

Information Technology Quarterly



Vol. 9 No. IV

Fourth Quarter 2007

Edwin Poisson, Director, Information Technology

County Web Site Named Among Best of the Web for 2007

by Peggy Daniels, eGovernment Services

Oakland County's public web site www.oakgov.com ranks among the best government sites in the country, according to the national Center for Digital Government. The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute focusing on information technology and best practices in local government. The Best of Web is an annual awards program that recognizes the most innovative local government web portals. Oakland's online portal took second place in a Best of the Web ranking of more than 3,000 county government web sites in the nation.

"Once again, this ranking confirms that we are on the right track in serving our citizens. By using advanced technology wisely and efficiently, Oakland County is saving time and money within government operations and also for citizens doing business with the County," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Oakland County's user-friendly site offers a wealth of information and services, all easily searchable to help citizens quickly find what they need. County Podcasts keep citizens informed of new County government services, special seasonal programs, and important events. Mobile Services provide critical information for the County's most on-the-go citizens. Oakland County also received a 2007 Digital Achievement Award for its Mobile Services program (<http://www.oakgov.com/mobile/>) from the Center for Digital Government.

"We've worked very hard to make Oakland County a leader in eGovernment solutions. To be ranked second in the nation is an honor that recognizes the achievements of the many creative people throughout County government who are dedicated to making Oakland County a great place to live, work, play, and do business," said Phil Bertolini, Oakland County Deputy County Executive and CIO.

Inside

County Web Site Named Among Best of the Web for 2007.....	1
County Launches Online Check Service for Delinquent Tax Payments.....	2
On the Lighter Side - Thoughts on the Holidays.....	2

Fast Facts – Oakland County Web Site:

- More than 22,000 individual web pages.
- Over - 12,000 government publications, documents, forms and reports.
- Average 2.6 million unique visitors each year.
- 19.2 million unique page views in the last 12 months.
- Site visitors from 48 countries worldwide.

County Launches Online Check Service for Delinquent Tax Payments

by Peggy Daniels, eGovernment Services

Oakland County property owners can now use electronic checks to make online payments for current and delinquent taxes. Citizens can use the County's new service to set up automatic deductions from any personal or business checking account.

The service is easy to use and completely secure. Citizens simply choose the electronic check option during the payment process and enter their checking account information when prompted. Scheduled payment options are available, allowing citizens to make a one-time payment or set up recurring deductions.

"Our new online check service gives citizens even more flexibility in making payments to the County. By offering our own system for these payments, we can be sure that citizens' private information is more secure than if a vendor solution was used. Our new system is also much more economical, resulting in substantial savings for our taxpayers," said Oakland County Treasurer Pat Dohany.

"We're continually striving to offer the services that our citizens ask for, and this new payment option makes doing business with County government more convenient and more accessible to a larger number of citizens," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

"By continuing to expand our web-based self-service options, Oakland County is saving even more time and money in government operations, and for citizens doing business with the County," said Phil Bertolini, Oakland County Deputy County Executive and CIO.

Oakland County's electronic check service will allow more citizens to take advantage of the convenience of making payments online. Previously, tax payments made via the Oakland County web site required the use of a credit card. In the future, the County plans to extend the ability to receive payments via online checks to more of its 32 online services applications. The PayLocalTaxes web site can be found under www.oakgov.com/paytaxes/index.html.

On the Lighter Side - Thoughts on the Holidays

"I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, toys not included." ~ *Bernard Manning*

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall." ~ *Larry Wilde*

"Once again we find ourselves enmeshed in the Holiday Season, that very special time of year when we join with our loved ones in sharing centuries-old traditions such as trying to find a parking space at the mall. We traditionally do this in my family by driving around the parking lot until we see a shopper emerge from the mall, then we follow her, in very much the same spirit as the Three Wise Men, who 2,000 years ago followed a star, week after week, until it led them to a parking space." ~ *Dave Barry*

Information Technology Quarterly

Editor:

Vickie Worrell

Assistant Editor:

Danielle Randall

Contributing Writers:

Peggy Daniels

Published by:

Oakland County

Department of Information Technology

1200 North Telegraph Road

Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0421

Phone: (248) 858-0810

© 2007

Visit Oakland County's Home Page at

www.oakgov.com

This newsletter is designed to share useful technology news and information with Oakland County Employees!

For comments, views, and suggested topics

please contact Vickie Worrell at

worrellv@oakgov.com