



Business

Progress in Pine River under the Small Cities Development Program

[Print Page](#)

Published: Wednesday, August 5, 2009 3:16 PM CDT

Project activity continues with the Pine River Small Cities Development Program.

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

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 (EDC). The 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 3.5-month rehab project included replacing siding, windows, insulation and doors, an entryway addition and lead paint removal.

"We are very grateful! We feel very blessed to have been a part of this," □ Sarah said.

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

"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. Outstanding program," □ Wetrosky stated.

Improvements can also be seen on the Pine River Library building, which is undergoing a much-needed \$73,000 roofing project as a result of 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.

Copyright © 2009 - The Pilot Independent

[\[x\] Close Window](#)