



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,

Tim Melton

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 providing 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 Kit for local governments that support the investment of high level technology in their community and promote the integration of these investments without compromising the community's character and quality of life. By 2007, the Wireless Oakland project is scheduled to be completed. With the recent passage of Board resolution #05121, we are looking to make this initiative a reality.

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 summer. 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.

COMMISSIONER HOSTS TV SHOW



For more county information, watch your local cable access station to learn about the great programs that Oakland County offers residents. Since beginning the television show, topics of discussion have included Wireless Oakland and the school board elections. Most recently, a segment featured Dan Hunter, the Oakland County Economic, and Planning Department Director. He announced the upcoming business seminars focusing on how to start a business, how to write a business plan, and how to obtain a small business loan.

You can watch the "Tim Melton Show" in Auburn Hills, Berkley, Clawson, Ferndale, Huntington Woods, Oakland Township, Pleasant Ridge, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, Troy, and Pontiac. The show airs in Pontiac on Mondays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9 p.m. In other communities, the show airs on Wednesdays at 4 p.m., and twice on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Channel 18 or 52. For information, call **248-884-4357**.