



TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July/August 2009 Activity Report

The County recently purchased the building at 141 S. Almer Street in Caro, Michigan from BBC Enterprises to house Adult Probation - although this is a State operation, it a legal requirement that the County pay for the office space needs of the operation - the number of state probationers is increasing with more diversions from state prisons requiring more probation officers and office space – the County had no choice but to obtain a different office building to meet the growing office space needs of Adult Probation – the purchase cost of the building was \$245,000 – the same building was being leased for \$33,000 per year resulting in a favorable 7 year purchase payback period – the purchase was made with funds from the county capital improvement fund

The State is seeking local government partners to contract with Microsoft to provide unlimited access to the Bing Maps for Enterprise (BME) platform and custom collection of aerial imagery at a 12 inch resolution – all state and local units of government are eligible to get access to the BME platform – as this is open to governmental units in the state, participation can come from: any county agency (road commission, drain commission, 911, equalization, etc.), cities, villages, townships, homeland security districts, regional planning commissions, regional councils of government, etc. – this is a 3 year program and any county is eligible to be flown in any of the 3 years – further information can be obtained by contacting Walt Schlichting, County Equalization Director at 989-672-3833

The potential of cuts to state revenue sharing remains of serious concern – the House of Representatives has been debating a cut to county government that would result in a decline of \$163,333 from \$1,143,926 to \$980,583 for 2010 – with already declining property tax revenue, this cut would strike another blow to an already extremely difficult financial situation – and would force further reductions in critical services

The Health Department recently released important information about seasonal and H1N1 (Swine Flu) – the H1N1 influenza virus has caused mild to severe illness and hospitalizations in both adults and children – because children do not have immunity to this virus, they have been most affected by it and are considered at high risk of infection – there are many things that can be done to reduce the flu in our schools, communities, workplaces, and homes – for more information and updates on vaccination clinics for the H1N1 and seasonal flu please contact Tuscola County Health Department (Ann Hepfer R.N.B.S. at 989-673-8114) or visit the following website at www.tchd.us

The Thumb Narcotics Unit has been awarded a federal JAG Grant in the amount of \$400,000 to help support drug enforcement efforts – the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department will receive an amount of \$174,000 which will be used to assign a full time deputy to the Thumb Narcotics Unit for the next three years – the grant will not only allow a full time deputy to assist in the detection and apprehension of drug offenders, but will also enable the deputy to receive invaluable training in this field in order to be of more assistance to the Sheriff's Department once the grant is finished

The Board of Commissioners is under advisement of a potential opportunity to be reimbursed for some applied "Access Fees" from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan that may have been improperly charged to our county. The Board is currently researching the value of negotiating directly with Blue Cross or joining a Class-Action lawsuit with other entities in order to recover some of the funding that may have been improperly charged. Many other counties have filed similar lawsuits against Blue Cross and some have already been awarded settlements in their favor.

Tuscola County unemployment rate continues to increase: June 2009 17.7% , July 2009 18.3% - the state unemployment rates for these same time periods were 15.4% and 15.6%, respectively

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 attend a public hearing of the Caro Village Council where 12 years of tax abatement was approved. If everything goes as scheduled, 43 manufacturing jobs will be created.
- Betsy's Place- worked with new businesses south of Kingston scheduled to open in early October.
- Retention Calls- visits with Tom Young of the Michigan EDC were made to Craftmaster Doors, Northern Log Supply, Grede Foundry and Stemco-Kaiser.
- Busy B Flowerland- to assist with the establishment of a Commercial Rehabilitation District in Akron
- Cooperative Elevator Company- to speak at a public hearing of the Akron Village Council where 12 years of tax abatement was approved.
- Grede Foundry- met with local, regional and state officials about announced 2010 closing of plant
- L & L Poultry – to help prepare for a public hearing of the Cass City Village Council for tax abatement to be considered for the proposed new business in the Cass City Industrial Park.

Downtown Development

- Caro DDA- attended monthly meeting of the Downtown Blueprint Committee re: Parking Lot Project.
- Cass City DDA- to attend the monthly board meeting.

Additional Activities

- Tuscola Area Airport Authority- to attend the monthly board meeting and public hearing.
- Public Relations- taped weekly program at WKYO-WIDL Radio.
- Brownfield Redevelopment - info session on use of EPA grant funds at the Tuscola Area Airport.
- Economic Gardening- preparing for Round Two of the USDA-funded Marketing Program
- Thumb Area Partnership- regional meeting in Cass City; submitted letter to the Wind Energy Resource Zone Board.

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

You are cordially invited to attend a Celebration of Tuscola Enterprise

Anniversary Celebration

It's been a year since Cy Thomas joined the project as it's facilitator. And the second anniversary of Enterprise Facilitation® arriving in Tuscola County:

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 - 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Tuscola Technology Center 1401 Cleaver Rd, Caro 48723

Meet with our facilitator, board members, and clients that Cy has worked with in the past year. Find out more about the project and what it can do for you or someone you know. Chair Tom Striffler will give a short presentation on the program. Light refreshments will be served.

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

