Kinross.net gets statewide award

KINROSS — Kinross Township has received a statewide award for Best Local Government Web site from the Michigan Association of Governmental Computer Users (http://www.magcu.org) at their annual conference on Mackinac Island. The award is presented each year for appearance, ease of use, and content of the Web site. Past year recipients include Berrien County and Bay County.

"When I was appointed as Deputy Supervisor for Kinross Charter Township in December, my first assignment was to evaluate the old township Web site," said Joe Paczkowski, Deputy Supervisor. "The site was suffering from years of neglect. It was reminiscent of what I call 'Web site urban sprawl.' Each time they decided to add a new feature, it was illogically linked using at least three different types of navigation. Navigating the site was a nightmare."

He continued, "our first order of business was asking each department director to determine what information on their pages needed updating. Next, I published an online poll asking the people of Kinross what they wanted out of the sight to enhance our customer service philosophy. Finally, I assembled all of the input together using a new navigation system and created out current site. Last month's *Michigan Township magazine* spotlighted kinross.net regarding our reconstruction experiences in an article entitled This Old Web Site."

"The mission of our site is to provide accurate, timely information and services to citizens in our township. We update the site at least weekly, sometimes daily. Updated information is an absolute necessity to keep citizens coming back to our site," said Paczkowski. "Due to the large geographic area, Kinross Township has incorporated time saving customer services online including research tools that citizens can use to look up Township ordinances, read Board minutes from the past twelve months, view zoning maps and other planning materials or read the Townships Master plan."

Our community is rich with local culture and historical preservation projects and Kinross.net has incorporated these projects with the presentation of historical society and military museum pages. A wealth of information on other community interests may be found on the site, including a community calendar, county fair information, churches, schools, airports, bingo and housing.