



# QUARTERLY NEWS & UPDATES

FROM YOUR OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Summer-Fall, 2011

1200 N. Telegraph Road • Pontiac, MI 48341-0470 • Tel: 248-858-0100

## BALANCED 2012-2014 BUDGET GOES TO FULL BOARD FOR VOTE

The Oakland Board of Commissioners' Finance Committee has completed hearings into the 2012-2014 county budget presented by County Executive L. Brooks Patterson in July. General Fund spending will rise to \$412 million in 2012, up from \$410 million in 2011. The revised, recommended budget is balanced for the next three years – the only triennial government budget in the country.

County Commissioners and the County Executive credit advanced, well-designed, in-depth budget planning with adjustments for declining revenues and cooperation of all departments as being instrumental in maintaining the county's AAA bond rating, even as property tax revenues continue to decline.

The county avoided cutting employee salaries and mass layoffs. There are no raises or hiring, and every time someone leaves county employment the position remains vacant. There have been only ten involuntary layoffs since 2008. View the budget here: [http://www.oakgov.com/mgtbud/info\\_pub/triennial\\_budget.html](http://www.oakgov.com/mgtbud/info_pub/triennial_budget.html)

The Oakland County Commission's Finance Committee concluded budget hearings in August, and the whole Board is slated to vote on the Finance Committee's recommendations in September. No tax increases are included. The Board of Commissioners has lowered, but has never raised property taxes since it was created to succeed the County Board of Supervisors almost a half-century ago.



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## COUNTY UPGRADES FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Residents of Oakland County can now access online monthly reports that update how taxpayers' money is being spent. The county has upgraded its financial transparency website to include reports revised every month, instead of once every year as it has been in the past.

The newly improved site allows residents to sign up to be automatically notified by e-mail when new information and new reports become available.

The reports are primarily used by budget managers to help monitor revenues and expenses against their authorized annual budgets. The site includes audited reports that date back as far as fiscal year 2002. Also included are unaudited budgets for departments such as the Board of Commissioners, the Courts, and the Sheriff. Visit the site at the link below.

[http://www.oakgov.com/fiscal/info\\_pub/monthlyreports.html](http://www.oakgov.com/fiscal/info_pub/monthlyreports.html)

## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### Free Hunter Safety Classes Offered

Two-Part Classes to be held on:

Saturday, October 1 AND Saturday, Oct. 8, 8:30am-1:30pm

OR

Saturday, Nov. 5, AND Saturday, Nov. 12, 8:30am-1:30pm

AT

Sheriff's Office Training Room, Administration Building, Building 38E, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac 48341

To register, call (248) 858-7831.

**Please note:** Successful completion of the class requires the full 10 hours and a test at the end. Certification will be issued upon completing the course and passing the test.

For more information, visit: [Hunter Training Information](#)

## Chairman Gingell Honors "Clerk of the Year"



Oakland County Board Chairman Michael Gingell (right) and Oakland County Clerk Bill Bullard, Jr. presented a proclamation honoring Lake Orion Clerk Arlene Nichols for being recognized as the **2011 Village Clerk of the Year** by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

## New Property Gateway Up and Running

**Property Gateway** is a leading-edge Internet tool built to provide free and fee-based online access to Oakland County's land and property information including tax parcel reports and maps. Products and reports currently offered through the Property Gateway are:

- [Commercial & Industrial Profile](#)
- [Current Tax Profile](#)
- [Delinquent Tax Statements](#)
- [Map Atlas](#)
- [Mortgage Application Acceleration Program](#)
- [Residential Property Profile](#)

## Commissioners Meeting Calendar

Wednesday, August 31, 7:00pm

Thursday, September 22, 9:30am

Wednesday, October 5, 7:00pm

Thursday, October 27, 9:30am

Meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 North Telegraph, Pontiac.

Dear Neighbors,

*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 Board Chairperson, I value your input on how to make the county better.*

*Please contact me with any of your suggestions.*

Best Wishes,

*Michael J. Gingell*

Michael J. Gingell  
Chairman

**Oakland County Commissioner and Board Chairman Mike Gingell serves District #3, representing the Townships of Orion and Oakland, and the Village of Lake Orion.**