



QUARTERLY NEWS & UPDATES

FROM YOUR OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Summer, 2009

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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. We make difficult choices to keep our budget balanced without raising your taxes.

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.



SHELLEY G. TAUB
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OAKLAND COUNTY'S SENIOR COALITION SEES SILVER LINING IN GROWING SENIOR POPULATION

On June 19th, participants reviewed the economic impact and opportunities presented by the aging population. The special meeting of the Oakland County Senior Coalition (OCSC) featured Kurt Metzger, Director of Research for CITY CONNECT DETROIT and a leading demographic researcher. He discussed quality of life issues and services that will need to be addressed as the new wave of senior citizens become a major force in the county. The senior population is expected to grow to over 150,000 by 2035. You can view the presentation and learn about the coalition at www.oakgov.com/boc. Click on the Senior Planning Coalition link in the navigation bar.

Commissioner Shelley Taub serves on the OCSC, chairing the Senior Transportation Subcommittee. If you know a senior who needs transportation, call Shelley for help. Her number is in the box to the left of this article.

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

Walk Michigan/Walk Oakland
Visit an Oakland County park this Summer for a chance to win a trip For 2 to Mackinac Island on Labor Day Weekend. July-August 7, 2009.

Save the World - Go Green!
July 31-Aug 1, 11a.m.-11a.m. Join in cleanup activities and meet your 4-H summer service requirements. Independence Oaks Park. For more information, [click here](#), or call 888-678-3464.

15th Annual Woodward Dream Cruise
See the best in classic cars and experience a day of family fun, food and concerts. Saturday, August 15, all day. Free. Call 248-626-0006.

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

Arts, Beats and Eats - Festival of Hope
Arts, food and music highlight this Labor Day weekend festival designed to raise money for charity. Downtown Pontiac. \$2 gate fee.

44th Annual Arts & Apples Festival
September 11-13, Friday-Sunday. Free (donations are accepted). Rochester Park, Downtown Rochester. Enjoy food and culture.

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,

Shelley G. Taub
Commissioner

Oakland County Commissioner Shelley G. Taub serves District #16 - Orchard Lake Village and the Townships of Bloomfield and West Bloomfield.