

COMING ATTRACTIONS

NEWS FROM THE CASS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board Members

- Cy Struss
- Terry Freeman
- Lee Wangstad
- Heather Schmitt
- Duane Swanson
- Jay Cline
- Howard Prushek
- Dave Schornack
- Jim Tuller
- Vicki White
- Kent Eveland
- Dave Cribb
- Julie Hofius

Ex Officio's

- Jeff Peterson
- Bob Kangas
- Bob Yochum

Advisory Board

- Dave Johnson
- John Wetrosky
- John Grimley
- John Weins

Staff

- Gail Levenson
- Rachel Krumwiede



Welcome

To our newest EDC Members

Bremer Bank

Steve & Terry Johnson

Thank You for your support!

Trails RV Park

Construction is underway on a recreational vehicle park in Walker. Dave Kaufman, owner of Trails RV Park plans to open spring of 2008. The park will include 90 full hookup sites, operating from May-October. The park is on the Paul Bunyan Trail and is located 4 miles north of Walker at the Highway 371/200 junction next to the Ranch House Supper Club. A few of the park amenities include a lodge, swimming pool and playground with nearby lake access.

The project is estimated to cost \$700,000, employing 3 people. The EDC provided counseling and loan coordination over the course of a year and a half. The project was financed by First National Bank of Walker as

the lead bank, MN Business Finance Corp., NCEA and the Walker Area Loan Pool (American National Bank of MN, ACS, Bank Forward, City of Walker and First National Bank of Walker).



Dave Kaufman of Trails RV Park

“The Best! The EDC has been excellent in helping me put my business plan together. Very knowledgeable. Thank you Gail”

St. Joseph's Medical Center to Expand in Hackensack



We look forward to seeing an increase in medical care for the central Cass County area, as SJMC has committed to opening a clinic in Hackensack. “Community leaders of Hackensack are committed to obtaining the necessary capital and buildings necessary to establish a clinic in their community”, said Jani Wiebolt, President of St. Joseph's. “We applaud these efforts and are committed to assisting the Hackensack community by providing our operational expertise and medical personnel so the community's healthcare vision is achieved.”

The clinic will be located at the Hackensack Sr. Class building and will be open to the public five days per week. Construction on the clinic is well underway in cooperation with the SJMC facilities director and property developer, Jim Johnson. The anticipated opening will be in the fall of 2008, and is dependent on the successful recruitment of a physician.

The Cass County EDC led the recruitment effort of the medical provider and provided start up assistance for the Pines Area Medical Development Association. This local group will help support the clinic.

Sweet's Café

Congratulations to Scott Ciha for opening Sweets Café in Hackensack. They are open daily with a delicious menu that includes homemade soups and breads, burgers, salads, sandwiches, hand-tossed pizza and 1/2 pound cinnamon and caramel rolls .

This business utilized counseling from the Cass County EDC for over a year and will provide three new jobs with a \$75,000 capital investment in the community.



Sweets Café in Hackensack

“The EDC was very informative... always giving lots of encouragement” Scott Ciha

Birch Lake Cabin Wear

A new clothing store has opened in Hackensack. Denny Ganz, owner of Birch Lake Cabin Wear on Highway 371 sells a variety of shirts, sweatshirts, hats, jackets, and fleece wear. We are pleased to announce that this business will provide 3 new jobs for the Hackensack area. Denny stated that the EDC was “very helpful and complete” in putting together a cash flow projection and business plan.



PO Box 142
 Backus, MN 56435
 218-947-7522



REMINDER
 To mail in your
 2008 membership
 if you have not done so
 already. Thanks!

The Cass County EDC office is open five days per week. Call 218-947-7522 for an appointment



Note From The Executive Director

This year the governor has proposed a new economic development tool for rural MN – SEED, Strategic Entrepreneurial Economic Development. Since economic development growth in rural MN is closely tied to small businesses, this will help grow them. Three focuses of the program include encouraging entrepreneurship, bringing new capital for rural businesses and sustaining the competitive advantage for rural MN. There are nine different tools included in SEED.

After hearing the governor and DEED commissioner introduce the program, there are four specific tools that I would like to learn more about -- Main Street MN

Grants, JOBZ Extensions, the Office for Entrepreneurship and a Rural Enterprise Micro Loan Fund. Doesn't they sound exciting! All of these would be of use to a business with 50 employees or less; the typical Cass County business.

I look forward to our annual meeting – Nov. 1, 2007 – when DEED Commissioner McElroy will talk more about this proposal. He has proven to be a creative and

“If you have zest and enthusiasm you will attract zest and enthusiasm. Life does give back in kind,”
Norman Vincent Peale



The time has come for our 4th Annual Meeting, being held November 1st.

If you have not done so already please make your reservations by calling the EDC office at 218-947-7522 or by e-mailing rachel.krumwiede@co.cass.mn.us

At the meeting we will be electing 2008 board members. Also, we have two members retiring. If interested in serving as a 2008 board member please contact Gail at 218-947-7522

We look forward to seeing you there!

Manufacturers Get-Together

The MARS program at Bemidji State University will be the topic at the next Cass County Manufacturers luncheon. BSU Professor Dave Smith, coordinates a student run organization that does marketing research. They can help companies answer questions about the marketability of new products or market growth potential of existing products. Their assistance is low cost or even no-cost to the business, depending on the need and time commitment.

The manufacturers group will meet for lunch on Thursday, Nov. 15th from 11:30 to 1PM at the Trail Break Bar and Grill in Pine River.

How Are We Doing?

The Cass County Economic Development Corporation is the economic development arm of the county. We work in partnership with communities and businesses to help businesses create new jobs and capital investment in Cass County.

2004 - present

- 36 businesses have completed their projects using EDC assistance
- The businesses will or have created 360 new Jobs
- They will bring more than \$50.9 million in capital investment

The Cass County EDC is an Equal Opportunity Provider