Alpena County launches its online GIS and Tax Marketplace

- Search for Tax or Parcel Information
- Electronic delivery of data
- View multiple GIS layers online
- Purchase data subscriptions
- Free and purchasable data available
- County residents receive a discount
- GO GREEN, save paper and fuel costs
- Full customer support to answer questions
- All data is updated daily

Alpena County is dedicated to providing our residents and business's the advantages of state of the art technology. With this dedication in mind, Alpena County partnered with Maps inDeed to provide our residents with valuable information via the World Wide Web. Our residents now have the ability to search parcel information, Geospatial Information and other County records through the Alpena County online web service. Data will be updated to the website on a regular basis to provide current information. Within the coming months Alpena County will be adding functions and features to provide an additional wealth of options.

Today more than ever, time is important. The Maps inDeed online system allows residents and business users to browse County data at their convenience, order products, and view data in an electronic format. Our online system focuses on providing the ability to disseminate our data in a timely and friendly way, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For more information contact:
Maps inDeed
solutions@mapsinindeed.com
6-17-10 Alpena County, MI ramps up technology infrastructure:

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Today more than ever, time is important. The Alpena Online GIS System allows residents and public users to browse data, order products, and view data in an electronic format at their convenience. Our online system focuses on providing the ability to disseminate our data in a timely and friendly way, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The new system is a revolutionary way for the citizens and businesses of Alpena County to acquire information on the properties within. Have you ever wanted the history of a property that was for sale but you didn’t know where to begin to look for this information? Do you want to appeal your property taxes and need the information on comparable properties? Have you ever wanted to know what your property line boundaries are? Well, now you can go onto the Alpena County website and search an address. The results will provide you with data that was archived within the county for that specific geographical location. Data such as sale history, tax information, historical photos, parcel boundaries, and many other articles of data may be available and can now be downloaded directly to your computer via the County website. It is the County’s goal to provide additional data for download in the future such as building permits, inspection reports, and deeds. This technology will help save a lot of time and effort in the data retrieval process. Another benefit is how “user friendly” the public interface is in comparison to other applications on the market. The ability to simply view aerial photos and layers of data without any download process is possible directly on the County website. Layers are multiple characters of data that can be viewed on a map and are labeled according to geographic location. (I.E... a layer could consist of all the schools within the county, when you select the “schools” layer the map that is displayed will then show specific markers such as pushpins to show where these schools are located. The advanced part of this technology has the capability to provide data for those specific schools. The data can be attached to the pushpin or marker that was designated to that school and can be viewed immediately.)
What is GIS?

A geographic information system (GIS) integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. (Such as Parcel Data, Land Data, and/or any other data that can be applied to a specific location on a grid or map.) GIS allows us to view, understand, question, interpret, and visualize data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts. A GIS helps you answer questions and solve problems by looking at your data in a way that is quickly understood and easily shared. GIS technology can be integrated into any enterprise information system framework. Geography is the science of our world. Coupled with GIS, geography is helping us to better understand the earth and apply geographic knowledge to a host of human activities.

Who uses GIS? A GIS can be used by many businesses, government agencies, educators, environmental agencies, and the public. (Many individuals can utilize GIS for their personal use as mentioned earlier.)

Banking institutions have financial analysts employ GIS for targeting their markets by visualizing service needs.

Insurance companies have made GIS a central component of their business, using it to visualize, analyze, and distribute risk. Insurers know that to be successful they must offer the products and services customers need at the right price. Insurance has a strong geographic component; from managing the addresses of policy holders, to the location of risk, to the logistics of handling claims.

Real Estate: From map-based contact management to sophisticated investment analysis in large real estate investment trusts, real estate agencies rely heavily on electronic mapping. Many realtors have found great success in using the Internet to market properties. Companies such as SSX Realty Advisors, Inc. use GIS in commercial real estate, while REALTOR.com uses GIS to bring maps online to 1.2 million people shopping for a new home.

Media: GIS is used by media bureaus for everything from analyzing circulation and attracting advertisers to creating the maps used in the material itself. The Associated Press (AP), USA TODAY, and National Geographic Society use GIS software to create accurate maps quickly for magazines, newspapers, and online news services. GIS maps can help the media keep the public informed about street closures or openings and other emergency services.

Many companies are utilizing a GIS internally. The capabilities of their systems are somewhat limited to internal use and the sharing of any information becomes difficult at times due to compatibility issues and time restraint. (I.E... An insurance company requires certain data for a specific property that a claim has been filed for. This data needs to come from another agency such as the County. The County has the data stored on its servers in a format that is proprietary to the system that created the data. The insurance company now has to email, call, or mail a data request to the County in order to receive the data they require. Once the data has been received, the insurance company needs to disseminate the data so it can be viewed within the insurance company’s own format. This process can be very time consuming and costly to the
insurance company not to mention the time the County had to spend in order to deliver the data request to the insurance company.) With the new technology that is available these challenges will no longer be of concern and business can now be conducted in a more time efficient and productive manner. The capability we now have to electronically deliver a source of data and have an online system automate the process is now the solution to what once seemed impossible.

Alpena County, in partnership with Maps Indeed, is proud to announce the official launch of this new system within the county’s website as of June 17th 2010. Log on to www.alpenacounty.org and start your search today!!!!