

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

**NEWS FROM THE CASS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**



### *Gearing Up for the Annual Meeting*

We are really excited about the upcoming EDC Annual Meeting to be held November 2nd at the Northern Lights Casino. This year our keynote speaker will be **Dr. James Benson**. Many of you may already know Dr. Benson, President Emeritus of Bemidji State University. His keynote address, entitled "*The Re-Invention of Rural Minnesota: Discovering a Quality of Place, Pursuing Prosperity, Claiming Your Destiny*," promises to be a very enthusiastic observation of our rural Minnesota economy.

In addition to our keynote speaker, we will also hear presentations from business owners who have used the services of the EDC. Included will be **Craig Anderson** of *Trussworthy Components, Inc.* in Pine River, **Dawn Anderson** of the *Lucky Moose Bar & Grill* in Walker, and **Denny Wickham** of the *Bear Pause Theatre* in Hackensack.

The evening will include a scrumptious two-meat buffet with all the trimmings, cash bar and annual EDC board of director elections. Cost for the dinner and keynote is \$20 per person. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited.

We hope you are planning to attend this year's meeting. You'll be glad you came, and so will we!

### **Chase on the Lake Hotel , Spa and Resort**

This redevelopment of this historic property will begin soon, according to Steven C. Olson, owner. Ground breaking is scheduled for October with Nor-Son, Inc. as contractor.

Construction on the 79 room hotel and 61 unit condominium development will be complete by December, 2007. The new complex will include a pool, restaurant, 2,763 sq. ft. meeting room, fitness center, day spa and beauty salon. The project will create 70 FTE jobs and cost about \$28 million.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development is providing \$673,700 to the city of Walker for redevelopment of the adjacent city parking lot. The EDC coordinated the grant with DEED, the city of Walker and Mr. Olson.

**Super News for Walker!**

### **Coming soon.....**

**CavCom, Inc. is a Walker MN business** that sells and distributes communications and hearing protection devices. Some major customers include Nestle, Kraft, International Paper and others.

The company has a patent on a unique microphone-less communications device. They will be moving into a new 4,900 square foot building in the Walker Industrial Park in January of 2007.

Their products are currently manufactured by vendors in four other states. All component manufacturing will be moved from those vendors to MN Companies by the end of 2006. The move will allow them to manufacture their products and develop new lines.

CavCom, Inc. will expand their workforce to ten full time workers by Jan. of 2008. Wages average \$12.00 to \$30.00 per hour for the high tech jobs. The EDC has worked with them for about six months. **Congratulations on this exciting move!**

— "We want to express our appreciation to the Cass County EDC for their enthusiasm, counseling and extraordinary efforts in developing our business plan at CavCom, Inc." **Barb and Jeff Morrill.** —



Thank you new EDC members!

- ⇒ **Wilson Township**
- ⇒ **John Warren**
- ⇒ **Greentree Graphics**
- ⇒ **Western Bank of Cass Lake**
- ⇒ **Pat Finn**
- ⇒ **Janell & Wayne Hasty**
- ⇒ **Schrupp Excavating, LLC**
- ⇒ **Spitzak Builders, Inc.**
- ⇒ **NCLA, Inc.**
- ⇒ **Leer Title Services**

# WORKING TOGETHER...

A revolving loan pool has recently been created for businesses in the greater Longville area. Partners — Arvig Communication Systems, Woodland

Bank and First National Bank of

Walker — have each committed \$25,000 for the pool. The Cass County EDC coordinated the project.

This cooperative effort will offer subordinate debt for start ups, expansions and business enhancing projects. It is hoped that the pool will create new jobs and stimulate capital investment in the greater Longville community.

Businesses wishing to apply for these loans need a complete business plan and primary financing committed by a commercial lender. The EDC will assist businesses with the requirements.

The participant contract has been signed in Longville and a similar project is in process for the Walker area. Watch for details soon. Coordination for both projects is partially funded by the Initiative Foundation.

**“A community loan pool is a way for local organizations to share some risk in business development.”**

Dave Schornack, ACS

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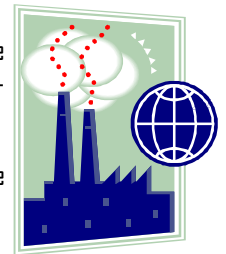
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## Building our Industry Clusters

Many regions have adopted an industry cluster method of business development. Industry clusters are small groups of like industries with supply chain relationships. Businesses find this efficient — minimizing transportation costs while bringing outside service providers in closer proximity.

We are developing this concept in Cass County and USDA has approved a \$44,730 grant to assist us. During 2006 to 2007, we will be meeting with manufacturers to determine like businesses that will enhance their efficiency for future recruitment.



The State Demographic Office indicates that Cass County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. The population is projected to increase 48.9% by the year 2030 — from 30,400 to 45,280. **Wow, that's a lot of peo-**

### Small Business Development Center

Our satellite SBDC office has provided 321.5 hours of counseling to 40 different Cass County businesses so far in 2006.



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November 2nd, 2006  
EDC Annual Meeting  
See You There!