

Coming Attractions

March, 2012



News from the Cass County Economic Development Corporation

Welcome New Members!
Ultra Machining Company (UMC)

Thank You Blandin Foundation for increasing your membership to a Gold Sponsor!

Introducing the Cheatah....

The Cheatah is an innovative tool designed to simplify, increase speed and ensure accuracy during door installation. Travis & Jennifer Kelley, owners of JenTra Tools developed this tool in December of 2010. The Cass County EDC assisted in start-up, business planning and financing options. The total project cost was \$105,000. The Cheatah will be available at your local lumber yards and can be used for residential and commercial installing. This product will retail for \$39.99 and will come with a lifetime warranty. JenTra Tools is currently in business and is having another manufacture make the mold. Check their website out at www.jentratools.com.



New Machinery for JT Industries



Jason Trout of JT Industries contacted the Cass County EDC in November 2011 to expand his business. Jason wanted purchased a new CNC Lathe Machine and the Optical Comparator Inspection Machine for his business. The EDC assisted Jason in business

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counseling and financing options. The new \$15,000 project was funded by the Cass County EDC Revolving Loan Fund and owner equity. The EDC assisted with the start up of this company in January, 2011. JT Industries is a high precision machine shop that makes parts for the auto and medical industry and for airplanes. JT Industries currently employs 2 and with the addition of these new machines, Jason estimates on adding on 1 full-time and 1 part-time employee.

Trucks & Trailers at Trussworthy Components



Craig Anderson of Trussworthy Components recently consulted with the Cass County EDC to expand his business to include delivery. He needed to purchase 2 trucks and 3 trailers for his wholesale custom built truss manufacturing business in Pine River. The total expansion project cost was \$36,000. The Cass County EDC assisted Craig with business counseling and financing options. In 2006, the EDC also assisted with the startup of Trussworthy Components. For more information on Trussworthy Components, please visit www.trussworthycomponents.com. Craig currently employs 24 and plans on adding 1 full time and 1 part time with the addition of these new trucks and trailers.

"Cass County EDC Paved the Way!"
Craig Anderson, Owner

Ground Breaking at the NEW Pine River Laundromat

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Pine River Laundromat was held on March 29th, 2012 in Pine River. The laundromat will be open for business in June of 2012.



Grants for Home Rehabilitation in the cities of Hackensack & Walker

Looking for money for a new roof, windows, furnace or other essential rehab on your home? Do you own your home? Do you live in your home? Is your home located within Hackensack or Walker

City limits? If you answered YES to all of the above questions, please contact Danette Hemp at BI-CAP at 218-751-4631 or email her at: danette.hemp@bicap.com. Cass County EDC is the administrator of this small cities grant project.

Realtor Perk - LOCATION ONE!!

www.locationone.com/propertysearch/buildings

We completed our new website which includes the LOCATION ONE site and building package. If you are an EDC member, we have listed your industrial and commercial sites on our website. The more places we have sites located, the better they will be found. This is an additional EDC membership benefit for realtors. Check it out!

A Note from the Executive Director

What's Up in Economic Development?

Economic Development activity has certainly increased since the first of the year! It is encouraging to see interest on larger projects. A number of projects are partnerships, which is a good thing. People are working together and confirms my faith that the economy adjusts itself to new or changing economic conditions.

I am proud of the completions in this newsletter - local residents with innovative business ideas! Check out our stories on JenTra Tools, JT Industries and Trussworthy Components. I especially like working with local residents on business projects, as they stay in place and hire other local residents.

Early in January we completed meetings with Cass County officials on studying area business subsidy policies. We were pleased county policy will allow us to use incentives when working with any local unit of government - townships or cities. Our goal is to help the business get the best location possible and suggest incentive options when needed.

Looking forward, we have a membership meeting planned for Thursday, April 26th. Cass County "State of the Cities" will be held at the Riverside Assisted Living in Pillager from 4-6PM. We want to hear what is on the minds of city government officials. What takes up your council meeting time? Regular EDC membership meetings help us stay connected with stakeholders and say thanks for being a

member.

As the economy recovers, please remind your business colleagues that Cass County is a great business location. Invite them for a visit.

Trussworthy Components: Why I Became a Member

Craig Anderson, the owner of Trussworthy Components in Pine River has been a member of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation since 2008. "I have personally benefited from the Cass County EDC and feel like it is a good organization to those wanting to start their own business. Being a member and supporting the Cass County EDC is my way of giving back to the community and supporting the local economy in these challenging times." **Craig Anderson, Trussworthy Components.**

Cass County Economic Development Corporation is a satellite site for the North Central Regional Small Business Development Center.

Invite a Friend to Become a Member Today!

- Gold Sponsor \$5,000 and over per year
- Sponsor \$2,500 and over per year
 - VIP Partner \$1,500 per year
 - Key Partner \$1,000 per year
 - Partner \$500 per year
- Business Member \$250 per year
- Individual Member \$100 per year

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For more information, please contact the Cass County EDC at (218)947-7522.

A Community Non-Profit Corporation

"To improve the business environment of Cass County by encouraging a strong, diverse and sustainable economy and to build better relationships between business, government agencies and local communities."

The Cass County EDC is a Equal Opportunity Employer/Provider

