

Oakland Township Sentinel

Weekly Report – April 12, 2026

Oakland Township Michigan Government

- Factual News and Information
- Suggestions for Improvement

Always free, on-line at

<https://oaklandtownshipsentinel.com>

Contact Information

Contact editor Bob Yager at yagera@comcast.net, with any editorial's suggestions, criticisms or information the public or officials should know.

About Us

Oakland Township Sentinel is a DBA of Robert A. Yager and Associates L.L.C., Michigan Domestic Limited Liability Company #802404351.

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Board of Trustees

Two Meetings – Tuesday April 14, 2026

Special Meeting at 6 PM

Looks like a lot for an hour. Here's a link to the agenda summarized below

[753246583.pdf](#)

Topic	Date	Meeting Type	Session Type	Detail
Fire Department	4/14/2026	Special	Closed	discuss labor negotiations strategy and labor issues pursuant to MCL 15.268 (1) (c) (h),
Cell phone tower lawsuit	4/14/2026	Special	Closed	a confidential legal opinion for the purpose of discussing pending litigation in the matter of TowerCo v. Oakland Township pursuant to MCL 15.268 (1) (e),
Parks?	4/14/2026	Special	Closed	a confidential legal opinion regarding a property purchase pursuant to MCL 15.268 (h) and MCL 15.243 (g)
Parks Millage Renewal Ballot Issue?	4/14/2026	Special	Closed	and a confidential legal opinion regarding township millage rates pursuant to MCL 15.268 (1) (h)

Regular Meeting at 7 PM

Here's a link to the agenda and Board Meeting packet [753246821.pdf](#). See materials associated with each agenda item at page numbers to right of agenda item.

Charter Township of Oakland

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Telephone: (248) 651-4440
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE AND AGENDA Tuesday, April 14, 2026

7:00 PM - OAKLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I.	Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Roll Call	
II.	Announcements and Proclamations	
III.	Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Agenda	
IV.	Public Comment for items not on the Agenda	
V.	Consent Agenda:	
	1. Approval of Bills	
	a. April 14, 2026, invoices in the amount of \$539,749.57.	2
	2. Payroll via ACH	
	a. March 27, 2026, in the amount of \$152,066.99.	18
	3. April 10, 2026, in the amount of \$178,047.36	19
	4. Approval of Minutes	
	a. March 24, 2026 - Special Meeting	20
	b. March 24, 2026 - Regular Meeting	22
VI.	Pending Business	
	1. Consideration of receiving and filing the 1st Quarter 2026 budget report.	25
	2. Consideration of approving the 2026 1st Quarter Budget Amendments.	50
	3. Consideration of approving the request from the Parks and Recreation Commission for a budget amendment of \$206,700 from the Land Preservation Fund fund balance to assist in the funding of the Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park project.	53
	4. Consideration of the Parks Millage.	55
	5. Consideration of filling a part-time position in the Clerks office.	59
	6. Consideration of establishing a public hearing for Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 7:00 pm for the consideration and first reading of an ordinance amending Zoning Ordinance 16, regulating data centers.	62
VII.	Public Comment for items not on the Agenda	
VIII.	Township Manager's Report	
IX.	Board Reports & Correspondence: Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees	
X.	Adjournment	

Budget / Taxes

Oakland County fails to attempt to collect \$201,480 we've owed since 2022. Township employees had to discover it and tell them.

See Dan Hosie's note to the Board explaining. (From BOT meeting packet for 4/14/26 sheet # 50 [753246821.pdf](#))

- **Police Fund 207** – Mid March of 2026 Oakland County opened access to County-issued customer invoices. As a diligent customer we logged in to check for any outstanding invoices and found that back in 2022, before my time at the township, the June 2022 Sheriffs invoice was not paid. I called the County to confirm and ask why they never reached out to let us know the past due status and was informed that the County currently has no means of notifying County-issued customers of past due invoices. This specific invoice was completed by Lt. Dooley and turned into the Township Hall staff but due to turnover at the township it never made it into the payable system. This amendment moves the budgeted unspent amount from 2022 into 2026. The silver lining here is that we earned interest on this amount for four years. There will be a footnote in the 2026 audit report for this as well. *Net transfer in Fund Balance \$201,480.*

Where does the \$53,000,000 property tax collected by Oakland Township go?

The item on the next page came from the approved 2026 budget, second page of the introduction [Microsoft Word - Township Binder Cover 2026](#). (This post was inspired by correct comments made by Trustee Jack Elder at a recent meeting.)

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP: 2026 Budget



Where do my Oakland Township Property tax dollars go?

Of the \$53 million in tax revenue collected through Winter and Summer property taxes in Oakland township for tax year 2024 (collected in fiscal year 2025), over 82% of those dollars were passed through to School Districts, Education funds, and Oakland County services. The remaining 18% was allocated to the various Township Funds via their respective millage rates.

Historic District Commission

“Fundraising” appears to have some legal issues; we need to be clear on what they are.

In a follow-up on last week’s post, I did some research in our 2012 Township minutes and meeting packets to try to understand the thinking behind the prohibition on “fundraising” in our Historic District Commission (HDC) ordinance Code 228-39 G which was added in 2012 when HDC wanted to do their first event, a Square Dance / Bar-B-Q.

Why it is a problem is not clear, but our Township Attorney at the time, Mr. Steven P. Joppich (now Parks Attorney), intentionally included it as a restriction. I have suggested to our Board that they enlist our current Township Attorney to explain the problems of fundraising.

Here is a two-page letter I sent to our Board and key others, suggesting a small plan to deal with this issue, with 21 pages of supporting information. See it at this link: <https://oaklandsentinel.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/102-fundraising-prohibited-by-hdc.pdf>

Parks, Recreation, Land Preservation

Calendar

Please be aware that Parks and Recreation has an events calendar on the Township website here: [Calendar](#)

Regular Meeting, April 8, 2026

I'll call attention to long-time contract Recording Secretary Ingrid Kliffel's excellent minutes when they come out in a few days. There were sound decisions made by there was nothing needing immediate reporting in my view.

Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal – Expires this year.

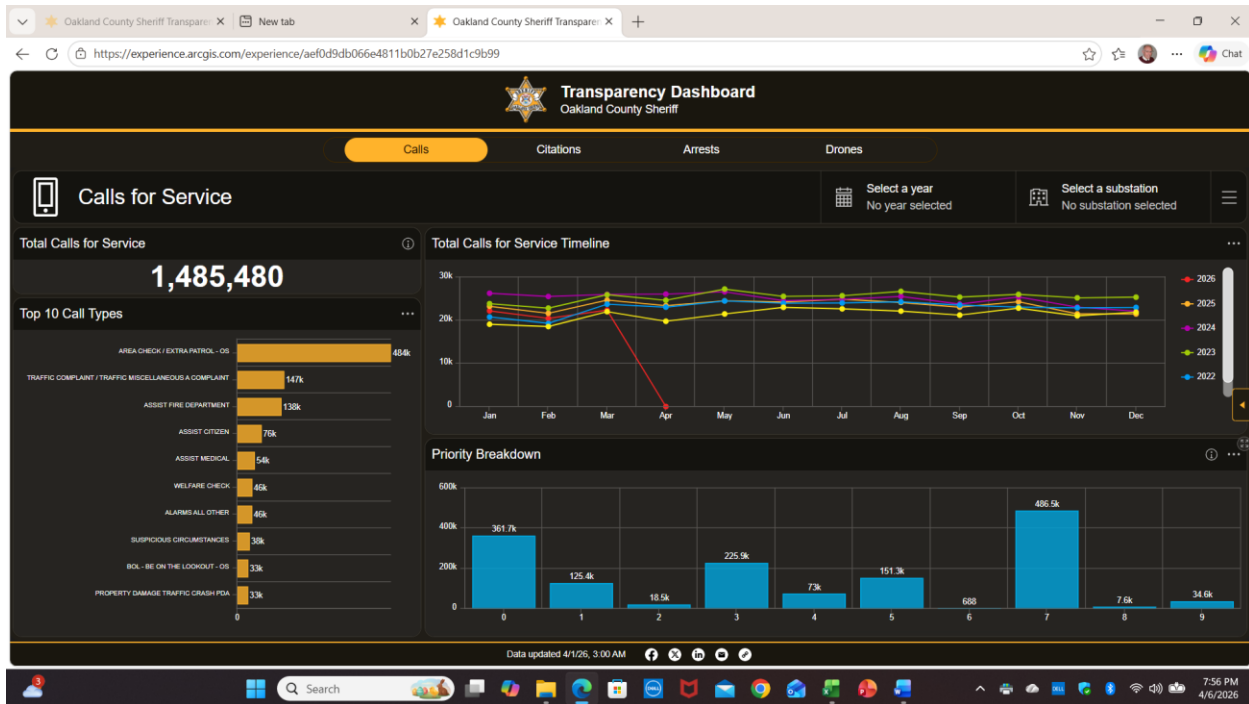
Director Ben McCloskey asked Manager Joe Merucci to put this on next week's April 14, 2026, Board of Trustees agenda for approval to place on the August ballot. It is on the agenda.

Police - Sheriff's Department

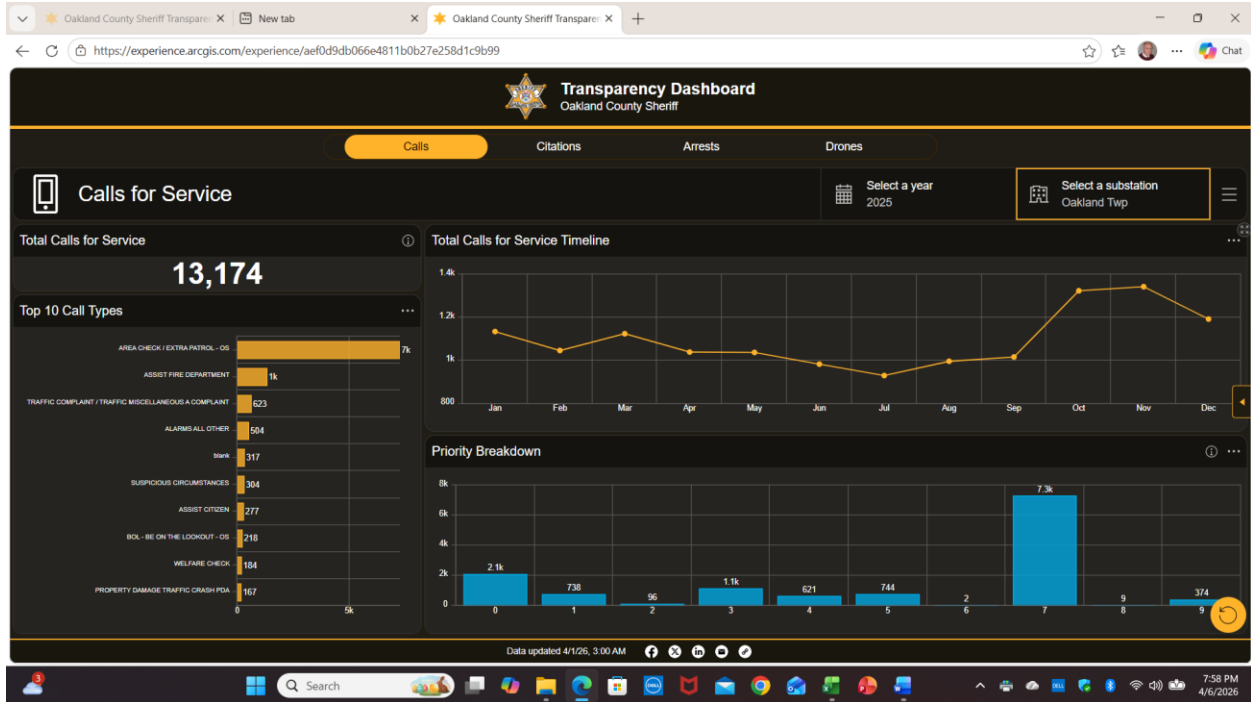
Call Data - 2021 - 2025

My thanks to Lieutenant Dooley, our Oakland County Sheriff Department Substation Commander for Oakland Township. He made me aware of the Sheriff's Department "call" data on the County website at this link [Oakland County Sheriff Transparency Dashboard](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aef0d9db066e4811b0b27e258d1c9b99)

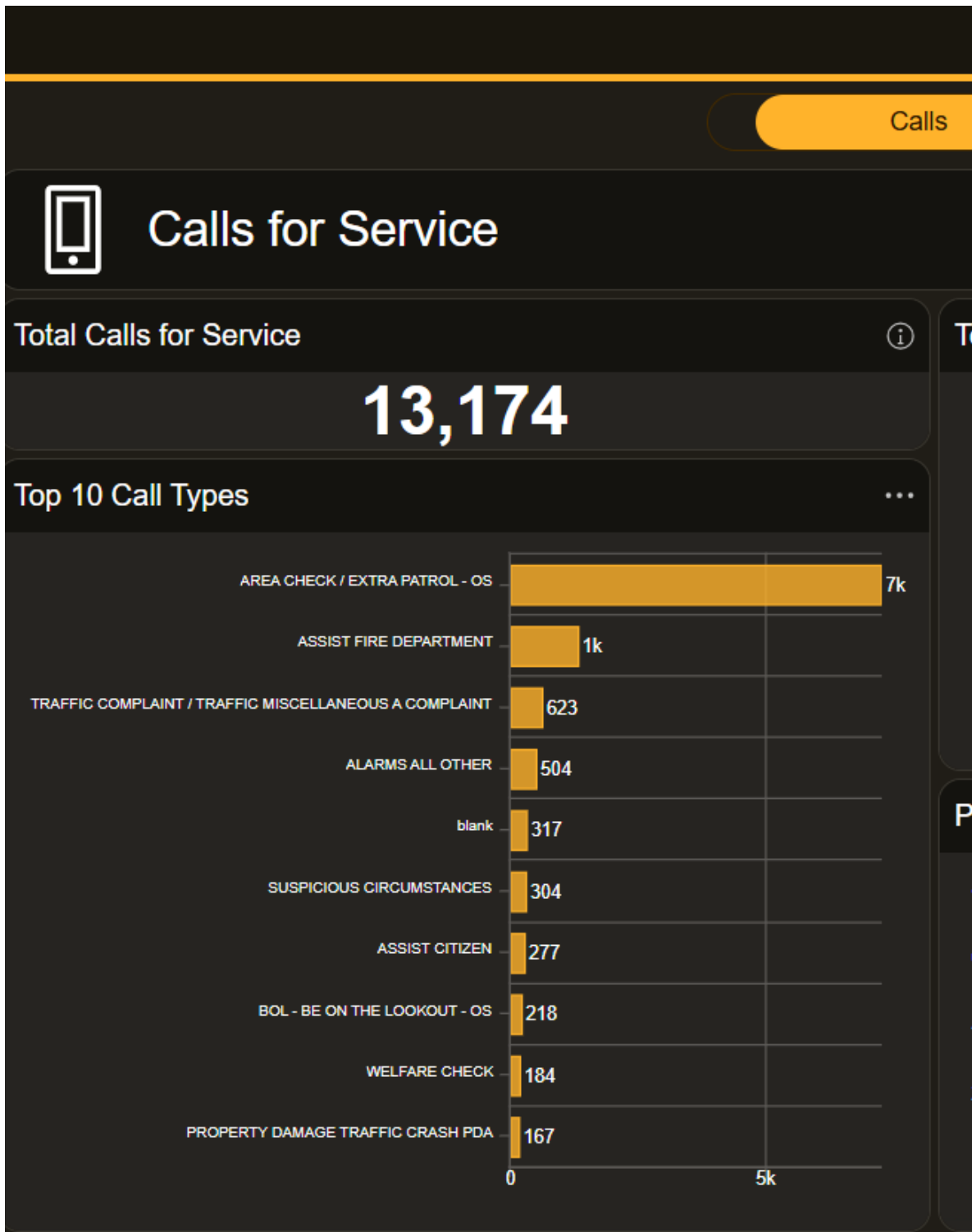
If you go there, you first see this chart that covers the entire county for 2021 to the present with 1,485,480 calls over those 5 + years.



You can pick just one year and one township. Here is Oakland Township – 2025. The Sheriff received 36 calls per day of all types. ($13,174 / 365 = 36$)



It's hard to see the **"Top 10 Call Types"** on the left of the chart above, so I enlarged that section below. These **"Top 10 Call Types"** total 10,594 calls or 80% of calls ($10594 / 13174 \times 100 = 80$). I plan to work on getting better definitions of these types of calls. For example, 7,000 calls (53%) were "Area Check – Extra Patrol - OS". What is that?

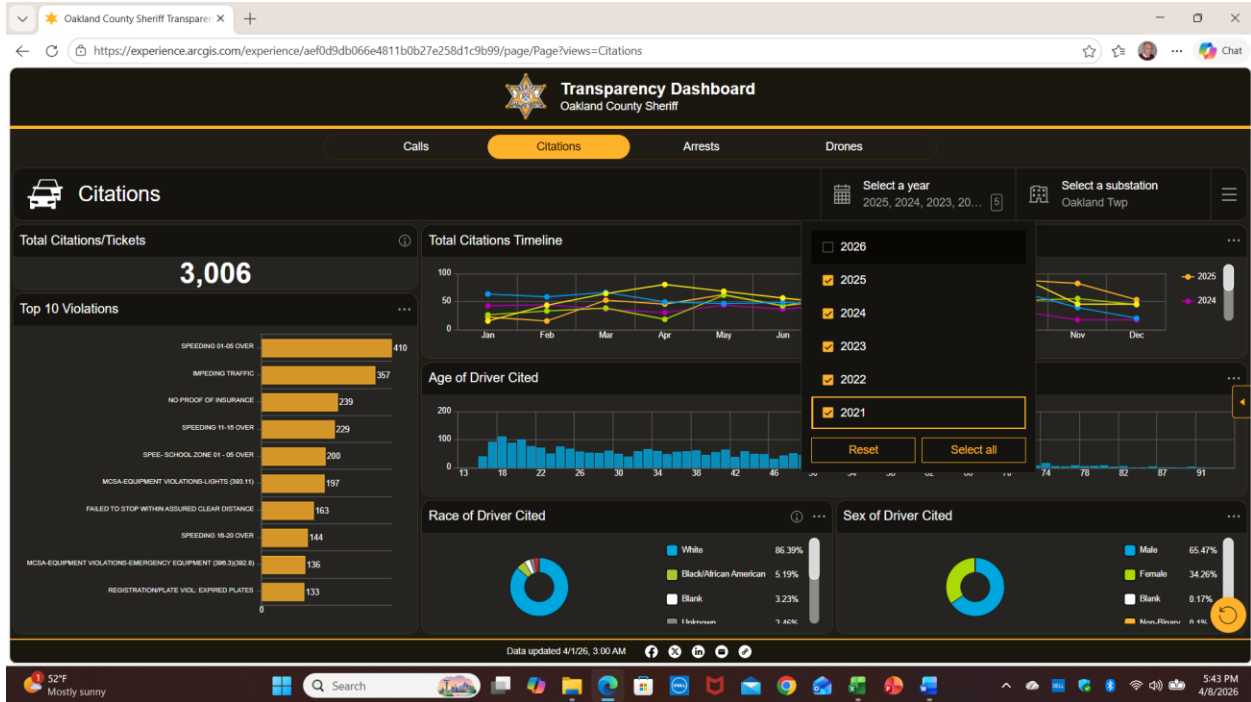


The above two charts were total calls. We also have the option to look at only “Traffic Citations” or only “Arrest”.

Traffic Citations for 2021-2025

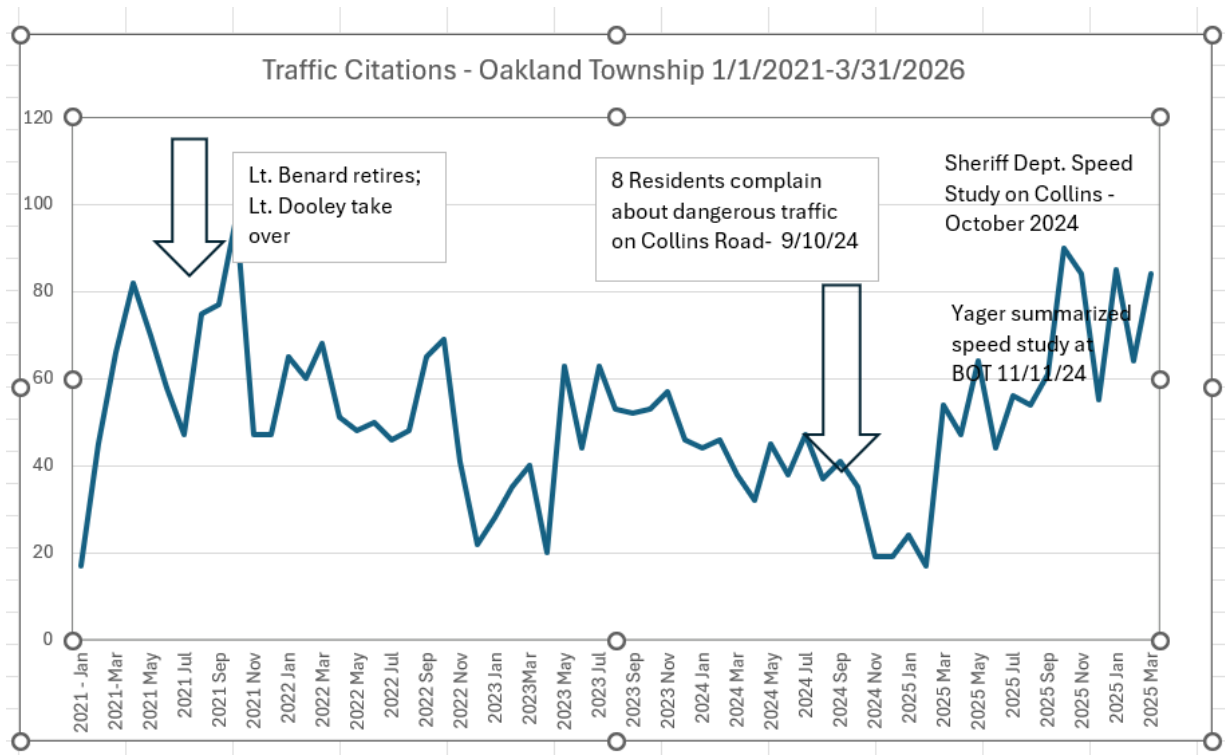
Since I am convinced that enhanced efforts to get compliance with speed limits is important to our Township families' safety, I took a closer at the speed data over the five-year period.

Here are Oakland Township Traffic Citations for 2021-2025

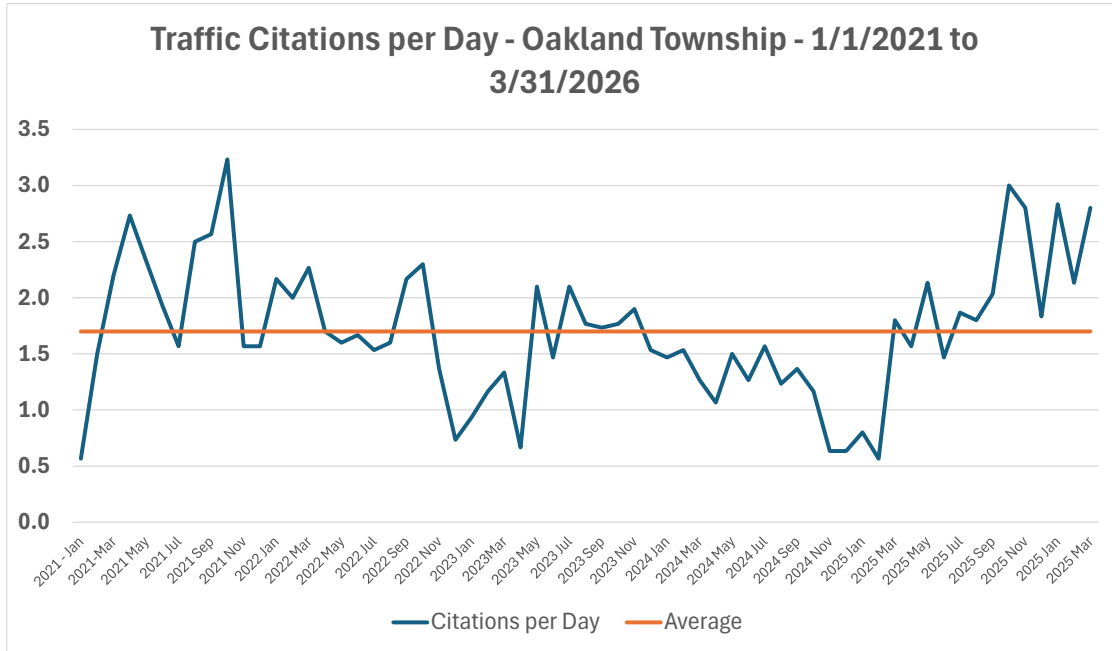


I prefer to see the five years displayed in a single graph with a wider vertical scale (the ordinate). I believe the eight residents who took time out of their day to attend Board of Trustees meeting on September 10, 2024 to complain about speeding on Collins caused increased ticket writing. Those residents, whom I applaud, were:

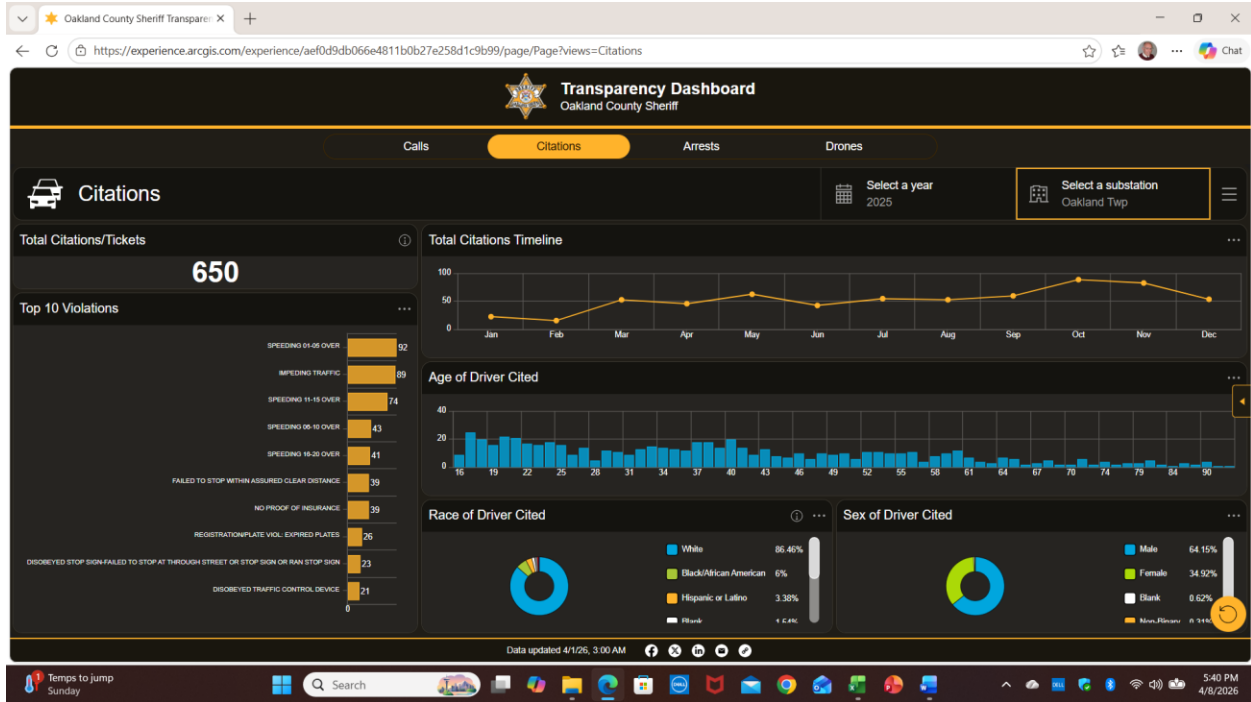
Phyllis Andrus 1073 Bear Creek Court, Jodi Byers 4252 Collins Road, Michelle Pfarrer 3750 Collins Road, Kristen Tucciarone 4033 Collins Road, Kelly Scola 3855 Collins Road, Emily Cross 4304 Collins, Cathy Rooney 1080 Oak Hill, Carolyn Phelps 3745 Collins Road



I also made this Excel graph below showing how many tickets are issued per day. The average (red line) is 1.7 tickets per day, with a low in March 2025 of 0.5 per day and a high in September 2021 of 3+ per day.



But these are for every type of traffic violation, not just speeding. By getting a chart like the one below (2025) for each year I created the table seen after the chart below.

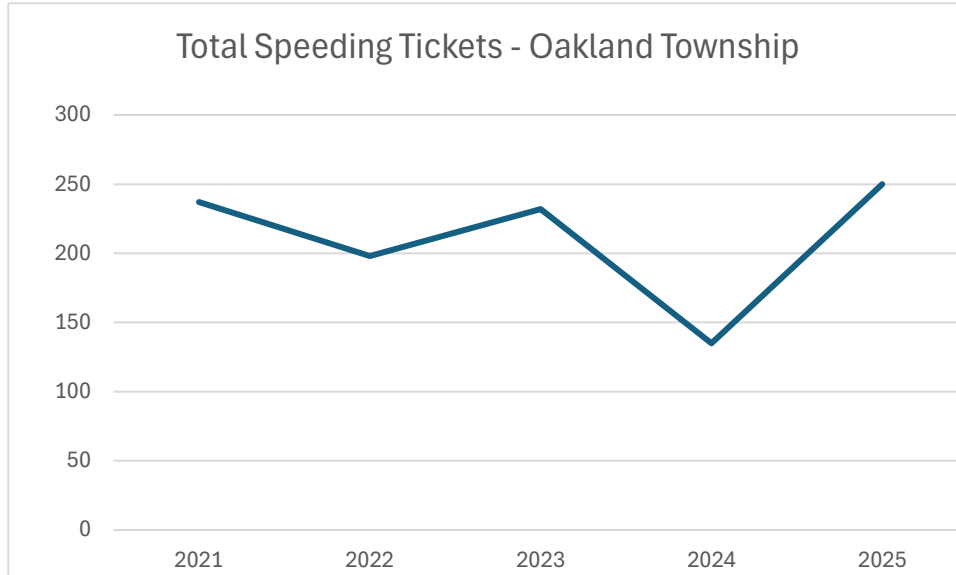


Here is the table I made from last five years of data. It leaves me with questions. How about you?

					2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Speeding 1-5 Over					116	86	63	53	92
Speeding 6-10 Over							63	19	43
Speeding 11-15 Over					33	40	44	38	74
Speeding 16-20 Over							33	25	41
School zone 1-5 Over					88	72	29		
Impeding traffic					71	50	80	67	89
Failed to stop with assured clear distance					35	36	24	33	39
No proof of insurance					68	39	57	36	39
Expired Plate						36	28	22	26
Stop Sign					70			21	23
Disbeyed traffic light									21
MCSA Equipment Violations - Lights (303.11)					56	88	25	27	
Drove without due care and /or caution					34	35	24		
MCSA Emergency equipment Violations (396.3, 392,8)					36	64			
Total of above numbers					607	546	470	341	395
Total shown on chart -large orange number					728	633	554	441	650
Difference in two totals					121	87	84	100	255

If we just look solely at speeding, and only at last year, we see an average of 21 tickets per month in 2025, with 3.4 per month at 16-20 MPH over the limit or about one every ten days at that high speed.

Violation	Annual	Per Month	Per day
Speeding '01-05 Over	92	7.7	0.25
Speeding '06-10 Over	43	3.6	0.12
Speeding '11-15 Over	74	6.2	0.2
Speeding '16-20 Over	41	3.4	0.11
	250	20.9	0.68



Roads

Silverbell / Gallagher Paving

April 2, 2026 – 5-8 PM - Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) held an information meeting at Township hall on the possible paving of Silverbell and Gallagher. I was unable to attend.

The Record Newspaper covered the event and placed an article on the front page of their April 4, 2026 issue. It quotes one RCOC engineer, one Trustee and one resident.

Buell Paving – see page 17

Township Communications

Be sure to sign up for these Township email notices at this link: [Township of Oakland, Michigan](#) Here is a copy of what I received this week. It is refreshing to see this information coming from our Township.

“Residents and friends,

As spring projects get underway, Oakland Township residents are encouraged to review several important community updates. This edition includes information about the upcoming closure of Buell Road, the water flushing schedule, registration details for upcoming No Haz household hazardous waste collection events, and changes to the Oakland County dog licensing process. Please take a moment to review these notices and plan ahead.”

Road Closure Notice: Buell Road between Rochester Road and Collins Road until June 5

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP TRAFFIC ALERT!

BUELL RD., COLLINS RD. TO ROCHESTER RD., WILL CLOSE APRIL 13 TO JUNE 5 FOR PAVING IN CONJUNCTION WITH A PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

DETOUR: ROCHESTER RD. TO STONEY CREEK RD. TO LAKE GEORGE RD., BACK TO BUELL RD. AND VICE VERSA.

INJURE / KILL A WORKER \$ 7500 + 15 YEARS

RESIDENTIAL ACCESS MAINTAINED WITHIN THE CLOSURE.

ROAD COMMISSION for OAKLAND COUNTY

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) has issued a permit allowing Lombardo Homes of Shelby Township, a private developer, to close Buell Road, from Collins Road to Rochester Road in Oakland Township, to through traffic starting Monday, April 13, through Friday, June 5.

The closure is necessary for Lombardo Homes to pave a section of Buell Road in conjunction with a new housing development. Access to homes within the closed section of Buell Road will be maintained throughout construction.

The detour for through traffic during the closure is Rochester Road to Stoney Creek Road to Lake George Road, back to Buell Road and vice versa.

Sentinel Editor's Note: This is part of the agreement for Stony Creek Crossings Development, which is now starting development. See Planning Commission Minutes page 3 of 4 - [MEMORANDUM](#) ***"Buell Road will be paved from the West end of entrance of Oakland Hunt to the west end of the development property line."***



Don't forget to store water ahead of time for use while your subdivision/street is being flushed and avoid using the water during the flushing period. Flushing takes place between 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM.

April 13: Oakland Farms, Oakland Knolls, Oakland Hills, Knorrwood Pines, Knorrwood Ridge, Oak Arbor, Deer Point, Park Hill, St. Johns Church, Oakland Crest, Guardian Angel Cemetery

April 14: Oakland Farms, Oakland Knolls, Oakland Hills, Knorrwood Pines, Knorrwood Ridge, Oak Arbor, Deer Point, Park Hill, St. Johns Church, Oakland Crest, Guardian Angel Cemetery, Oakland Valley, Coachlamp

April 20: Country Creek, Woods of Country Creek, Country Creek Commons, Village of Country Creek, The Crossings, Century Woods, Plum Creek, Knorrwood Knolls, Twin Lakes

April 21: Country Creek, Woods of Country Creek, Country Creek Commons, Village of Country Creek, The Crossings, Century Woods, The Heights, Wyngate Club House, Pinnacle

April 22: Kirklands, Cloisters, Claremont, Kingsridge, Silvercreek, Carrolton, Century Oaks, Silverbell Road, Trout Creek, Belmonte, Blossom Creek, Blossom Springs

April 23: Goodison Place, Orchard Ridge, Wynridge, Wellington, Collins Road, Oakland Hunt, Wynstone

Flushing Information: After flushing in your neighborhood is complete, flush your home plumbing to get rid of rust and sediment. If you're not sure how, [here's what you need to do](#). For more information, visit the [Water Resource Commission's webpage](#) for FAQs and more.



[Registration is Now Open - Saturday, April 18, 8 am – 1 pm](#) - Pine Knob Music Theatre 33 Bob Seger Drive, Clarkston

The NoHaz Consortium is a group of Oakland County communities that have come together to provide residents with a safe, reliable and environmentally-responsible way to dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW). These wastes are the substances in your home that can be harmful to humans and the environment if not disposed of properly. Each year, NoHaz schedules collection events to provide disposal opportunities for residents of the member communities.

[Registration](#) will open approximately **three weeks prior to each collection event**. If you are unable to register online, forms will be available at the collection events. [Visit NoHaz](#) for more information. Oakland Township resident fee per vehicle: \$15.

Upcoming events:

[Saturday, June 13, 8 am – 1 pm](#) Oxford Middle School 1420 Lakeville Road, Oxford From M24/Lapeer Road, travel east on Burdick Street

[Saturday, August 1, 8 am – 1 pm](#) Kensington Church 4640 S. Lapeer Road, Orion Township

[Saturday, September 12, 8 am – 1 pm](#) Oakland County Service Center Campus 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac

Important Update: Dog License Process Change



Oakland County Animal Shelter now offers a new, streamlined way to purchase and renew dog licenses through its website. This update makes the process more convenient while keeping costs the same. Residents may still renew dog licenses in person at Township Hall; however, **license tags will no longer be distributed there and will instead be mailed directly to your home.**

Key highlights include:

- No increase in license fees
- Simple and secure online registration
- HomeSafe® 24/7 lost pet recovery service included with each license
- Optional designer tags available
- License tags mailed directly to residents by DocuPet

For additional details, visit [Dog License | Oakland County, MI](#)

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