



QUARTERLY NEWS & UPDATES

FROM YOUR OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Spring, 2009

1200 N. Telegraph Road • Pontiac, MI 48341-0470 • Tel: 248-858-0100

JAIL OVERCROWDING CURTAILED



Over the past few years, jail overcrowding has been a problem for Oakland County and has resulted in emergency early releases of non-violent prisoners when jail capacity levels reached or exceeded 1,828 inmates.

Solutions developed as a result of successful collaboration between the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, the Courts, the Oakland County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the Sheriff's Department have resulted in many positive breakthroughs on this issue. Our collective efforts to change the state law and alternative sentencing options have proven to be effective.

First, new legislation passed in November 2007 changed Michigan's State Jail Overcrowding Emergency Act which allowed judges and law enforcement agencies to implement, at their discretion, small controlled early releases of non-sentenced and non-violent offenders. This legislation went into effect in February 2008.

Second, in the spring of 2008, an alternative sentencing option endorsed by Commissioners expanded the county's tethering program allowing the electronic monitoring of up to 50 low-risk prisoners released daily from jail. Prisoners stayed on tethers an average of 37 days until the completion of their sentences. As a result of these actions taken by the Board of Commissioners, the Sheriff and Courts, there have been 208 successful sentence completions and no instances of jail overcrowding.



DAVID COULTER
DISTRICT #25

Telephone: 248-543-8984
E-mail: dwcoulter@comcast.net

FREE COUNSELING OFFERED

Oakland County Housing Counseling and Fair Housing Division provides mortgage delinquency, foreclosure prevention, and mortgage counseling. To speak with a **Housing Counselor** call **248-858-5402**, for more information.

It is highly recommended that you contact a counselor as soon as possible if you are unable to pay your monthly, yearly tax payments or would like to have a prospective mortgage refinance proposal review before you commit.

"There's No Home Like My Own" The Oakland County Home Buyer Program for more information on how you may qualify, call 248-858-1529 or www.housing/chi.

PAY TAXES ONLINE

For your convenience, Oakland County residents can pay their taxes online. You can pay at paylocaltaxes.com. All online payments will include an Enhanced Access Fee. There is also a Tax Statement and Current Tax Profile small fee for each purchase.

You can go online and pay current or delinquent taxes that are owed to the Oakland County Treasurer, a city, a village, or a township. Payments made online are non-refundable. To learn more about this service go to www.oakgov.com/treasure, or call 248-858-0611. For current tax collections, call 888-600-3773. If you just want general information, call 888-350-0900.

The following credit cards are accepted online: **Visa, Mastercard, and Discover**. Delinquent Tax Statements may be purchased with a credit card for \$2 each. You can also get a Current Tax Profile for \$2.50.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Oakland County Clerk's Passport Day

Learn about the new passport rules.
Sat. March 28, 10 a.m. - 3p.m., 1200 North Telegraph Rd, Pontiac. Call 248-858-0561.

My Home, My Future Seminar

Mon., March 30, 7 p.m., Royal Oak Library, 211 Williams at 7:00 p.m. Call 888-350-0900.

You and Your Aging Parent Class

Thurs., April 6, 16, 23 & 30, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Troy Community Ctr, 3179 Livernois, Troy, Call 248-524-3484 to register. For information, call 248-424-9160. There is a small fee.

Frisbee Fest

Tues., April 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Teens' Frisbee Sports; Addison Oaks County Park. Call 248-858-1486.

Oakland County Family Law Clinic

April 8, 22, May 6, 20, June 3, 17, 1- 4 p.m., law library, 1200 North Telegraph Rd, Pontiac. Free.

Oakland County Green Business Summit

Tues., May 19, 8am-5pm, Troy Ctr., 3179 Livernois Rd. Call 248-858-2470.

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,

David Coulter
Commissioner

Oakland County Commissioner David Coulter serves District 25 and represents the cities of Ferndale, Hazel Park and Royal Oak.