

COMING ATTRACTIONS

NEWS FROM THE CASS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Success for Cass County!!

The legislature recently approved licensures for a 25 bed Critical Access Hospital and an 80 bed long term care nursing facility. The hospital location will be determined by the provider and must be within a 20 mile radius of the Ah-Gwah-Ching (AGC) facility near Walker. This was completed after two years of work, starting with the Master Planning Process in 2004, when a healthcare facility was identified as the best reuse of AGC.



Recognition should go to Bob Yochum, Cass County Administrator and Commissioner Jim Dowson who formed the Healthcare Task Force, with John Warren serving as the co-chair. The EDC assisted by coordinating the Master Planning effort and serving on the healthcare task force since the beginning. This exciting project will bring high quality jobs and increased access to healthcare for residents!



Scamp Manufacturing, Backus MN

June '06

Way to Go!

The Cass County EDC would like to congratulate three businesses that have achieved major milestones with their business since our last newsletter.

Scamp - Construction is underway at Scamp in Backus (pictured above). The EDC worked with the City of Backus to obtain a grant through the Minnesota Investment Fund. The funds will be loaned to Evelands, Inc. to purchase equipment for the new Scamp facility. Financing was provided by the First National Bank of Walker in Backus.

Scamp President Kent Eveland reports that the estimated total project cost is

\$1,829,668. The projected number of employees after construction is complete will be 47.



The Lucky Moose Bar & Grill

Dawn and Judy Anderson are opening a new restaurant on Hwy 371 in Walker. They will have a total of 20 employees (5 full-time and 15 part-time).

The business represents a \$1 million investment in the community. The EDC provided assistance in estimating cash flows and in loan packaging, securing economic development funds to make the project possible. Financing was through the 1st National Bank of Walker and the Small Business Administration.

JOBZ Update



The minimum wage floor for new JOBZ businesses is \$10.58 per hour starting July 1, 2006. This is 110% of the federally mandated minimum wage rate.

The wage floor includes wages and non state mandated benefits, such as vacation and holiday wages.

So far, five Cass County businesses are designated JOBZ. They have created 111 new jobs and \$7,313,000 of new capital investment.

Wow!

There are 463,000 small businesses in Minnesota.
96.4 % of these have fewer than 20 employees.

Without Business Counseling

65-85% of small businesses fail
within the first 5 years

Effective Planning is the 1st step to success!

80% of the Small Business Development Center's
business clients are still in business after 5 years

Congratulations!

To Sheryl Engler. She has opened the Triple-B convenience store in Hackensack., with 2 full-time and 6 part-time employees. Sheryl stated that the EDC was "helpful in figuring out the projected income and losses for the business". Financing was provided by the First National Bank of Walker.



**To our newest
EDC Business Member,
Walden Township, clerk Sherri
Sundlie.**



EDC Members

Plans are underway for our 3rd Annual Meeting. It is to be held on November 2nd with Dr. Jim Benson as keynote speaker. More details will follow...

At that meeting, we will be electing board members for 2007 and we will have three members retiring. We are looking for new candidates and the requirements include:

A paid membership to the Cass County EDC

Commitment to a 3-year term

Attendance at 10 out of 12 monthly board meetings

It is desired that board members represent all areas of the county and should have experience in business. Please call an EDC officer or contact the Cass County EDC at 218-587-8287 to express an interest in serving as a board member in 2007 and obtain a nomination form..

Board Members

BOARD MEMBERS

- John Grimley 218-547-3018
- Howard Prushek 218-566-1640
- Dave Schornack 218-346-8170
- Cy Struss, President
218-947-3111
- Jim Tuller 218-675-6176
- Lee Wangstad, Secretary
218-829-0383
- John Weins 218-363-2099
- Vicki White 218-335-8200
- Terry Freeman 218-547-1296
- Heather Schmitt, V.P./Treas.
218-746-3355

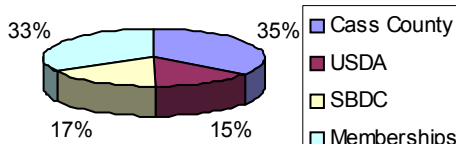
EX OFFICIO'S

- Bob Kangas 218-587-4453
- Jim Dowson 218-547-1894
- Bob Yochum 218-547-7419

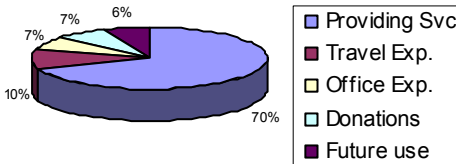
ADVISORY BOARD

- Dave Johnson 218-829-1768
- John Wetrosky 218-587-4000

2006 Revenue



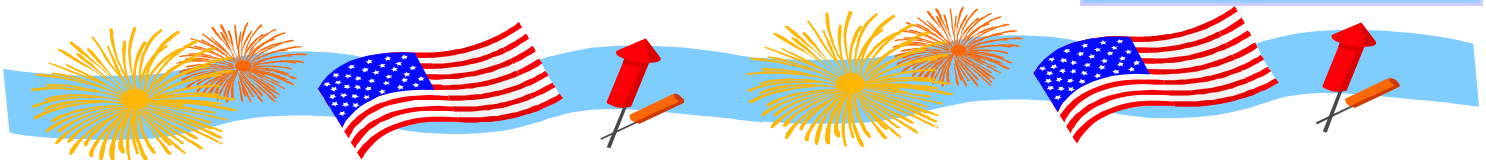
2006 Expenses



Fiscal Responsibility....The EDC 2006 budget is \$103,650. Of that, 35% is county support. In 2005, 40% of our budget was county support and 48% of our 2004 budget was county support. Our membership provided 33% of our 2006 budget. The remainder is from USDA and SBDC fees.

We plan to expend 70% of our budget in providing services, 10% on travel expense, with the remainder going to supplies, donations and miscellaneous.

So far this year, we have had 195 requests for assistance; 7 businesses completed their project plans using EDC assistance, creating \$3,580,947 in new capital investment in Cass County, and supplying 38.5 jobs. **Wow!**



The Cass County EDC is an Equal Opportunity Provider



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