



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 summer 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 feel free to contact me with any of your suggestions.

Sincerely,

William D. Molnar



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.

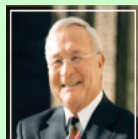
Oakland County would directly address the "digital divide" that exists within the County by providing low-cost personal computers and technology training to residents who would not otherwise have access, which is a goal of the County. The initiative would develop a Telecommunication and Technology Planning Kit for local governments that support the investment of this technology in their community. By early 2007, the Wireless Oakland project is scheduled to be completed. With the recent passage of Board resolution #05121, we are closer making 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 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 Meetings

The Board Welcomes Michigan Department of Transportation Director Gloria Jeff
Topic of Discussion: Roads & Transportation
Thursday, June 23, 2005 at 7 p.m.



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 these evening meetings 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.



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. I have been named chairman of the Small Business Health Care study group. The group is expected to meet over several months.

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.