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Cass County EDC highlights entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs are important to the economy of small towns.

Most businesses, whether large or small, began as self-employed entities or entrepreneurs, said Gail Levenson, executive director of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation. As of 2011, there were 2,640 small businesses in Cass County.

"More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business and they create two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. every year," the Small Business Administration reports.

Levenson said National Small Business Week, May 12-16, is an opportunity to say thank you to the small businesses that have chosen to locate in Cass County.

"Supporting local entrepreneurialism is an important part of an economic development strategy," Levenson said. "Local entrepreneurs have already chosen to locate here, they like it here and will stay in our communities. Their home office is here and spend their profits locally to produce revenue for other small businesses."

Entrepreneurs risk time and their own money on developing an idea into a profit-making business, Levenson stated.

She said small businesses apply for the most patents.

"Like parenting, growing a small business takes a tremendous amount of encouragement from others," Levenson stated.

For a list of businesses the Cass County EDC has worked with go online to <http://www.casscountyedc.com/success-stories.shtml>.

Cass County Economic Development Corporation is a local nonprofit corporation with the mission to help attract and retain jobs.