



OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEWS & UPDATES

SUMMER 2005 ISSUE

OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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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.

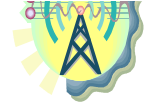
As your county commissioner, I value your input on how to make the County better. Please contact me with any of your suggestions.

Best Wishes,

Greg Jamian



WIRELESS OAKLAND



Wireless Oakland is an initiative launched by Oakland County that would blanket the county's 910 square miles with wireless Internet service. This would make Oakland County the first wireless county in the nation. What is Wireless Internet? Wireless technology does not require the use of wires and other conventional plug-in equipment. Information is transmitted through the air by a wireless network.

Oakland County would directly address the "digital divide" that exists within the county by making available low-cost and no-cost personal computers and technology training to residents who would not otherwise have access that would be paid by sustainable funding sources not county dollars. The initiative would develop a Telecommunication and Technology Planning Tool Kit for local governments that support the investment of this technology in their community. By 2007, the Wireless Oakland project is scheduled to be completed. With the recent passage of Board resolution #05121, we are closer to making this initiative a reality. Public and private funding partnerships will make Wireless Oakland possible without the use of county dollars.

Residents and wireless users will have access to wireless Internet anywhere in the county. The county will conduct a test pilot of Wireless Oakland consisting of a small group of communities participating later this fall. Once this project is completed, basic wireless service will be free for residents and businesses with the option available to purchase a faster service. For more information, go to www.co.oakland.mi.us/wireless/



COUNTY SEEKS SOLUTIONS TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES PROVIDE HEALTH CARE

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners recently passed resolution #05049 to create a study group to look at ways that the County could help small businesses provide affordable health care to employees. A plan to address the spiraling health care costs that continue to squeeze businesses and employees financially would look closely at cost-sharing options. One option would require employees to pay 1/3, employers to pay 1/3 and a 1/3 to be paid from the County's Indigent Health Care Fund to provide this benefit. Similar plans have been implemented in Wayne, Macomb and Washtenaw Counties.

This plan would not use money from the County's General Fund, nor would it affect our current budget. This is one plan that is being investigated. We intend to look at all programs that have been implemented throughout the nation. This benefit would be another way to attract businesses and help to sustain local businesses.

A Moment In The History of Oakland County

In the fall of 1818, an exploring party of prominent professionals and businessmen from Detroit, called the Pontiac Company, came up the Saginaw Trail on horseback and camped the first night in what is now **Royal Oak**. These men named most of the lakes in what are now **Bloomfield** and **West Bloomfield Townships**. Their published report of the County's rich natural resources and natural beauty did much to correct the 1816 description.

Oakland County was **officially organized on January 12, 1819** when Michigan Governor Lewis Cass issued a proclamation establishing the new county's boundaries. The Pontiac Company offered to contribute both property and money to the establishment of a county seat in Pontiac, a central location no more than a day's journey from any point in the County.

With the **County seat established in Pontiac**, the County was divided into two townships. The northern section was Oakland Township and the southern section would be Bloomfield Township. In 1827, Oakland County was further divided into five townships: Farmington, Bloomfield, Troy, Oakland and Pontiac.