



OAKLAND COUNTY
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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

OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEWS & UPDATES

SPRING 2006 ISSUE

STATE OF OAKLAND COUNTY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Oakland County has continued to lead Michigan in economic growth and job creation in the last year. Bi-partisan support of initiatives like Wireless Oakland, Emerging Sectors, Automation Alley and other county economic development efforts have paid off with vital new investment and significant job creation.

But, there is more to do. In this wealthy county we have 150,000 living in poverty, too many homeless or nearly so, and thousands with little or no medical coverage. We are also running into costly infrastructure, development and energy issues. Members of the Board and I will work to help local businesses provide health care for their employees, introduce a free prescription drug discount card for all residents, work to increase "green building" and energy conservation efforts, ensure county purchases are made from local companies employing Michigan workers, support Oakland County's long-standing affirmative action policies and oppose efforts to end affirmative action programs in Michigan, save the federal CDBG program from cuts to our most vulnerable neighborhoods and continue support for the HAVEN sexual assault nurse examiner program to help sexual assault victims.

For more information about Emerging Sectors, Wireless Oakland, Local Apprenticeships or other county programs, go to www.oak.gov.com.

NEW PARTNERS JOIN IN HISTORIC WIRELESS OAKLAND VENTURE

Oakland County announced new partnerships with six companies joining in the Wireless Oakland effort. Making up these local, national and international companies are Cisco Systems, RF Connect, Johnson & Anderson, SMZ Advertising, Dykema Gossett, and UHY Advisors which will join with MichTel Communications of Pontiac, the first company selected in 2005 to operate, oversee and own the county's wireless network. Of the six new companies selected, five are Oakland County based with offices in Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Troy and Waterford Township.

The Wireless Oakland project is expected to be completed in 2007 and will allow public use of the 910 square mile wireless system that will cover the entire county and its 61 communities.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL LOOKS AT FELONY PLEAS IN DISTRICT COURT

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council joins the judicial division of the county in looking at ways to move inmates through the system while freeing up jail beds and space.

With the new **Felony Plea Court Rule** established January 1, 2006, Oakland County has been at the forefront of reform by implementing a justice system plan that offers eligible defendants the option to enter a felony plea at district court. Defendants who plead guilty are referred to the circuit court for sentencing, which expedites the amount of time that defendants are in the county system by 2-to-3 weeks.

Judge Wendy Potts announced that five district courts are currently accepting felony pleas with several district courts soon to participate.

Ameri-Dream Makes Homeownership a Reality

The Oakland County Community and Housing Division has a limited amount of funds available for eligible residents who meet the Ameri-Dream loan program guidelines.

This 0% interest loan can help residents desiring to purchase a home with up to \$10,000. For more information, call 248-858-0495.