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Downtown Development

August 12th in Antigo & August 13th in Rice Lake

Have you heard about Connect Communities? Wisconsin Main Street? Wondering if either program is right for your community? Join the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's (WEDC) Downtown Development staff to learn the how, what and why of downtown development. Topics include: why downtown revitalization is relevant; benefits, commitment and impact of the Main Street and Connect Communities programs; and details on the application process. WEDC invites elected officials, chamber and community development representatives and downtown business or property owners to attend and learn more about downtown revitalization resources and strategies. Both sessions are free and will begin at 3 p.m. Register by visiting: <http://bit.ly/downtownedu>

2015 Lake Superior Business & Technology Conference

August 14th in Ashland

The Wisconsin Innovation Network Lake Superior chapter is proud to host the 11th annual Lake Superior Business & Technology Conference August 14th in Ashland. . This event will provide insight on how to bring a product to market, and create and foster an environment of innovation. The conference brings together the best and brightest in business and technology that the region has to offer. For details see: <http://wisconsin technology council .com/events/win/?ID=2797>

2015 Regional Small Town Downtown Forums

September 8th in Mercer & September 9th in Hammond

Small towns have unique issues and needs that are often very different from those of larger communities. These forums are intended to bring together those serving and working in and with communities of populations fewer than 1500 to learn from each other through case studies, roundtables and discussion groups. Everyone who cares about the future of rural Wisconsin is invited to attend. These forums are about sharing ideas, learning and networking. [Click here](#) for more information.

For communities in the lower tier of the northern half of the state, forums will also be held in Elroy (August 25) and Green Lake (August 26).

Governor's Small Business Summit

September 9th in Eau Claire

Don't miss this opportunity to meet Wisconsin's leadership team involved in job creation! Get expert advice and share your ideas for growing jobs, the economy and your community. Learn more here: <http://www.wheda.com/SmallBizSummit/>

Governor's Northern Economic Development Summit

December 1st & 2nd

This annual summit addresses the unique challenges and opportunities of Northern Wisconsin's economy. The location of this year's event is to be determined; more information will be posted at www.northwoodssummit.com as it becomes available.

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Customer-Friendly Technology News from the Wisconsin DOT

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has a new website designed to make it easier for its many customers to find information and conduct business online. Wisconsin.gov has been reorganized and streamlined to make site visits pleasant and more productive. Many people coming to the WisDOT Internet site want to do business with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Customers can now connect to DMV three ways right from the home page. This includes access through the Online Services and DMV tabs on the main navigation bar or by simply clicking on the DMV logo. For WisDOT's many business and government partners, the site consolidates content to create some one-stop-shop pages for doing business with the department.



Just in time for Summer travel, the WisDOT launched a new smart phone application to help provide travelers with information on traffic incidents; delays/backups; closures/detours; work zones and weather-related road conditions. The free 511 Wisconsin app is available for both Apple and Android devices.

Attention Municipalities – Funds for Planting Trees

If your city, village, town, county or tribe is looking for tree planting funds, American Transmission Company's (ATC) *Grow Smart Tree Planting Program* may be helpful! Communities in 30 of 40 counties in the northern half of the state are eligible; [check the map](#) to learn if this program is an option for you. Awards range from \$100 to \$5,000. Applications will be accepted through September 30, 2015. This [link](#) will take you to the specific ATC webpage for details.

\$8 Million Available in Wisconsin Fast Forward Grants

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) announced \$8 million in customized worker training grants in nine occupational areas as part of Round 4 of Governor Walker's Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) initiative. Deadlines for the nine occupational areas range from July to October 2015. For further information on Round 4 deadlines and assistance, visit: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wff/announcements.htm>

Calling All Nature-Loving Photographers!

You have until August 31, 2015 to enter your favorite photographs from a Wisconsin state park, forest, trail or recreation areas in a contest. Winning photos will be included in the 2016 Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Calendar. In addition to being available for purchase, the calendar will be distributed to more than 90,000

subscribers of *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine in the December 2015 issue. All the details are available from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks.

Broadband Update

Broadband Policies & Regulations Guide, an updated and expanded guide for Wisconsin stakeholders navigating the complex legal and regulatory environments surrounding location broadband access and adoption, has been published by the UW-Extension Broadband & E-Commerce Education Center.

Each community faces its own challenges and brings unique strengths to community broadband-building efforts. By popular demand, it has greatly expanded the selection of examples from Wisconsin and other states across the U.S. These examples highlight policies and practices in places that have addressed broadband locally, such as:

- Local government broadband resolutions
- Tower agreements between municipalities and private internet service providers
- Successful applications for state and federal grant funds
- Surveys measuring broadband demand among local businesses and households
- . . . and many more

Find the document online or download the complete PDF from <http://broadband.uwex.edu/resources/policy/>.

About the Northern Office

The Northern Office serves as a connection point between communities in Northern Wisconsin and the resources of state government. If you are looking for information, have a suggestion, or need assistance with problem resolution with a state agency, please contact me. I travel throughout the 40 county region north of U.S. Highway 10 and can be available, with 3 to 4 weeks notice, to attend your meetings and events. Keep in touch!