



**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,

Eileen T. Kowall

OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEWS & UPDATES

SUMMER 2005 ISSUE



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/



MARK YOUR CALENDAR Special Evening Meeting



**The Board Welcomes Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson
Topic of Discussion: The Recommended County Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007
Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 7 p.m.**

The Board of Commissioners welcomes the public to attend this evening meeting in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Auditorium, located 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan. For more information, call the Board's office at 248-858-0100.

Oakland County Jail Population Management Task Force



With our county jail operating at close to capacity, Oakland County has taken a proactive approach to dealing with this issue. Since the creation of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Jail Population Management Task Force, many issues of concern have been studied. Jail Population Management, Docket Management, Pre-trial, Jail/Court Data and Jail Alternatives are being reviewed by five task force study groups. The Task Force is focusing on looking at ways to increase the efficiency of processing criminal cases and will make jail population management policy recommendations.

On April 7, 2005, the Oakland County Jail Population Management Task Force hosted a community meeting in the Board's Auditorium. Community residents, local officials, law enforcement, judicial and correction personnel attended this meeting. Members of the National Institute of Corrections shared insight during their three-day tour and study of assessing the county's local jail crowding system. Members of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners serving on the Jail Population Management Task Force, which is chaired by Commissioner Eric S. Wilson, are supporting the project, along with Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard, Chief Circuit Judge Wendy Potts, and the County Executive's Office.

The Board of Commissioners and the Jail Population Management Task Force continue to seek solutions and will report recommendations by October 1, 2005. This will follow the State of Michigan's Fiscal Year Budget, which may feature potential changes in Michigan Sentencing Guidelines and other cost reduction measures in the state's correction system.