



COUNTY OF SAGINAW

111 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48602

MARC A. MCGILL
Controller/Chief Administrative Officer

INFORMATION ONLY

May 4, 2009

Bregitte Braddock, Chair
Saginaw County Board of Commissioners
111 South Michigan
Saginaw, MI 48602

RE: Marc-ing Report - May 2009

Dear Chair Braddock:

The Marc-ing Report is a summary of activity taking place in departments and/or agencies that report directly or indirectly to the Controller/CAO. The Marc-ing Report can now be accessed through the County web site www.saginawcounty.com/Controller. Please use this site to obtain your copy. Thank you.

If you or other Commissioners should have questions regarding the subject matter presented or believe other issues or departments should be added or deleted, please advise me.

Sincerely,

Marc A. McGill
Controller/CAO

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MARC-ING REPORT- MAY 2009

1. AIRPORT: (County Services Committee)

Contact Person: Charles Cleaver, Administration Director, 790-5209

Capital Improvement Summary: Wind Sock / Beacon Replacement - A \$65,000 project with a local share of \$1,625 has recently been completed. Continuation of various ongoing facility upgrades and repairs including: rehabilitation of the main runway, taxi area and terminal apron as needed and approved. Because of the current economic situation, many projects have been postponed until activities at the airport improve.

Instrument Landing System Project: All major construction, easements, and flight line clearance work has been completed and installation of the system electronics are ongoing and at the discretion of the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). This has been a ten year process with improvements and upgrades along the way.

Five-Year Development Plan and Airport Layout Plan: Staff and advisory group members, in cooperation with an engineering firm, prepare an annual update of a recommended five-year development plan encompassing long term objectives for the airport. This plan is submitted to the airport committee for approval and then forwarded to the state with requests for available funding.

2. ANIMAL CARE CENTER: (Courts and Public Safety Committee)

Contact Person: Valerie McCullough, Animal Care Center, 797-4500

Below is the average of complaints, animals taken in, and the animals' outcome on a monthly basis. These figures are based on an average for the five months of September 2008 through February 2009.

Average amounts per month:

Miles patrolled	4622
Citizen Complaints in reference to animals	861
Average dog/cats taken in at the shelter	415
Dogs	213
Cats	202
Adoptions and/or reclaimed by owner	
Dogs	95
Cats	36
Euthanized	
Dogs	118
An average of 96 dogs have been deemed unadoptable per owner request and/or behavior of dog.	
Cats	167

In the upcoming months we are anticipating these averages to increase. This is due to the number of feral cats in the county and the number of stray animals that run during the spring and summer months.

3. **BENEFITS & PAYROLL:** (Labor Relations Committee)
Contact Persons: Amy Deford, Retirement Administrator, 790-5577
Janice Mienk, Payroll & Benefits Supervisor, 790-5216

The new federal tax tables went into effect on pay period ending March 21, 2009 in compliance with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The new tables, prescribed by the Department of the Treasury, reflect the "Making Work Pay" credit and other changes resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Employee's that do not want to have their withholding reduced (because, for example, you have more than one job or you are married and your combined income places you in a higher tax bracket), may want to file a new Form W-4. You may claim fewer withholding allowances or request additional amounts be withheld. A "Withholding Calculator" is available on the IRS website at www.irs.gov to help you see how changing your deductions will affect your federal withholding.

May is **National Direct Deposit Month**. Following are just a few of the ways employers and employees benefit from direct deposit.

1. There are fewer checks to print and store.
2. Lost and stolen checks are eliminated and fraud is reduced.
3. Productivity is increased because employees don't have to wait in line at a bank or credit union to cash or deposit their paychecks.
4. Direct deposit gives you peace of mind. The payment is always there no matter where you are traveling.

Millions of taxpayers now use direct deposit to receive their tax refunds more quickly. So why not use it for your paycheck? Direct deposit is safe, confidential, convenient, and saves you a trip to the bank. Contact the payroll department for more information on how to enroll.

4. **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:** (Executive Committee)
Contact Persons: Bregitte Braddock, Chair
Suzy Koeplinger, Board Coordinator

MARCH 24, 2009 SESSION

REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES

- Approved Phase IV Development of the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail for Parks
- Approved 2009-2013 Five Year Plan for Parks
- Approved utilizing funds from William H. Haithco Restricted Account for Parks
- Approved increase in funding allocations for Health Department
- Approved staff reorganization for Commission on Aging
- Approved Claims for February and Committee Compensation reports
- Approved County of Saginaw Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter
- Approved amendments to Position Classification, Policy #332
- Approved health care recovery contingent fee agreement
- Approved request for use of Courthouse grounds for Child Abuse and Neglect Council
- Approved Employment Agreement with Marc A. McGill

RESOLUTIONS

- "A" Supporting Phase IV of the Saginaw County Rail Trail
- "B" Approving the 2009-2013 Five Year Recreation Plan
- "C" Supporting a grant application for Emmaus House

APRIL 21, 2009 SESSION

REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES

- Approved purchase of two para-transit vehicles for Commission on Aging
- Approved Accounts Receivable Write-off Report for Health Department
- Approved collection agreement for 10th Circuit Court – Family Division
- Approved grant application to Office of Community Oriented Policing
- Approved grant application for Byrne Justice Assistance Grant
- Approved application for State Criminal Alien Assistance Program grant
- Approved Claims for March and Committee Compensation reports
- Approved findings and responses to Single Audit for FY end 9-30-08
- Approved hiring up to one full-time employee for collection of taxes
- Approved Commission on Aging factored positions
- Approved 2009 Equalization Report
- Approved Phosphorus Ordinance

5. BUDGET: (Budget & Audit Committee)

Contact Person: Koren A. Reaman, Financial Services Manager, 790-5218

The Board of Commissioners adopted the Budget Calendar for the Fiscal 2009/2010 Operating Budget on February 17, 2009. The 2009/2010 Budget process will begin in June 2009. Target budgets will be distributed to departments for their review and input on June 1, 2009, and will be due back to Financial Services by June 26, 2009. Pursuant to the Budget Calendar, the Controller's Office is scheduled to submit the first draft of a recommended Operating Budget to the Standing Committees and the Budget/Audit Subcommittee on July 27, 2009.

6. BUILDING AUTHORITY: (Appropriations Committee)

Contact Person: Marc A. McGill, Controller/CAO, 790-5578

The Building Authority last met on Thursday, April 16, 2009. Discussion took place regarding the refrigerated floor, a grant from SMG and a reduction and renewal of a millage for the event center.

The next Building Authority meeting will be scheduled as the need arises.

7. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: (Budget and Audit Committee)

Contact Person: Koren A. Reaman, Financial Services Manager, 790-5218

The Controller's Office will distribute information to departments regarding requests to submit the annual update of the 5-year capital improvement plan on June 1, 2009 with a target completion date of June 26, 2009. Completing this plan is part of the annual budget process and is required to comply with statutory requirements.

8. COMMISSION ON AGING (COA): (Human Services Committee)

Contact Person: Karen Courneya, Director, 797-6880

The Commission on Aging recently underwent its annual assessment conducted by the local funding agent for Title III B Funds from the Federal government. The assessment went extraordinarily well despite two administrative staff vacancies during the past six months.

The grant process has begun for FY 2010 and staff will be focusing on applying for and building the RFPs for state and federal monies.

9. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: (Courts and Public Safety Committee)
Contact Person: Mary Amend, Community Corrections Manager 790-5584

This month, we welcomed Barb Starr to our Pre-Trial staff. Barb is the Pre-Trial Clerk and replaces Kristine Smith, who worked in the Pre-Trial department for over 2 years. We are fortunate to have her on board.

Saginaw County stakeholders continue diligently to lower the prison commitment rate and impact jail utilization. Saginaw County's prison commitment rate has dropped three percentage points from 25% for the first half of FY08 to 22% for the first half of FY09. This is exceptionally good news for Community Corrections and Saginaw County since there were 60 more offenders sanctioned in for the first half of FY09 than in the first half of FY08. With the lowering of prison commitment rates, more offenders are being sentenced to jail or jail with probation to follow. The average daily jail population for first half FY08 was 547 inmates and for the first half of FY09, there were 516 inmates. Rick Shaft, the Jail Population Monitor, has played an integral part in keeping the jail population at or well below 488 inmates on a continuous basis.

In order to continue our success, Dr. Cheryl Plettenberg, Amy Murawski, the advisory board and I have been researching substance abuse sentencing alternatives for judges. It is in hopes an alternative will be available for Saginaw County in FY2010 and funded by the Office of Community Corrections Grant. The Community Corrections Grant application was received and is due June 1, 2009.

The Office of Community Corrections continues to hold an additional \$225,000 in its FY2008 budget. A State of Michigan Community Corrections board meeting was held in Lansing on April 16, 2009. At the meeting, the board was asked to reconsider the county grant proposals for additional funding. There were approximately 20 counties who applied and did not receive any additional funding; Saginaw County included. Community Corrections managers were informed MDOC may be using those funds to begin project demonstration sites throughout Michigan.

10. DOW EVENT CENTER: (County Services Committee)
Contact Person: Stephanie Beyersdorf, Clerk, Dow Event Center Advisory Board, 790-5471

The Dow Event Center has concluded an exciting spring season. The Saginaw Spirit advanced to the second round of the OHL Playoffs for the first time in franchise history. The **Newsboys'** Go Tour made a stop at TheDow on April 3. **Monster Jam** Monster Truck Racing returned for three shows on March 6-7. The Broadway in Saginaw Series continued with local celebrity appearances in The **25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, and concluded its 2008-2009 season in April with three performances of Riverdance in its farewell tour.

There is still some great entertainment at TheDow this spring. The **Saginaw Sting** will continue its second season with four home games on Friday, May 8; Friday, May 22; Friday, June 5; and Friday, June 19. There are many local players on the team and the games are fun, fast-paced, and family-friendly. Tickets are very reasonable and priced in a variety of ranges and options. Don't miss out on the latest sport to come to Saginaw! Visit www.doweventcenter.com or www.saginawsting.com for more information on purchasing tickets.

WWE Presents: Smackdown and ECW Live Superstars will roar into the Arena on Saturday, June 20, 2009. The **Cinco de Mayo** will be held at TheDow on Saturday, May 2, 2008. **The Diary of Black Men** will be performed on May 9, 2009. The **Taste of Home Cooking School and Expo** will be held on May 12, 2009. TheDow will continue to add new plays, shows and concerts to its event calendar so be sure to log on to its web site at www.doweventcenter.com to get the latest event information.

TheDow is not only a great place to see entertainment, but it is also a great place to host an event of your own. The Dow Event Center boasts a complete banquet facility. The Hall has seating up to 900 and is beautifully decorated with wood paneling, new carpeting and contemporary chandeliers. It is an ideal location to host a reception, wedding, or business meeting. Call Bill Stec, Director of Food and Beverage, at (989)759-1339 for more information.

11. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/SAGINAW FUTURE: (County Services Committee)
Contact Person: JoAnne Crary, President, 754-8222

In the 1st quarter of 2009, Saginaw Future Inc. (SFI) assisted seven companies that invested nearly \$7.6 million, creating 68 jobs and retaining five jobs. Seven regional companies won 58 government contracts valued at nearly \$6.6 million.

AKT Peerless Environmental Services LLC has acquired Chicago-based energy auditor, Informed Energy Decisions, enabling the company to expand its coverage into Illinois, where a lucrative market exists for Brownfield redevelopment. Besides energy audits, Informed Energy specializes in property cost analysis, retrofits recommendations, Energy Star certification, advice on energy-based tax incentives, green design consultation, rehab and construction. Opportunities in the market began the push for a number of AKT staff to become Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professionals in order to provide energy consulting services for clients. AKT will hire at least six new workers resulting from the merger.

CIGNYS-Bridgeport Facility expanded once again and purchased new milling centers and EDM machines. Since 2005, the company has invested more than \$1.4 million in its Bridgeport location creating nine jobs. CIGNYS-Bridgeport specializes in precision machining, prototypes, and test and assembly fixturing.

CIGNYS-Shields also purchased new equipment, investing \$543,115 in its Shields location. The company added new vertical machining centers and water-jet systems, and has expanded in each of the last two years. CIGNYS has been working with the Saginaw Future Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) seeking new government contracts and received investment incentive assistance from SFI.

Merrill Tool & Machine, Inc. part of the Merrill Technologies Group, continues to grow at its Village of Merrill location. The company purchased nearly \$4.5 million in new equipment, primarily horizontal machining centers due to increased demand in the aerospace, wind and solar markets. Merrill Tool has expanded several times over the past five years and anticipates hiring 10 new employees. SFI assisted the company with investment incentives and the Saginaw Future PTAC is assisting the company with securing additional federal defense contracts.

Merrill Aviation, also part of the Merrill Technologies Group, is located in Jonesfield Township at the site of the original Merrill Tool & Machine, Inc. facility. The company made real property improvements needed to reopen the facility and bring it up to grade necessary to do aviation work. Merrill Aviation received necessary certifications and is currently securing new business in the area of rework of landing gears. Company officials see huge growth potential and are also looking at the possibility of doing specialized painting in the aviation industry.

Star of the West Milling provides drying, processing and storing of grains. The company is headquartered in the City Frankenmuth and has storage facilities throughout Saginaw County. The company expanded its Frankenmuth Township facilities adding 643,000 bushels of additional storage and a grain dryer. The project's total investment is expected to be \$2,231,705 with five jobs retained at the location.

Saginaw Public Market - Annex Banquet & Event Center is located in Spaulding Township and offers entrepreneurs the opportunity to start businesses by showcasing products and services at a reasonable rental rate. Currently 22 businesses representing 37 positions lease space on a weekly basis. The facility has undergone an extensive facelift with over \$400,000 invested in the purchase and renovation of the facility. Besides a local lender, the company received financial assistance through the East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region loan fund. SFI directed the company to the funding source and has a board seat on the loan committee.

12. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: (Courts and Public Safety Committee)
Contact Person: Timothy Genovese, Director 790-5434

We are assisting the local hospitals in the planning of their spring mass casualty drill. The drill is scheduled to take place on June 8th. We will be scheduling a seminar exercise in May to assist and introduce the new EOC members to the procedures. We will also start our planning for the May 2010 regional drill. We are hosting this drill which will involve 14 counties.

We are continuing our National incident management training for all county first responders. They are required to have ICS 400 classes by September 2009. We held an ICS 300 class in April, and we have another one scheduled for late May. We have a ics 400 class scheduled for May 27 and 28. Contact this office to register.

We are currently working with the region on the regional Homeland security grant, the LETPP grant and the Citizens Corps Grant.

Regional planning and projects continues to take up more and more of our time.

We will be assisting the Saginaw ISD with Teen CERT classes and presenting emergency management in the schools as part of an Emergency management grant the schools received. We will be coordinating Student CERT training for 92 County students this June.

We now have 92 Citizen Corps. Members. We are continuing to train and recruit new members. We meet every second Thursday of the month at the Saginaw County E.O.C. at 6:30 pm. Our Cert class (Citizens emergency response training) is schedules again this fall.

We continue to update the county emergency plans as well as the LEPC plans. The regional strategic planning conference is scheduled for March 2nd in Bay City.

The Michigan homeland security conference is scheduled for May 5th, 6th, 7th in Grand Rapids.

13. EQUALIZATION: (County Services Committee)
Contact Person: James Totten, Director, 790-5262

The 2009 Board of Review figures have all been submitted to Equalization for processing. The Department verifies that the assessors and the boards of review have "covered" or met the tentative ratios and multipliers for the various real estate property classes as established by the Equalization Department studies. The Department also verifies that the boards of review are complying with the requirements of Proposal A. This data is then for County Equalization, the first step in the taxing process, which took place on April 21, 2009.

Following the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners acceptance, the State Tax Commission needs to affirm these numbers, which will be final the fourth Monday in May. This will actually be Tuesday, May 26, 2009 due to the holiday.

Actual Assessed Value changes for 2009 as compared to 2008 for the various property classes in Saginaw County are as follows:

Agricultural increased	7.94%	Commercial increased	0.75%
Residential (decreased)	6.75%	Industrial increased	2.38%
Developmental increased	1.06%	Personal increased	2.76%

The Equalization Department is in the process of calculating the changes for the millage reduction fraction within each taxing unit that levies a millage. This is a total of 83 calculation worksheets for the year 2009. This reduction fraction calculates what growth the taxing unit has beyond the rate of inflation. This calculation involves interaction between the County of Saginaw and all the neighboring Counties and has to be completed by the third Monday in May.

The final phase of the taxing process takes place when the County calculates and adds together all the taxable values of properties in the County. This tabulation must be completed by the fourth Monday in June, which is June 22, 2009.

The State has again modified the form for reporting taxable values that includes separate reporting of commercial personal and industrial personal property taxable values, due to the changes in the Michigan Business Tax. The exemption of this property from part or all of the school operating tax created a significant amount of confusion as to the amount of taxes the local treasurer was to collect and the amount of operating tax the school district budgeted to receive. We are hopeful there will not be the issues this tax year.

14. FINANCIAL SERVICES: (Budget and Audit Committee)

Contact Person: Koren A. Reaman, Financial Services Manager, 790-5218

The audit for the year ended September 30, 2008 has been completed and was presented to the Board of Commissioners on March 24, 2009. The Audited Financial Statements are available on the County's website at www.saginawcounty.com under the Financial Services Department's webpage.

The Financial Services Department continues to provide interim financial reports throughout the year. These reports are intended to identify impending problems so that proper corrective action may be taken to avoid potential year-end deficits.

15. HEALTHSOURCE SAGINAW:

Contact Person: Lester Heyboer, Jr., President/CEO, 790-7888
Raymond Bartels, Commissioner
Marc A. McGill, Controller

Operating results for the two month period ended of February 28, 2009 continues to reflect profits of the Behavioral Medicine Center with significant operating losses in the Extended Care Center being significantly reduced. The Chemical Dependency Center continues the trend of incurring operating losses in excess of \$350,000 yearly. Operating losses in the Extended Care Center and Chemical Dependency Center are offset by millage support which resulted in year to date operating income of \$18,082 before the recognition of the value of interest paid by millage monies as contributed capital. Overall for the month of February 2009, HealthSource reported income of \$315 after donations, interest and millage but before contributed capital compared to budgeted income of \$23,587. HealthSource reported income of \$274,786 for the two month period ended February 28, 2009 after donations, interest, millage, and contributed capital. As a result of the Board of Trustees designating \$6,000,000 of operating cash for use in the construction program, unrestricted operating cash balances have been reduced to \$1,552,371 as of February 28, 2009.

HealthSource provided 14,345 days of inpatient care, 1,029 units of Outpatient Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy with 873 outpatient visits being made to our psychiatrists and behavioral therapists during the two month period ended February 28, 2009.

Construction of pods A, B, C, D, E, F and partially G were completed in March 2009. As a result of the completion of pods A and B in March all long term care residents, all Medical Rehabilitation patients, and all psychiatric and chemical dependency inpatient and outpatient services have moved to newly constructed care areas. Removal of hazardous waste and demolition of the four story South building will be completed in May 2009 to enable completion of remodeled areas. The project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2009.

In January 2007 the Board of Trustees approved additional expenditures for the Building and Renovation Program at HealthSource. The additional expenditures relates to 1) increased psychiatric bed capacity to meet the increasing needs of the community 2) An integrated Security/Communications System to assure the highest level of safety and security for the patients/residents/clients, visitors, staff and the community 3) Speeding up repairs to the existing buildings and continued replacement of moveable furniture and equipment to provide a more home-like environment for those served by HealthSource. Funding the additional expenditures is anticipated to be through the use of internal funds. Additional tax support for the project is not being considered.

On August 5, 2008 voters of Saginaw County overwhelmingly approved a .20 reduced millage proposal which will provide approximately \$1,000,000 to support losses of the Extended Care Center and Chemical Dependency Center.

The State of Michigan's 2009 budget includes no increases to Medicaid program funding. Funding from the Medicare program for 2008/2009 is anticipated to increase by 2-3%. Medicaid and Medicare are a major source of payment for program services furnished by HealthSource.

16. INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND SERVICES (ISS): (County Services Committee)

Contact Person: Johnathan Miller, Director, 790-5575

ISS is presently involved with a significant number of unique projects, working with departments to meet their specific needs. In addition to providing daily support for the existing computing infrastructure, ISS assists users with solutions their computer problems, working to keep the county's 900+ personal computers up and running for users. ISS also provides support for in-house, canned/retail and outsourced end-user applications, used by county personnel and the public we serve. Some of our current activities include:

Over the years that ISS has provided services to the county, faces have changed, as has the layout of the office suite, computer room, and the supported computing infrastructure. What started out as a pure mainframe environment, with users working off of dumb-terminals, evolved into a client/server computer networking environment, with users working from computers, to access the mainframe. Today, ISS is working to move users from the mainframe environment the latest in client/server applications, based off of Microsoft .NET technology.

Through all of this evolution, with the exception of our computer data center, put in place a few years back, few changes have been made to the way people access ISS and the computer operations room. ISS has always strived to be a user-first solution for Saginaw County, and accessibility for our users, access to our office space and ISS personnel, have been key areas of interest.

As a result of a recent financial systems audit, ISS has been alerted to a series of deficiencies in our security measures and practices. Most of these have been noted prior and ISS has been working to resolve these through the implementation of new procedures and protocols, along with changes to physical security methods and solutions.

ISS is implementing new departmental access security, and will be installing a swipe-card / keypad solution at our main entrance. To ensure service and accessibility, county departments will be issued individual key-codes, permitting representatives access to our department, during normal business hours. As an added security measure, ISS has put in place protocol such that all non-ISS personnel will need to be escorted by an ISS staff member, while in the computer operations room. The present keypad on the computer operations room door will be replaced by a swipe-card reader, permitting only ISS access, 24x7.

These added security measures will further insure the security and protection of county departmental data, and bring ISS in-line with the security standards in place in all reputable IT data centers. ISS recognizes that these changes will present inconvenience to our end-users, and is appreciative of everyone's patience and understanding, as we continually work to provide quality services to the county.

17. JAIL REIMBURSEMENT: (Courts and Public Safety Committee)

Contact Person: Mary Amend, Jail Reimbursement Coordinator 790-5584

In February, Sue Bernardoni began working as the Administrative Assistant to Community Corrections and Jail Reimbursement; she replaces Linda Owen. Sue is a pleasure to work with and a wonderful addition to our staff.

Cheryl Konopaska, State of Michigan CJRP Coordinator, will be visiting Saginaw County on May 18th to conduct a County Jail Reimbursement audit. She and I will be reviewing jail history and inmate booking and release information from 2007 and 2008. We will be meeting with Sheriff Federspiel the same day to review the findings.

The Office of Community Corrections will more than likely make additional changes to reimbursable diverted felon criteria for the CJR Program. To date, the Reimbursement Office has billed over \$250,000 for diverted felons and MDOC Parole Holds and almost \$68,000 for Federal bed days.

The Department of Justice is once again offering the SCAAP (State Criminal Alien Assistance Program) Grant to Saginaw County. Last year the grant award was close to \$15,000 and assisted in paying correction officers salaries. The Board of Commissioners has again approved submission for the grant which will be completed prior to the due date being May 12, 2009.

18. LABOR CONTRACTS: (Labor Relations Committee)

Contact Person: Jennifer Broadfoot, Personnel Assistant, 790-5507

Negotiations remain ongoing with the Juvenile Detention Supervisors' unit. Negotiations have been opened and remain ongoing with the eight groups with contracts that expired on September 30, 2008.

EMPLOYEE GROUP	NUMBER OF POSITIONS	EXPIR. CURRENT CONTRACT
OPEIU - COURTHOUSE EMPLOYEES	167	09/30/09
GELC - PROBATION OFFICERS, DISTRICT COURT	7	09/30/09
TEAMSTERS - PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES	19	09/30/09
POAM - ANIMAL SHELTER EMPLOYEES	6	09/30/08
GELC - PROBATION OFFICERS, FAMILY DIVISION	7	09/30/08
COAM - SHERIFF UNIT III-CAPT. & LT.	3	09/30/08
TEAMSTERS - HEALTH DEPARTMENT/COA EMPLOYEES	108	09/30/08
AFSCME - PROSECUTORS	18	09/30/08
UAW – MANAGERS	63	09/30/08
UAW – PROFESSIONALS	72	09/30/08
UAW – CLERICAL, TECHNICAL & PARA-PROFESSIONALS	23	09/30/08
POLC - SHERIFF UNIT II-SGTS.	14	09/30/09
GELC – DETENTION CENTER SUPERVISORS	4	09/30/07
GELC - DETENTION YOUTH CARE SPECIALISTS	23	09/30/09
POAM SHERIFF UNIT I (312 ELIGIBLE)	44	09/30/09
POAM - SHERIFF UNIT 1 (NON 312 ELIGIBLE)	57	09/30/09

19. MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT: (County Services Committee)
Contact Person: Mike Boyd, Maintenance Director, 790-5235

We have been doing a lot of interviewing and we have filled the Utility Worker and Crew Leader position. Air conditioning units have been inspected and repairs are complete and ready for the summer. We have purchased a 2-3 yard dump truck that is being fitted with a salt spreader. We are currently working with Central Dispatch on their tower replacement on top of the Court House and currently working with Central Dispatch to acquire grant money to replace the generator for the Central Dispatch facility.

Fire extinguishers have had annual inspection and all corrections have been completed and annual backflow testing and inspection has been completed.

We have been obtaining quotes for seal coating and line stripping in the parking area.

We have been doing yearly maintenance on our summer equipment to prepare for the upcoming season. With the help of Parks department we have hired the summer help.

20. MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY:
Contact Person: Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO, 797-3400

Application for Renewal and Recommitment (ARR) and Program Policy Guidelines (PPG)

Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) will be preoccupied over the next several weeks preparing it's response to our application of recommitment and renewal to our specialty Medicaid services called *"Focusing a Partnership for Renewal and Recommitment to Quality and Community in the Public Mental Health System"*. The ARR is covers eleven (11) different dimensions such as:

- Partnering with Stakeholders in the Design, Delivery & Evaluation of the Public Mental Health System
- Improving the Culture of Systems of Care
- Assuring Active Engagement
- Supporting Maximum Consumer Choice and Control
- Expanding Opportunity for Integrated Employment
- Assuring Opportunity for Needed Treatment for People in Criminal Justice System
- Assessing Needs and Managing Demand
- Coordinating and Managing Care
- Improving the Quality of Supports and Services
- Developing and Maintaining a Competent Workforce
- Achieving Administrative Efficiencies

SCCMHA must respond to each of these 11 sections using input from numerous external and internal stakeholders using Environmental Scans ("What are the current realities at SCCMHA?") & Quality Improvement Plans ("How will SCCMHA be moving forward in the future?"). The final submission is due back to the Michigan Department of Community Health by June 1, 2009.

In addition, SCCMHA has also just completed a newly revised set of *"Program Policy Guidelines for Community Mental Health Services Programs"* and submitted to MDCH by April 6, 2009 deadline. The purpose of the PPG activity is for the Community Mental Health (CMH) industry in Michigan to respond to a request for data and narrative answers to public policy questions, to both meet the needs of the State Legislature and MDCH on everything from waiting lists, reports of under service to existing consumers, as well as to obtain local feedback on the progress of new policy directions. The PPG will also be tied directly to the ARR and will focus more explicitly on reporting system data, some of which we can easily obtain from our own data warehouse, while other areas will require best estimates from

specific programs on topics we do not currently have data for in the warehouse.

SCCMHA senior staff is confident that many of the newer initiatives we have undertaken in recent years will serve us well in making both submissions.

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009 SCCMHA will honor 35 individuals and organizations at their Everyday Heroes Banquet. Each year SCCMHA recognizes consumers and their families for their successes, personal growth, participation and leadership skills as well as community partnerships. This year's honorees include: Amelia Jacobs, Amy Murawski, Amy Stepenson, Barb Beeckman, Brenda Botello, Carrie Mora, Cheryl Carlevato, Connie Filiczowski, Cpt. William Gutzwiller, Danielle Wolven, David Osmun, Dawn Trapp, Diana Fernandez, Dr. Wladimir Zarski, Felicia McRae, Gene Jolin, Glenvale-Bay Human Services, Jaime Weiss, Janet Giem, Jeannie Tyra, Jennifer Keilitz, Jim Sharon, Kay Zofchak, Loretta Mead, Michael Chester, Michelle Vance, Pam Harris, Randy Barst & Saginaw DHS Staff, Raymond Crommatie, Robert Keinath, Roger Soule, Rosa Holliday, Theresa Ugartechea, Thomas Peck & Todd Dixon.

21. MICHIGAN WORKS: (County Services Committee)
Contact Person: Edward Oberski, Director, 754-1144

The Mid-Michigan Job Fair was held Thursday, April 9, 2009 in Midland.— Sponsors were: Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works, Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Bureau of Workforce Transformation, Davenport University, American Legion, WNEM TV5 – Moose 94.5 and the Mid-Michigan Job Fair Team. There were 77 employer booth attendees, over 1,200 job seeker attendees and approximately 15 Training Institutions and Military booths.

Saginaw Midland Bay Michigan Works! will sponsor and have a booth at the Mid - Michigan Regional Business Expo on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at Saginaw Valley State University – Ryder Center. Michigan Works! will also sponsor three seminars:

- “How Hireable Are You?” Practicing (with horses) Effective Non-verbal Communication To Enhance Your Employability; and “Team Building – Are You A Team Player?” Both of these seminars are presented by Tracy Weber, Ph.D. Kaleidoscope Learning Circle and her four-legged facilitators.
- “Generations In The Work Place”, a seminar presented by Delta College Corporate Services.

Road Construction Apprenticeship Readiness (RCAR) Graduation Celebration was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. The Michigan Department of Transportation identified Federal Highway Administration funding in the amount of \$225,000 for the Saginaw Area. Fifteen students graduated from Delta College in the second RCAR class held in Saginaw. The primary objective of the RCAR Program is to create a pool of candidates from under-represented populations with proven readiness to enter apprenticeships. The RCAR program provides recruitment, assessment, apprentice readiness training, basic skills remediation, stipends, drug screening, and other supportive services to meet the road construction workforce training needs of Michigan. Regional partners, including Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works, community and faith-based agencies, unions and other stakeholders, collaboratively develop a community-based outreach plan to attract and recruit eligible participants for the RCAR Program at Delta College.

The Essential Work Skills Certification Program, developed by Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works! is proud to have assisted “The Apothecary Shoppe” in this program training for 160 of their employees. Six sessions were held for all to attend. The Program is all about employees learning and retaining “good customer service” skills. A DVD has been developed, which is a worthwhile tool for employers to review and identify the need for training their employees.

22. MOSQUITO CONTROL: (Human Services Committee) Contact Person: Randall Knepper, Director, 755-5751

Interviews for seasonal employment were completed in early March and our annual training session was held on March 20-21st. New staff will represent approximately 26% of our seasonal workforce which is typical for our operation. Seasonal field staff will begin reporting on April 20th with the remaining reporting during the following six weeks until we are fully staffed in early June. Truck spraying for adult mosquitoes is weather depended but should start during the 2nd or 3rd week of May.

Spring *Aedes* mosquitoes were first found on March 16th this year which is earlier than normal; historically we find our first larvae around March 22nd. We were again successful in securing permits to allow us to conduct aerial larviciding for spring mosquitoes on federal refuge and state game lands. Our aerial larviciding program was conducted from April 8-12. The weather was dry but we did have to stop operations a couple of days due to high winds. As budgeted, additional acreage was larvicided in the SW portion of the County this year.

School presentations by our education department continue to be very popular. This school year our Education Coordinator has already scheduled over 200 classroom presentations. This spring we will be conducting a poster contest for all third, fourth, and fifth grade students in Saginaw County with this year's theme "Stop, Look, And Dump It Out." Margaret Breasbois and Bill Stanuszek judged science fair projects at the annual Saginaw County Science and Engineering Fair and selected two students to receive awards sponsored by our agency. Additionally, our Education Coordinator has been invited to bring SCMAC's display to the Michigan Department of Agriculture Earth Day celebration in Lansing on April 22, 2009.

Jenifer Robb, our agencies Account Clerk resigned on March 31, 2009 to accept the position as director for Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement. Jenifer was truly an asset to our agency and we wish her well in her new endeavor.

Finally, SCMAC has been selected by Clarke Mosquito Control to evaluate a new larvicide called Natular[®]. This product is a joint venture with Dow AgroSciences and we are excited to be given the opportunity to evaluate this product before it goes to market.

23. MSU EXTENSION: (Human Services Committee)
Contact Person: Deanna East, Director, 758-2500

Sugar in the Lead of Michigan's Economic Recovery: Steve Poindexter, Regional Extension Educator, Sugarbeet Advancement Program: Michigan State University Extension Sugarbeet Advancement (SBA) is a partnership between MSU Extension, Ag Experiment Station and Michigan Sugar Company. During the 2008 growing season, the Michigan Sugar Company grower owned cooperative produced a record sugarbeet crop of 28.9 tons per acre. This crop produced over one billion pounds of sugar and, at a value of over \$375,000,000, has contributed enormously to the economy of Michigan. In 1996, average production was 15 tons per acre and in the past 10 years yields have doubled, in part due to the efforts of the Michigan State University Extension Sugarbeet Advancement (SBA) research and educational programs. The program had 28 research trials in the Thumb of Michigan ranging from new variety testing to managing and controlling root diseases. Research was published and sent to every sugarbeet grower in Michigan. Educational efforts include six programs on selecting the best varieties and eight programs disseminating the latest research on sugarbeet production. *At the recent Michigan/Ontario Research Reporting Session, 99% of the responding growers indicated that they intended to incorporate information gained into their sugarbeet production practices.* Growers have indicated that SBA is their number one source of sugarbeet information.

Home Maintenance Program Teaches Minor Repair Skills: Julia Darnton, Community and Economic Extension Educator: The Home Maintenance Self-Help Program, funded in partnership with The City of Saginaw's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), continues to offer free home repair education to local residents. This program is highly rated by participants for the instruction in minor plumbing repairs, minor electrical repairs, interior and exterior painting and wall repairs, window and screen repair, and home safety and security. The classes offer participants hands-on experience for each participant, money saving hints, and educational materials that are taken away by the student. Students in the classes also benefit from the interaction with our team of home maintenance consultants – all of whom are skilled professionals working in the building trades. The consultant staff has provided 40 hours of instruction to city and county residents in the last grant year. CDBG funding for the program was approved by the City Council and will continue the program into the next grant year. The program benefits from strong partnership with local agencies like Habitat for Humanity and many neighborhood organizations.

Nutrition Education Programs Expands Partnerships: Dawn Wilcox, Extension Educator: The Nutrition Education programs through MSU Extension-Saginaw County are reaching out to hit new target markets. Collaborations with Habitat for Humanity has led to 10 homeowners avoiding foreclosure to learn what it takes to budget their food dollars to prepare a healthy meal for them and their family on a budget. South Colony seniors are set to learn the importance of fiber, hydration and physical activity and ways to include them into their current lifestyle with a week-long lunchtime series. In addition, over 10 different Headstart parents' clubs received nutrition education presentations urging parents to take the nutrition and health of their children and themselves to the top of their priority list. The nutrition education staff is growing with two new energetic and ambitious Program Associates that are busy organizing partnerships with Saginaw County Schools, faith-based organizations and locally owned grocery stores in the area for the month of April. The Breast-feeding Initiative Mother's Club attracts mothers who have given birth or plan to work through the difficulties of breastfeeding for new moms. The staff has also been a part of the TV5 food bank live event educating viewers on how to prepare a healthy meal on a budget. Collaborations with Saginaw County ISD have led to lunch and learn programs, educating on fast and nutrition foods and appropriate foods for their children just starting to eat foods, for employers during their lunch hour. The Supplemental Nutrition Education program has also been selected to participate in a cost-benefit analysis to determine the monetary savings in health care linked to the preventative nutrition education.

24. 911 AUTHORITY:

Contact Person: Thomas McIntyre, Director, 790-5504

Saginaw County 9-1-1 continues to strive toward the updating of its equipment at the center. Saginaw County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch serves as the vital link between the citizens and the public safety agencies in Saginaw County, handling nearly 395,000 calls for 2008. Our mission is to serve all of Saginaw County's citizens and visitors by providing prompt, accurate, and reliable access to the County's public safety agencies; thus, making Saginaw County a safer community in which to live, work, and visit.

There's a push on the state level to regulate VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), many lawmakers claiming they're concerned unregulated 911 services could prove dangerous, when in reality they're primarily interested in tapping into the potential tax revenue. But as VoIP becomes more popular, and some users consider ditching their land-line, there's emerging questions about who will ensure that these services work as advertised.

Saginaw County is now working on the new Digital Radio System Engineering Plan with Motorola and the MPCSC (Michigan Public Safety Communications System); this plan will help direct Saginaw County toward the new goals in implementing this system by November 2009.

Currently in the works to update our CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) System with Motorola, Premier 1 system, along with the NICE digital recording system, recording 64 channels at one time, this could be radio, 911 calls, and administrative calls. We are now in the works to replace or upgrade all LAN system, basically connecting all municipalities within Saginaw County together.

25. PARKS: (County Services Committee)

Contact Person: John Schmude, Parks Director, 790-5280

Spring 2009 programs include: Soggy Doggy on May 20th from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area. Your pup can have a splash-splashing good time at this free event located at Haithco Recreation Area.

June 3rd, June 17th and July 1st mark the first three Dog Days of Summer events of the season held within Imerman Memorial Park at the Steven A. Kirshenbaum Memorial Bark Park. From 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. you can meet up with friends both human and canine and have a chance to win some cool dog door prizes courtesy of Pets Supplies Plus!

Catch me if you can is a fun filled fishing festival that has it all! Games, prizes, painting & fishing, of course! Each child registered receives a free fishing pole & is entered to win a grand prize chartered fishing trip. There will be trophies and lunch & raffle prizes as well. Hands on learning & demonstrations will also take place during the event.

You can preregister or sign up the day of the event. Bait will be sold on site. All State of Michigan rules & regulations will apply at this tournament. Bring a plain white t-shirt to create fish prints on! Cost is \$3.00 per child and includes lunch & fishing pole for first 200 registered participants. This event will take place at the W. H. Haithco Recreation Area for the following age categories: 5 & under; 6-11; and 12-15. You may register from 7:30 am – 9:00 am, the fishing contest will begin at 7:30 am and run until 11:00 am, lunch will be served from 11:15 am - 12:00 pm and the awards presentation and raffle will take place beginning at noon.

Saginaw County Parks would like to thank the following sponsors for making this event possible: Saginaw Bay Walleye Club, Doc Heinz Contracting, Valley Cardiology P.C., Martin Chevrolet, Northeastern Paint, SWAT Charter Service, McDonald's Restaurants, Meijer, Inc., Saginaw Moose Family Center #82, the Optimist Club and Gordon Food Service

In the beginning kayaking class you will learn the differences between kayak styles and canoes and discover how stable and easily maneuverable kayaks can be. Class sizes are small with a maximum of eight people per class. Be sure to register early as classes fill up fast. This is a wet class so you should bring a change of clothing.

For the Teddy Bear Picnic bring your teddy bear to our picnic in the park. Play games, make a craft, and take a short hike. Bring a sippy cup (if needed), weather-appropriate clothing, water and a camera. This is for children under 7. Times and locations vary contact the Parks at 790-5280 to register or for more information.

Children under 12 won't want to miss Pond Life. Join Saginaw County Mosquito Abatement and Saginaw County Parks in exploring the edges of Haithco Lake and small ponds to discover frogs, toads, dragonflies and more! Bring weather-appropriate clothing, water and a camera. Wednesday, June 10th, 1:00 p.m. at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area. Cost: \$5.00 per vehicle entry fee

Join us for Trail Trekkers as part of the annual Walk Michigan program. Meet on Thursdays and walk from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Come one night or every night, just be sure to come. Cost: Free! Location: Saginaw Valley Rail Trail at Van Wormer Road. Duration: 1 hour. When: June 11th, June 18th and June 25th.

Are You Ready? Presented by Saginaw County's Citizens Corps beginning at 11:00 a.m. on June 13th. Disasters happen anytime -anywhere. In an emergency, you'll need to take precautions to protect yourself, your family and property. Disasters may strike without warning requiring you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. Come see how you can be prepared. Cost: \$5.00 per vehicle entry fee. Location: William H. Haithco Recreation Area.

In Alfresco Art explore your artistic side and craft clever creations by using items found throughout the park to spark your imagination. Bring weather-appropriate clothing, water and a camera. Ages: under 12. Duration: 1 hour. Tuesday, June 16th, 1:00 p.m. at Imerman Memorial Park. Cost: \$2.00 per vehicle entry fee and Saturday, June 20th, 1:00 p.m. at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area. Cost: \$5.00 per vehicle entry fee

Leave No Trace. Enjoy the outdoors? Join guest presenter Jeanne Armstrong as she teaches you to prevent and minimize your impact on nature while having fun. Leave No Trace is an educational program, not a set of rules and regulations. Bring weather-appropriate clothing, water and a camera. Ages: Over 12. Duration: 1.5 hours. Tuesday, June 16th, 5:30 p.m. at Imerman Memorial Park. Cost: \$2.00 per vehicle entry fee

In Wiggly Worms, you'll learn all you ever wanted to know about nature's hardest working recycler and construct your own wormery! Bring one clear two-liter water bottle, weather-appropriate clothing, water and a camera. Ages: under 12. Duration: 1 hour. Saturday, June 20th, 3:00 p.m. at the William H. Haithco Recreation Area. Cost: \$5.00 per vehicle entry fee and Tuesday, June 23rd, 1:00 p.m. at Imerman Memorial Park. Cost: \$2.00 per vehicle entry fee

Don't miss the Jammin' Dulcimers! On Wednesday, June 24th Saginaw Subterranean Strings Hammered Dulcimer Club will be performing at 7:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and get ready for great music! This concert is free for your listening pleasure! (the vehicle entry fee will remain in effect until 6:30 p.m.) Location: William H. Haithco Recreation Area. Duration: 1.5 hours

Anyone could find themselves in an emergency situation. Even the most basic knowledge could mean the difference between life and death. Come and learn the five basic survival skills. Presented by Jeanne Armstrong. Bring weather-appropriate clothing, water and a camera. Ages: over 12. Duration: 1.5 hours. Tuesday, June 30th, 5:30 p.m. at Imerman Memorial Park. Cost: \$2.00 per vehicle entry fee

26. PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT: (Labor Relations Committee)
Contact Person: Jennifer Broadfoot, Personnel Assistant, 790-5507

New Employee Orientation Sessions are currently being scheduled. Departments with employees who need to attend will be notified by Personnel several weeks in advance of the sessions. If you have any questions regarding the orientation sessions, please call Personnel at 790-5213.

27. PLANNING: (County Services Committee):
Contact Person: Doug Bell, Planning Director, 797-6800

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING – Local road projects that will be funded under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) have now been approved by Federal Highway Administration. The Saginaw area will receive \$3,688,000 in ARRA funds for Federal Aid-eligible roads that are under the jurisdiction of the Saginaw County Road Commission and the City of Saginaw. Additional ARRA funding will be used by MDOT on state routes.

STARS will also be receiving about \$2,466,000 in ARRA funds for transit projects. Planning staff will be working with STARS to incorporate their transit projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) so that the funds can be committed as soon as possible.

MDOT is still optimistic that additional ARRA funds may become available and will be distributed to transportation agencies at some later date.

Planning staff recently met with MDOT and FHWA in Lansing to discuss the development of the Unified Work Program for transportation in 2010. FHWA will be recommending an additional emphasis on freight planning in next year's program.

The new ARRA funding has caused major adjustments in planned transportation improvements, especially those sponsored by MDOT. As a result, the state MPO's, including SMATS, and MDOT have recently agreed to suspend the development of the new TIP until 2010. The new TIP will now cover projects in 2011 through 2014.

28. PUBLIC HEALTH: (Human Services Committee)
 Contact Person: Natasha Coulouris, Health Officer, 758-3818

All required training to maintain National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance for the department has been completed for this year.

SCDPH received final scores on the MDCH-OPHP review of the Department's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan. A 3% increase in scores was given for the December 2008 review.

FYI has been notified that the Michigan State Police Youth Leadership Academy has been awarded to Saginaw again. This year the academy will take 30 boys representing all school districts to the conference the last week of July.

Saginaw County's Methadone Clinic is now officially opened. Victory Clinic is located on Shattuck East of N. Michigan and will be open from 6:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Environmental Health

Food Service Inspections for March	101
Food Borne Illness Investigations for March	0
ServSafe Food Class Participants Training	37
Temporary Food Licenses granted for March	30
Radon Kits Distributed in March	14

Immunizations

Clinic Attendance for March 2009	
Clinic Attendance for the 2009 calendar year	1,014

TB/CD

TB tests completed (administered and read)	114
Positive TB results	2
Referrals from other agencies	3
TB cases for 2009	0

STD/HIV

# of client visits in March	251
Genital Herpes	4
Positive Lice Check	1
Positive Syphilis	2
Positive Gonorrhea	4
Positive Chlamydia	21

Saginaw County currently has three HIV positive individuals.

The Saginaw WIC Program has fully converted to the new MI-WIC system as of April 6, 2009. Currently the WIC Program has 113 (St. Charles), 1,039 (Main Health Department), 84 (Birch Run), and 10 (Chesaning) high risk clients for a total of 1,246.

29. PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION: (County Services Committee)
Contact Person: Jim Koski, Public Works Commissioner, 790-5258

Construction of Kochville Township Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System project should begin this 2nd quarter. Currently, easements are ready for signatures, and the engineering work is complete.

The engineering stages of Allendale Tile Drain, the newest county drainage district, have begun.

Dredging of the Saginaw River is scheduled to begin Mid May.

As of March 31, 2009, 60 new soil erosion and sedimentation control permits have been issued for fiscal year 2009. This is low compared to previous years, but this is expected due to the economy and the decrease of construction in Saginaw County.

30. PURCHASING: (County Services Committee)
Contact Person: Kelly M. Suppes, Purchasing/Risk Manager, 790-5505

Janitorial Services-Family Court and Morley Buildings - An RFP was issued to solicit bids for janitorial services at the Morley and Family Court buildings. The Contract was awarded to Rost Cleaning Services for an annual contracted amount of \$20,088 and \$16,020 respectively.

2009 Survey & Remonumentation Bids - An RFP was issued to solicit bids from professional surveyors for the 2009 Survey and Remonumentation program. Contracts were awarded to Rosenbrock Land Surveying, Inc., Fleis & Vanderbrink and Wilcox Professional Services. Each contract allows for 16 corners to be researched and remonumented. The cost per corner is \$845.00. Total contract cost is \$40,560.

Copy Machine-MI Works Bay Road Location – Quotes were solicited to purchase a new copier for the MI Works Bay Road Location. A Purchase Order was issued to Konica Minolta Albin in the amount of \$7,761.60. Other quotes were received from Brady Business Systems, Xerox and Michigan Office Solutions.

Drug Forfeiture Home-Shiawassee County - A listing agreement has been entered into with Remax of Owosso to sell a forfeiture home in Owosso, Shiawassee County. The home has been listed on the public market for \$115,000. The agent will receive 6% commission of the accepted offer. The listing agreement runs for 6 months ending on 10/13/09.

31. RETIREMENT:
Contact Person: Amy J. Deford, Retirement Adm., 790-5577

524 employees are enrolled in the Defined Contribution Program (DC) as of April 18, 2009, while 139 employees remain in the MERS Defined Benefit Plan.

ICMA has resources available on their website for everyone to access. One of which is InvestSmart at www.icmarc.org/smart which provides educational information about investing, suggestions to help you develop your own investing strategy based on your individual needs and comfort level with risk, and market and policy updates.