



Washtenaw County Update

Forclosure Prevention

Upcoming County Board Meetings

May 20, 2009
Board Meeting and
Ways and Means

May 21, 2009
Board Working
Session

June 3, 2009
Board Meeting -
Budget
Recommendations
from Administration

All meetings begin
at 6:30pm. Watch
live on CTN, channel
16, or online at
www.ewashtenaw.org

It is a pleasure to
serve the residents of
Washtenaw County.
Please contact me
with any questions,
comments or
concerns at 734-476-
6092 or
judgek@ewashtenaw.org.

*Sincerely,
Kristin Judge*

The Washtenaw County
Treasurer, Catherine McClary
along with the Board of
Commissioners is committed to
helping residents facing
foreclosure. If you or someone
you know is affected, please contact the following offices.



Property owners with delinquent property taxes can receive special help to prevent home or business property tax foreclosure by contacting the Treasurer's Office directly at 734-222-6600.

The staff may be able to assist you in: Loan and grant advocacy for payment of delinquent property taxes, budgeting help, automatic or partial payment arrangements, options to defer payments, extend payment time periods, or reduce taxes in hardship situations.

Homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure have options. Whether you are in need of assistance with loan or foreclosure counseling or help getting out of a predatory loan, make your first call to 734-222-9595:

The Treasurer's staff is competent and caring. They work in partnership with many other community organizations, businesses and reputable resources and can make appropriate referrals as needed.

IMPORTANT NEWS - Do you have a mortgage with CitiFinancial, CitiMortgage, Ocwen or SPS? There may be extra workout options available exclusively through this office. Please call to speak to our Intake Specialist at **734-222-9595**.
The Washtenaw County Website

www.ewashtenaw.org is a resource for all County residents. I invite you to spend a few minutes searching this site to learn about what services your County provides and what budget issues we are facing.



Update: Ann Arbor Airport Proposed Runway Expansion

Currently there is an Environmental Assessment being done to look for potential impact of the expansion. As your commissioner, I asked to be a member of the Citizen Advisory Council formed by MDOT and JJR Consulting. The mission of the Council is to provide representation and information to constituents and to provide feedback on project issues and analysis. We met on May 4th, and I have some real concerns about the reasons given for the project. I have asked MDOT to bring data to the next meeting that supports the claims that the airport is currently unsafe.

To read more about the CAC meeting and proposed expansion, visit: <http://www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fleetandfacility/Airport/Pages/AirportNewsProjects.aspx>

A community group has formed to officially oppose this expansion. If you would like to join the opposition effort, send an email to: communitypreservation09@yahoo.com.

I have spoken to residents who oppose the project and to those who support it. Please contact me to let me know your views on this topic. judgek@ewashtenaw.org

Swine Flu Information

From the Washtenaw County Health Department

Dr. Diana Torres-Burgos, WC Public Health Medical Director, and Cindra James, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, presented an update on the Swine Flu virus to the Board this month. To learn more about the virus and an update on cases in Washtenaw County, visit

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/news/2009_news_stories/H1N1_FAQs. The Public Health Department is closely monitoring the spread of the virus and is actively working to keep residents safe.

County Equalization Report

On April 15th, the County Equalization Director, Raman Patel, presented the 2008 county equalization report. It should not come as a surprise that taxable and equalized values on property in Washtenaw County fell for the first time in 50 years. Over 75% of the County's General Fund comes from property tax revenue, so in this budget cycle we face up to a \$26 million structural deficit for 2010/2011. My goal as a commissioner during this budget cycle is to minimize job loss and minimize service disruption to those in need.

To see the presentation online, follow this link:

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/boc/agenda/wm/year_2009/2009-04-15wm/2009-04-15wm20.pdf

Animal Control

This month, I sat down with Animal Control Officer, Laurie McDowell. Residents have called me with questions about coyotes and possums, and I am quite sure there will be more concerns about animals as the weather warms up. Here is what I learned:

- Washtenaw County Animal Control is mandated by the State to help with issues pertaining to dogs. There are no laws regarding cats. Wildlife cannot be transported by the WCAC.
- If residents have concerns about wild animals, the State DNR (Department of Natural Resources) is an information source.
- If injured wildlife is a concern, call the Humane Society.
- If critters are a problem, residents will have to call a for profit "critter control" business.

Here are some phone numbers that you may want to keep handy:

Washtenaw County Animal Control:

Emergency 911, Non-emergency 734-973-4911.

Department of Natural Resources:

Waterloo Field Office - 517-522-4097

Humane Society of Huron Valley - 734-662-5585

!!!Upcoming Vote – Need Feedback!!!

I have asked my fellow commissioners to examine our Board of Commissioner budget first to find ways to save money. Our salary is \$15,500 per year. We also make a \$25 per diem for attending committee meetings that we were appointed to by the Chair of the Board. For me, that is about \$100/month. As a full-time commissioner, I want to ensure that this job attracts dedicated residents.

During this budget cycle, I support cutting our conference travel budget by 50% or \$16,500 total for 11 commissioners. I also support putting a \$100 limit on our monthly per diem at a savings of approximately \$11,000. In addition, I support eliminating another \$19,000 from our budget. The total Reduction in our budget that I am proposing is 9.5% per year for two years.

Do you have thoughts on the budget/salary for County Commissioners? If so, please email or call me with your thoughts. We could be voting as soon as May 20th, and I value your opinion.

See the article at: <http://annarborchronicle.com/2009/05/15/washtenaw-commissioners-discuss-cuts/>

Free Workshops

Thriving in Hard Times (PDF), FREE Every Tuesday from May 19 thru June 23, 9:30 am-11:30 am Saline District Library, 555 North Maple Rd. Saline, MI 48176

Thriving in Hard Times is a series of six FREE workshops designed to provide free information on money management, professional development skills, stress management, and more. All six events will be held at the Saline District Library, 555 North Maple Road in Saline, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. To register, call 734-429-2991 or visit <http://salinelibrary.org>. Free childcare will be available through the First Presbyterian Church in Saline for each session from 9 am to noon. Childcare reservations must be made at least one week in advance.

Workshops:

May 19: Budgeting for Lean Times

May 26: Your Best Self on Paper: Resume Writing

June 2: Where to Look and How to Sell Yourself in an Interview

June 9: Going Back to School: Whether, When and How
June 16: Managing Self-Care, Motivation and Role Changes
June 23: Connection with the Services You Need

Help Washtenaw County Receive a Grant

You can help our Department of Environmental Health receive a grant. The department has just finished a draft of a video, funded by the Knight Foundation, about pollinator decline and what people can do in their yards to help bees. As a requirement of the grant, a survey must be conducted.

You will find the line to view the video at the top of the second page of the survey at this link:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB2296CDE5UWZ>

The grant deadline is fast approaching, so please take the survey now.

Ann Arbor Chronicle

With the change in the newspaper industry, the local print paper is not following the County Board of Commissioners as closely as in the past. If you are interested in reading news accounts of the board issues, visit the new online paper www.annarborchronicle.com.

Committee and Board Involvement

Commissioners serve on over 40 boards and committees around the County. I have been appointed to the following committees:

Head Start Policy Council
Community Action Board
Emergency Telephone District Board
Emergency Medical Services Commission
Police Services Steering Committee – Financial Subcommittee
Michigan Association of Counties Human Services Board

Please let me know if you would like information about these committees by emailing me at judgek@ewashtenaw.org