



QUARTERLY NEWS & UPDATES

FROM YOUR OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Autumn, 2009

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

FISCAL DISCIPLINE SAVES TAXPAYERS MILLIONS OF \$\$\$

Once again, Moody's Investors Service, as well as Standard and Poor's, reaffirmed Oakland County's AAA Bond Rating, the highest government credit rating possible. "So what?" you may ask yourself. "Why should I care?" The answer is simple. Every government, from time to time, must borrow money by issuing bonds for capital improvements, new buildings, upgrades, and the like. This money must be paid back with interest. The higher the bond rating, the less interest governments must pay to borrow money. In the case of Oakland County, our AAA bond rating means county taxpayers save \$2 to \$3 million annually in interest payments - high interest that counties with lower bond ratings must pay.

Oakland County is one of only 49 counties, out of more than 3,000 in the entire United States, with a AAA bond rating. The reason we are able to maintain our high rating is Oakland County's ability to keep pace with rapidly changing financial circumstances, and our unwillingness to tap into the General Fund to balance our budget. We make difficult choices to keep our budget balanced.

Before renewing our AAA rating, Moody's and Standard and Poor's expressed concern about our ability to repay loans, given the declining state of the Michigan economy. We responded by pointing out the \$1.2 billion in new investment generated by Oakland County's Emerging Sectors initiative, which has created nearly 15,000 jobs in just four years. We also described the county's new Medical Main Street program, designed to transform Oakland County into a "medical tourism" destination. This program involves a five-point strategy for making Oakland County synonymous with the Cleveland and Mayo clinics and Johns Hopkins as a leading health care location. We understand that the auto industry may never dominate the local economy as it used to. That is why we are working very hard to diversify our economy. So far, our efforts have been quite productive.



**THOMAS F. MIDDLETON
DISTRICT #4**

**Tel: 248-620-6551
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LET YOUR MOUSE DO THE WALKING

Save time and gas by using Oakland County services online! Did you know you can order licenses, permits and certificates via the internet? You can also take advantage of Land and Property Services, Business Services, Court and Legal Services, Education & Career Services, and Recreation Services; you can pay taxes and even apply for a county job. Visit http://www.oakgov.com/online_services.

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Planning on starting a business? Let area business leaders help you. Learn legal and financial basics, how to write a business plan, how to get a loan, and what your first steps should be. **Call 248-858-8706 for information.**

FORMER MSU GREAT GREG KELSER HONORED



Commissioners honor county resident Greg Kelsner for his community service and also to commemorate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the MSU Championship team of 1979. Kelsner and teammate Magic Johnson helped MSU beat Larry Byrd's Indiana State for the NCAA Championship, the first in school history.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Michigan Renaissance Festival
August 15-October 4. Admission fee required. North of Mt. Holly on Dixie Highway. Call 800-601-4848 for more information.



October 11, 2009, The Oakland County Parks & Recreation Mobile Recreation units roll into Clawson for a day of Adventure Sport, Go Cache and Go Fish.

Reservable sites + Halloween fun = a great fall family weekend! Campers may now reserve **24 select sites in advance** at Addison Oaks and Groveland Oaks!

Saturday, Sept. 26: Listen to spooky stories around the campfire or visit the haunted island at **Groveland Oaks' Haunted Hallows.**

Oct. 17 and 24: If the scary stuff isn't for you, enjoy a friendly hay ride at **Addison Oaks' Boo Bash**, so popular it's held TWO Saturdays in a row!

Both campground events also include pumpkin carving and painting, campsite decorating contests, trick-or-treating and other Halloween festivities.

For other county events, check out this website: <http://www.oakgov.com/parksrec/>

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,

*Tom Middleton
Commissioner*

Oakland County Commissioner Thomas F. Middleton serves District #4 representing the townships of Independence and Waterford including the Village of Clarkston.