



WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
**JOSEPH PALAMARA**  
 600 Randolph, Suite 422  
 Detroit, Michigan 48226



PRESORTED STD.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 DETROIT, MI  
 PERMIT NO. 1353



Joseph Palamara  
 Wayne County Commissioner



A newsletter for constituents of Ecorse, Grosse Ile Township, River Rouge, Riverview, Southgate, Trenton, Woodhaven and Wyandotte .

## Tough Times Call For Tough Decisions

Wayne County has been in the midst of deliberating our 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. The budget year begins October 1. Without question, this was the most difficult and challenging budget session that I have experienced as a member of the Wayne County Commission.

Like every government in the state – and like most households in Wayne County – we are definitely feeling the effects of a major economic downturn that has gripped our region for far too long.

Going into our deliberations, we projected a \$33.8 million deficit in our \$2.25 billion budget. The general fund portion of the County budget is \$588 million; with the bulk of the \$1.66 billion balance coming from user fees and federal and state grants.

The Wayne County Executive's office presented a budget to the Wayne County Commission that called for ten percent budget cuts across the board. Virtually, every department faces cuts in one form or fashion. Budget cuts are never easy, with programs and priorities constantly being balanced with economic realities.

The deficit was caused because our expenses are rising faster than our revenues. Our main source of general fund revenue – property taxes – has been flat, while our expenses have increased, mainly from rising employee health care and fuel costs.

Clearly, when you are in this situation, you are forced to make tough decisions – and Wayne County Government is not an exception. We will do our best to be conscientious and good stewards of Wayne County taxpayer dollars.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to share your concerns so we can work together for a better and brighter future.

Sincerely,

Joseph Palamara  
 Commissioner, 14<sup>th</sup> District

## County Road Improvements Downriver

The following lists road projects that have been recently completed, or will begin in the upcoming fiscal year.

**Eureka, Fort to Jefferson**  
 \$1,500,000

**North Line, Fort (M-85) to Jefferson**  
 \$1,199,000

**Quarry, Pennsylvania to Fort**  
 \$239,000

**Southfield, Fort to Jefferson**  
 \$387,000

**Dix/Toledo, Northline to Goddard**  
 \$1,402,000



Commissioner Palamara welcomes your comments and concerns: Contact him at (313) 224-0880 or [jpalamar@co.wayne.mi.us](mailto:jpalamar@co.wayne.mi.us) or write to: Joseph Palamara, Commissioner Wayne County Building 600 Randolph, Suite 422 Detroit, MI 48226

Visit  
[www.waynecounty.com](http://www.waynecounty.com)  
 for information on all  
 Wayne County  
 Departments

## County Launches New Mortgage Help Program

The numbers are grim: Wayne County is among the nation's leaders in bank-foreclosed homes. It's a statistic that grips every neighborhood — city and suburban, middle class or affluent.

In 2007, there were 27,713 mortgage foreclosures in Wayne County. This year, the number is expected to exceed 50,000.

To help address this chronic problem, Wayne County has created the new **Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program (MFPP)**. The MFPP aims to help homeowners who are in danger of losing their homes to mortgage foreclosure.

MFPP is organizing educational seminars to actively engage and educate citizens about the foreclosure process and its pitfalls. At no cost to the citizen, these seminars will aim to create awareness of the mortgage foreclosure process and identify options from lenders, government and other financial institutions to assist the borrower in avoiding foreclosure.

Additionally, the official MFPP website — [www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com](http://www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com) — will provide citizens with tools to combat the foreclosure crisis, including access to educational materials, video

presentations, and an online system designed to streamline the foreclosure case submission process.

When receiving a foreclosure case for review, Wayne County will provide targeted counseling to citizens aimed at mitigating foreclosure. Wayne County will also be linked to a powerful collaboration network of federal and state certified counseling agencies to analyze cases and recommend viable options to avoid mortgage foreclosure.

Wayne County will oversee the foreclosure case and serve as a soft mediator between the collaboration network, the borrower, and the lender to help ensure that appropriate results are achieved.

For more information, please contact the Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program at 313-833-2948 or 877-693-6199.

Wayne County Commissioner Joseph Palamara said the mortgage foreclosure problem in Wayne County is a crisis that needs to be curbed.

"The MFPP is one effort the County is doing to stem the problem," Palamara added. "I urge anyone that is facing foreclosure to take advantage of the program."

## New Pinnacle Race Course Opens

Thoroughbred horse racing returned to southeast Michigan in July when the state-of-the-art Pinnacle Race Course officially opened in Huron Township.

The new track will provide a tremendous economic infusion, generating approximately 1,200 direct jobs. Attendance at the Pinnacle has already far exceeded initial projections.

Wayne County spearheaded the development of the track, which is built on land that was assembled by Wayne County for its 800-acre Pinnacle Aeropark development.

"The Pinnacle Race Course is definitely a showplace that will leverage additional economic activity on the Pinnacle land," said Wayne County Commissioner Joseph Palamara. "It will also stimulate development for the Aerotropolis project that regional business and government leaders are championing around Detroit Metro and Willow Run Airports.



County officials celebrate the opening of the Pinnacle. Pictured above (from the left) are: Deputy County Executive Azzam Elder, Economic Development officials Anthony Parlovecchio and Turkia Mullin, Pinnacle owner Jerry Campbell, County Executive Robert Ficano and County Commissioner Joseph Palamara.

## 23rd Annual Senior Olympics a Hit Downriver

Dozens of athletes from the Downriver area participated in the Downriver Senior Olympics that were co-hosted this summer by Wayne County and the City of Trenton.

The Downriver Senior Olympics is an annual event with each Downriver community taking a turn hosting the event.

Athletes can choose to participate in a variety of athletic events, including a fun walk, tennis, bocce ball, and swimming. There are also more passive activities such as baking contests or euchre tournaments.

"The Senior Olympics are about friendly competition and good wholesome fun, and continues to be one of Wayne County's most popular events," said Commissioner Joseph Palamara.



Commissioner Palamara was joined by retired 33rd Circuit Judge Kurt Kersten and his wife Lenore at Opening Day ceremonies in Trenton on August 4th

## County Provides Vital Nourishment For Seniors

Thousands of Wayne County senior citizens get a hot meal - often their only one of the day - from Wayne County's Nutrition Services division.

Every weekday, 3,000 homebound seniors and 1,800 others who gather at one of the 41 designated nutrition sites receive a nutritionally balanced meal.

Meals are served in three ways:

**Congregate Meals**, available to seniors 60 years old and their spouses, and to physically handicapped persons residing in any senior high-rise where a nutrition site is located.

**Home-Delivered Meals** for seniors confined to their homes. This program is better known as "Meals on Wheels."

**Liquid Nutrition Program**, available to seniors who are unable to ingest solid food.

Meals must include three ounces of meat, a starch, two 1/2-cup servings of either a fruit or a vegetable, a fat like a pat of butter, a dessert and milk.

"Our Senior Nutrition Services is among our most popular and important programs offered by Wayne County," said Wayne County Commissioner Joseph Palamara. "These services help make sure our seniors receive proper nutrition and substance."

The division employs 37 people, mostly cooks and drivers, attracts more than 1,200 volunteers and is mostly funded through State and Federal grants. For more information, please call 734-727-7357.

Wayne County's Nutrition Services division provides broad outreach to the Downriver communities. Here is a breakout of how the division has served senior citizens by community this calendar year:

<u>Community</u>	<u>Home Delivered Meals &amp; Liquid Meals</u>	<u>Congregate Meals</u>
Ecorse	32,709	3,848
River Rouge	15,223	3,250
Riverview	12,021	1,770
Southgate	44,638	4,809
Trenton	17,935	2,589
Grosse Ile	4,655	*
Woodhaven	6,073	*
Wyandotte	32,540	6,235

\*Meals served out of Trenton site\*