



QUARTERLY NEWS & UPDATES

FROM YOUR OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FALL - WINTER 2010

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COMMISSION APPROVES ITS NEW TRIENNIAL BUDGET

Oakland County Commissioners passed a three-year (triennial) budget for the second straight year. The new budget, passed in September, went into effect October 1. It is believed to be the only balanced, triennial budget ever passed by any governmental unit in the United States.

The benefit of having a balanced three-year spending plan is enormous. In order for businesses to expand and begin hiring again, they need to have some idea of how much operating capital they will need in the foreseeable future. A three-year budget lets them know exactly what their county taxes will be both short-term and long term, giving them the opportunity to develop their own budgets with better financial clarity. This removes some of the uncertainty that has caused businesses to sit on monetary assets rather than using them to expand and hire new workers.

The balanced three-year budget calls for no new taxes, and confronts the issues of job losses and declining real estate values, which impact Oakland County's tax base well into the future. The County's long-term outlook will continue to allow it to weather the fiscal storm. As the only county in the United States to budget on a rolling three-year cycle, Oakland County is looking ahead to Fiscal Year 2014 and beyond.

A highlight of the budget is that county employees and elected officials alike will take a 1.5% pay decrease this year.

In addition to balancing the budget, the county has maintained its AAA bond rating. The AAA bond rating allows the County to fund infrastructure and other capital improvements at the lowest interest rate available.

As an example, in real terms, of the significance of a AAA bond rating, the Oakland County Building Authority in 2010 issued bonds to refinance the debt on two municipal buildings in the City of Keego Harbor. Because of the AAA rating, Keego Harbor will save \$60,000 per year — ***enough money to save one job.***

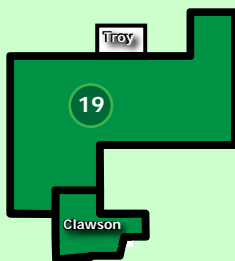


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Dear Neighbors,

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 your commissioner, I value your input on how to make the county better.

Please contact me with any of your suggestions.

Best Wishes,

Tim Burns
County Commissioner

TRACK YOUR TAXES

See How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent

A new feature of the Board of Commissioners website allows citizens to see how their hard-earned money will be spent by the Oakland County Government over the next three years.

In our continuing effort to be as transparent as possible, we have enabled taxpayers to track where their tax money is going. To see for yourself, visit the home page of the Board of Commissioners website, www.oakgov.com/boc, and clicking on the link that says **TRACK YOUR TAXES**. Here, visitors will find the 2011-2013 budget that went into effect October 1.

The budget details how much money each part of government will receive, and how the money will be spent. As you can see, the budget is balanced and most of the services you expect from the county are still readily available and conveniently located.

Commissioner Burns Honors Animal Shelter



Commissioner Tim Burns (fifth from right) honors the staff and volunteers of the Oakland County Animal Shelter for their successful fund-raising drive at the Somerset Collection. The money will be used to further attempts to place shelter animals in good and loving homes.

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS STILL AVAILABLE WITH COUNTY PROGRAM



Since April, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, in partnership with the county administration, has been successful in its efforts to provide micro loans for small businesses.

This initiative will help small enterprises and entrepreneurs who qualify to secure loans ranging from \$500 to \$35,000. As an alternative to traditional lending institutions, this program will help those businesses who may not quite fit traditional loan guidelines, by offering greater flexibility and a chance to get loans that otherwise would not have been available to them.

For more information, call the Oakland County MicroLoan Program at 248-460-3973, or download an application at www.miceed.org.

STILL TRYING TO FIND A JOB?

We can help. The page below provides useful, free information for unemployed and/or displaced workers within Oakland County:

Click on:

www.oakgov.com/health/programs/service/community_resources.html

or call (866) 500-0017.



Oakland County Commissioner Tim Burns serves District #19 – the Cities of Clawson and Troy