

COMING ATTRACTIONS

NEWS FROM THE CASS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

~~ Business Highlights ~~

The EDC—Making Dreams Come True

Have you ever thought about starting your own business but don't know where to begin? Well the Cass County EDC is there for you. The EDC assists an average of 20 clients per month, many of which have a dream of starting their own business but don't know how to get it done. The EDC offers assistance in a variety of areas such as business planning, site selection and loan packaging. The EDC helps make dreams come true. Here are two recent examples:

Double A Automotive

This new Pine River area business was recently opened by Terry Aleckson. The business has one employee and a capital investment of \$160,000. When asked about the assistance received from the Cass County EDC, Mr. Aleckson reported that "Gail [Leverson] was very informative and easy to work with."



Heritage Custom Framing

Joel Mench was able to purchase an existing custom framing shop in Walker with assistance from the EDC. Some of the help provided by the EDC included development of different loan structures and completing a cash flow analysis. The Heritage Framing Shop will employ one person.

Did I say that...

"Everything that can be invented has been invented."

-- Charles Duell, Commissioner of US Patent Office, 1899 --
(When he suggested the patent office be closed since it wasn't needed)

County-wide economic development services ...

- ⇒ Creates Sharing of services between cities and townships
- ⇒ Creates a Partnership between local municipalities and county
- ⇒ Maintains a Progressive county reputation



Business Basics Class Scheduled

Thursday, May 11th, 2006.

Walker City Offices

6:00 to 9:00 PM

Session is being sponsored jointly by

the City of Walker and the Cass County EDC

Call 218-587-8287 to register.



The ripple effect...

Have you ever dropped a stone in the water and watched how the ripples keep moving out further and further? The community is like the water and making an investment in a business or industry within the community is like casting a stone in the water. Benefits will be created far exceeding the initial investment.

An economic impact study by James A. Skurla, Acting Director for the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, shows that a \$30 million direct investment into the construction of a hospital will generate additional community investment of \$5.75 million. In addition to the 500 jobs created at the hospital, there will be 79 more jobs created throughout the community as other local companies expand or are newly created to service the new business and its 500 employee's that will be spending their income in the community.

Throw a stone of any size and it will create ripples. Just as a new investment of any size into the community will have indirect benefits far exceeding the investment.

Legislative Update

The senate passed their bonding bill last week. In it is \$10 million for redevelopment grants and \$10 million for greater MN industrial park infrastructure grants. I expect the house to pass it soon. The infrastructure grant needs a new manufacturing business already committed to the location before we can apply. If you have any questions about these programs, give us a call at the Cass County EDC office, 218-587-8287.



The JOBZ program is also subject to updates this year again. Our professional groups are lobbying that they drop the Prevailing Wage requirements or change the way they are determined, to make it easier on our rural businesses.



Introduced recently is H.F. 632 – Catch Up Program, or CUP. This legislation will give tax credits to new businesses in 62 counties of Minnesota, Cass County included. It is being introduced by Rep Erdahl. Discussions with our local legislators indicate this may take a year to pass, but it would be an asset to rural communities.

We will watch these items as the session continues...

Mission

We strive 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.

Planning

In January 2006, the EDC began its planning process by conducting an online survey. On February 6th, the board met and began the Strategic Planning Process. During the process of strategic planning, the EDC developed its goals for 2006.

Goals!

Goals for 2006 EDC activities include:

1. Sponsor 4 educational events.
2. Increase communication with our cities.
3. Organize at least 3 community loan pools.
4. Complete at least 4 business development projects.
5. Disseminate quarterly newsletter via e-mail to full membership.
6. Improve our website.
7. Increase our private memberships to at least \$40,000.
8. Recruit 20 new EDC members in 2006.

Board Members

BOARD MEMBERS

John Grimley
Lynn Hunt, Vice President
Howard Prushek
Dave Schornack
Cy Struss, President
Jim Tuller
Lee Wangstad, Secretary
John Weins
Vicki White
Terry Freeman
Heather Schmitt, Treasurer

EX OFFICIO'S

Bob Kangas
Jim Dowson
Bob Yochum

ADVISORY BOARD

Dave Johnson
John Wetrosky

Membership has it's rewards!

As a member of the Cass County Economic Development Corporation, your reward is the feeling of satisfaction you will have in knowing that you play a vital role in the economic health of the community. As a member, you help shape the future of Cass County. We are very happy to see how the membership is growing. Since January, we have welcomed two new members, **Northland Press**, and **Carlson Accounting**. In addition we would like to congratulate **Sylvan Township** on expanding their membership to become a **Key Partner**.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a great year working with you to shape our future.



PO Box 709
Pine River, MN 56474
218-587-8287