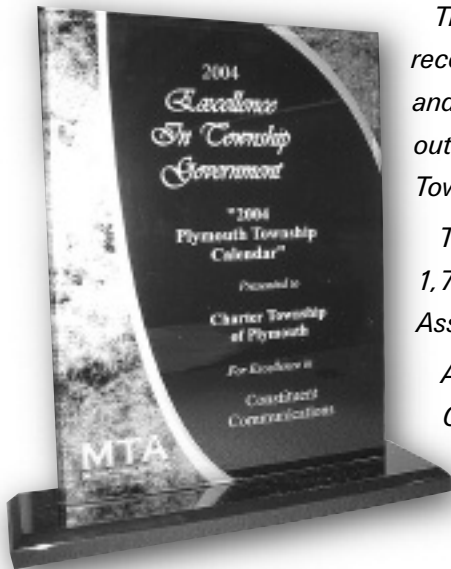


# Five Townships Honored for 'Excellence in Township Government'



*The success of any association is dependent upon the success of its members. MTA recognizes that township government thrives because of the courage, commitment and vision of township boards throughout the state. To reward and highlight the outstanding achievement of dedicated townships, MTA created the "Excellence in Township Government" awards program.*

*The winners of the third annual award programs were announced to more than 1,700 township officials and guests attending the Annual Banquet during the Association's 53rd Annual Educational Conference in Grand Rapids.*

*Applications were accepted in seven categories: Boardmanship, Constituent Communications, Fiscal Management, Human Resources Management, Land Use, Community Services and Intergovernmental Relations. Awards were given in five of the seven categories.*

## EXCELLENCE IN CONSTITUENT COMMUNICATIONS Kinross Charter Township 'Kinross.net'

When **Joe Paczkowski** was appointed deputy supervisor of **Kinross Charter Township** (Chippewa Co.) in 2004, he was given the assignment of evaluating and possibly updating the township's aging Web site.



While he found the site contained a lot of useful information, he quickly became convinced that the site was difficult to navigate and in need of a redesign.

Each department director was asked to determine what information on their pages needed updating, and an online poll asked site users what they wanted from the site. All of that data was compiled, and a new site was designed.

The site's mission is to provide timely, accurate information and services to township residents, as well as other users searching for information on the area's popular snowmobile trails. Updates are made at least weekly, sometimes daily, to ensure users always find something new when they return. The new site receives 3,000 hits per day from more than 150 unique visits, a 400-percent increase from the same period just a year before.

"Kinross.net doesn't just represent a government," said Paczkowski. "We are a community that has made a comfortable place for itself in a small corner of the World Wide Web."

## EXCELLENCE IN FISCAL MANAGEMENT Roscommon Township 'New Hall from Current Revenue'

With a township hall that was more than 100 years old and in need of repair, the **Roscommon Township**



board knew a new hall was necessary. Supervisor and MTA Board member **Diane Randall** took the lead on an ambitious project to pay for the construction of a new hall with current revenue.

As road repair was a major drain on the township's budget, these costs were shifted from the general fund and funded by the passage of a road millage. The township's recycle transfer station was also moved out of the general fund and was instead funded by a special assessment. The township board froze wages or accepted less than the cost-of-living adjustment to help accumulate funds. No new furniture or technology was acquired for several years to provide more cost-savings.

In 2001, with more than half of the anticipated costs on-hand, the township was able to contract for the construction of a new township hall. Over the next several years, continued attention to careful budget management yielded sufficient funds to pay for the new construction.

"Remarkably, this project was completed ahead of schedule and on budget, and included all technological advancements needed for the future," said Trustee **Dick Pastula**.