

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

- Camp Tuscola will re-open and bring jobs back to the community helping to strengthen the local economy – the state has not set an official re-opening date, but it is now anticipated it will be back in operation by the spring of 2007
- Enterprise facilitation is a vital component of the local economy – the Sirolli Model of Enterprise facilitation may be implemented in Tuscola County - On September 20, 2006 90 citizens attended the presentation by Dr. Sirolli – his method of entrepreneurial economic development has been successful - costs for training an enterprise facilitator are \$58,000 per year for three years – annual operational costs for the facilitator are estimated at \$75,000 – grant, foundation and other funding will be requested – the objective is to share the investment costs of the program between many public/private sector entities to minimize the financial impact on any one entity – see Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation web site for further information
- The public will vote on five ballot questions in the November election – (specific state ballot questions can be reviewed at the county web site:)
 1. Constitutional amendment to require money held in conservation and recreation funds can only be used for their intended purposes
 2. Amend the state constitution to ban affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes
 3. Establish a hunting season for morning doves
 4. Constitutional amendment to prohibit government from taking private property by eminent domain for certain private purposes
 5. A legislative initiative to establish mandatory school funding levels
- Opponents say if Proposal 5 above is approved it would guarantee annual inflationary increases to education spending that would put funding for other critical services such as police and firefighters in jeopardy, education spending would increase without accountability, the state budgeting process would be circumvented and it could result in a tax increase on Michigan Citizens. Many private and public sector entities are opposed to this proposal – see Michigan Association of Counties www.micounties.org
- Recently, the Dispatch Authority Board recommended the telephone surcharge be increased by \$.25 per month to off-set continued decreases in wire-line revenue – also radio system improvements are needed because Sprint/Nextel are rebanding frequencies – the Commissioners are anticipated to approve this change on October 24, 2006
- The Tuscola County Farm Bureau Land Use Committee will conduct the 2nd annual fall Farmland and Open Space Tour on October 27, 2006 focusing on the 20 miles of the Saginaw Bay shoreline in Tuscola County – the tour objective is to determine methods

of creating economic development by capitalizing on the assets in this part of the county

- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Tuscola County population increased by 162 people or .3% from 58,266 in April of 2000 to 58,428 in July of 2005

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