

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Report of County Activities (June 2006)
Linking County/Local Government for Efficient Public Services

- Tuscola County continues to strengthen its ability to deal with emergency situations though comprehensive emergency services planning – on June 13, 2006 a mock exercise concerning an outbreak of Bird Flu was conducted involving police, ambulance, health department experts and many other organizations throughout the county - Emergency Services Director, Pat Finn has explained that continued training and more equipment is necessary so the county can advance to the next level of readiness, but we do have effective emergency capabilities for a community of our size
- Tuscola County recently received the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the fifth consecutive year – this award was provided for the 2005 County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which was recently reviewed at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners – copies of this report are available on the County Web site
- A trails committee is exploring the possible use of a right-of-way owned by International Transmission Company – a \$1,000 private donation has been made and forwarded to International Transmission Company per their policy to begin researching the specific location and possible use of this trail as a bicycle/pedestrian path – this is an abandoned railroad bed that runs southeast from Caro and then approximately a quarter of a mile north of Bevens Road in Indianfields, Wells and Kingston Townships
- Properties that are available for sale as part of the property foreclosure process can be obtained by contacting the County Treasurer's office – many of these properties can be acquired at nominal cost at an auction on August 24, 2006 at the Sheraton Inn in Saginaw at 11:00 A.M.
- Recently, the County signed a contract with Dr. Virani (Forensic Pathologist) to serve as the Chief County Medical Examiner (Dr. Smallwood is the Deputy Medical Examiner) – the Medical Examiner is an important function in county government – the primary responsibility is to investigate the deaths of persons in which there is reason to suspect foul play or in which the cause of death is not readily apparent
- The County Board of Public Works has assisted many local communities in the financing of sewer and water projects – by financing projects through the Board of Public Works, municipal and township governments are able to capitalize on the stronger county bond rating which in many cases lowers borrowing costs – the county also has provided administrative services to local governmental units without charging for these services – this includes maintaining essential records and processing debt retirement payments
- The County continues to analyze how to strengthen its economy through entrepreneurship – this approach involves hiring and training a facilitator to assist/mentor clients with developing an idea in a business to create employment opportunities – the focus of this approach is to grow the economy from within rather than attracting from the outside – the facilitator assists clients in leveraging financing,

marketing and obtaining other resources/know how. One model under consideration is called Sirolli - more information regarding this important component of economic development will be presented in the future – James Wickman (Mayville Village Manager) is the chair of a committee reviewing the best approach to entrepreneurship for the county

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