

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Report of County Activities (August 2005)
Linking County/Local Government for Efficient Public Services

- Efforts continue to identify possible new uses of Camp Tuscola to create jobs and possibly increase the tax base-the county has been successful in their request to Department of Corrections to obtain assistance from state officials with expertise to evaluate potential alternative uses of this facility
- Michigan has the highest unemployment rate in the nation-declines in manufacturing jobs particularly in the automobile industry is causing huge economic problems-the County has launched an aggressive program to rebuild and transition the local economy by working with "Rural Partners of Michigan" to establish job growth through entrepreneurship-and by conducting comprehensive planning through MSU-Extension "Community Assessment Team"- completion of this plan will identify other strategies for economic development and will be integral to the success of receiving economic development grant funds and rebuilding the local economy
- If you would like more information regarding the above crucial economic development activity contact your Commissioner, Jim McLoskey (Tuscola County EDC Director) at 989-673-2849 or Hal Hudson (MSU-Extension Director) at 989-672-3883
- The benefit/cost of re-establishing membership in East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region is under discussion-membership was discontinued in 2002- over \$500,000 had to be cut to balance the county budget-the county would like feedback from local units of government to determine if they are interested in becoming members of this organization possibly on a cost sharing basis with the county
- The County Master Development Plan was completed in 2003 with assistance from Wade Trim- this is a valuable document that could be of great assistance in local government planning and zoning work-for more information please contact the Chairperson of the County Planning Commission (Richard Peter-989-672-3700)
- Tuscola County continues to cope with jail overcrowding problems- in mid-August the jail capacity of 80 prisoners was exceeded for enough days to force a declaration of jail overcrowding by the Sheriff- this resulted in the early release of certain prisoner- overcrowding could become worse in the future if the state changes prisoner sentencing guidelines which would redirect even more prisoners into county jails instead of state facilities- jail overcrowding has been an on-going problem that will ultimately require solutions other than early release of prisoners
- The County is advertising to fill vacancies on various Boards and Commissions which are vital to the overall efficient operations of county government-it is important to obtain citizen representation for assistance in operating our county government-applications and a listing of boards with vacancies can be obtained from your county commissioner or the county clerk
- Projections indicate the state will have to cut approximately \$700 million from the state budget that begins October 1, 2005-on a percentage basis this is a cut of over 6% of the total state budget- massive cuts have been in each of the last four state budgets-the question remains how will county and local government be impacted in this budget

Prepared by: Michael R. Hoagland, Tuscola County Controller/Administrator 989-672-3700