“Our Emerging Sectors® business attraction and retention strategy is on the cusp of $4 billion in total investment, with 66,000 new and retained jobs and 424 business successes.”
MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

It’s really very simple. We give businesses and entrepreneurs the tools and the opportunity to succeed: a skilled and educated workforce, a business-friendly environment, proximity to both coasts and Canada, access to capital and an enviable quality of life for our residents. **We are Oakland County, Michigan’s business address.**

We measure results and the following pages detail the successes for our Department of Economic Development & Community Affairs. By all accounts, 2016 was a stellar year:

- Known business expansion, attraction and retention investment of $898 million
- More than 11,000 new and retained jobs
- Foreign direct investment of $371 million – an increase for the third consecutive year
- Public and private investment in Main Street Oakland County communities: $34.2 million
- Twenty-six entrepreneur startups
- Nearly $3.4 million in loans to rehabilitate more than 200 homes of low income residents
- More than 4,600 participants disposed of 633,000 pounds of household hazardous waste

Congratulations to Deputy County Executive Matthew Gibb, Economic Development & Community Affairs Director Irene Spanos and Deputy Director Dan Hunter and their excellent staff on a job well done.

Our Emerging Sectors® business attraction and retention strategy is on the cusp of $4 billion in total investment, with 66,000 new and retained jobs and 424 business successes. Oakland County continues to be a preferred destination for significant international investment. The international diversity of our business community – nearly 1,100 foreign-owned firms from 39 countries – is one few states, let alone counties, can match.

We remain committed to retaining our young talent by fostering an economy that creates high paying jobs in health care and the life sciences, information technology and finance.

We are proud of the innovative programs and initiatives that serve our 1.2 million residents and 38,000 businesses. Moody’s Investor Services – one of the nation’s most respected bond rating agencies – called Oakland County the best managed county in the United States. **Businesses succeed in Oakland County. It’s really very simple.**

L. Brooks Patterson | Oakland County Executive
During the Great Stonewall Pumpkin Festival at Van Hoosen Farm in Rochester Hills, visitors participate in the fall pumpkin carving fun and display their pumpkins, along with 1,000 others, on the historic stone wall on the site of the 1840 farmhouse and dairy farm.
INNOVATION • TALENT • PROSPERITY

That secret sauce – innovation, talent, prosperity – is the recipe for economic development in Michigan’s most successful county. This 2016 annual report details the highlights for the Oakland County Department of Economic Development & Community Affairs. The following pages describe how the department impacted the county’s 1.2 million residents; 61 cities, villages and townships; and our 38,000 businesses during the year.

New opportunities, new investment and new ideas were abundant.

On average each day in 2016, more than $2.5 million of new business investment was generated in Oakland County. Thirty-eight percent of our $898 million of known investment was Foreign Direct Investment – investment from a company that is headquartered outside the United States – which increased for the third consecutive year, totaling $344 million.

Here is a snapshot:

- Forty-five international companies expanded or opened new locations here, joining nearly 1,100 foreign firms from 39 countries
- Fourteen German-based companies started new operations or expanded their footprint, generating more than $142 million of new investment
- Eleven Chinese businesses either expanded or opened new locations, generating investment of $18 million
- Sixty-three projects invested at least $1 million, with one topping $108 million
- Ali Woerner, an assistant professor of dance at Oakland University and one-time Radio City Music Hall Rockette, was named the Oakland County Executive’s Elite 40 Under 40 winner
- Eleven Main Street Oakland County communities received national downtown development and management accreditation from the National Main Street Center in Chicago
- More than 621,000 Oakland County residents were working in 2016, giving the county the highest number of employed residents since 2001, according to federal statistics. At 4.2 percent, the county’s unemployment rate was lower than both the state and federal rates of 4.9 percent.

Unemployment continues to fall, housing values are rising and the county has maintained its AAA bond rating – which it has held since 1998.

Oakland County is on the move.
More than 40 teams participated in the Troy FIRST Robotics competition at Troy Athens High School in Spring 2016. “Stronghold” was the theme, which had team-built robots competing to score points by completing challenges.
Economic development in Oakland County generated combined investment of $898 million for the year, with three-year investment from 2014-16 totaling nearly $2.4 billion. More than 5,400 jobs were created and another 5,950 were retained in 2016.

EMERGING SECTORS®

The Emerging Sectors business attraction and retention strategy continues as the key to business development in Oakland County. In 2016, 57 successes – companies that either expanded instead of moving to another state or opened a new location – generated investment of more than $430 million, resulting in nearly 8,300 new and retained jobs. Since inception in 2004, the strategy has 424 successes, generating investment of about $3.8 billion and resulting in more than 66,000 new and retained jobs. The most successful sectors in total investment are health care/life science (Medical Main Street) at $1.1 billion; information technology/communications (Tech248) at $668 million; alternative energy at $631 million and advanced electronics at $625 million.

Advanced Electronics was the most robust of the sectors in 2016, with 19 successes generating investment of more than $112 million and creating or retaining nearly 3,000 jobs.

TECH248®

Tech248 is Oakland County’s tech initiative, connecting the county’s 2,000 tech companies – more than twice the number of any other county in Michigan. Launched in 2014, Tech248 encourages collaboration and innovation in the county’s burgeoning tech community.

Tech248 sponsored 11 meetups, which attracted 605 attendees, to such locations as the Walter P. Chrysler Museum, Planet Rock, Emagine Theatres, Apple Store at Somerset Collection North and Oakland Community College. Speakers included Paul Glantz, president of Emagine Entertainment; Nathaniel “Than” McClure of Scientifically Proven; Elaina Farnsworth, founder and CEO of Mobile Comply and Casey Colussi of HelloWorld. In February, Tech248 sponsored a free SANS Cyber Security Training in an effort to make their businesses more secure against cyber-attacks. About 100 security professionals from the county and the region attended session. The SANS Institute is recognized as a global leader in cyber security education and training. There are 816 people who have joined the network representing 691 different companies.

11,350 JOBS
NEW AND RETAINED JOBS IN 2016
66,000 JOBS CREATED AND RETAINED SINCE 2004
MEDICAL MAIN STREET®

Medical Main Street is branding the county as a global center of innovation in health care and the life sciences. In 2016, seven companies expanded their businesses, generating investment of more than $72 million and creating or retaining more than 1,100 jobs. Since inception, Medical Main Street has helped 57 companies either expand or locate operations in the county, accounting for total investment of more than $1.1 billion and the creation or retention of about 9,500 jobs. Nearly 4,700 life science and health care industry firms employ more than 100,000 people in Oakland County. The Medical Main Street Network has 1,433 network contacts, representing 864 companies.

The year saw Rochester-based Par Sterile Products, an Endo International specialty pharmaceutical company with headquarters in Dublin, Ireland and Pennsylvania, invest nearly $60 million to redevelop an existing building into a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility which will add 30 jobs and secure Par’s position as an industry leader.

“Working with all of our partners in the Medical Main Street network, we will continue to look for opportunities to grow our business, invest in our people and give back to this wonderful community,” said Mike Rutkowski, Par senior vice president and general manager.

Beaumont Health is in the midst of constructing its $40 million Proton Therapy Center, which is scheduled for completion in spring of 2017 on the hospital’s Royal Oak campus. Support from Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson was instrumental in helping get state approval for the project, which was first proposed in 2008.
FINANCE

The **Oakland County Business Finance Corporation (BFC)** administers the SBA 504 Loan Program which provides long-term, low-rate fixed asset financing for healthy, expanding companies throughout Michigan. For fiscal year 2016, the BFC funded 12 loans worth $19.4 million in project investment and approved 21 loans with investment of $42.2 million, creating 535 jobs. The increase in new projects over FY 2015 was an impressive 31 percent.

The **Oakland County Economic Development Corporation (EDC)** issues tax-exempt bonds for fixed assets for qualified manufacturing businesses and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. In fiscal year 2016, the EDC induced two projects totaling $13.5 million and refinanced $4.9 million for the Straith Hospital for Special Surgery in Southfield.

Since the BFC and EDC were formed 36 years ago to stimulate the growth and expansion of the region’s businesses, the two have generated investment of more than $1.4 billion while creating or retaining 30,000 jobs. Since inception the EDC has funded 111 projects totaling $725 million in investment while creating or retaining 14,930 jobs.

The **Lindsay Exhibit Group**, which designs and fabricates displays for trade shows and conventions, relocated from Brighton to New Hudson. The company built a 25,000 square-foot facility to accommodate its growing business. Owner Scott Lindsay said the SBA 504 loan program and the BFC was a vital component of the expansion. “The BFC put everything in layman’s terms for us,” Lindsay said. “It was a breath of fresh air to have a partner to go through this process with us.”
1,100 INTERNATIONAL FIRMS
from 39 countries make their home in Oakland County, Michigan
INTERNATIONAL OAKLAND COUNTY

Oakland County is a global leader in the international business diversity of its business community. Nearly four foreign firms a month – on average – opened new business locations or expanded existing facilities in Oakland County in 2016. Foreign direct investment in the county (investment from a company headquartered outside the U.S.) increased for the third consecutive year; totaling $371 million – about 38 percent of the county’s known private investment of more than $898 million.

The county has realized foreign investment in the past three years of $872 million. Coupled with 2014-15 totals for overall business expansion, attraction and retention investment, the county has had $2.4 billion of new development in three years. County economic development officials estimate the actual economic impact is millions of dollars more annually because of other sizable investment in which the county did not play a role. The county’s business development team works closely with Emerging Sectors companies, providing assistance in such areas as site selection, workforce development, financing strategies and coordinating state and local incentives.

Significant international investment in 2016 came from Ireland-based Par Sterile Products; Germany-based auto supplier Jenoptik North America; Daifuku Webb Holding Co. of Japan, Switzerland-based Autoneum North America; TREMEC of Mexico; and Martinrea International Inc., of Canada. The total investment from those companies was $195 million, resulting in 2,000 new and retained jobs.

• Irene Spanos, director of economic development and community affairs, was appointed to a two-year term on the newly created U.S. Investment Advisory Council, to offer counsel to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker on ways to make the country more attractive for foreign direct investment. Spanos is also a member of the Foreign Direct Investment Frontlines Coalition – an economic development steering committee created by the Washington D.C. – based Organization for International Investment.

• Medical Main Street and the People’s Republic of China and its life science program, China Medical City, entered into a “Friendship City” relationship to explore opportunities for promoting and commercializing new products and technologies in life science, business, education, energy and the environment.

• Auburn Hills-based global tier one supplier BorgWarner was honored with an Impact Award for its commitment to hiring Michigan talent for the $11 million expansion of its Powertrain Technical Center in Auburn Hills. The award was given by the Michigan Works! Association.
## Selected Business Successes in 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Origin</th>
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<td>M.G.M Electric Motors, Inc.</td>
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<td>ZF TRW Global Electronics Headquarters</td>
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<td>Elektrobit Inc.</td>
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<td>Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems, Inc.</td>
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<td>Marquardt Switches, Inc.</td>
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<td>Panwen Robotics</td>
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<td>Bader USA, Inc.</td>
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<td>CNI Enterprises, Inc.</td>
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<td>Shield Material Handling, Inc</td>
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<td>Speed USA Automation Inc.</td>
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<td>Persico USA, Inc.</td>
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<td>Gestamp North America, Inc.</td>
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98 business expansions and attractions in 2016 generated $898 million total investment in 2016 creating and retaining 11,388 jobs
$34.2 million

Public and private investment generated by Main Street Oakland County communities in 2016
Main Street Oakland County (MSOC) public and private investment for 2016 was $34.2 million. The program, which focuses on a historic preservation philosophy with an emphasis on sense of place, reported the establishment of 49 new businesses, 293 jobs created and the construction of more than 176,000 square feet of floor space – nearly triple the figure from 2015. MSOC communities also saw 165 buildings rehabilitated and 54 new housing units constructed.

Since inception, MSOC communities have generated about $741 million of public and private investment, created 7,378 jobs, established 1,020 businesses, constructed 3.3 million square feet of floor space and benefited from more than 382,000 volunteer hours.

The participating MSOC communities are Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Clarkston, Clawson, Farmington, Ferndale, Franklin, Groveland Township, Hazel Park, Highland, Holly, Holly Township, Lake Orion, Lathrup Village, Leonard, Oak Park, Ortonville, Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Waterford Township and Wixom. (MSOC “Select” communities are listed in BOLD)

Main Street is a trademarked program of the National Main Street Center in Chicago. Oakland County is the first county in the United States to operate a full-service countywide Main Street program for its 24 distinct historic downtowns.

“Main Street Oakland County provides educational opportunities and resources that allow us to learn best practices from Main Streets all across the nation. As one of the original MSOC communities, Rochester has continued to thrive in the program.”

Kristi Trevarrow, Executive Director • Rochester DDA
ONE STOP READY®
Being ready for economic and community development is not simply approving projects. It means understanding the effects of leadership, process and time, and implementing a culture of collaboration with community stakeholders, businesses, developers, residents and resources.

The One Stop Ready program, created in 2012, encourages communities to capitalize on their strengths and refine their economic development processes to implement their community vision; to think of themselves in the context of a developer, a business or a resident making a decision to locate or invest in their community. More than 100 elected and appointed officials and staff from participating communities attended Academy training classes on economic context, the investor’s perspective and using best practices in the pre-application process.

Twenty of the county’s 61 cities, villages and townships currently participate. New to the program in 2015 were Clawson, Groveland Township, Hazel Park, Keego Harbor, Southfield and West Bloomfield Township. They joined members Auburn Hills, Highland Township, Independence Township, Lyon Township, Pontiac, Oak Park, Orion Township, Oxford, Oxford Township, Royal Oak, Troy, Waterford Township, White Lake Township and Wixom.

COMMUNITY & HOME IMPROVEMENT DIVISION
The division works to address individual housing needs and revitalize neighborhoods in Oakland County through the investment of about $10 million annually in federal/state support. Community & Home Improvement has helped residents with their housing needs and supported community development projects for more than 40 years. Hundreds of citizens, agencies and local officials are involved in setting priorities for activities that benefit low income persons through the development of five-year consolidated plans.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016 INCLUDE:

- Met with nearly 450 households and responded to more than 2,500 telephone inquiries about housing matters
- Provided $3.4 million of interest-free loans to rehabilitate more than 200 homes of low income households
- Invested almost $5.7 million in public services and improvements to public facilities and community infrastructure throughout Oakland County
- Demolished 290 blighted properties in Pontiac to date
- Implemented the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan setting priorities for housing, community development and public service activities benefiting low-income persons, which involved the participation of hundreds of citizens, agencies and local officials
- Furthered fair housing through outreach to communities and the public at large

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- **NoHaz**: Five collection events were held in 2016, with 4,667 participants disposing of 633,000 pounds of household hazardous waste such as latex and oil-based paints, motor oil, pesticides and outdated computer and electronic equipment. The program, which began in 2003, will likely surpass 5 million pounds of collected household hazardous waste at its first collection date in April 2017.

- **MI Green Schools Program**: 165 schools participated during the 2015-2016 school year, with 106 schools receiving the highest designation of Evergreen. Twenty-eight schools were honored for participating for five years; 25 of 28 public school districts were represented as well as 29 non-public schools and three of four Oakland Schools’ Technical campuses.

- **United States Environmental Protection Agency Grant**: Oakland County was awarded a $600,000 grant from the EPA that will help six local communities assess and clean up brownfield sites for future development. The county partnered with Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, Pontiac and Southfield as well as PM Environmental in seeking the grant. Local developments that have benefited from previous grants include the Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts in Pontiac ($24 million investment); Emagine Theatre in Royal Oak ($14 million investment); and Motor City Harley-Davidson in Farmington Hills ($6 million investment).
OAKLAND COUNTY ONE STOP SHOP BUSINESS CENTER
The One Stop Shop Business Center is the first point of contact for entrepreneurs and others interested in starting or growing a business, accessing financing, business counseling services or any of the dozens of classes offered by the center. Local businesses using the center’s professional counselors reported investment for 2016 of $24.8 million, an increase of more than $6 million over 2015 figures. Sales figures also increased for the reporting businesses, which more than doubled sales from 2015, to $17.3 million. Startups increased from 19 in 2015 to 26 in 2016.

The center was involved in several new initiatives for 2016:

- **Oakland County Small Business Saturday** promoted spending at small brick and mortar businesses in the county Nov. 26, the Saturday after Thanksgiving and one of the largest shopping days of the year. Shoppers used their smart phones to snap a photo of their receipts and were entered into a contest to win up to $5,000 in cash. More than 1,000 shoppers participated, spending $60,000 at 512 stores. A participating small business was also rewarded for participating, winning a $1,000 American Express gift card. The event was patterned after American Express’ “Shop Small” campaign.

- In November, the **Oakland Entrepreneurial Alliance** was formed, connecting the center, Automation Alley, Walsh College, Lawrence Technological University, OU Inc and the SBDC Tech Team. The goal is to get entrepreneurs the correct resources at the right time using the right partner. The alliance is expected to spin off several collaborations between the partners.

- **WalkIn StartUp Thursdays**, which offers “no appointment necessary” counseling with center staff in the Executive Office Building in Waterford, expanded its services to include a second location, in Novi. In 2016, 166 prospective entrepreneurs used the counseling in Waterford.

- **Pitch-N-Pontiac** offered $15,000 in cash prizes for entrepreneurs who pitched their businesses to a panel of industry experts. Center staff helped prepare the seven companies who appeared at the event.
RESIDENTS

OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S ELITE 40 UNDER 40™

The Oakland County Executive’s Elite 40 Under 40 honors young professionals and thought leaders who live or work in Oakland County. The 40 honorees have achieved excellence in their fields and contributed to the quality of life in their communities. Judges reviewed about 450 applications and nominations and more than 4,000 votes were cast for the three finalists in seven days.

Ali Woerner, 38, an assistant dance professor at Oakland University and one-time Radio City Music Hall Rockette, was selected as the 2016 winner. A Birmingham resident who is married and the mother of 4-year-old twins, she is co-founder/co-director of Take Root, which has performed and taught master dance classes around the globe. Her current mission is teaching dance to people with Parkinson’s disease.

The other finalists were:

- Jeanette “Jenny” M. Brown, 31, co-founder and chief operating officer of Dutton Farm, a Rochester-based nonprofit that serves more than 100 tri-county residents a month. It employs 17 adults with severe impairments at competitive wages – a first-of-its-kind business model for people with disabilities.
- Nick Moroz, 32, chief technical officer and founding member, Detroit Materials, Inc., is a manufacturing and advanced materials innovator and entrepreneur. His company commercializes the highest strength low-alloy castable steel in the world. He co-patented a manufacturing technology and helped raise $5 million in capital at a company he co-founded.

WORKFORCE

Oakland County Workforce Development/Oakland County Michigan Works! is a recognized leader in workforce development. In 2016, the division met and exceeded all 17 of its Workforce Investment Act performance standards and was granted initial designation as a “Local Workforce Development Area” under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Activities are largely carried out with the support of $15 million annually in federal funding.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016 INCLUDE:

- Served more than 161,000 job seekers and 2,100 employers at eight Oakland County Michigan Works! locations
- Trained over 700 clients for high-demand jobs in health care, advanced manufacturing and information technology
- Provided health care-related internships to 40 youths and young adults within the St. Joseph Mercy Health System
- Partnered with FedEx to recruit and hire more than 200 package handlers for its new Oak Park Distribution Center
- Received more than $1.3 million in Michigan Skilled Trades Training Funds (STTF) to upgrade skills of more than 1,300 workers at 44 companies in areas such as computer-aided design, welding, information technology and robot operations
- Every business day, more than 1,200 people visit one of the eight Oakland County Michigan Works! service centers

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

Four hundred high school juniors and seniors enrolled in engineering and emerging technology programs in Oakland County schools participated in a daylong event that encouraged them to consider a career in manufacturing and skilled trades. Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs, Oakland Schools and Oakland Community College sponsored the program. The students were divided into groups and spent two hours touring one of 38 manufacturing facilities in Oakland County and learning about the technology and job opportunities. The participating companies were:

- ABB Inc.
- Adept Plastic Finishing
- Atlas Copco Tools & Assembly
- Auburn Hills Manufacturing
- BASF Corp.
- Behco
- Brose North America
- Comau
- Consumers Energy Northville Gas T&S
- Cosma Body Assembly Michigan
- DASI Solutions
- DENSOS International America
- Encore Automation
- FATA Automation
- FRIMO
- Garden Fresh Gourmet
- General Motors
- GKN Driveline North America
- Gonzalez Production Systems
- Henkel Adhesive Technologies
- Hirata Corporation of America
- Hirotec America
- Kawasaki Robotics (USA)
- Kennedy Industries
- Lear Corp.
- Magneti Marelli Exhaust Systems
- Mahindra North American Tech Center
- Moeller Precision Tool
- M. P. D. Welding
- NLB Corp.
- Prefix Corp.
- RAMPH Group
- Rochling Automotive
- Seco Tools
- Setco Sales
- Total Door Systems
- U.S. Farathane
- Wenzel America
CONNECTED MOBILITY – SKILLS NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Oakland County Workforce Development commissioned a first-of-its-kind regional survey of employers, asking them what skills and abilities they require of potential employees wanting jobs in the rapidly evolving connected/autonomous vehicle industry. About 300 original equipment manufacturers, suppliers and information technology companies were among those businesses that participated in the Skills Needs Assessment Project survey. It is the fourth in a series of employer job survey commissioned by Oakland County and the Oakland County Workforce Development Board. Other surveys examined advanced manufacturing, health systems and Emerging Sectors® industries such as advanced materials, information technology, communications, robotics and homeland security.

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

The Oakland County Business Roundtable, founded in 1993 by County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, is a collection of 150 business, education and community leaders who make recommendations to the county executive on how county government can more effectively meet the needs of the business community in four areas: economic development, quality of life, transportation and workforce and education. A fifth committee, Oakland NEXT, is comprised of young entrepreneurs and was added for 2016. Chairmen Joseph Welch, president and CEO of ITC; and Stephanie Bergeron, president of Walsh College, oversee the committees. Welch retired from ITC and the roundtable in late 2016 and was replaced by Rochester Hills businessman Russ Shelton of Shelton Buick GMC. The full roundtable meets for its annual meeting in December.

Recommendations for 2016 included creating a business SWAT team to support business startups; aligning skilled trades training with industry needs and developing a program to retain students and young professionals who want to leave the area. More than 80 percent of the committee recommendations are implemented.
THE BROOKSIE WAY®
Held on the last Sunday in September each year, the Brooksie family of races includes the HealthPlus Brooksie Way Half Marathon, 10k, 5k and a fun run. More than 5,700 runners and walkers participated in 2016. Race proceeds support The Brooksie Way Minigrant program, which has distributed about $166,000 to not-for-profit recipients to support health and fitness activities in Oakland County. TheBrooksieWay.com

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE
A collection of business, education and community leaders who make recommendations to the county executive on how county government can more effectively meet the needs of the business community in five areas: economic development, quality of life, transportation, Oakland NEXT and workforce and education.

CONNECTED CAR/CONNECTED MOBILITY TASK FORCE
This panel is making recommendations on how to deploy the world’s first county-wide connected mobility system. A connected car will be able to transmit data about the vehicle and its location to other cars and to road infrastructure.

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS FINANCE CORPORATION & OAKLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Oakland County administers loan programs tailored to the needs of expanding companies, organizations and entrepreneurs. The Oakland County Business Finance Corp. administers loans for expanding companies, organizations and entrepreneurs. The Oakland County Economic Development Corp. offers low interest financing for fixed assets. OakGov.com/bfc

FIRE & ICE FEST IN ROCHESTER
This family-friendly three-day event, hosted by Oakland County, Oakland County Parks and Downtown Rochester, is held the third weekend of January in Rochester and draws an estimated 55,000 people for a host of winter activities including dog sled rides, ice skating, a tubing hill, ice sculptures, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and fireworks, all provided at no charge to our guests.

MEDICAL MAIN STREET®
Medical Main Street®, powered by Oakland County, is your partner into the life science, biotechnology, pharmacology and health care industries in Southeast Michigan. Medical Main Street is a no-cost network of health care and life sciences leaders in the health related industries. Nearly 4,700 companies employ more than 100,000 people in Oakland County. MedicalMainStreet.com
**MIGREAT ARTIST®**
An annual online art competition for artists who live, work or attend school in Oakland County. [MIGreatArtist.com](http://MIGreatArtist.com)

**MI TRADE SCHOOL.ORG**
An online job portal that lists job opportunities in the skilled trades and the type of training needed to obtain the job. [MITradeSchool.com](http://MITradeSchool.com)

**NoHaz™**
The North Oakland Household Hazardous Waste Consortium (NoHaz) provides residents with a safe, reliable and environmentally responsible way to dispose of household hazardous waste. [NoHaz.com](http://NoHaz.com)

**OAKLAND BUSINESS CONNECT™**
An online registry designed for any of the county’s 38,000 businesses to build their business locally while securing opportunities with some of Michigan’s largest companies. The county partnered with the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and the Pure Michigan Business Connect directory. [OaklandBusinessConnect.com](http://OaklandBusinessConnect.com)

**OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S ELITE 40 UNDER 40™**
An online competition that seeks the top young professionals and thought leaders who live or work in Oakland County. More than 500 applications and nominations were reviewed. The 40 honorees have achieved excellence in their field and contributed to the quality of life in their communities. [Elite40.com](http://Elite40.com)

**ONE STOP SHOP BUSINESS CENTER**
The One Stop Shop Business Center offers counseling for for-profit businesses and advanced technology companies developing feasibility studies, refining marketing plans, finding financing and giving businesses access to the Michigan Small Business Development Center.

**PROSPER®**
PROSPER is the official county magazine spotlighting Oakland County as a business and quality of life destination. This glossy 100-page color publication is distributed in communities throughout the county, at Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Flint Bishop Airport, in Michigan Department of Transportation Welcome Centers and at Cobo Center in Detroit. OaklandCountyPROSPER.com, the award-winning electronic companion to the print magazine, is published twice a month and gives a snapshot of the county through stories, profiles, images and videos. [OaklandCountyProsper.com](http://OaklandCountyProsper.com)

**TECH248®**
An initiative launched in 2014 by the county executive to promote the county’s 2,000 tech/IT firms, brand and market the county as a global technology hub while attract high-tech jobs. [Tech248.com](http://Tech248.com)
Collectively, the department staff of more than 80 full-time employees has more than 1,300 years of experience serving Oakland County residents. As such, their skills are often in demand serving on community and state advisory boards and making presentations to community and business organizations. Their involvement in 2016 includes:

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT**

- Association of Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities board of directors
- Automation Alley board of directors
- Baker College Engineering and Technology Advisory Board
- British America Business Council
- Eight Mile Boulevard Association
- Huron River Watershed - Green Infrastructure Technical Advisory Committee
- Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging Commission member
- Michigan Community Development Association chairperson
- Michigan Downtown Association board chair
- Michigan Historic Preservation Network board of directors
- Michigan Irish American Chamber of Commerce
- National Main Street Program Coordinators Network
- Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency board of directors
- Oakland Literacy Council board of directors
- Swedish American Chambers of Commerce
- Woodward Avenue Action Association board of directors

**PRESENTATIONS**

- American Institute of Architects/Michigan
- Automotive Industry Action Group Auto Forum: China
- Michigan Association of Planning
- Michigan Works! Association
- SEMCOG Transportation Coordinating Council
- SEMCOG Core Services Task Force
REGIONAL AND STATE BOARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

• Michigan Historic Preservation Network Annual Conference
• University of Detroit – Mercy
• Washington D.C. Advocacy for Economic Development Program
• MSOC Lansing Day
• Oakland University Master of Public Health Environmental Health
• Leadership Oakland
• Leadership Rochester

2016 NOTABLES

• **Jennifer Llewellyn**, former director of the Troy Michigan Works! office, was named manager of the Oakland County Michigan Works! workforce development office. She succeeded John Almstadt, who retired Feb. 26 after 38 years with the county.

• **John Almstadt**, former manager of Oakland County Michigan Works!, was given the Ralph Loeschner Outstanding Service Award and the Champions of Workforce Development Award during the Oct. 3 Michigan Works! annual conference in Mount Pleasant.

• **Pam Tremble**, graphic artist for the office of County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and the Department of Economic Development & Community Affairs, received four 2016 America Inhouse Design Awards from Graphic Design USA, a New York City-based national design publication.

• **Oakland County Prosper**, the department’s biweekly electronic newsletter, sent out its 200th issue in December. The free publication is available at OaklandCountyProsper.com.

• Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson asked the CEOs of some of the top automotive companies in the world to be his Valentine – at least for a day. Patterson and his economic development team sent out a gourmet Valentine’s Day chocolate car to the CEOs of 100 automotive companies with locations in Oakland County including General Motors CEO Mary Barra, FCA CEO Sergio Marchionne and others who sit in C-level suites such as automotive heavyweights BorgWarner, Brose, Continental, Lear, Magna and Valeo.

• **County Executive’s Elite 40 Under 40** received a National Association of Counties Achievement Award Community and Economic Development Category
PARTNERS & ALLIES

Aging and Adult Services Agency
American Job Center Network
American’s SBDC Michigan
Apple Store at Somerset Collection North
Area Agency on Aging 1-B
Automation Alley
Beaumont Healthcare
Bishop International Airport
Carlisle/Wortman Associates
Center for Empowerment & Economic Development (CEED®)
CGS Advisors
Chase
Citizens Commercial Banking
Clark Hill
Clarkston Community Schools
Clayton & McKervey
Community Housing Network
Construction Association of Michigan
DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital
Doeren Mayhew
DTE Energy
Eight Mile Boulevard Association
Emagine Entertainment
Fakhoury Global Immigration
Ferndale Schools
Fifth Third Bank
Flagstar Bank
Friends of Highland Recreation Area
Gibbs Planning Group
Giffels Webster
Goldner Walsh
Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit
Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County
HealthRise Solutions
Henry Ford Health System
Huron Valley State Bank
Huron-Clinton Metro Authority
ITC
Japanese Consulate of Detroit
Job Link Service Center
Kelly Services
LaFontaine Automotive Group
Lawrence Technological University
Leadership Oakland
LSL Planning
McKenna Associates
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Department of Transportation
Michigan Downtown Association
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Michigan Film & Digital Media Office
Michigan First Credit Union
Michigan Glass Coatings
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
Michigan Main Street Center
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
Michigan State Office of Community Planning and Development
Michigan State University
Tollgate Education Center and Farm
Michigan Talent Investment Agency
MKS
Mt. Holly Ski and Snowboarding Resort
Nexteer Automotive
Oak Park School District
Oakland Community College
Oakland County Board of Commissioners
Oakland County Historical Commission
Oakland County Parks and Recreation
Oakland Literacy Council
Oakland Schools
Oakland University
OHM
OU Inc.
Oxford Community Schools
Park West Gallery
Planet Rock
Priority Health
Providence Park Hospital
QStride
Raymond James
Service Corp of Retired Executives (S.C.O.R.E.)
SMART
SOAR Learning, Inc.
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Southfield Public Schools
St. John Providence Health System
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
Stars & Stripes Kids Activity Center
The Dobrusin Law Firm
Troy School District
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Small Business Administration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Labor
Vectorform
Venture, Inc.
Walsh College
Waste Management
Waterford School District
Wenzel
Woodward Avenue Action Association
Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan
Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN)
WHY CHOOSE OAKLAND COUNTY?

FISCAL EXCELLENCE
Oakland County is one of the wealthiest counties in America. Our fiscal excellence is no accident. The county’s AAA bond rating, which it has enjoyed since 1998, is higher than that of the U.S. government. The county budget is balanced through 2021. A Standard & Poor’s bond analyst said it best: “In my 20 years as a bond analyst, you are the strongest AAA-rated county I have ever seen. You are doing things states don’t even do. In fact, you are doing things some countries don’t even do.”

KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY
We are Michigan’s business address, with 66 of the top global OEM parts suppliers having an office or factory here. Meritor, BorgWarner, Kelly Services, Lear Corporation and Penske Automotive Group all have their world headquarters here. Fiat Chrysler has its North American headquarters here. Automation Alley, created by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, is Michigan’s largest technology business consortium, with 1,000 members. We employ more than 100,000 people in our health care and life science industries. Our Tech248 initiative is connecting the county’s 2,000 tech firms.

QUALITY OF LIFE
Oakland County is more than just business. People love to live here. We take pride in our educated workforce, with more than half of our residents having college degrees. Our residents have access to 17 degree-granting colleges and universities. Mandarin language and culture is offered in all 28 public school districts. There are 485 institutions of art, culture and the humanities in the county. The HealthPlus Brooksie Way Half Marathon attracted 5,700 runners and walkers; the Fire & Ice Fest brought in more than 55,000 visitors to Rochester for a weekend of winter fun. Our residents and visitors enjoy nearly 90,000 acres of parkland, 65 miles of trails, 76 public and private golf courses and 1,450 lakes and the headwaters of five river systems. We have 32 unique downtowns and 4,200 restaurants. Some of our communities have been named by Money Magazine as among the best places to live in the country. Oakland County is where people and technology prosper.
