



OAKLAND COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
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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,**

*William R. Patterson*

**William R. Patterson**

# OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NEWS & UPDATES

**AUTUMN/FALL 2006 ISSUE**

## COUNTY HEALTH BENEFITS



In May, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted to increase county employees and retirees' medical deductibles and prescription drug co-pays. This action is estimated to save \$1 million dollars in the county's 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget.

The Board has worked closely with the county administration to look at alternative health options to cut costs. Since January 1, 2006, new employees hired have participated in the retiree's health care savings account, which also cut the county's long-term health care costs.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL UPDATE

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has successfully secured support for its Local Administrative Order from Michigan's Supreme Court. The order gives judges and the Sheriff's Office authority to release non-violent criminals early from jail to avoid exceeding capacity and declaring an emergency jail overcrowding.

The Local Administrative Order's eligibility guidelines include the early releases of only non-violent sentenced and un-sentenced inmates, bonds of up to \$500 and those greater than \$500, inmates held for failure to pay child support and inmates sentenced to 45 days or longer, who are scheduled for release within five days. Sentencing judges may veto any early release.

## NEW COUNTYWIDE RADIO SYSTEM

The Board approved \$42.3 million in improvements for the county's radio communications system which includes the following:

- Changing to 806/ Mega Hertz radio system
- Interoperability for police and fire which allows each department to communicate with radio equipment in other municipalities.
- State-of-the-art radios with tower system technology that covers the entire county and penetrates buildings.

## WIRELESS OAKLAND UPDATE

Wireless Oakland partner, MichTel, completed contract negotiations with DTE Energy for use of utility poles to place the county's wireless access receptor point technology.

Once installed, Wireless Oakland will cover the entire county with a wireless network. A portion of the service will be free to every business, resident and visitor.