



OAKLAND COUNTY  
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**COMMISSIONER  
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*Dear Neighbor,*

*Oakland County is a great place to live, work and play. This newsletter shares just a few of the great services that your county government provides.*

*As your county commissioner, I value your input on how to make the County better. Please contact me with any of your suggestions.*

**Best Wishes,**

**Eileen T. Kowall**

# OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEWS & UPDATES

**SPRING 2005 ISSUE**

## COMMISSIONERS FIGHT TO PROTECT MILLIONS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

More than \$9.14 million dollars of funding are at stake, as Oakland County Commissioners seek to save the Community Development Block Grant program. Since 1974, the federal Community Development Block Grant program has provided Oakland County communities with funding for home improvement programs, transportation for seniors, community revitalization efforts, and numerous quality of life initiatives. For 30 years, Oakland County residents in 55 participating communities have benefited from the Community Development Block Grant program administered locally by the Oakland County Community and Home Improvement Division.

Oakland County Commissioners passed resolution #05046 in support of saving the program and some Commissioners visited Washington to lobby members of Congress regarding this matter in March. If you want to assist the efforts of the Board of Commissioners in saving the Community Development Block Grant program, contact your congressional representative by writing, calling or emailing them. For more information about the Community Development Block Grant program, contact the Oakland County Community and Home Improvement Division at 1-888-350-0900, ext. 80493 or visit the website at [www.co.oakland.mi.us/chi](http://www.co.oakland.mi.us/chi).



## INTEGRATED BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY HELPS TO CAPTURE CRIMINALS

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners continues to support efforts that enhance public safety by investing in portable fingerprint capture devices. These hand held devices electronically transmit finger and thumbprint information to the State Police Automated Fingerprint Identification System server. Once the information is submitted and analyzed, local and state law enforcement agencies can identify an individual in a matter of minutes from the database server.

By saving Oakland County law enforcement officers' time, cutting down on paperwork, and enhancing the number of individuals that can be checked at one time has added to the efficiency of the IBIS system. The mobility of the I.B.I.S device is another benefit. The I.B.I.S devices have been funded by Congress and approved by the Board of Commissioners. Oakland County continues to be on the cutting edge of biometric technology purchasing its first Live Scan fingerprint device in 1996 and developing web-based technology to accommodate its use. This gives the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies another tool to fight crime.

## COMMISSIONERS CONTINUE COUNTY CHILDCARE FACILITY

On March 10, 2005, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution eliminating a subsidy to the county's on-site childcare provider Gretchen's House of Ann Arbor. For many years, Gretchen's House has operated the county's childcare facility, Little Oaks, and provided employees with a valuable service.

Board supports continuing the tradition of providing quality childcare for employees. Employees will pay \$125 to \$879 per child at Little Oaks. The price range is based on the age of a child and the number of days that a child is cared for in the facility. Cash subsidies are forbidden by the terms of the new childcare contract.