, playground equipment, snowmobile facilities and walking trails. Facilities directly supporting outdoor recreation areas, such as restrooms and landscaping, also are eligible.

There are some strict guidelines and rules involved in this process. For example, the applicant must have adequate resources to operate and maintain the area after the project is complete; LWCF is a reimbursement program. A sponsor must make full payment on all project expenses before being reimbursed for up to 50 percent of allowable costs.

RESOURCES:

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
Fact Sheet on LWCF

<http://fwp.state.mt.us/parks/landw/2005/factsheet.asp>

<http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/grants.asp> contains an entire list of grants that are available.

ONE MORE OVERALL RESOURCE:

One final resource to add to your list is GrantStation. GrantStation is a grant search website that is loaded with data on grant agencies, resources and funding. One of my tasks in administering the MEDA office is to provide grant searches to those looking for hard-to-find funding sources.

Please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to utilize the MEDA GrantStation membership on your behalf. gloria@medamembers.org

**STEVENSVILLE RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT
SEPTEMBER 27, 2004**

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION – HOUSING AND POPULATION - CHALLENGES

- Business Environment
- Competing against Hamilton, Missoula, etc.
- Growth,...DITTO, DITTO, DITTO
- Land development for affordable housing,
- Ditto, ditto, ditto
- How will town expand, look at design of development, landscaping, open areas, water, traffic
- Walkable community, preserve character of Stevensville
- Funding for projects, maintenance of projects
- Options for transportation system other than automobile
- Planned growth
- Local and city government involved in addressing growth issues, involve citizens
- Expand downtown Business sector
- Protect quality of air, water...ditto
- Attitudes, respect others
- Sustainable business recruitment
- Countywide issues....
- Impact fees, schools cannot collect impact fees, developers pay impact fees

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION – CHALLENGES

- Save old buildings instead of taking them down
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Get people to consider options before tearing down
- Raising awareness level of historic value
- Lack of identity for our historic structures
- People are not aware of our own local history
- Ditto all of the above
- Ditto all of the above
- Maintain our unique small town
- Ditto on signage – let people know historic sites
- Preserve historical look
- Need help with grant writing for preservation
- Controls for new buildings
- Recognize our history
- Funding
- Staffing our museum
- We aren't using our own museum and mission to educate our own students

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

- Need jobs to keep our kids here and keep our community viable
- Make sure Stevensville stays the same – not bedroom community of Missoula
- Make a commitment to support new businesses – cheese, brickyard, etc.
- Not enough services
- More jobs
- Not enough customers to utilize our railroad
- Spreading out of businesses
- Not enough services here for us - have to drive to Missoula
- Respect for basic resources of clean air, land
- Cost of insurance causes hardship for small businesses
- Education for business owners to improve their business
- Environmental issues – not a tree hugger but want to preserve our integrity
- We want good jobs, but don't want to hurt our environment – can't have both
- Change Missoula from a challenge to an asset
- Not getting many tourists
- Ditto use Missoula and Hamilton as assets
- Growing economically but respecting our place and our past
- Avoid the quick fix – don't bring just in any business
- Ditto
- Think of ourselves as a regional area – work together
- Upgrade our schools – bond was voted down
- Curtail building of casinos
- Need our clotheslines back!

CIVIC GROUPS AND HOMEMAKERS – CHALLENGES

- Food bank needs have doubled in the past seven years – the hungry are here
- Keep up with the growth and client need in our area
- Don't know what is available for kids to do outside of school
- Communication between the clubs
- People live here but don't work here – hard to come to meetings
- Challenge to let others know what we are all doing – so they can join in what they are interested in
- Well defined areas of purpose
- Montana Highest rates of teen use kids to much time on hands
- Good activities – after school
- Housing Group with Stevensville
- Library – want new members
- Network between clubs – re schedule
- Youth – some problems with theft – find something to interest them
- How to get the young to volunteer
- Growth Policy
- RSVP Vol.
- Youth a risk – low income area
- Lots of clubs – but not enough volunteers

- Involve our youth in more things....
- Remove turf and territory issues – work together
- Get more people involved
- Need people who know how to write grants
- Maintain current projects – get excited and do them – then can't maintain them
- Childcare is hard to find
- Domestic violence
- Tap into new volunteers and new money in the community

SENIOR CITIZENS – CHALLENGES

- Source of transportation
- Oodles of dittos
- Lack of sidewalks –
- Existing sidewalks are in poor conditions
- Low tree branches
- Volunteers – are seniors – need
- Get word out about school facilities, etc., that we can use
- Volunteers get older –
- People are not aware of services
- Get word out!

YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES - CHALLENGES

- Drugs are a problem
- School needs a ski club to get kids together
- Don't have much to do after organized sports
- Not much to do
- To do anything have to go to Missoula or Hamilton
- Friday night – stay here and get into trouble
- Ditto – lack of things to do
- All my money goes to gas
- Stinky school and halls from cigarette smokers
- Need something to do
- Kids don't take the opportunity to get involved
- Lack of info on what is available

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION – CHALLENGES

- Business support of the railroad
- No DSL here – will come eventually – perhaps within two years
- Poor line of sight – with mountains
- Will cable come here?
- Water is as problem – not enough and need system/infrastructure in place – we are working on it
- Stevensville is really growing – challenge for Qwest is that while you have subdivisions, most people requiring services are very remote. Far distance to receive services.
- Only one power option

- East side highway is incredibly dangerous
- Unknown as to how the four lane highway will impact us
- Leapfrogging on the South end – impacts our community.
- Septic systems – need good planning
- Plan so that we do not have isolated neighborhoods
- Lack of relating to or meshing with other activities in the area and region
- Overload, purposeful or otherwise, of local participants

CITY COUNTY AND STATE GOVERNMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT – CHALLENGES

- Parking and alleyway laws need to be enforced
- More pro-active local and county government
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Breakdown in communication from local/county governments and the voters
- Change is the constant here – 4 lane highway –
- Increased volume of calls for the fire department
- Demand for different types of services for our growing population
- If all growth occurs between here and Florence – how will it effect Stevi?
- Ditto all of the above
- County plan – even if voted in – doesn’t do anything! Stevensville needs its own plan.
- Education system is in crisis. Underfunded. Grants and volunteers are carrying us as far as they can.
- Return funding from gambling money back to the schools
- Drug problem – rampant
- Law enforcement to be tougher – especially on small crime activity
- St. Mary’s – county or city? Vandalism is a problem. It is the City’s problem.
- Meth houses are now being listed so that realtor’s are aware of the contamination
- Need more participation at town council meetings
- City must work closer with the county – need more county participation
- There is a drug problem here – meth - takes a hard stance to fight it; very lengthy process.
- Everything with fire department applies to police department.

MISC. WRITTEN COMMENTS - CHALLENGES:

- We need a new judge.
- Lack of meshing with other activities in the area and/or region.
- Need to involve youth groups
- Not enough working bodies and capital to support volunteer staff

STEVENSVILLE RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSIONS

HOUSING AND POPULATION – STRENGTHS

- CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS
- DIVERSITY OF POPULATIONS
- OFF MAIN HIGHWAY, DITTO
- SMALL... GET TO KNOW AND CARE FOR EACH OTHER, DITTO
- CAN IDENTIFY... CAN GET ARMS AROUND, WALKABILITY, RIVER, FISHING, GUIDES
- PEOPLE, DITTO, DITTO AND LOCATION
- ST. MARY'S MISSION,
- FT. OWEN STATE PARK,
- CREAMERY HISTORY
- LOOP... SCENIC DRIVE
- REFUGE, DITTO
- LONG TIME RESIDENTS, NEW RESIDENTS WHO GET INVOLVED
- LEWIS AND CLARK
- LONE ROCK SCHOOL, 125 YEARS OLD
- NEWSPAPER
- RESILIENCY OF PEOPLE, WILLING TO GET INVOLVED, DO WHAT IT TAKES
- MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION
- ESTABLISHED DOWNTOWN
- COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN ALL AGE GROUPS
- HISTORY
- KNOW PEOPLE
- COMMUNITY WITHIN VALLEY
- LAND AVAILABLE FOR GROWTH

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION – STRENGTHS

- Our history – is a tool that can be used to teach our students their history – and peek into their future as well
- Link the past to the future – more
- The Salish culture
- Beginning to teach our history as something alive – will influence our future
- Farm Fair – great model – 13th year Sixteen learning stations on the farm.
- Civic Club
- 4-H
- FFA
- St. Mary's Mission
- Historic downtown – is alive! We actually use it and buy things there.
- Two hardware stores
- The drug store
- Wildlife refuge
- Business owners downtown are very interested in retaining our downtown
- Ft. Owen

- Over 50 historic buildings in town
- New visitor information site at the refuge
- Lewis and Clark trail
- The Theater – kids are involved, too
- New wayside pull-off when highway is finished
- Friends of the Refuge group

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – STRENGTHS

- An important part of the Bitterroot Valley – oldest town in MT, too
- ReMan Shop
- Bitterroot River – world class fishery – wild trout – very rare
- Selway and Frank Church
- Wildlife Refuge -
- The community itself
- Main Street Association
- Ravalli Co. Growth Management Plan
- Main Street Assoc.
- Stevensville Community Foundation
- Many people who are willing to step up and work
- Local newspaper – extremely important to our town
- Location is terrific!
- Tons of great stuff around us.
- Main Street Association
- People with phenomenal energy
- Our history – no one has it like we have
- Location – incredible
- Ditto people, history and location
- We are having a positive attitude shift
- People live here by choice
- Personal people – meet personal needs
- Business unity – we all benefit if one of us benefits
- Airport – owned by the town – well structured and managed – alternative Fed Ex landing
- Old landfill – 19 acres along the river – filled and made a park -
- NexLevel courses
- Stevensville Art and Sculpture Society – strong group
- Theater in town
- First Friday
- Medical Center
- Library
- Driver’s License Bureau
- Highway Patrol

CIVIC GROUPS AND HOMEMAKERS – STRENGTHS

- Civic Club

- Main Street Assoc
- Stevensville Women's Network
- Lots of civic clubs
- Habitat for Humanity
- Friends of North Valley Library
- White Ribbon Campaign – Ravalli County
- Panty Partners – food bank
- Pantry Partners newsletter
- Pantry Partners – great volunteers
- After School Program – take care of community Garden
- Schools -
- Service clubs at school reaches out to community
- Library
- Ditto
- Swimming pool
- Stevensville Community Foundation – gives grants to organizations in the community
- Community Center
- All of our organizations are a strength – people can join in on what they are interested in.
- Successful Creamery Picnic
- Business support – they are tapped but keep on giving
- City support – city has been good and considers funding
- Ditto all of the above
- Lone Rock – part of greater Stevensville
- Spirit of cooperation – a great soul here
- Library – lots of plans
- Theater and the Museum
- St. Mary's
- Town provides the food for Pantry Partners
- Our historic beginnings
- Proximity to Missoula and Hamilton
- Organizations compliment each other and work together well
- Main Street Office helps to streamline the communication between groups
- Ditto
- At least 18 organizations
- 59870 – population is 9,000 interior Stevensville is 1500+
- People invest in the town even if it doesn't help themselves
- Theater is a huge asset.
- Great place to raise your family – kids can ride their bikes, be a part of the community
- Sharing of talents
- Wonderful authors and artists here
- Ditto – writers, theater talent – astounding
- Stevensville Art and Sculptors Society
- Hosts of young artists – show art for free
- Tremendous support for food bank
- Welcome Wagon
- Stevensville Bucks

SENIOR CITIZENS – STRENGTHS

- Use of elementary gym is available
- Senior Center
- Good medical services
- Friendly town
- Fresh air
- Five days a week can come to the Center for a good meal
- Meals on wheels program
- Bitterroot Nursing Home
- Assisted Living Center
- This center built by volunteers and is profitable
- Open our doors for flue shots
- Birthday dinner

YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES - STRENGTHS

- Good high speed pc's at the high school
- New classes that people are wanting to take – accounting, guitar, advanced placement
- Computer application course
- Computer assisted drafting
- CAD machine donated
- Small engines class
- Video classes
- Business Professionals of America Club started –
- School to Work program – get you into the business world

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION – STRENGTHS

- Good sewer system in Stevensville itself
- Population that is interested in conservation

CITY COUNTY AND STATE GOVERNMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT – STRENGTHS

- Basically new police department – we are starting fresh. Firm but fair.
- City government utilizes the expertise of the community – have people attend zoning and planning meetings.
- New firm but fair police chief.
- Good that our fire dept realizes growth will bring problems.
- Great respect for the cops.
- Small and accessible
- Volunteers
- Theater
- Positives going on in Stevensville – people are getting ownership.
- Citizens will come forward and tell us – perhaps it is after we have done something they didn't like – but they let us know.
- This assessment.
- More people are volunteering now for the fire dept.

- City council has been good to the Civic Club and other organizations, i.e., Park, pool, etc...very supportive.
- City of Stevensville is great.
- Ditto – most of the above.
- Biggest strength is our people – if fire, city, etc., ask for help, they will get it: advice, funding, surveying, etc.
- Great place to raise the family
- First Fridays
- Police force does its best to be there

MISC. HANDWRITTEN COMMENTS – STRENGTHS:

- Rich mother lode of history – only now being tapped for social and economic potential
- Awesome wild land and wildlife resources often overlooked for further economic potential – not developed but used as they are.
- Lots of energy, good people.
- Cooperation
- An amazing number of personal needs that get met through “small town neighborly” attitude
- First Friday
- Theater
- Lots of artists
- St. Mary’s
- Museum
- History
- Location
- Long-time residents care about community

STEVENSVILLE RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

HOUSING AND POPULATION – PROJECTS

- DEVELOP PLAN, GUIDE, REGULATIONS TO GUIDE TOWN GROWTH, BUILD NEIGHBORHOODS, NOT SUBDIVISIONS, BE ABLE TO WALK
- LOW INCOME HOUSING, STARTER HOMES
- COUNTY: AIR POLLUTIONS, WATER QUALITY
- ALTERNATIVE ENERGY
- EXPAND DOWNTOWN BUSINESS AREA
- SCENIC ROUTE THROUGH TOWN... KEEP SCENIC
- DOWNTOWN, KEEP SMALL, UNIQUE SHOPS
- SIDE WALKS UPGRADED, FUNDED PROGRAM
- PROVIDE MONEY TO MAINTAIN PARKS, INSTITUTIONAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS, DITTO
- FT. OWEN PARK.... IMPROVE ATTRACTIVENESS
- LOCAL CHEESE: HONORS CREAMERY HISTORY
- DOWNTOWN: ILLUMINATING BUSINESSES
- MAINTAIN ENTRANCE TO STEVENSVILLE: PLAN FOR THE FUTURE
- DEVELOP BRICK BUSINESS IN AREA
- INVOLVE STUDENTS IN COMMUNITY, BUSINESS COMMUNITY PROMOTE, SUPPORT EDUCATION, RECONNECT COMMUNITY WITH CHILDREN, DITTO
- LOOK AT HIGH DENSITY HOUSING: TOWNHOUSES: INTEGRATED INTO TOWN
- ROUNDABOUT AT FS CORNER, DITTO
- HOUSING: PLAN FOR SMALLER LOT SIZES, CURRENT LOTS AND HOUSES ARE FOR BIGGER, MORE EXPENSIVE HOUSING
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR CITIZEN DESIRES... BE PROACTIVE
- SOME MIXED USE IN TOWN.... APARTMENT ON TOP OF BUSINESS, SOME COMBINATIONS WITH HOUSING AND BUSINESS MIXED, DEVELOPER WOULD NEED TO MAKE IT ECONOMICAL.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION – PROJECTS

- Save our old buildings
- Let people know what is here so they can help preserve it
- Identify our historic structures
- Preserve our historic look – deal with the cost of preservation
- Keep live bodies working
- Grant writing for historic costs
- Find a model for preservation and use it
- Again, education regarding what is a historic building – a Primer – how to define a historic building, find funding for it, etc.
- Link the past to the future – have the museum become a hands-on experience
- Keep our downtown a useful place, not just a gift-shop place.
- Feed and Farm building – it is on the national historic register

- Signs back at the refuge
- Salish signs back, too
- Identify more (more than 50) historic home sites in town – with signage
- Visitor info center at the refuge used to our advantage
- Utilize Lewis and Clark anniversary
- Honor Salish historical sites
- Historical walking trail
- Specific section in our schools for kids to learn and visit specific sites in Stevensville
- Maintain our name as Stevensville not Stevi
- Do have historic tree tour – need to consolidate info of the house that is behind the tree!
- Overall historical program for the area – tours, sites, educational, guide books, etc.
- Wayside when highway is finished – kiosk – do have to have info ready when the wayside is ready
- Build a history curriculum – so not redundant – build on it as the students maturity grows.
- Use Friends of the Refuge to get signs back at the refuge
- Local Sign Ordinate is a necessity
- Bigger internet presence of historic sites
- Funding for renovation projects – local as well as national
- Return the Salish presence some how – their history is known, too
- Ditto on the Primer – how to get your building on the historic list – how/where to find funds to restore it, etc.
- Retain the nature of our town – don't become a slave to tourists.
- Inform folks of the flour mill past at Ft. Owen
- On Mission grounds – re-create something like the flour mill

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – PROJECTS

- Build on history –
- More services- clothing store, shoe repair, more things to keep \$\$\$ here not in Missoula
- Make railroad track more profitable – current users are fertilizer material, forest products, grain – need more customers
- As Stevensville expands – also consider our surrounding area – keep it nice, too.
- Insurance for small business owners
- Educational resources for small businesses – how to get started, insurance, etc.
- Clothing store – want to buy a pair of shoes – but don't want WalMart
- Appreciate what Missoula and Hamilton have – use them as assets rather than challenge
- Head hunt businesses to come into our valley
- Be on a tourist map – need to build tourism
- Support current businesses
- Business Incubator
- Explore what is good for our area
- Market research and a needs assessment
- Be a regional player
- Concentrate on trained workforce -
- Draw down local talent
- Landing at the Bitterroot River

- Promote wildlife refuge for viewing
- Open stores people can afford to shop in, i.e., clothing
- Support our schools – fund them
- Ditto
- Support our local businesses
- Use the improved entrances to expand walkways, tourism info, etc.
- Walkway – circular – around Stevensville
- Continue to support our independent newspaper
- Continue to promote the valley as a destination point
- Use art to draw people to Stevensville
- Involve with fuel cell industry as it grows – clean, good workforce
- Alternative energy - start with the high school – put in curriculum
- Straw bail construction
- Develop the river – walkways, etc.
- Studio for craftsman/artists in the feed store
- Think tank formed to set forth ideas such as alternative energy, niches, etc., to support our current businesses.
- Landfill – now park – could be Brownfield site
- Better utilize NxLevel courses
- Art and Culture potential – well educated population all around our town

CIVIC GROUPS AND HOMEMAKERS – PROJECTS

- Increase family activities – or info about what is available
- Pool together on a monthly basis to find out what all of us are doing
- RSVP Volunteers – access them.
- Find more sources of “outside” funding
- Draw down talent that can write grants
- Utilize Civic Club again for being “the” central info exchange point of all clubs
- Daycare
- Update library – i.e., improve lighting
- Community Center
- Connect more with Lone Rock and work together with Stevensville
- Library – children’s program – to begin next month
- Library – field trips
- Library – Junior Friends of the Library group formed to assist with younger kids
- Utilize Missoula talents for our Stevensville theater, etc.
- Tap into new money coming to town
- Stevensville Newsletter
- Looking for a piece of property to expand the foodbank
- Club schedule and fact sheet – what they do – mission statement, when they meet, etc.
- Booklet – sample menu of all the restaurants – include some prices –
- Use Civic Club for leadership development – as well as central club
- Volunteer database – has started – have 100
- Website development
- Parks – improve and develop all further
- Schools – projects that will benefit our youth

- Outreach to greater Stevensville area – would meet needs and expand volunteer pool
- Ditto
- Pool together and hire a grant writer
- Explore limited free camping in the park
- Volunteer brochure – and business brochure – like a community brochure
- Foundation building completed
- Timing – our groups need to work toward the same end and take advantage of the current change
- Child Care
- Job Services Day or Picnic Day – to focus on volunteer projects
- Parks and Library a high priority
- Involve more people – avoid burnout of current volunteers – personal invitations
- Ditto grant writer sharing
- Ditto parks and open areas
- Amen!

SENIOR CITIZENS - PROJECTS

- Foster Grandparents program
- Recruit new volunteers – next generation – it is not happening
- Make people aware of services
- Community Center with a swimming pool
- Outreach program from Stevensville Center to outlying areas that do not have a Senior Center , i.e. – Lone Rock area
- Ditto pool!
- Attract a satellite YMCA
- Better Senior Fitness program
- Small family YMCA – provide exercise room and track
- Attract a nice motel here - families come to visit and they don't have a great place to stay
- Extend the hours of our urgent care facility – only open until six
- Van to go out to Lone Rock and bring people in here
- Utilize Birthday Dinner to figure out how to get people in here
- Volunteer Coordinator – to organize Senior Activities
- In Home Health Care – more and better
- Way to meet new people and recruit for volunteers

YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES - PROJECTS

- Ski club like Big Sky High School has – through Flagship Program
Gets kids together – meet at lunch and raise money by working for no cost (in exchange for a donation) for local businesses
- Bowling
- Movie Theater
- Smokers education – aware of their smell
- Alcohol free bar
- Place for bands to play – kids pay \$5 and bands come and play
- Boys and Girls Club

- Need a place to hang out
- Pool hall
- Skateboard park
- In summer months – increase our volunteer activities
- Better connection with the University system

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION – PROJECTS

- Explore T1 brought into town – bring it into town and share among other businesses
- Open the power grid up – expand Ravalli Electric Coop – get some competition here to keep our power rates down.
- Water – get supply and infrastructure in place
- Get into alternative energy – solar panels on the theater?
- Roads – safety and construction
- Need to recycle plastics, cardboard – so not taking to Missoula
- New street signs for Stevensville – can only see them now from one direction
- Yield signs removed and stop signs put in – especially the one near the school
- Exit closed by the grocery store – people use it as an entrance - dangerous
- Senior Citizens need a bus
- Assessment as to how the highway is going to impact Stevensville
- Plan ahead!
- Growth policy
- Alternative energy in our new community center
- Ditto
- Land use planning and stay ahead of infrastructure needs
- Transportation access plan for the town of Stevensville and immediate surroundings
- Infrastructure plan – set long term goals
- Transportation – a corridor issue/need for Ravalli county
- High Speed Internet in the valley

CITY, COUNTY AND STATE GOVERNMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT – PROJECTS

- Enforce parking ordinances
- Pro active local and county government
- Sidewalks – stop talking – start constructing
- How will four lane effect our community and area?
- Prepare fire department for more advanced calls that come with growing population
- Be pro active – how will the growth that is occurring on the highway effect Stevensville? Not just a county problem. Work with county!
- Have regular meetings with the County Commissioners
- Better inform public so have real exchange of information at town council meetings.
- Tax systems that are fair to schools as well as small business owners
- Create park districts –
- Education to rid the community of drugs – it is a supply and demand issue. More people educated about the effects (on the body and the family) more people will think twice.

- Educate our youth. Ditto above.
- Advertise when town meetings are
- Push open those school doors, bring in programs and educate our youth – involved in ownership of community
- Designate from every new subdivision – some lots designated for affordable housing
- Parks – improve; widely used – minority of users pay for it. Create a park district. (is in the works right now)
- Streets and sidewalks – need a way to fund them without sticking it to just within the community residents.
- List of priorities – find additional funding
- Control as much as possible our growth
- Plan for additional sewer and water lines
- Upgrade of public facilities are in order – reflect who we are and what we want to be
- Ditto to the park district – maybe in the works right now
- Create ways to decrease the cities requirement on taxes – annexing? Park District?
- Extension of the city to the south for commercial development
- Get more input to the local planning board
- Water plant needs to be renovated – major expense (is being studied right now)
- Sidewalks (is being looked at right now)
- Workforce housing - need positive images
- Plan for growth – encourage attendance at planning board meetings
- Institutionalize a process for meeting with county commissioners
- Productive town meeting process put in place – so more people are involved.
- Ditto
- Impact fees for schools
- Impact fees collected in general
- Need a serious study of the four lane impact
- City police – willing to go to school and build some relationships – educate parents and kids
- Community outreach program - Neighborhood Watch – or Call Plans – in place
- Keep downtown clean – get that dust and dirt and trash cleaned up

HAND WRITTEN COMMENTS – PROJECTS:

- Fair justice actions – person who is fined for no insurance and no license plate on the front of their car receives harsher sentencing than a youth after a third offense.
- Cut down on smoking at school – we could get a non-smoking ordinance.
- For teen bands, with adult supervision and cleaning deposit, the Chantilly Theatre could possibly be available on Saturday nights.
- The Foundation Theater/Community Center should definitely address the teens and what they need, i.e. – pool tables, bowling, stage for Battle of the Bands, skate park, etc.
- Park improvements
- Hotel improvement
- Community center up and going
- Library improvement
- A NEW motel/hotel in Stevensville to accommodate visitors, friends, relatives.
- More business
- More affordable housing

Community Input Session – Three Questions

Youth

Topic: Economic & Business Development

1. What are the major problems and challenges in our community?

- Finding something that pays well. Good jobs are scarce.
- Garbage, deterioration of buildings, speed limits are too high/too many traffic issues.
- I think we are challenged (or will be in the near future) to sustain small business and keep national chains out of Stevensville. Small businesses are struggling and, without our support, national chains will come in and our town will lose a big part of our community.
- The situation of chain businesses coming in and hurting the local businesses. The local businesses, such as restaurants and galleries struggle to get enough business also because people are drawn to Missoula to do their shopping.
- There seems to be a severe revenue deficit in the town. Through my suggestion below (a drag strip), the town of Stevensville could become a wealthy city.
- Many native or long-time Montanans are being forced, by situation, to sell property. This property is being developed for the increasing population growth. The beauty of our town and surrounding areas is being reduced and destroyed.
- We really need more jobs so people don't have to leave the Valley to work.

2. What are the major strengths and assets of our community?

- Small business.
- Historic, small, no fast food/chains.
- I love the small-town feel, I love that people can, and do, trust each other, that you can walk into a place and know so many friendly people.
- A lot of local businesses are developing in Stevi.
- Our being the first city in the state could be used to generate income. Our placement allows for growth in all directions, being in between two larger cities.
- Helping one another out.

3. What projects would you like to see accomplished in our community in the next two, five, ten and twenty years?

- More and better paying jobs, more diversified economy.
- Need recycling service.
- I think a downtown renovation project would help the businesses and make the town more attractive to tourists (where businesses can gain sales). Also, building codes for in and around Stevi would ensure our town would stay a beautiful community.
- I would like to see some basic rules set down for businesses in Stevi about landscaping, decorating, architecture and signs/advertisements. This would create a more appealing down town and draw tourists and locals to shop in Stevi. An example of a town that has done this is Cannon Beach, Oregon.

- I would love to see a modernization of all of Stevensville, except for Main Street, in the next two years. My idea for the town is to put in an N.H.R.A. certified dragstrip near town. Being N.H.R.A. certified could add Stevensville to the N.H.R.A. Circuit bringing in massive amounts of income through tourism and ticket sales at the track. It worked for Anaconda somewhat with their strip, but it is not N.H.R.A. certified.
- I think areas should be marked for possible development and other properties protected.

Community Input Session – Three Questions

Youth

Topic: Youth Services/Activities

1. What are the major problems and challenges in our community?

- There is nothing to do in Stevi for any of the children & we have to drive all the way to Missoula for things.
- There's not enough stuff for teens to do. There are too many drugs.
- I can't really think of any except that our community is getting bigger.
- Not enough things for teens to do so, therefore, they get into more trouble with the law and things like that.
- I think that the kids need more to do with their time. Stevi isn't very teen friendly with its parks.
- Probably the lack of activities to do because when kids don't have anything to do they turn to drugs and drinking.
- I think the major challenge in our community is the older half of Stevensville bonding with the younger half; there is a line between the two.
- There is nothing to do and so kids do drugs.
- Drugs. And our community is growing too fast and we need to stop that.
- Kids don't have anything to do after school so they try things they shouldn't.
- Too many people coming to live here; too many cowboys; and Stevi's too small for me.
- Not enough up-to-date stores; too many churches; not enough places for kids to hang out.
- In my opinion the major problem in our community is people not wanting change. Another problem is the amount of people that don't open themselves up for help/change.
- There isn't anything for us to do.
- Aside from the facilities at the Stevensville High School, there are no places where people can get together and get involved in athletic activities; i.e., YMCA.
- Drugs and lack of things to do; kids get restless and get into trouble.
- I believe that the major problems and challenges in our community is that our youth, those younger than us and our own group, have nothing to occupy our time.
- Many of the kids don't feel like there is anything to do, so they find themselves drinking, doing drugs, etc.
- There are no entertaining places for the kids to go in Stevi; i.e., movie theater, mini-golf, paintballing, skate park, bowling alley. So kids hang out in the IGA parking lot.

- Besides hiking and outdoor activities, there really is nothing to do as far as movies, bowling and social things like that. We need to get more involved in the community.
- The main problem I see is drugs and alcohol with the kids in the high school.
- There is nothing to do in town.
- We need more involvement with businesses and associations.
- Nothing at all for us teens to do.
- There is not enough for teens to do.
- There aren't a lot of teen activities to be involved in.
- The drug problems. Other kids are across the street from the school using drugs or smoking.
- There is nothing that you can do without getting in trouble. We need things to do; more businesses that attract young people.
- There is nothing for us to do or place to go to hang out. We get into trouble by police too much. We need more things to do and places to go.
- Not enough jobs.
- There is nothing to do.
- I have no idea; I am new here.
- For one, there is not a whole lot to do and that is the reason that teens are drinking so much. If we had a movie theater or bowling alley, there would not be that.
- There's nothing to really do around here so most of us just go to Missoula for fun.
- Nothing to do.
- Nothing to do.
- There is nothing to do. We need a McDonalds or Burger King.
- You need a McDonalds. There's nowhere for the teens to hang out.
- Cops have nothing to do so they harass teens more.

2. What are the major strengths and assets of our community?

- Helping one another out.
- People work together and are for the most part nice to each other.
- They seem to care and are always trying to keep things clean and safe.
- The community supports the school teams and the school.
- The love for Stevensville and the sports and Creamery Picnic and stuff.
- Our historic sites, the old Mission, fort Owen.
- That even though the age difference, in one way or another we are able to come together with or without a reason.
- Everyone's nice.
- We can all work together.
- The law enforcement needs to be larger and have more control.
- There are not too many people here.
- The strengths are the amount of new people we are getting and moving into the area.
- That we all pretty much know each other.

- There are many aesthetic aspects to our community and historic buildings that really makes Stevensville a beautiful place to live. Also, there are many outdoor activities that the community can get involved in.
- Subway (eat fresh), nice view, outdoor activities, the pool and lifeguards.
- The major strengths and assets are that, although not many things are offered, the things we do have make our community decent. We do have play areas for smaller children and thus provide a safe environment.
- The businesses in the community are good about hiring students to work. The community has been trying to show support for the students more and more lately.
- We live in a beautiful area & most citizens of the Bitterroot realize and respect that. Safe neighborhood.
- We are able to come together when needed. My father was killed in a car accident a little over a year ago. 1,500 people came to his funeral. 20 pick-up trucks moved us into our new home. The community has been outstanding.
- I think that the assets of our community are things like safety and the people are friendly. Plus, we have lots of recreational opportunities.
- We can do a lot of outdoor things and Super 1 is nice.
- There are many clubs associated with the school that do community service and try to make a difference.
- I really don't know.
- The school is a strength and the churches too.
- I like the first Fridays, it allows people to get together. You get to know everyone in town.
- The major asset would be the bars. That is it.
- None that I know about.
- Nothing.
- Nothing.
- Nothing. Most people are rude.
- Nothing. Everyone is selfish; they don't want to spend money.
- Nothing.
- The river.
- None.

3. What projects would you like to see accomplished in our community in the next two, five, ten and twenty years?

- I would like to see fun activities for us teens and younger children. Our public library needs to change.
- A dance club for teens.
- More things like First Friday or Parade of Lights maybe.
- A teen center.
- A skate park, a hang-out place with computers and internet for kids and teens to use.
- Maybe a bowling alley or a fun activity.
- A new pool.
- I would like to see a center built for kids that need a place to go to get away from the troubles they have at home.

- Maybe there would be more to do or they would build safe building for kids to hang out in.
- Two – less growth; Five – less growth; Ten – less growth; Twenty – less growth.
- The law enforcement could bust kids more often.
- Better streets, a movie theater, Taco Bell.
- A lot of change within the community and the people all working together.
- A movie theater, Bowling alley, something that kids can do.
- An athletic center like the YMCA and maybe a bowling place or a movie theater closer to the community. More places for recreation and other enjoyable activities.
- A fast food restaurant, preferably McDonalds or Wendy's, bowling is fun.
- Something more directed to the older children. This will lower the rates of teenage problems.
- I think if the students could become more involved in the community and if there was a place for kids to play b-ball or do something outside of school it would give them something to do.
- Perhaps public transportation to Missoula or to the Corvallis Theater every Saturday. Stevi has a bus that goes to Lost Trail in the winter; something like that. Come up with an activity for kids to do and provide a place/transportation to do it. Continue supporting the school and education.
- There should be a possibility of having more teen activities so that high school students don't have to drive 30 minutes to get to a fun activity.
- I would like to see some sort of skate park for the kids so they have something to do rather than getting in trouble.
- I would like to see fast food take a strong footing in our community, such as White Castle, or McDonalds or Burger King and a movie theater.
- A place for tens to recreate and stay out of trouble.
- Something for teens so hey stay off the streets.
- Something for teens to do.
- Have more activities for the youth and the town.
- More activity centers for youth, such as a bowling alley or movie theater.
- I want a skate park and more fast food places and maybe a park that doesn't look like crap. Have law enforcement be nicer instead of mean to skaters and racers.
- I would like to see more fast food and skate parks and movie theater to go to. We need more teenage things to do. And a paintball course.
- Skate park, McDonalds, 24 hour café, no curfew.
- Another bowling alley, miniature golf, a new town pool.
- A larger and better-equipped library.
- Movie theater, bowling alley.
- Movie theaters, better fast food restaurants, just more fun activities.
- Bowling, movie theater.
- Get a movie theater, bowling alley.
- Something for kids to do.
- Skate parks.
- None