



**OAKLAND COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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**COMMISSIONER
PETER H. WEBSTER
DISTRICT #18**

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Dear Neighbor,

Oakland County is a great place to live, work, play and prosper. 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,

Peter H. Webster

OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEWS & UPDATES

JULY 2004 ISSUE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPPOSE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE PROPOSED BY LANSING

The Governor and Lansing legislators want to increase your county property taxes to solve their budget challenges on the backs of county residents. The State's property tax increase and shift would have county taxpayers pay for four years of property taxes in three years. The Oakland County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes this tax increase. Through Miscellaneous Resolution #04071, adopted by the Board of Commissioners, we have sent a message to Lansing on behalf of county residents that a property tax increase and shift is not responsible government. Lansing's proposal would rob local governments like Oakland County and the City of Royal Oak of their revenue sharing, increase our property taxes, and disrupt the payment of summer and winter tax bills. This would create a hardship on those who can afford it least--seniors and others on fixed income.

SPECIAL GRANTS HELP TO MAKE OAKLAND COUNTY A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY & PROSPER

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners continues to develop sound fiscal policy and provide quality county living for all. Oakland County has been successful in obtaining grants that help in areas of law enforcement, public health, homeland security, community development and housing.

County Commissioners have approved acceptance of the following grants received by the County's Community and Home Improvement Division for the 2004 Fiscal Year:

- **Comprehensive Housing Counseling Services** - offers free counseling relating to home ownership, rental and mortgage matters, first-time homebuyers and Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Programs. Counseling is free to residents of Oakland County.
- **Housing Rehabilitation Loan** - provides financial assistance for home improvements with 0% to 3 % interest loans in amounts available up to \$18,000.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development grants provide funding for these programs. These grants help to maintain county services and contribute to the vitality of communities throughout Oakland County. Certain guidelines may apply for program eligibility.

For more information regarding these grant funded programs, contact the Oakland County Community and Home Improvement Division at 248-858-0493 or go to www.co.oakland.mi.us/chi.

The Community and Home Improvement Division is located at 1200 N. Telegraph Road, County Service Center, Building 338 East in Pontiac, Michigan. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.



WEST NILE FUNDING

Public safety and health are very important to the Board of Commissioners. In the ongoing battle to "Fight the Bite," last year, \$500,000 was given to 58 communities in our county to assist in the fight against the West Nile Virus. Cities, villages, and townships are eligible for an additional \$500,000 share of the funding that continues to be distributed throughout this summer. This year, Oakland County has had no reports of West Nile infections.

The educational and promotional awareness campaign efforts of Oakland County's Health Division continues to successfully spread the message of proper precautionary measures that make for a safe summer season for residents. To track the West Nile Virus throughout the county and state, go to www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus.