



COMMISSIONER TALKING POINTS

April 2022

Commissioners Recognize Six Oakland County Residents with Second Annual Women's History Month Award

- Six Oakland County residents received the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Women's History Month Award on March 23.
- The honorees were chosen for their historic contributions to their communities.
- This year's Women's History Month Award winners are:
 - Mary Alam of Southfield, Big Boy franchise owner – nominated by Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles (District 17)
 - Debbie Bohm-Rosenman of Bloomfield, precinct delegate, instructional coach at Schoolcraft College and retired educator – nominated by Vice Chair Marcia Gershenson (District 11)
 - Dorothy J. Dean of Southfield, attorney, community activist and advocate for civil and human rights – nominated by Commissioner Janet Jackson (District 18)
 - Marilyn McGee of Holly, retired Groveland Township Fire Chief, first female fire chief in the state, and currently a local chaplain – nominated by Commissioner Bob Hoffman (District 7)
 - Jeanne Stine of Troy, community leader and retired school counselor – nominated by Commissioner Penny Luebs (District 2)
 - Patrice Waterman of Pontiac, community activist, former council legislative director and Pontiac city councilperson – nominated by Commissioner Angela Powell (District 9)
- The awardees were nominated by commissioners of their districts, and the program is just one of the ways commissioners commemorated Women's History Month.
- For more information about each of the award winners, visit the Board's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/oakgov.boc.

Board Annual Report Now Available

- The Board of Commissioners 2022 Annual Report is now available.
- The publication features information about what commissioners accomplished in 2022.

- Highlights from the year include new Board programs that benefited residents, collaborations with Macomb and Wayne counties, new community recognition programs, efforts to improve county roads and more.
- To access the report, visit www.oakgov.com/boc and visit your commissioner's webpage.

Monthly Full Board and Committee Meetings

- For the month of March, the full Board will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 20.
- Additionally, the Board will host the following committee and Majority Caucus meetings:
 - April 10, 4:30 p.m. – Majority Caucus
 - April 11, 9:30 a.m. – Legislative Affairs & Government Operations
 - April 11, 11:00 a.m. – Public Health & Safety
 - April 12, 9:30 a.m. – Economic Development & Infrastructure
 - April 12, 11 a.m. – Finance
 - April 20, 5 p.m. – Majority Caucus
- Full Board, standing committee and Majority Caucus meetings are open to the public at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, and livestreamed on the [Board's YouTube channel](#).
- For the most up to date calendar, visit www.oakgov.com/boc.

Financial Empowerment Center Offers Assistance for Residents and Business Owners

- The Oakland County Treasurer's Office's Financial Empowerment Center offers assistance for residents and business owners.
- Established in 2013 through a Community Economic Development Association of Michigan grant (CEDAM), the Financial Empowerment Center partners with Huntington Bank and JVS Detroit and other partners to provide programs to assist Oakland County residents and business owners.
- Services include financial counseling, the Financial Literacy Boot Camp for Entrepreneurs, the Returning Citizens Entrepreneur Training Center, business grants and loans, and housing mortgage relief.
- Visit www.oakgov.com/treasurer for more information.

Coulter Names Loftin Oakland County's First Chief Public Defender

- County Executive Dave Coulter has appointed Paulette Loftin, who has dedicated most of her 15 years in law practice to indigent criminal defense, as Oakland County's first chief public defender.

- Loftin, a 40-year-old Oakland County resident, has provided robust legal representation for hundreds of defendants, including more than 30 jury trials, 14 of which were capital cases punishable by up to life in prison.
- She has handled some of the most arduous cases, including tackling the challenge of providing legal representation for the Oxford High School shooter, who pleaded guilty last October to murdering four students.
- While in law school at the University of Detroit Mercy, Loftin began her career at Oakland County first as a court clerk from October 2005 to August 2008, then as a legal secretary for Circuit Court Judge John McDonald from August 2008 to March 2009, when she opened her own law office with a focus on indigent defense.
- She has also served defendants with cases in 52-3 District Court in Rochester Hills and 47th District Court in Farmington Hills.
- Loftin will begin her new role April 17, and her initial tasks will include hiring a deputy chief public defender, five additional attorneys and three support staff.
- Oakland County's indigent defense plan will significantly change the way it provides indigent criminal defense services in the 6th Circuit and 52nd District courts.

Oakland County Parks Annual Report Now Available

- The 2022 Oakland County Parks and Recreation Annual Report highlights expansions at county parks, added recreation offerings and the \$20 million Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan, which provided funding for the department to invest in local communities by creating sustainable parks and public spaces.
- Designed to improve the health and well-being of individuals hardest hit by the pandemic, the investment plan allows Oakland County Parks (OCP) to make historic investments in improving park facilities, increasing recreational and educational programming, preserving open space and increasing environmental stewardship efforts.
- The Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan utilizes \$15 million in funding approved by the Board of Commissioners from the county's American Rescue Plan Act dollars.
- In 2022, Oakland County Parks staff teamed with cities, villages and townships by supporting local park and trail improvement projects as well as invasive species removal and native planting projects; announced that with support from Rep. Haley Stevens and Sen. Debbie Stabenow, OCP secured \$2.2 million in federal funds to improve and modernize the Oakland County Farmers Market; and developed the 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These projects, programs and other developments are highlighted in OCPR's 2022 Annual Report:

Protecting our Natural Resources and Building Healthier Communities, which can be viewed online at OaklandCountyParks.com.

- OCP operates a waterpark, wave pool, two beaches, two campgrounds, five golf courses, three dog parks, two nature centers, a farmers market, an off-road vehicle park and day-use parks that are visited by 1.8 million guests annually.
- For more information, visit www.oakgov.com/parks.

New Newsletter Sign-Up

- Residents and community members can now subscribe to their new district email lists to receive monthly Board newsletters.
- Those who were previously subscribed to a commissioner newsletter will need to resubscribe to the email list for their new district.
- To sign up, visit <https://bit.ly/BOCNewsletter>.

Board of Commissioners Social Media and Website

- The Oakland County Board of Commissioners website, Facebook page, YouTube channel and commissioner newsletters are great ways for residents to stay engaged with the Board.
- Individuals who follow the Board at [@oakgov.boc](https://www.facebook.com/oakgov.boc) on Facebook will see photos from events and information from around the county.
- Subscribers to the Board's YouTube channel can receive notifications when Board meetings are live and easily find recent videos. The channel can be found by going to YouTube and searching for the "Oakland County Board of Commissioners" or going to bit.ly/YouTubeBOC.
- In addition, anyone can watch Board and committee meetings and access the latest news, meeting calendars, information about each commissioner and more by visiting www.oakgov.com/boc.