



Oakland County Board of Commissioners

For Immediate Release: May 21, 2009

SENIOR PLANNING COALITION PREPARES FOR OAKLAND COUNTY'S "SILVER TSUNAMI"

***-LEADING DEMOGRAPHER AND RESEARCHER
KURT METZGER WILL SPEAK AT JUNE 19TH MEETING-***

(Pontiac, Michigan)--- On Friday, June 19, 2009, beginning at 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Auditorium, the Oakland County Senior Coalition will host a special free public meeting to address issues relating to the increase in the county's growing senior citizen population.

This intent of the newly formed Oakland County Senior Planning Coalition is to conduct a needs assessment of Oakland County's aging population. The group will offer recommendations to enhance the quality of life, the business climate, and health and social services safety net for older Oakland County residents. Just as important are the support services for their families and caregivers.

The Oakland County Senior Planning Coalition consists of representatives from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B; Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency; United Way for Southeast Michigan; Catholic Social Services; Oakland County Senior Advisory Council; Oakland County's Health and Human Services Department; and fellow members from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners: Helaine Zack, Marcia Gershenson, Shelley Goodman Taub and Bradford C. Jacobsen, along with representatives from community organizations; senior centers; local government and the general public.

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It is believed that in a few short years there will be more citizens in Oakland County aged 65+ than school age children. A presentation will be provided by special guest speaker and expert Kurt Metzger, Director of Research for City Connect Detroit. Metzger will share valuable information on how Oakland County demographics are shifting and look at projections that point to a “Silver Tsunami”. He will look at all facets of the issue from the economic impact, transportation, health, social services, housing to active senior lifestyles.

Mr. Kurt Metzger is a leader in this field of demographic research. He is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati receiving a M.A. degree in Experimental Psychology in 1972 and a B.A. degree from the university in 1969 in Psychology and Sociology.

For more than 30 years, he has worked tirelessly speaking on the need for a coordinated effort of data collection and delivery in Southeast Michigan. He wants to develop a comprehensive system of data sharing that would be made available to the public from data developers in government, the nonprofit and private sectors of demographic information. As a well-respected demographic leader, he has shared his expertise with numerous state and local organizations including SEMCOG, the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, OneD, the New Economy Initiative and the Greening of Detroit to name a few of the organizations that have benefited from his work.

“I am looking forward to having Mr. Metzger speak at our event. He will bring a perspective that will help the Oakland County Senior Coalition’s efforts as we look ahead to the future and plan to address the needs of our seniors. He will offer great insight for the public on this issue,” stated Oakland County Commissioner and Coalition Chairperson Helaine Zack.

For more information, contact Oakland County Commissioner and Coalition Chair Helaine Zack at 248-546-7392 or AAA-1B Executive Director Jim McGuire at 248-262-9216. Media inquiries, contact Julia Ruffin, BOC—Liaison at 248-858-1092 or Commissioner Helaine Zack at 248-546-7392.

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