

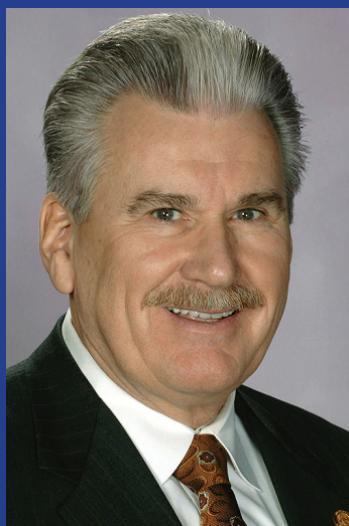
Summer 2016

Your Wayne County Commissioner...

Raymond E. Basham

Proudly serving the residents of the 14th District

Charter Township of Brownstown, Flat Rock, Rockwood, Taylor and Woodhaven



Office of
Wayne County Commissioner
Raymond E. Basham

District 14
500 Griswold
Seventh Floor
Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: 313-224-0876

Fax: 313-967-1234

email: rbasham@waynecounty.com

Facebook:

[facebook.com/
WayneCountyCommission](https://www.facebook.com/WayneCountyCommission)

WayneCountyCommission



GREETINGS FROM COMMISSIONER BASHAM

Dear Resident:

Thank you for taking the time to read my 2016 Summer Newsletter. This newsletter is intended to provide an update on Wayne County issues and my work on your behalf as a member of the Wayne County Commission.

Over the last year, we have worked hard to continue to confront the challenges facing Wayne County. As the Chair of the Wayne County Commission's Audit Committee, I have been pleased to work with our Auditor General, her staff and my colleagues on the committee. The combined efforts have resulted in substantial savings and efficiencies in county government, including \$4.6 million in savings in 2015 alone.

One of the greatest challenges on which much progress has been made over the last year is in dealing with Wayne County's budget deficits. At the end of fiscal year 2014, Wayne County had a \$74 million accumulated deficit. In our most recent audit, Wayne County now has a \$5.4 million fund balance, mainly due to several transfers from the county's Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

Many challenges still remain for our county, including an unfinished jail project and an underfunded pension system. While many of these problems were caused by decisions made prior to my arrival on the Wayne County Commission, I am committed to working with stakeholders to find solutions to these issues.

Lastly, one of the most important issues to me in restoring Wayne County is ensuring that the county does business in an open and honest manner. While much progress has been made in making Wayne County more transparent and accountable, we must continue to do more. The residents of Wayne County deserve nothing less.

Again, I appreciate you taking the time to read this newsletter. I am proud to represent the 14th Commission District, which includes the communities of Brownstown, Flat Rock, Rockwood, Taylor and Woodhaven. If I can ever be assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Raymond E. Basham'.

Raymond E. Basham

Wayne County Commissioner - District 14

Voters asked to renew county parks millage on August ballot

A proposal affecting county property taxes will be on the ballot in all Wayne County communities on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Voters will be asked to consider renewing a tax “to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities,” according to the ballot language. The tax in question is commonly referred to as the parks millage. It was first authorized by county voters in 1996, then was renewed for five-year periods in 2000, 2005 and 2010.

The proposal before voters Aug. 2 would continue the millage through 2020. It is expected to generate \$9.9 million next year. The parks levy is just under one-quarter of a mill and appears on winter tax bills.

In very approximate terms, the tax costs \$12.30 per year on a home that is worth \$100,000. A mill is \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value. A home’s taxable value is roughly half of a home’s worth, but each home’s taxable value varies depending on how long its annual increases have been limited under Proposal A. Taxable value is listed on tax bills and on assessment notices.

To determine precisely how much one pays on the parks millage, one can multiply their home’s taxable value by .0002459. The ballot language also reflects the practice of providing funds for park improvements in local municipalities.

Here is the question as it will appear on the ballot:

**(Proposition P)
PARKS MILLAGE CONTINUATION**

To continue the millage authorized in 2010, shall Wayne County levy this millage at the estimated 2015 rollback rate of .2459 (about 25 cents per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2016 through 2020) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Chandler Park, and improvements to municipal parks in the 43 communities as provided in an implementing ordinance through an annual allocation by commission district of the greater of \$50,000 or 15% of the total funds generated from that district, on the condition that, for any year for which this increased levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-1996 fiscal year appropriation for parks? This renewal is projected to generate \$9,865,514 in 2016.

Yes _____

No _____



The Aug. 2 ballot will include a parks millage renewal to continue improvements at Wayne County parks, including Elizabeth Park.

‘Citizen’s Guide’ offers residents understanding of county government

“A Citizen’s Guide to Wayne County Government,” a 24-page booklet produced to help resident better understand how county government works and the services it provides, is available through the office of Commissioner Raymond E. Basham.

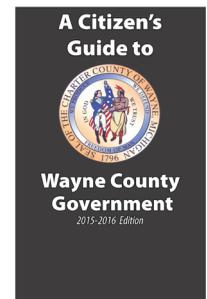
“This is a wonderful opportunity for people to learn what Wayne County government is all about,” Commissioner Basham said. “Many don’t understand how county decisions and programs affect their everyday lives. This helps to explain it.”

The booklet has information on all of the county’s elected officials, including the Wayne County Commission.

It also explains how the Commission conducts its business and interacts with the Executive Branch and describes what departments are in the county. There’s contact information for the officials and departments. In addition, the booklet explains how the Wayne County government is funded.

The booklet is at www.waynecounty.com/commission. Click on “News & Resources.” Copies also can be mailed to residents of the 14th District.

Contact Commissioner Basham’s office at 313-224-0876 or for more information.



Community discussion



Commissioner Basham hosted religious leaders of various faiths this past March to discuss diversity of faiths through Wayne County, media coverage and what faith means to an individual. "The Public Forum on Religious Tolerance" was held inside the Council Chambers of Taylor City Hall and attracted a panel composed of various religious backgrounds.

Sabree selected as new Wayne County Treasurer

When a three-person panel selected a new Wayne County treasurer on April 4, the vote was unanimous.

Eric Sabree, who had served as chief deputy treasurer, was chosen to fill the elected position through the end of the current term, which is June 30, 2017.

Sabree, 61, was one of eight applicants considered by the panel of Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Clerk Cathy Garrett and Chief Probate Judge Freddie Burton

Jr.

"I cherish my relationship with the Commission members and staff, and pledge to continue working with you to deliver the best possible service to our residents," Sabree said at the Commission's April 7 meeting.

"We realize that the residents and business owners of our county need help, and we will continue to make your inquiries a priority. We also plan to visit each Commission district at least twice per year with

staff members to accept payments, provide payment plans and to answer questions."

The Treasurer's Office manages all finance, forfeiture and foreclosure activities for the county, including collecting delinquent property taxes.

Sabree succeeds Richard Hathaway, who resigned for personal reasons in March, less than four months after he was appointed to succeed Raymond Wojtowicz, who retired in December after serving as treasurer for 39 years.

Household waste collections are scheduled

Looking to get rid of old, unwanted paint, pesticides or antifreeze? Has a clunky, old-style computer monitor been in your closet for a few years?

The Wayne County Department of Public Services is giving residents a chance to safely dispose of those and other items at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, June 18, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Henry Ford College, 5101 Evergreen Road, just south of Ford Road in Dearborn. Also collections will be held from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road, and Saturday, Oct. 8, at Wayne County Community College District-Downriver Campus, 21000 North Line Road in Taylor.

Items acceptable for disposal include household paints, stains and dyes, floor care products, bathroom cleaners, solvents, fertilizer, batteries, fluorescent bulbs,

fire extinguishers, mercury thermometers and more. The electronics recycling portion of the event will accept computer CPUs, monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards and mice. Also accepted will be cellphones, fax machines, copiers and televisions.

Only household products from Wayne County residents will be accepted. No commercial or industrial waste will be taken. Also not allowed are appliances, tires and concrete.

Questions can be directed to the Department of Public Services at 734-326-3936.



Commissioners fight for better air quality

The Wayne County Commission adopted a resolution Jan. 21, sponsored by Commissioner Raymond E. Basham, opposing proposed changes to the air quality pollution permits for the Marathon Petroleum Co. refinery at 1300 S. Fort St., Detroit.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is considering revising the refinery's air pollution permits so Marathon can modernize the 85-year-old refinery to produce lower-sulfur gasoline that will meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tier 3 fuel standard requirements, which will take effect in 2017.

The proposed changes are expected to increase the refinery's emissions of sulfur dioxide by 22 tons per year and also allow the increase of other emissions, including various oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, small-particulate pollution and sulfuric acid.

Michigan's only refinery is in the southwest Detroit, a heavily industrial area. The ZIP code, 48217, is considered the most polluted in the state.

"Those who live in 48217 – along with nearby communities – have paid a very heavy price for many years because they are low income and live in a heavily industrial area," said Commissioner Raymond Basham, who brought forth the resolution. "I drive on the Rouge River bridge over I-75 every day and have a

panoramic view of the area. These residents have paid far too big a price for all the pollution, including from the refinery.

"The state of Michigan can choose to spare the residents of 48217 and nearby cities more pollution, and that is what it should choose. It is the right thing to do."

Hundreds of residents who are opposed to the new permits expressed their displeasure during a public hearing Jan. 6 at River Rouge High School.

According to the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, southwest Detroit residents have suffered numerous health problems because of the heavy industry, including a 50 percent higher rate of asthma than the rest of the state. The pollution also has led to other health problems, including heart disease, strokes and cancer.

"The Commission also calls on Wayne County's state legislators to express their opposition to the proposed permits," Commissioner Basham said. "This doesn't just affect 48217 – the pollution spills into many nearby cities like Melvindale, River Rouge, Ecorse and Dearborn. It affects far more than the 7,000 residents of 48217."

The refinery produces up to 123,000 barrels a day. Twelve other commissioners also voted to co-sponsor to resolution.



Wayne County Commissioner
Raymond E. Basham

Phone: 313-224-0876
Fax: 313-967-1234
email: rbasham@wayne
county.com

Frequently requested Wayne County phone numbers

Commissioner Basham	(313) 224-0876	Public Services	(313) 224-7600
County Executive	(313) 224-0286	Parks Division	(734) 261-1990
County Commission	(313) 224-2383	Report a Road Hazard	(888) 762-3273
County Clerk	(313) 224-6262	Health Department	(313) 224-0810
County Prosecutor	(313) 224-5777	WC Circuit Court	(313) 224-5261
County Treasurer	(313) 224-5990	WC HealthChoice	(800) 935-5669
Register of Deeds	(313) 224-5850	WIC Program	(734) 727-7107
Sheriff	(313) 224-2222	Head Start	(866) 534-5437
Veterans' Services	(313) 224-5045	Environmental Services	(313) 224-3620
Senior Services	(734) 727-7373	Homeland Security	(734) 728-3711

Clip and Save!

High praise for Commission's Auditor General office

Wayne County Commissioner Raymond Basham, who chairs the Committee on Audit, strongly praised the county's Office of Legislative Auditor General for its efforts after it released its 2015 annual report, as required by the county charter.

The report was presented to the Committee on Audit on Feb. 10 and was forwarded to the full Commission for acceptance Feb. 18.

The report showed that in 2015, the Office of Legislative Auditor General – under the direction of Auditor General Marcella Cora – completed 24 reports/projects, which included 43 recommendations. Those recommendations saved the county more than \$4.6 million. The office also reported that of the 39 recommendations that were followed up, all were fully implemented, partially implemented or in the process of being implemented.

"Management's implementation rate is a clear indication of their shared commitment to mitigate and manage known and reported risk, and to improve the internal control environment here in the county," Cora wrote in the report.

Basham said he is pleased with the performance of the Office of Legislative Auditor General, especially with the 100 percent cooperation with the recommendations.

"The results from this report are a testament to the hard work being done to continually make Wayne County more efficient," Basham said. "I am pleased with the

"The results from this report are a testament to the hard work being done to continually make Wayne County more efficient...and it shows everyone is working toward a common goal of accountability and saving money, which is the purpose behind the Committee on Audit."

-- Commissioner Raymond E. Basham

cooperation the auditors and committee have received from the county administration, and it shows everyone is working toward a common goal of accountability and saving money, which is the purpose behind the Committee on Audit.

"Ms. Cora and her staff are extremely dedicated to doing what is best for the county and its taxpayers, and the Committee on Audit is appreciative of that."

The full report is on Office of Legislative General's Web page, www.waynecounty.com/commission/733.htm.

The Committee on Audit's meeting schedule and agendas are at www.waynecounty.com/commission/703.htm.

The meetings are open to the public in the seventh-floor hearing room of the Guardian Building, 500 Griswold, downtown Detroit.

Downriver roads are part of resurfacing projects

Wayne County officials recently announced 16 road projects for 2016 as part of a \$30 million plan, which also will pay for about 50 seasonal employees and 62 new pieces of equipment.

There will be six projects throughout the 14th District:

- Sibley Road between Dix-Toledo and Allen Road in Brownstown Township will be reconstructed.

- Allen Road between Goddard and North Line roads in Taylor and Southgate will be resurfaced.

- West Road between Allen Road and Fort Street in Woodhav-



en and Trenton will be resurfaced.

- Beech Daly Road between Eureka and Brest roads in Taylor will be resurfaced.

- Eureka Road between Racho and Allen roads in Taylor will be resurfaced.

- Eureka Road between Middle Belt and Inkster roads in Romulus and the edge of Taylor will be resurfaced.

Motorists who want to report the location of potholes or other problems on county roads can do one of three things: Call 1-888-ROAD-CREW 24 hours a day; Visit www.waynecounty.com/dps and click on "report road hazard"; or use a smartphone to visit compass.waynecounty.com and click on the "hazard" triangle on the lower right corner. If they are near the pothole, Compass can capture the location via GPS coordinates.



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

Raymond E. Basham

COMMISSIONER • DISTRICT 14
500 GRISWOLD, 7TH FLOOR
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226



Sign up for District 14 news updates

This newsletter is just one way of keeping residents of District 14 informed of important Wayne County issues. I also distribute up-to-date information on issues that affect you, our district and all of Wayne County via email and Constant Contact. If you are not already receiving county information by way of email, I encourage you to sign up by sending a request to **rbasham@waynecounty.com**. We will then add your name to our email list. Thank you!

Your Wayne County Commissioner... Summer 2016

Raymond E. Basham
Proudly serving the residents of the 14th District

Charter Township of Brownstown, Flat Rock, Rockwood, Taylor and Woodhaven

GREETINGS FROM COMMISSIONER BASHAM
Dear Friends:

Thank you for taking the time to read my 2016 Summer Newsletter. This newsletter is intended to provide an update on Wayne County issues and my work on your behalf as a member of the Wayne County Commission.

Over the last year, we have worked hard to continue to confront the challenges facing Wayne County. As the Chair of the Wayne County Commission's Audit Committee, I have been pleased to work with our Auditor General, her staff and my colleagues on the committee. The continued efforts have resulted in substantial savings and efficiencies in county government, including \$4.6 million in savings in 2015 alone.

One of the greatest challenges on which most progress has been made over the last year is in dealing with Wayne County's budget deficits. At the end of fiscal year 2014, Wayne County had a \$14 million accumulated deficit. In our most recent audit, Wayne County now has a \$5.4 million fund balance, mainly due to several transfers from the county's Delinquent Tax Receiving Fund.

Many challenges still remain for our county, including an unfinished jail project and an underfunded pension system. While many of these problems were caused by decisions made prior to my arrival on the Wayne County Commission, I am committed to continuing to work with stakeholders to find solutions to these issues.

Lastly, one of the most important issues to me in restoring Wayne County is ensuring that the county does business in an open and honest manner. While much progress has been made in making Wayne County more transparent and accountable, we must continue to do more. The residents of Wayne County deserve nothing less.

Again, I appreciate you taking the time to read this newsletter. I am proud to represent the 14th Commission District, which includes the communities of Brownstown, Flat Rock, Rockwood, Taylor and Woodhaven. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
Raymond E. Basham
Raymond E. Basham
Wayne County Commissioner - District 14

Office of
Wayne County Commissioner
Raymond E. Basham
District 14
500 Griswold
Seventh Floor
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: 313-224-0876
Fax: 313-967-1234
email: rbasham@waynecounty.com
Facebook:
facebook.com/
WayneCountyCommission



5/15/16 Message from Wayne County Commissioner Raymond E. Basham

Raymond E. Basham
Wayne County Commissioner
14th District

Dear Friends,

It's been a busy time for the Wayne County Commission, and I'd like to update you on a series of important topics. Please read on for those updates.

If you have any questions or concerns about any topic, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 313-224-0876 or rbasham@waynecounty.com. You also can visit www.waynecounty.com/commission/district14.htm for more information.

Sincerely,
Raymond E. Basham

Commission approves new county credit card use ordinance, strengthens vehicle use ordinance