



# DISCOVER ANACONDA 2023

## MISSION

*Discover Anaconda works toward  
a stable and  
vibrant economy in Anaconda  
Deer Lodge  
County by fostering community,  
tourism, and  
economic development.*

## THE TEAM

2023 saw significant changes in staffing. While it is always difficult to say goodbye to those who have contributed so much to the organization, we look forward with enthusiasm to the future.



Left to right: Ruth Moen, Office & Building Manager; Kathleen Tarkalson, Executive Director; Sara Brown, Tourism Assistant; Mary Johnston, Tourism Director.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM AND GOLD SUPPORTERS:



# LOAN PORTFOLIO

We continue to use our loan portfolio to provide financial assistance to businesses to establish or expand production and retain employees.

In 2023 our portfolio had \$963,000 of active investment in our local community.

## OLD WORKS ESTATES

Old Works Estates subdivision is complete and 33 of the 34 lots are sold or under contract. Construction has begun on one house and we're excited to see increased building activity next construction season. This project brings much needed housing to Anaconda.



## EVENTS

We hosted a variety of events throughout the year to celebrate our amazing community and bring out-of-town visitors, along with their dollars, to Anaconda.



## MAIN STREET

Discover Anaconda is committed to supporting beautification of the community by being the designated Main Street organization. Anaconda is one of only 5 certified communities in Montana, which is an honor to be proud of. We deployed a community survey and will use the results to develop a strategy for the next several years.

We would like to thank our new Main Street Program team:

- Carl Hamming, ADLC Planning Dept.
- Gayla Hess, ADLC Planning Dept.
- Lydia Janosko, Anaconda Community Foundation
- Alexis Krueger, Anaconda Community Market
- Dina Fike, Anaconda Community Market

# VISITOR ECONOMY

Montana, and Anaconda, continue to be popular vacation destinations. Discover Anaconda spends marketing dollars on event advertising as well as general tourism advertising. Our new designation as a Convention and Visitors Bureau will provide additional state monies to help with these efforts.

We had a 22% increase in historic bus tour riders in 2023 and saw 1,342 visitors come through the Visitor Center between January and September. Of that number, 58% were from outside of Montana but within the US and 6.5% were international travelers.



# TIF DISTRICT

Discover Anaconda acts as administrator for the Urban Renewal Agency board, whose role is to steward increment tax funds to remove blight, increase tax base, and maintain historical character in Downtown Anaconda.

In 2023, the URA leveraged over \$282,000 through the TIF grant program to support the completion of building and infrastructure improvement projects downtown worth over half a million dollars.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We want to offer a heartfelt thank you to outgoing board member Kaitlin Leary. We appreciate your support over the years.

**Directors Emeritus:** Milo Manning, Al Messer, John Pellegrini, Jim Yeoman, Jim Davison, Barb Andreozzi

**Ex-Officio Member:** Carrie Wolfe

**Directors:** Bekah Esquibel, Steve Hill, Debbie Johns, Jeanne Krumm, Sammi Lorello, Julie Shelton, Bandi Sparks, Shawn Strickland, Stefanie Thompson, Donna Volberding

## Officers

President: Mike Hale

Vice President:

Secretary/ Treasurer: Abby Kovacich

Executive Member at Large: Kim Jones

# PARTNERS

Discover Anaconda's staff and members advocate and represent the community's best interest by partnering with numerous organizations, including:

- Anaconda Deer Lodge County
- Anaconda Community Foundation
- Anaconda Restoration Association
- Anaconda Trails Society
- Department of Natural Resource Conservation
- Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Headwaters RCD
- Main Street Montana
- MEDA
- Montana Department of Commerce
- Montana Department of Labor
- Montana Department of Tourism
- USDA Rural Development