

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

## News from the Cass County EDC

### Board Members

Jim Tertin  
 Dave Holk  
 Howard Prushek  
 Skip Duchesneau, Jr.  
 Jay Cline  
 Terry Freeman  
 Mike Myers  
 Bill Palmer  
 Neil Smith  
 Cy Struss

### Ex Officio's

Bob Kangas  
 Bob Yochum  
 Jeff Peterson  
 (alternate)

### Advisory Board

Dave Johnson  
 John Wetrosky  
 John Grimley  
 John Weins

### Staff

Gail Levenson  
 Rachel Krumwiede

## Leech Lake Brewing Company

A brewery producing handcrafted beer will soon be opening in Walker's Industrial Park. The EDC assisted business owner Greg Smith, encouraging his idea from a hobby to a business by providing financial counseling, site selection and pricing. Smith was referred to the EDC as a result of an internet search. Of the assistance received, Smith says "The EDC has been an invaluable resource, first helping us with our business plan, and most recently helping all of the business owners in the Walker Industrial Park with grant applications for infrastructure improvements."



Greg and Gina Smith

Project costs total \$250,000 with financing from Bank Forward. Initially Smith plans to employ 2.



Sandra and Christina Linn

## Cool Beans Coffee Shop and Mother Earth's Bounty

recently opened in Pine River. The retail store offers natural and organic groceries along with coffee, health drinks, soups, salad and sandwiches.

Co-owners and mother-in-law Sandra Linn and daughter-in-law Christina Linn sought assistance with their business after being referred to the EDC by the city of Pine River and Hunt Utilities Group. The EDC helped in organizing their project including their cash flow projections, equipment, inventory and financial needs. About the assistance they received, Christina said "Invaluable! The EDC helped with everything – pointing out areas that needed to be considered, which I hadn't thought of. Also offered encouragement." They plan to employ 7. Project costs total \$89,000 with financing from Pine River State Bank.



### Natural Gas – Fuel Oil – Propane – Electricity.....

Are you a large energy user? Prospective renewable energy businesses ask me how much energy and what type is presently consumed in our area. They use this information to make sure site selection decisions.

We are presently seeking information from schools, healthcare facilities, businesses, etc. on how much energy and what type they use. An email survey was distributed in early June to many users. If you are a substantial energy user and we missed you please call us at 218-947-7522.

## IMPROVED ODDS

Of the businesses who use SBDC services, 80% are still in business 5 years later!

## TAX RATES FOR BUSINESSES

Cass County's Effective Tax Rate for commercial and industrial properties is 2.21% in 2010. This is the 3rd lowest in the state and compares very favorably to the average county rate of 3.27% in Minnesota. Data provided by MN Dept of Revenue, May 2010.

## SBDC COUNSELING

The EDC provided 1,747 hours of counseling from 2007-2009, 13.3% of the total hours for the 11 county North Central region.



## PEOPLE GROW COMMUNITIES

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My son, Brian, built a bridge in a local park for his Eagle Scout project. Each time we walk or ski

over that bridge I am reminded of the volunteers involved with scouting and difference they have made in our community. Committed people build communities.

Scouts, rotaries clubs, churches and others depend on the commitment of volunteers. The Cass County EDC is a membership organization that depends on volunteer commitment. We are grateful for the membership donations that help fund operations and the board members who donate time and talent to the EDC.

***"This is one organization that really has the capacity to make a change in Cass County,"*** stated our president, Jim Tertin, when he enthusiastically took on that challenge this year. Our board members serve in a volunteer capacity for three year terms. Many drive more than an hour to

attend monthly meetings and some have served two or three terms. "Thank you" to our dedicated board who keep the EDC moving forward.

Are you interested in serving on the board? EDC Board members attend city and township meetings to promote the EDC, maintain positive relationships with the county board; they sustain funding by recruiting new membership and ensure the mission of the organization is being met. We look for potential board members with a variety of business experience from diverse areas in the county who have a stake in the economy. Please call one of us if this opportunity interests you.

Brian did not build that bridge alone. He had many years of volunteer effort supporting him in the scouting program. Your commitment as an EDC member or a board member is greatly appreciated. Committed people build communities.

## Exciting Grant News

A Small Cities grant was awarded the cities of Hackensack and Walker. The \$592,250 grant will be used to rehabilitate housing, commercial and rental units in the cities

**Community meetings are planned for July 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 PM in Walker at the fire hall and 6:30 PM at the city hall in Hackensack.** The application process will be on a first come, first serve basis.

The city of Walker recently received approval on their application for a Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Program grant from the DEED. The \$250,000 grant will provide financial assistance to the city to help correct infrastructure difficulties in Walker's Industrial Park. This will help in providing the resources necessary for continued economic growth and encourage employment in the Walker community and nearby areas. The EDC is proud to coordinate these two projects.

### A Community Non-Profit Corporation

"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."



Cass County  
Economic Development Corporation  
PO Box 142  
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Backus, MN 56435

The Cass County EDC is an Equal Opportunity Provider