



Washtenaw County Update

Upcoming County Board Meetings

October 7, 2009
Board Meeting and
Ways and Means

October 8, 2009
Board Working
Session

October 21, 2009
Board Meeting and
Ways and Means

October 22, 2009
Board Working
Session

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 734-646-2088 or judgek@ewashtenaw.org

*Sincerely,
Kristin Judge*

Current News

At the September meeting of the board, I turned in my county cell phone. When I learned that 583 employees at the county have cell phones for a cost of over \$360,000 a year, I was concerned.

We have had members of the community coming to us to plead for \$35,000 in support for Food Gatherers so they do not go hungry. In my opinion, all wasteful spending should be eliminated. Many people sit at a desk all day with a landline phone. They do not need a taxpayer to buy them a cell phone to be efficient.

The county cell phone policy is being examined by the administration, and I hope to see a great savings to the general fund in the next two months.

To read more about the meeting, go to this article: <http://www.annarbor.com/news/government/washtenaw-county-commissioner-turns-in-county-provided-cell-phone-as-symbolic-gesture/>

The article talks about a symbolic gesture, but turning in my phone was more than symbolic. It saves you over \$800 a year. Each day, I am working to make Washtenaw County Government more efficient and more transparent.

Focus Groups

The 2010/2011 budget recommendations have been made to the Board. I am looking for about 20 people who would be interested in sitting down with me in a small group to discuss the options before the board. I have reserved a conference room in Pittsfield Township Hall on these two dates.

September 29th, 7pm-8pm and October 10th 10am-11am.

Please email or call if you are interested in participating.

SAVE THE DATE

Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton and I in cooperation with Pittsfield Township Public Safety, Saline Area Schools and WISD are bringing a special guest to the county to speak on the topic of Cyber Security. Dr. Peter Fonash, Director of National Cyber Security Division for the Department of Homeland Security, will be coming to Saline High School on October 29th. More information to come.

Unemployment Benefits Hotline

Open 24 Hours a Day

The Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) system now runs 24 hours a day from Monday through Saturday. Callers can reach the system using the toll-free telephone number: (866) 500-0017. Additionally, representatives are available only from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to apply online, visit the UIA at <http://www.michigan.gov/uia>.

Road Commission

The Washtenaw County Road Commission is considering changing the snow removal policy for secondary roads (subdivision streets) in order to save money. This past year, the WCRC did not pay overtime on nights and weekends to send plows out unless the snow exceeded 3 inches. The new proposed policy would be to allow the snow to get up to 4 inches. Many residents called me last year concerned about not getting out of their neighborhoods due to the high snow. I am concerned that this policy change will make the neighborhood streets less safe and convenient for the residents. I will be going to the Road Commission meeting to share my concerns. Please let me know if you have a comment for me to take with me.

Flu Information Websites:

National: <http://flu.gov/>

County: http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health

State: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_22779_53388-213600--,00.html

Public Hearing October 7th, 6:45pm **During the Ways and Means Meeting**

The Washtenaw County Board can levy a tax under the Act 88. This act allows counties to levy tax for economic development. A vote of the people would not be needed, but I would like your feedback prior to voting on a new tax while the people of Michigan are facing financial difficulties. To read the background on Act 88, follow this link:

http://ewashtenaw.org/government/boc/agenda/bd/year_2009/2009-09-16bd/2009-09-16bd13.pdf

The county administrator is now recommending the Act 88 as a way to raise over \$600,000 a year.

It would cost \$4.00 annually per taxpayer based on \$100K taxable value

The money would be used to fund the following activities:

- Ann Arbor SPARK \$200K
- SPARK East \$50K
- Eastern Leaders Group \$100K
- 4H Activities \$60K
- Horticulture \$27K
- Agricultural Innovation \$15K
- Food Systems Economic Partners \$15K
- Heritage Tourism \$50K
- Director of Economic Dev & Energy \$87K

[Suicide Prevention Plan for Washtenaw County](#)



The *Suicide Prevention Plan for Washtenaw County* is now in the implementation phase! Read the plan, a product of two years of collaboration from agencies and Washtenaw community members.

To read the plan visit:

<http://www.washtenawalive.org/2009/08/suicide-prevention-plan-for-washtenaw-county/>

Thinking about suicide or need help with a loved one? **Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800.273.TALK, Veterans press "1."** Ozone House has a 24/7-crisis line. Ozone House primarily works with youth, but any person who is contemplating suicide can call **734-662-2222**.

[Environmentally Friendly Businesses](#)

The Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC) will be in Ann Arbor on Oct. 6th for a "Master Business Recycler Training" workshop. This is a great opportunity for those businesses wanting to start and / or enhance their current solid waste management and waste reduction programs. Please see below for program details and we hope to see you there.

Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Kensington Court/Holiday Inn Express

610 Hilton Blvd, Ann Arbor

**(near the I-94 State Street exit,
by Briarwood Mall)**

Cost: \$25 for Chamber & MRC Members

\$35 for prospective members

Register by contacting Lindsay McCarthy at

lindsay@annarborchamber.org or call 734.214.0109

Please pre-register by Friday October 2, 2009

Washtenaw County of Veteran Affairs

Do you know a veteran in Washtenaw County?

For services, call 734-973-4540 or visit

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/veteran_services/

Pittsfield Township Harvest Festival Fundraiser

Sun 18 Oct 2009 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Sutherland-Wilson Farm Museum, 797 Textile Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
A family event held at historic Sutherland-Wilson Farm Museum. Please join us and help celebrate the 175th anniversary of Pittsfield Township.

- Saline Fiddlers Restrung will perform between 2-3:00.
- Craft tables, wagon rides and house tours between 3-4:00.
- Harvesting pumpkins, corn stocks and other fall produce from the garden between 4-5:00.

Contributions and donations will be greatly appreciated, and will be used for continuing restoration of historic Sutherland-Wilson Farm Museum. The ground on this farm was plowed for the first time the same year Pittsfield Township was formed in the Michigan Territory -- three years before Michigan became a state.

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