

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

NEWS FROM THE CASS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## Construction begins on the "Shante" in Pillager

The concrete is poured and construction is underway on the "Shante" in Pillager. Anna Hunstad and Suzy Tholen have partnered up on the project that will provide shopping and a coffee shop to Pillager. "I always wanted to do something in retail and I enjoy the coffee atmosphere," Anna said. The "Shante" will offer coffee, some home décor and apparel for sale. Both Anna and Suzy appreciated the help of the Cass County EDC on the project. "They had a spreadsheet that helped us brainstorm different avenues, like lunch, tanning and coffee," Anna said.

One of the pair's main focuses was working with the community. "We want to work with the school and other businesses on projects that will benefit the area." Both felt that the Cass County EDC was very helpful, prompt and efficient with answers regarding their business plan. The "Shante" plans to open in the spring and is located on the north side of Highway 210 in Pillager. The \$300,000 project will employ four people.



## EDC will have new home

The Cass County EDC will have a new home in Backus in February.

The members signed a lease with the Cass County Commissioners and will move into the Cass County Land Department building. The EDC will have new phone numbers, address and e-mail. The five year lease is at no cost to the Cass County EDC courtesy of the county.

The organization will have a more professional business counseling area to work in. In addition there is a conference room that will seat 100 people. The building is on highway 87 just west of State Highway 371 in Backus.



## Anchorage Inn plans renovation project for spring

*Coming soon.....*

Jeff Knuf and Larry Gavin own and operate the Anchorage Inn in Longville. The inn is located at the crossing point of three major snowmobile trails east of Longville.

In March and April the business will undergo a renovation/remodel project essentially gutting the old half of the building and expanding the footprint ever so slightly.

"There will be vaulted ceilings, smoke free dining and brick pizza ovens," said Jeff. "The bar seating will go from 12 to 53." Both Knuf and Gavin are pleased with the



assistance that they received from the Cass County EDC. "The biggest help from the EDC was helping us put together the SBA package and key assistance along the way," Jeff said. The inn will be adding five more employees once the project is complete in May.

# WELCOME

*Thank you new EDC members!*

- ⇒ Eveland's Inc.
- ⇒ Universal Templates
- ⇒ Barclay Township
- ⇒ American National Bank, Minn.
- ⇒ Universal Templates
- ⇒ Michael Doro
- ⇒ James Carlson
- ⇒ Cuyuna Regional Medical Center



## Walker Area RLF available

In a cooperative effort ACS, First National Bank of Walker, American National Bank, Centennial Bank and the City of Walker have made funds available to help promote business growth in the Walker area. Each have committed \$25,000 to the fund which will serve as gap funding for expansion and new businesses. If you need more information contact the Cass County EDC.



### EDC BOARD MEMBERS

Cy Struss, President  
Terry Freeman, Vice President  
Lee Wangstad, Secretary  
Heather Schmitt, Treasurer  
Howard Prushek  
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## Lucky Moose

The Lucky Moose Bar and Grill is moving quickly to open its doors for customers, said Dawn Anderson, Walker. The establishment will employ 20 people!!



## Mid Central Spray Foam

Luke Whippler is busy building a new facility to house his Mid Central Spray Foam business. The new 60 x75 foot building will be in Pine River. "The Cass County EDC helped me get all of my financial information together," Luke said. "That included what the banker and the EDC needed." Mid Central Spray Foam sells to residential and commercial customers.

The concrete is poured for the new building and Luke hopes to add two employees by the end of 2007.

### *Did You Know...*

According to DEED a family of four living in Greater Minnesota needs to earn \$44,414 to meet their basic needs. In the Metro Area parents of that same family would need to earn \$54,273.

### **EDC to conduct strategic planning**

The Cass County EDC will be conducting strategic planning in January 2007. Look for an online survey so that your information can be added. After the data is collected the EDC board will meet on Feb. 5 to review the results and renew goals for 2007. The data will help the EDC better serve their members in Cass County.



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