

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Houghton County Web Project Awarded to opusWeb.com

(As seen in the Daily Mining Gazette – August 13, 2003)

Houghton, Michigan (August 13, 2003) – Houghton County will soon have its own place in cyberspace. The county board of commissioners Tuesday approved spending \$3,800 for Houghton-based opusWeb.com to design, develop and host the county's official Web site.

opusWeb.com, formerly known as Opus Web Technologies, is expected to have a prototype ready in several weeks. The site, whose address is undetermined, will be launched in November.

Steve Pesola, system analyst for the county, said the site will initially focus on the basics.

"It's going to be more general information at first and then we'll see how things develop as they progress," Pesola said. Pesola has been gathering information from county offices to include on the site.

The Web site will include a directory of county offices and services and information about state equalized value and parcels. There will be an introduction and basic information about the county, including local pictures and links to other sites. Information about the board of commissioners, including meeting minutes, will be available.

Common forms will be available for printing so residents can print and fill out papers before going to the courthouse, Pesola said.

Board Chairman Mike Lahti said the Web site has potential.

"It's going to be an efficient use of our staff's time when it gets developed better," he said. Lahti said it was not known at this time if any increased efficiency from the Web site would result in staff reductions.

After the site is launched, there will be a \$75 per month hosting and maintenance fee, including two hours of professional support. Additional opusWeb.com support would cost \$50 per hour.

Pesola and other county employees will be able to update certain site information without charge.

Pesola said the idea of a county Web site emerged about a year ago, but it was delayed until now.

While it has taken a while for the county to get online, individual agencies, including the sheriff's department, road commission and airport have their own sites.

Founded in 1996, opusWeb.com leverages Web development strategies to help companies and organizations approach and maintain their viability on the Web. The firm delivers a host of Web-based solutions including strategy, design, programming and agency-side assistance.

opusWeb.com is a partnered firm by Jeffery Primeau of Calumet, and Heath Sundstrom of Hancock, and is headquartered at 314 Shelden Avenue in Houghton. Some recent Web projects include: BHK Child Development Board, Copper Country Focus on the First Five, Hitch, Inc., Keweenaw Home Nursing & Hospice, Portage Health System, Surplus Outlet and RE/MAX Douglass Real Estate.

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