



## Office of Administration

PO Box 885  
1087 Newell  
White Cloud, Michigan 49349  
Phone: (231) 689-7200  
Fax: (231) 689-7205

For Immediate Release:  
October 8, 2010

Contact: Tobi Lake  
231-689-7200

---

### Open House for Newaygo County Jail & Sheriff's Office Expansion

An Open House for Newaygo County's Jail and Sheriff's Office Expansion project will take place on Friday, October 29, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. at 1035 E. James Street in White Cloud. The public is invited to attend the celebration and join a guided tour of the new jail areas.

Construction on the \$6.4 million project began in December 2009 and included an expansion to the jail which enables the facility to house approximately 68 additional inmates in both cell and dormitory configurations. Additionally, the project featured a one-story administrative building to accommodate all Sheriff's Office operations, including jail administration.

Under the terms of a 15-year agreement between Newaygo County and the United States Marshal Service, 140 of the newly-expanded jail's 280 beds will be reserved for federal inmates.

"Per diems for housing federal prisoners have historically allowed the jail to operate without general fund funding the entire operations of the jail," stated Finance Chair Pat Gardner. "The expansion of this arrangement has allowed us to save County tax payer dollars."

"The revenue gained from the higher per diem rate and increased number of beds will be used to repay the bonds needed for construction and renovation, which not only allowed us to expand the jail to meet the County's future needs, but also to provide an improved workspace for the Sheriff's Office," said County Commissioner Chuck Trapp.

The County is pleased that the construction process has gone smoothly, remaining on schedule and within budget, while not interfering with the Sheriff's Office's duties. "While there has been a great deal of construction-related activity within the past months, we took the time to plan appropriately before construction began, minimizing interruptions to our day-to-day Departmental activities and ensuring that our ability to effectively meet the protection and safety needs of our residents was not compromised in any way," stated Newaygo County Sheriff Michael Mercer.

The jail expansion committee is comprised of representatives from Newaygo County, the Sheriff's Office, and the Jail, as well as the City of White Cloud. Landmark Design Group of Grand Rapids served as the architectural firm for the project and Granger Construction of Grand Rapids/Lansing has acted as construction manager.

####