



QUARTERLY NEWS & UPDATES

FROM YOUR OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fall, 2008

BOARD REVIEWS COUNTY SPENDING FOR 2009/2010 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET



JEFF POTTER
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT #8

Telephone: 248-437-7597

E-mail:

potteri@oakgov.com

In July, the budget ritual began with Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson providing the Board of Commissioners with a recommended budget for fiscal years 2009-2010. During the review process, the Board studied the \$425.7 million 2009 and the \$420 million 2010 proposed general fund budgets. We looked closely at budget-line items for all county departments' spending through the Board's Finance and Personnel committees.

In August, finance and personnel meetings were held requiring each department to explain their spending and budget reductions. Budget reductions for 2009 totaling \$2.5 million and \$16.5 million for 2010 have been met. Meeting these reductions was critical to balancing the county's budget. These cuts are in addition to interim cuts made during the present year. By law, we must adopt a balanced budget by October 1, 2008. We did so on unanimously at our meeting September 18th.

Through cooperative forward planning, the Board of Commissioners has adopted a budget with actual cuts, avoiding both layoffs and tax increases which are plaguing other counties in Michigan. In addition, expanded tethering programs (see below) are keeping our streets safer, by allowing release of low-bond and non-violent offenders for "real-time" tracking. In addition to saving jail costs, this prevents court-mandated release due to overcrowding; and it also forestalls construction of expensive new facilities during this time of austerity.

As Chair of the Public Services Committee, I am committed to increasing efficiency by adopting new technologies to increase productivity and keep our streets safer and taxes lower.

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 offers.

As your commissioner, I value your input on how to improve our shared community.

Please contact me with any suggestions. Be sure to bookmark the County Website (www.oakgov.com) for information and updates.

Best Wishes,

Jeff Potter
County Commissioner

TETHER PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE

Oakland County's six-month pilot electronic monitoring program has proven successful, with an average of 31 low-risk prisoners per day being released with tethers.

These prisoners stayed on GPS tethers an average of 37 days. With this program, the county saved more than 800 jail days, significantly reducing the jail population.

Thirty-four prisoners completed their sentences. Only five prisoners tried to defeat their tethers, all were quickly apprehended and re-incarcerated.

Board Honors Dave Ross for 40 Years of Service



Pictured left to right back row are Commissioners Jim Nash, David Woodward, Robert Gosselin, Bradford Jacobsen. Front Row are Commissioners Tim Burns, Marcia Gershenson, Retiring County Facilities Management Director Dave Ross, Sue Ann Douglas, and Michael Gingell.

EVENTS CALENDAR



FREE Family Law Clinics

Wednesdays, October 15th and 29th, from 1-3 pm. Call **248-858-0012** for more information.

FREE Veterans Law Clinic

Wednesdays, October 8, November 5 and December from 12 -3 pm. Call **248-858-858-0011**. Both Clinics will be held at the **Oakland County Law Library**, located at 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac.

FREE Vision & Hearing Screening

Oakland County Health Division offers service for children 3 years of age to 12th grade. Call **248-424-7070**.

Oakland County Commissioner Jeff Potter serves District #8, representing Lyon Township, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom, as well as Novi precincts 9 & 10(north)