



Small Cities Development Program gives boost to Pine River

PINE RIVER - Project activity continues with the Pine River Small Cities Development Program, the Cass County Economic Development Corp. reported.

The \$399,600 grant provides funding opportunities for rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes and commercial buildings in the city of Pine River.

The city of Pine River recognized the potential benefits of this program for the community, resulting in a partnership between the city and the Cass County Economic Development Corporation. The Cass County EDC has provided assistance for this specialized economic development project, aiding in the application process and grant administration.

Projects are funded in part by a grant and also the owner. Rehabilitation typically addresses health and safety or energy efficiency issues. Homeowners Brent and Sarah Norman can testify to the value this grant has had in making necessary improvements to their home. Their three and a half month rehab project included replacing siding, windows, insulation and doors, an entryway addition and lead paint removal.

Sarah notes that "We are very grateful," Sarah Norman said in a news release. "We feel very blessed to have been a part of this."

On the commercial side business owner John Wetrosky, of Wireless Woods & JJ's Trading Post, also utilized the program to replace inefficient windows and furnaces and as well as a new facade and air conditioning.

Wetrosky said: "Without this assistance we would not have been able to improve the energy efficiency or the appearance of our building in the time span that we were able to accomplish this work." Improvements can also be seen on the Pine River Library Building as they are undergoing a much needed \$73,000 roofing project as a result from the grant.

Grant funds are still available. To obtain an application contact the Cass County EDC at (218) 947-7522 or Jason at Central Minnesota Housing Partnership, Inc. at (320) 259-0393.

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