



TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May/June 2009 Activity Report

The county is continuing to implement energy efficiency cost saving measures – for example, upgrades at the Department of Human Services involving purchasing of new heating/cooling system, new boiler, and lighting retrofitting are anticipated to result in annual energy cost savings of approximately \$12,000 per year – another program is the National Association of Counties Energy Star Challenge that may enable the county to receive a \$5,000 grant if enough residents replace a current light bulb in their homes/businesses with an energy efficient bulb.

For the 2010 county calendar fiscal year, property tax revenue is projected to decline – this is primarily the result of decreasing residential land values – this is an extremely concerning trend for county and local units of government operations and diminishes the ability to maintain service levels – for the county, property tax accounts for approximately 45% of total general fund revenue – the number of property foreclosures has also been skyrocketing over the past several years which is impacting property values.

Compounding the problem of declining property tax revenue is the fact that other major county revenue sources are also flat or declining – it is important to note that for 2010 less total revenue is anticipated than is projected for 2009, this situation will likely result in significant service base reductions and other adjustments for 2010 – a Financial Planning Task Force has been formed and will be working with departments over the next several weeks to prepare budget balancing recommendations for Board of Commissioner consideration.

There has been some confusion regarding the difference between the general fund operating millage and a special purpose millage – the difference is explained on the county web site <http://www.tuscolacounty.org/>

Recently two drainage projects have been initiated: the Nutt Branch of the Akron Centerline Drain (\$145,000) and the Akron Main Street Tile Drain (\$400,000) – For 2010, the overall county share of drainage costs is expected to remain about the same as 2009 at \$561,000, but for 2011 these costs are projected to decrease to approximately \$485,000.

County costs for care of abused, neglected and delinquent children are mandated by state law and these costs continue to increase – total state and county costs were approximately \$1.1 million for 2008 with the county share of approximately \$607,000 – these county costs are projected to be even higher for 2009 at \$785,000 and by 2010 the county share of the costs are projected to increase to over \$800,000.

Progress continues to be made by the County Planning Commission in the development of a recommended Airport Zoning Ordinance with objectives including: private property owner's rights/interests with wind and other alternative sources of energy, needs of agriculture, role of Tuscola Area Airport in meeting transportation and economic development needs, and citizen/air traffic safety.

The prescription discount card program began full operation on June 22, 2009 – the program is available to Tuscola County residents – it is provided by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and implemented by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners – additional information can be obtained by calling toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit the NACo website at www.caremark.com/naco for assistance with the program.

Tuscola County unemployment rate continues to increase: April 2009 16.2 %, May 2009 17.4% - in May of 2008 the unemployment rate was considerably lower at 9.8%

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

The EDC worked with the following agencies, businesses or persons to provide assistance and/or information on Business Development and Expansion:

- Nu-Way Plastics – to review an application for the manufacturing company to start a new business. If approved, the Tuscola County EDC Revolving Loan Fund loan will be combined with local bank financing.
- Wind Power – to continue discussions with wind turbine companies on proposed airport zoning that will be beneficial to wind development efforts, and to pursue other efforts and incentives that could be made available.
- Bauer & Son’s Auto Repair – to welcome the new service business to Vassar, and to provide marketing assistance. The owner is Michael Bauer who can be reached at 989-823-3057 Monday through Saturday.
- Cornerstone Staffing – to welcome the new business in Caro – with an office at 220 S. State Street – and to provide marketing. The phone number is 989-672-4500.
- Plain & Fancy Decorating – the EDC worked with the Village of Cass City to secure gap financing for the new business at 6455 Main Street in Cass City. Call Nancy Braun at 989-551-6495 to get details on her paint, wallpaper, window treatments, home decorating and custom framing.
- Government Contracting – the EDC was the co-sponsor of the workshop in Cass City designed to assist business owners secure more sales with selling products to the State and Federal government. The workshop with the Thumb Area Procurement Technical Assistance Center office was attended by 15 people.

Contact: Jim McLoskey, Tuscola County EDC Director 989-673-2849



Tuscola Enterprise
 Free confidential help to establish,
 improve or expand a business.
www.tuscolaenterprise.com

June 2009 Facilitation Report

Much of our contacts remain confidential as we await our first success story. However, here is information on the clients we are serving:

Clients 23	New vs. Existing Businesses 20 / 3				
Client type:	Art 1	Construction 1	Health Care 1	Hospitality 2	Manufacturing 1
	Non-Profit 1	Real Estate 1	Retail/Wholesale 6	Services 9	

We have also been working on a regional revitalization project for Sebewaing and Unionville called Hometown USA. Many business and community leaders are involved in the effort, including Huron and Tuscola County EDC Directors Carl Osentoski and Jim McLoskey. Osentoski and McLoskey recently presented information to the Village of Unionville about MSU’s Small Town Design Initiative. Unionville approved the proposal, and information will be presented to Sebewaing Village for their consideration soon.

Contact: Cy Thomas, Facilitator, Tuscola County Enterprise Facilitation 989-325-1013