

Telegraph



New Initiatives Introduced at State of the County Speech



INSIDE

- Page 2**
Employee Adventure
- Page 3**
OakFit
- Page 4**
From Whence We Came
March of Dimes
HR Training
- Page 5**
Summer Events
- Page 6**
Employees of the Month
- Page 7**
Celebrating Women's
History
Youth Assistance
Coordinating Council
- Page 8**
Telegraphing our Talents
Person to Person
- Page 9**
O.C. Parks greenhouses
Judge swears in student
- Page 10**
Count Your Steps Now
Includes Employees
- Page 11**
Kudos
- Page 12**
Toot Thy Horn

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson introduced three new initiatives that will continue his efforts to improve the health of residents, to transform the county into a knowledge-based economy and boost the relationship between residents and government.

He announced the creation of Brooksie Way Mini-Grants, the establishment of the Dennis Toffolo Endowed Scholarship and the initiation of the OakGov Challenge at his 2010 State of the County speech on February 3rd at Centerpoint Marriott in Pontiac.

"I want Oakland County to be the healthiest county in the United States and I want my residents to enjoy a healthy quality of life," Patterson said.

With private funds from the Brooksie Way Half Marathon and 5k Race, Patterson has authorized a mini-granting program where health driven community programs and organizations can apply for up to \$2,000 to support their activities. Called Brooksie Way Mini-Grants, there is a total of \$50,000 available for those who qualify. Find out more at www.thebrooksieway.com.

Deputy County Executive Dennis Toffolo passed away unexpectedly last May. Toffolo was both a proponent and a product of a community college education. To honor his legacy, Patterson announced the Dennis Toffolo Endowed Scholarship at Oakland Community College. Funds will be awarded to OCC students who are high achievers in the technical Emerging Sectors fields.

Patterson thanked ITC Holdings Corporation in Novi and its President and CEO Joe Welch for making the first leadership donation to the scholarship fund in the amount of \$10,000. For more information on the scholarship, go to www.oakgov.com/exec.

The County Executive also introduced the OakGov Challenge, a high tech competition open to people who live, work or go to school in the five-county Economic Growth Alliance region that will improve internet access to Oakland County government for residents.

"In this public/private partnership, we hope to end up with new applications that take a plethora of public record data that we have stored at the county and make the data more accessible to our citizens," Patterson said. AT&T has put up \$10,000 in prize money. For more details, visit www.oakgovchallenge.com.

In the year ahead, among the issues that will impact Oakland County employees will be the renewal of the Parks and Recreation millage. Every 10 years, voters are asked to renew a millage that amounts to \$25 for a home valued at \$200,000. But the outcome of the vote is not guaranteed in this tough economy.

"Of the parks budget, 60% comes from this millage. The rest comes from fees," Patterson said. Voters will head to the polls on the millage renewal during the primary election August 3rd.

Among the new features at Parks and Rec in 2010 will be the addition of the Upper Bushman Lake property to Independence Oaks. Its 186 acres of woods and pristine lake will provide an up-north experience for residents and employees. Waterford Oaks will open a universally-accessible playscape. And Red Oaks soon will open an off-leash dog park.

Continue on Pg. 2



The Many Hats of Public Health

On a cool December morning in 2009, Oakland County Health Division Public Health Nurse Linda Bender made a home visit to a client with a four-month-old infant to support breastfeeding and teach about infant care and development. In the home at the time were the mother, father and infant.

When she arrived, Linda immediately noticed a natural gas odor. She told the client to call the gas company. The gas company attendant arrived quickly. Following a diagnostic test with a special instrument, he told everyone to leave the home immediately. The Oak Park home, which was being rented by the family, had a carbon monoxide leak with a level of 90 parts per million (ppm). A high level is 9 ppm and normal is 4 ppm.

Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and tasteless, leaks cannot be detected without an instrument. Ironically, the homeowner did have a functioning carbon monoxide detector in her home. Unfortunately, it was not in use that day. This coupled with an older, malfunctioning furnace led to the distinct smell and high levels of carbon monoxide in the home.

The family was feeling sluggish and had slight headaches, but didn't notice anything unusual. Following the gas leak, the mother became uneasy about her young child and called Poison Control. Linda also called Poison Control out of concern for the family. They suggested that the family go to the local Emergency Department to be evaluated. All three family members were treated for carbon monoxide exposure.

This 25-year-old, first time mom stated, "Linda's support and guidance as a public health nurse has been very helpful." Following this incident, family member's feel fortunate that this public health nurse was there and mentioned on many occasions, "Thank goodness for Linda Bender's nose!"

This is an excellent example of the importance of public health and a lesson to all regarding the dangers of carbon monoxide exposure in the home. Great job, Linda, your actions that day saved lives.



Continued from Pg. 1

Other highlights from State of the County Address:

- Oakland County International Airport will break ground on the first "green" terminal in Michigan this spring. It will be the first county building to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified.
- There were important developments in the Medical Mainstreet program this year as the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine just won preliminary accreditation so it can begin to enroll students for the 2011 school year.
- Automation Alley is expanding with the opening of both a military office and an International Business Center.
- With the initiative of Risk Management Director Julie Secontine, the county's Homeland Security Division will manage urban search and rescue personnel and equipment for a six county and City of Detroit alliance.
- The Economic Growth Alliance expects to add a significant neighboring county this year.

Throughout the speech, Patterson recognized the many accomplishments of Oakland County employees whether the nurses in the Health Division who vaccinated an individual against H1N1 every three seconds or programmers in the IT Department who are using technology to make county government more accessible, efficient and cost effective.

But most of all, Patterson thanked Oakland County employees for their continued professionalism in these tough budget times.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank my Oakland County employees," Patterson said. "Most of them understand the challenges this economy has imposed upon our budget and they have accepted bearing some of the burden to reduce costs."

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Weight Watchers at Work program has new lower rates! OakFit will pay a portion of your registration fee!

- The first 40  employees to register for Weight Watchers at Work will receive a \$35 subsidy toward their registration fee. (Offered to employees with Oakland County's BCBS Medical plans only.)
- Promotion is \$35 toward the \$135 program fee – employee pays \$100, OakFit pays \$35
- Employees with HAP Medical already receive a discount on Weight Watchers membership and only pay \$25 (HAP employees not eligible for additional OakFit subsidy).

Registration and first class begin at noon on Tuesday, March 23rd at Information Technology Lecture Hall, Building 49W.

Lunchtime Yoga for Relaxation

Yoga teaches the basics of aligning the body, which increases our ability to feel free and open. For those who are new to yoga, the ancient and functional technique stretches muscles, strengthens bones, tones internal organs, improves posture and balance and enhances the life force to restore vitality.

Meditation (or quiet time) has been proven by doctors, to lower blood pressure and allows the mind rest thereby allowing it to be more creative and productive. Gentle stretches are introduced in the class. If you have a particular ache or pain, those will be addressed on an individual basis. Come have fun. Feel good about yourself and your body!

Session Begins – March 25th for 10 weeks

Thursdays at lunchtime: 11:45 am – 12:20 pm and 12:45 – 1:20 pm

Executive Office Building, 4th Floor, "County" Conference Room

10 weeks for \$89 or 3 payments of \$35 (Cash, Checks, Visa, Mastercard, AMEX and Discover accepted)

Lunch 'n Learn-Lighten Up and Laugh

Join us and discover how laughter helps reduce stress and why some say it is "the latest weapon in the fight against heart disease." Through comical example, outrageous audience interaction and funny yet factual information, audience members will discover that the more we laugh the more we relax, the more we relax, the easier it is to work through challenges and emotional situations.

Who: Richard Paul, Hilarious Motivational Speaker

When: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 11:30am - 12:30pm

Where: Executive Office Building, "East Oakland" Conference Room

Course Number: WEL045

To enroll online thru my.oakgov.com, navigate to HR Access Now tab. Select Self Service. Click on the Learning & Development link. Select Request Training Enrollment. Search by Course Number (listed above). Select Course from list. Submit your request.

Questions and comments can be directed to: Human Resources, Dawn Smith, 248-858-5473 or smithd@oakgov.com.

Get Healthy and Earn Money! Don't Walk Away Without Your \$100.00!

2010 Employee Health Screenings and Health Risk Assessments

There is STILL time to sign up for your free Health Screening! Schedule your appointment by registering online at www.oakfit.com/wellness. May 7, 2010 is the last day to receive your screening!



Health Screenings include the following tests:

- Cholesterol (both fasting and non-fasting offered)
- Diabetes
- Blood Pressure & Pulse Rate
- Body Mass Index (BMI)

Screenings are available to Full-time Eligible and Part-time Eligible employees. Important Note: Confidentiality is of utmost importance. No information regarding individual employee test results will be shared with Oakland County. The results will be given directly to you after the test and then maintained off-site by an outside third party vendor, Summit Health, in accordance with the HIPAA confidentiality law.

Employees who complete both the screening AND online Health Risk Assessment survey will receive a \$100 incentive that will be added to their June 25th paycheck. This incentive is taxable.

Refer an employee who hasn't participated in the past three years OR if you participate for the first time you will receive a chance to win a \$250 Visa Gift Card (6 winners will be drawn)! The more eligible co-workers you encourage to participate, the better chance you have of winning! The referred employee/new employee must complete both the screening AND online Health Risk Assessment survey in order for either person to be eligible for a prize. Drawing forms will be available at all screening locations.

Ideas for Spending Your \$100 Incentive

- Make an investment in your health | you deserve it!
- A new pair of walking/running shoes
- Gym membership
- Swim, aquatic or martial arts exercise class
- Lunchtime yoga at work
- Weight Watcher's at work session
- Healthy cooking cookbooks
- Free weights to begin weight training program
- Basketball, volleyball, tennis racket to enjoy a fun fitness hobby
- Register for a 5k, 10k, half marathon or marathon (thebrooksieway.Com)
- Register for a half marathon or marathon training program (thebrooksieway.Com/training)
- Purchase a season pass to local parks to enjoy the outdoors

Visit the OakFit web site at <http://www.oakgov.com/wellness> for location schedules and registration information.

From Whence We Came... Cook's Farm Dairy, Ortonville



Once you spot the 60 foot tall silos on East Seymour Lake Road in Ortonville, you'll know you're almost there. The destination: Cook's Farm Dairy, which has been an Oakland County fixture for nearly 70 years. With over 200 acres on the property, it still harbors a quaint nostalgia of a bygone era filled with the friendly milkman, and mom and pop-ran businesses. In addition to its longevity as a family-ran dairy farm, Cook's is well-known for having some of the best ice cream in the county. Perhaps the locals are biased, however, if you sample a scoop, chances are you'll become a believer as well.

It all began in 1933 with Clark Miller starting the farm, and then selling the farm in the 1970's to the Cook family. By the early 1980's, the Cook family was bottling and selling their own milk and making their own ice cream. Everything at Cook's Farm Dairy comes right from the farm. The corn the cows eat is grown on their acreage, and the cow's themselves are descendants from the original group from the 1930's. No hormones are given to the cows.

Alongside the ice cream, Cook's produces a variety of milk, freezer meats, and other dairy products. Inside of the shop, quaint and quirky wall decorations poke fun at the whole experience of visiting a dairy farm. "Udderly Fantastic" and "Cow-Tipping Appreciated" bring smiles to the faces of customers.

Cook's also provides tours of the entire farm for groups or individuals. They are not shy about showing you what it's like down on the farm. From getting up close and personal with the cows, to seeing the bottling process of the milk, the tour is both thorough and educational. You even get a complimentary ice cream cone at the finish of the tour. Everyone loves a happy ending. Cook's Farm Dairy is located at 2950 Seymour Lake Road in Ortonville.



HR Training and Development's Computer-Based Training Program

Computer-Based Training (CBT) is a web-based system of training courses available to employees. These courses, which can be accessed from the convenience of your desktop computer and completed at your own pace, are designed to supplement traditional instructor-led training and provide greater opportunity for skill development. Courses are typically 2-5 hours in length.

There are 83 CBT courses available. Course topics include administrative support, business etiquette and professionalism, change management, customer service, grammar and business writing, management and leadership development, team building, time management, county policy training and more.

Complete CBT courses to earn recognition on HR Training and Development's CBT Honor Roll. The Honor Roll is posted on HR Training's website and sent to supervisors to recognize employees whose dedication to learning has earned them honors.

Don't have access to a computer? PCs are available at the County Research Library, in the West Wing Extension of the Oakland County Courthouse or in Human Resources (HR), located in the Executive Office Building, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, 41 West, 2nd Floor.

Contact Stephanie Bedricky at 248-858-4638 or e-mail at bedrickys@oakgov.com, to find out how you can get started with Computer-Based Training.



March for Babies Needs Your Help

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson urges county employees to participate in the March of Dimes' March for Babies

on Sunday, April 25 at 8:00 a.m. at the Troy Civic Center. The eight-mile walk raises funds to help premature babies have a healthy start to life.

"It's just a beautiful day to be out, crisp, early morning, full of energy," says Charlotte Burckhardt, team captain in Planning and Economic Development.

"Being a mom, you just can't help it when you see what the goal is," Burckhardt says as she explains why she participates. "I really believe in giving every child that first beginning step of a healthy birth."



"This event is so important to me, to the county employees who participate, and the newborns fighting for a healthy start," County Executive Patterson says. "If you can't participate in the walk, try to find a way to help raise money for March of Dimes, or consider making a donation."

Last year, Oakland County raised \$23,000 in the March for Babies, down from a peak of \$36,000 in 2002. This year's goal is \$30,000.

If you want to participate or donate, check with your manager or supervisor to find out who your team captain is or call Dana O'Neal in Community Corrections at 248-451-2356. For more information, go to www.marchforbabies.org.

Oakland County Events—Summer 2010

APRIL

April 22–24

Festival of the Arts
[www.fhgov.com/Services/
CulturalArts/Festivals.asp#FOA](http://www.fhgov.com/Services/CulturalArts/Festivals.asp#FOA)
Farmington
248-473-1870

April 23–25

MI Earth Day Fest
www.miearthday.com/
Rochester

April 25–May 6

12th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish
Film Festival
[http://register.jccdet.org/category.
aspx?catid=211](http://register.jccdet.org/category.aspx?catid=211)
various locations
248-432-5461

MAY

May 15-16

Art Birmingham
[http://theguild.org/art_birmingham.
html](http://theguild.org/art_birmingham.html)
Birmingham

May 22–23

Fine Art at the Village
www.fineartatthevillage.com/
Rochester Hills
248-689-8734

May 22–23

Flower Fair and Home & Garden
Marketplace
www.downtownlakeorion.org/
Lake Orion
248-693-9742

May 27–31

Hazel Park's Memorial Festival
Hazel Park
248-547-5535

May 28–31

St. Mary's Polish Country Fair
[www.stmaryspolishcountryfair.
com/](http://www.stmaryspolishcountryfair.com/)
Orchard Lake
248-706-6775

JUNE

June 5–6

Art on the Grand
[www.fhgov.com/Services/
CulturalArts/ArtOnTheGrand.asp](http://www.fhgov.com/Services/CulturalArts/ArtOnTheGrand.asp)
Farmington
248-473-1870

June 5–20

Great Lakes Chamber Music
Festival
[www.greatlakeschambermusic.org/
scripts/home.aspival](http://www.greatlakeschambermusic.org/scripts/home.aspival)
various venues
248-559-2097

June 6

Motor City Pride
[www.motorcitypride.org/index_
test.php](http://www.motorcitypride.org/index_test.php)
Ferndale
313-537-7000

June 11–13

15th Annual Clay, Glass & Metal
Festival
[/www.royaloakchamber.com/
clay_glass.htm](http://www.royaloakchamber.com/clay_glass.htm)
Royal Oak
248-547-4000

June 19

Sylvan Lake Home and Garden
Tour
www.sylvantour.com/
Sylvan Lake
248-615-6296

June 26

Art-In-The-Park
[www.lathrupvillageartinthepark.
com/](http://www.lathrupvillageartinthepark.com/)
Lathrup Village
248-557-2600

June 25–27

Arts and Acts/Art in the Sun
[http://ci.northville.mi.us/
Community/ArtsCommission/
ArtsAndActs.asp](http://ci.northville.mi.us/Community/ArtsCommission/ArtsAndActs.asp)
Northville
248-344-0497

June 26

Thrive Festival
www.thrivefest.com/
Farmington Hills
248-473-1800

June 26–27

Log Cabin Days
[www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.
org/index.html](http://www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org/index.html)
Waterford
248-683-2697

June 26–July 5

Clawson Fourth of July Celebration
[www.cityofclawson.com/
fourthofjuly.htm](http://www.cityofclawson.com/fourthofjuly.htm)
Clawson
248-435-7892

JULY

July 13–18

Oakland County Fair
www.oakfair.org/
Davisburg
248-634-8830

July 15–17

Downtown Farmington Founders
Festival
Farmington
248-477-1199

July 17–18

Quake on the Lake
www.quakeonthelake.org/
Waterford/White Lake Twp.

July 24

Green Breeze, Green Living Fair -
Community
[www.communityhouse.com/events/
GreenBreeze.htm](http://www.communityhouse.com/events/GreenBreeze.htm)
Birmingham
248-644-5832

July 25

32nd Annual Concours d'Elegance
of America at Meadow Brook
www.meadowbrookconcours.org/
Rochester
248-643-8645

July 30–August 1

Orchard Lake Fine Art Show
[www.hotworks.org/
orchardlakefineartshow/index.php](http://www.hotworks.org/orchardlakefineartshow/index.php)
Orchard Lake/West Bloomfield
248-685-3748

July 31

Summer Social at Pine Grove,
Oakland County Pioneer and
Historical Society
[www.ocphs.org/drupal-
6.1/?q=node/8](http://www.ocphs.org/drupal-6.1/?q=node/8)
Pontiac
248-338-6732

AUGUST

August 7–8

Summer Fine Art at the Village
www.fineartatthevillage.com/
Rochester Hills
248-689-8734

August 13–15

Milford Memories Summer
Festival
[www.milfordmemories.com/1/mm/
index.asp](http://www.milfordmemories.com/1/mm/index.asp)
Milford
248-685-7129

August 21

Woodward Dream Cruise Weekend
www.woodwarddreamcruise.com/
Oakland County
248-546-1573

August 21–Oct 3, 2010

Michigan Renaissance
Festival (dates subject
to change)
www.michrenfest.com/
Holly
800-601-4848

SEPTEMBER

September 3–6

Arts, Beats, and Eats
www.artsbeatseats.com/
Royal Oak
248-334-4600

September 8

Goodison Good Tyme
[www.oaklandtownship.org/
NewsEvents/
GoodisonGoodTymeCuramus
TerramRaces/
tabid/68/Default.aspx](http://www.oaklandtownship.org/NewsEvents/GoodisonGoodTymeCuramusTerramRaces/tabid/68/Default.aspx)
Oakland Township
248-651-7810

September 10–12

Carry Nation Festival
www.carrynation.org/
Holly
248-634-9571

September 10–12

Art & Apples Festival
www.artandapples.com/
Rochester
248-651-4110

September 16–19

Troy Daze Festival
www.troymi.gov/TroyDaze/
Troy
248-524-1147

September 17–19

Victorian Festival
[www.northville.org/Events_
Calendar/Content/Victorian_
Festival/](http://www.northville.org/Events_Calendar/Content/Victorian_Festival/)
Northville
248-349-7640

September 25–26

Rochester Heritage Festival
www.rochesterheritagefest.org/
Rochester
248-656-0999



Employees of the Month



Richard Kaczanowski

It takes a special kind of person to work with Oakland County's most serious juvenile delinquents. Richard Kaczanowski is one of those people.

He works in Children's Village in the Boys Treatment Secure Program as a case coordinator. The BTS Program offers teens a "last chance" to reform before they are sent to the state's most secure juvenile facilities. But Kaczanowski's goal is to get these kids back home.

"I think one of the big things I see is kids believing in themselves," Kaczanowski says. "People who are successful in this job love what they do. You have to be patient, a good listener and organized."

Children's Village Manager Joanna Overall says Kaczanowski is an "exceptional employee. He is always calm, cool, collected. He works well with the kids."

Kaczanowski lives in Rochester Hills with his wife Christina Nicholas, chief of substance abuse in the Health Division. He has two sons – 21-year-old Zachary who attends CMU and 19-year-old Nicholas who attends MSU. He loves to walk his two rescued dogs with Christina, cook Italian food, garden, golf and hike.



Kristen Hoffman

Kristen Hoffman works in rehab, but not the kind that first comes to mind. She helps Oakland County's low income families live the American Dream.

As supervisor of rehab administrative services in the Economic Development and Community Affairs Department, she works with many organizations including non-profits to get assistance for needy families to buy their first homes or make improvements on their existing homes.

"It's the nice part of my job, people who never thought they could own a home do," Hoffman says.

Her manager Karry Rieth says Hoffman's work impacts thousands of county residents. "Kris is honored not only for what she does for the division, but for what she has and continues to do to improve the lives and housing for literally thousands of county residents," Rieth says.

A Waterford resident, Hoffman has worked for the county since 1975. She has a grown daughter. In her free time, she fuses two favorite activities – reading and cooking. "You learn a lot about other parts of the country if you read their cookbooks," she says.

Hoffman also enjoys gardening, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.



Patricia Davis

Ever wonder who reviews your request for legal assistance at Corporation Counsel? Now you can put a face to the e-mail address. "I'm the corpounsel@oakgov.com," Patricia Davis says.

As office supervisor, Davis reviews all new requests that come into Corporation Counsel via e-mail. She checks to make sure the information in the submission is complete; backtracks to see whether they have had a similar question before; and works with staff to assign the request to an attorney.

Davis, a county employee since 1984, also oversees the Corporation Counsel support team. "She is an invaluable member of our team," says Corporation Counsel Judy Cunningham. "Pat has been with us for more than a decade and we rely on her extensively."

When not at work, Davis loves to dote on her 12-year-old granddaughter Alyssa. "She's my pride and joy," Davis says. Otherwise, she may head up north with her husband Brian to their second home on Fletcher's Pond in Hillman near Alpena. She says she loves "the peace and quiet, trees and the lake."

Davis has one son, Josh. She and Brian reside in Rose Township.

Sherry Kilpatrick touched the lives of 8,000 people last year.



Sherry Kilpatrick

As a program analyst in the Substance Abuse Division of Health and Human Services, she makes sure Oakland County's contracted mental health providers are providing the best care possible to residents working to recover from addiction.

"I love being part of that process to ensure clients get access and have the choice of a variety of services," Kilpatrick says. "My satisfaction lies in that clients are getting better as a result."

Kilpatrick's manager, Christina Nicholas, says her own satisfaction lies in having Kilpatrick as an employee.

"There's so much to say about Sherry. She regularly volunteers to take a lead role. She always has the clients' best interests in mind," says Nicholas.

Kilpatrick and her husband John are residents of Southfield. Like she does at work, Kilpatrick volunteers for extra duty at her church, Word of Faith International Center, where she is a youth minister. She likes to roller skate and read. Her favorite writer is Maya Angelou.

"Reading her has taught me to think outside of the box, to have a vision, a dream, and to go for it."

Oakland County Commissioners Celebrate Women's History by Honoring Women

Oakland County Commissioners Celebrate Women's History by honoring women who have served on the board from the 1970s to the present. At the recognition, 13 former commissioners were presented with flowers and proclamations at the event.



Pictured left to right in the front row: current Oakland County Commissioners Janet Jackson, Helaine Zack, Marcia Gershenson; former commissioners Michigan State Representative Eileen Kowall, Fran Amos, Anne Hobart, Waterford Township Clerk Betty Fortino; current Commissioner Shelley Goodman Taub; former commissioners Nancy McConnell, Nancy Quarles, and Michigan State Senator Gilda Jacobs. Back: Oakland County Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett; former commissioners Karen Spector, Nancy Dingeldey; current Commissioners Christine A. Long; former Board Vice Chair David L. Moffitt (representing his mom, former commissioner Mrs. Lillian Moffitt who was the first woman to serve as Board Vice Chairperson); former commissioners Brenda A. Causey-Mitchell, Susan Kuhn; current Board Chairman Bill Bullard, Jr.; former commissioner Oakland County Clerk and Register of Deeds Ruth Johnson; and current Commissioner Sue Ann Douglas. Flowers were provided by Jacobsen Flowers, courtesy of County Commissioner Bradford C. Jacobsen.

During the special recognition, a moment of silence was given as names of deceased women commissioners were called honoring Dorothy Webb, Marguerite Simson, Madeline Luxon, Teresa Krause, and Lillian Jaffe Oaks.

Half of the 26 former commissioners attended the event. To date, there are seven women currently serving on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Youth Assistance Coordinating Council

The Oakland County Youth Assistance Coordinating Council, at its 2009 Annual Meeting, presented "Champion of Youth" awards to two deserving recipients on the morning of November 17, 2009. The award recognizes an individual or group who has helped Youth Assistance achieve its mission across the county.

The event, held at White Lake Oaks and attended by 130 people that included Youth Assistance volunteers, elected officials from school boards and municipalities, county commissioners and judges, celebrated the completion of another year of programming for youth and families across Oakland County. It featured a keynote address by psychologist/consultant Dr. Gail Parker and congratulatory remarks by the Honorable Joan Young, presiding judge of the Circuit Court Family Division.

Robert Ziegler was recognized as a long-time member of Youth Assistance and treasurer of the South Lyon Youth Assistance and former treasurer of the Youth Assistance Coordinating Council. Ziegler's devoted involvement over 20 years has included providing his professional expertise as an accountant.

The Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) was recognized for providing mentors, supporting many Youth Assistance projects with fundraisers and volunteers, and collaborating on three free legal clinics in 2009. Kurt Schnelz, president of the Oakland County Bar Association, and Judith Cunningham, Oakland County corporation counsel and treasurer of the OCBA, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

Mary Schusterbauer, chief of Youth Assistance, commented: "Each year I am amazed at the number of volunteers who dedicate so much of their time to youth and families in our county. The combined efforts of our community collaborators make our program stronger and Oakland County safer."

Oakland County Youth Assistance began in 1953 in Hazel Park. There are currently 26 local offices. Professional caseworkers provide short term counseling and intervention services for at-risk youth identified by police and schools in order to prevent court involvement.

In addition, each year over 1,000 volunteers contribute their time to plan and implement programs to help prevent delinquency and child neglect within their communities. Activities include organizing family education classes, sponsoring mentorships through the Mentors Plus program, conducting retail fraud prevention workshops in schools, and sponsorship of camp and other recreational activities, including after school programs.

"If we all work together to prevent neglect and abuse and deter delinquent behavior, the children and families in our communities will be successful and the Oakland County taxpayers will realize a financial benefit. The 26 youth assistance programs and the many volunteers make the difference. On behalf of all the family division judges and staff, we thank them for their service."

To find out more about how to get involved with Oakland County Youth Assistance programs, contact the main office at 248-858-0041.



Telegraphing Our Talents



When the cameras started rolling recently in Oxford, Kathy Crawford was behind the scenes, working on everything from lighting, production assistance and script supervision to feeding the volunteer cast and crew.

The short film, adapted from a short story by Edgar Allan Poe, was a labor of love for everybody involved.

Sometimes, she's in front of the cameras too. Crawford is an office assistant II with Parks and Recreation. For her, acting and filmmaking are "a creative and artistic outlet." As for production? "It's not for everybody," she says. "There are really long hours involved."



Crawford, 56, a 20-year county employee, says she was always interested in acting and filmmaking. She was too shy in high school to pursue an acting career, but says at Oakland University, she took a single theatre class, "Acting for Non-Theater Majors."

Her boyfriend is a musician, composer, screenwriter and actor. Together, the two of them created the "Acting Up" Group last year. Actors and scriptwriters gather together regularly, giving writers a chance to hear their words spoken and actors a chance to try their hand at various scenes. "There's no pressure – it's not an audition or casting call," says Crawford, who was an extra in three recent feature films, including "Alleged," "Cedar Rapids" and Faye Dunaway's Detroit-filmed "Master Class."

Crawford and her boyfriend are hoping that their recent short film, "The Mesmer," based on Poe's "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar" (1845), ends up on the independent film festival circuit. They hope to have the film screened locally too.

In the future, Crawford says she'd like to continue with filmmaking, maybe studying as a script supervisor or even makeup. "This is a great time in Michigan to be involved," she said. "People are trying new things. There are carpenters making movie sets now."

In addition to hiking and working out, Crawford says she and her daughter have worked as a volunteer for CARE House, which assists abused children and volunteers at a homeless shelter.

PERSON TO PERSON L. Brooks Patterson

The Brooksie Way Half Marathon and 5k Race continues to be a great success. Last October, 4,400 participants, including Oakland County employees, turned out to help me toward my goal of improving the health of county residents.

My friends at the Crim Fitness Foundation make this all possible. Starting June 10, they will offer a 16-week training program for those who want to run in this year's race.

Crim will help novice to experienced runners prepare for The Brooksie Way with group training sessions on Thursday evenings through August and Saturdays starting in September.

There are a lot of perks that come with the training. Pre- and post-race health screenings, a t-shirt, free entry into The Brooksie Way race, a subscription to Michigan Runner Magazine, and discounts on running gear, just to name a few.

The training costs \$180, or \$190 after June 2nd. For more information, go to www.thebrooksieway.com/training.

While visiting the web site, check out the Brooksie Way Mini-Grants – a very exciting initiative to improve the health of our residents I announced at my 2010 State of the County Address.

Any community group or organization whose goal is to promote healthy, active lifestyles in Oakland County is eligible for up to \$2,000 in mini-grants to support that activity. Please spread the word to your family, friends and community about the Brooksie Way Mini-Grants.





It's officially springtime. As the temperature warms, I urge all county employees and their families to get outdoors to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle. Enjoy the weather!

Patterson's Social Media

You can now keep up with County Executive L. Brooks Patterson at several social networking sites.

"Now, I'm a guy who needs my grandkids to show me how to program my remote. So, this social networking is all new to me," Patterson said in his 2010 State of the County address. "But, it is part of a bigger plan to communicate more effectively with Oakland County residents, businesses, and the media, among others."

Here is the list of sites managed by the County Executive's office:

-  <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Waterford-MI/Executive-Office-Oakland-County-Michigan/80848069912>
-  www.twitter.com/brookspatterson
-  www.flickr.com/photos/ocexecutive/
-  www.youtube.com (key word search "Brooks Patterson")

You can also keep up with the County Executive the "old fashioned" way at www.oakgov.com/exec.

Oakland County Parks Volunteers Create Opportunities at Greenhouses

Volunteers are using the Oakland County Parks Greenhouses at Waterford Oaks County Park for educational opportunities and community programs.

Oakland County Parks acquired the 36,000-square-foot parcel of greenhouse space in July 2009. The property was formerly owned by Steve Ernst, owner of the Ernst Greenhouses, founded in 1942.

Oakland County Parks is asking volunteers to help plan the structure, operations and future programming for the greenhouses. "We asked volunteers to help us develop the greenhouses and lead programming efforts because they are the experts when it comes to teaching or horticulture," said Rachel Boyd, recreation program supervisor.

Greenhouse volunteers recently created an Education Committee to plan curriculum, brainstorm topics and organize classes. Programs and workshops will be lead by volunteers and offered to the public free of charge. Potential program topics include: container gardening, rain gardens and bio-swales installation, vegetable gardening and herb gardening.

Greenhouse volunteers also formed a Community Garden Committee to plan the structure and operating details of the new community garden. "We want to promote and foster healthy lifestyles by offering people an opportunity to grow their own food," said Jon Noyes, supervisor of parks and recreation planning.

Oakland County Parks currently has a community garden at Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg which produces food for the Food Bank of Oakland County as well as flowers and tree seedlings for use at the parks.

In the future, Oakland County Parks also hopes to use the greenhouse facilities in partnership with academic institutions, conservation groups, government agencies and professional organizations. "This is a whole new adventure for Oakland County Parks," Susana Ditter, parks helper at the greenhouse, said. "There are a lot of potential benefits to the community at whole with the greenhouse operation. This is also a great opportunity for Oakland County Parks to partner with other organizations to promote environmental issues."



The greenhouses are located adjacent to Waterford Oaks County Park at the intersection of Scott Lake and Watkins Lake roads.

On August 3, 2010, Oakland County voters will be asked to vote on the renewal of a 10-year millage of .2415 for the purpose of operating, maintaining, improving and acquiring parks and recreation areas and facilities in Oakland County.

For more information about the greenhouses or volunteer opportunities at Oakland County Parks, visit DestinationOakland.com.

Judge Mester swears in former student

From classroom to courtroom, former professor and students reunited

Doctors Falina and Haitham Masri had a special pleasure in watching Retired Oakland County Circuit Judge Fred M. Mester swearing in his former student and their daughter, Lena F. Masri, to the State Bar of Michigan. Assisting with the swearing in was Brenda Beiter, who works in Circuit Court administration.



Prior to attending law school, Masri graduated from Oakland University's Paralegal Program, where she had Judge Mester as her torts professor. Masri and Beiter met in this class and have remained close friends ever since. Together, they completed an internship with Judge Mester, assisting in a three-defendant murder trial. Beiter graduated from the program in 2008 and works as the court clerk coordinator for Oakland County Circuit Court. Masri went on to law school at Indiana University-Indianapolis, completing her Juris Doctor in 2 1/2 years and graduating in 2008. She specialized in international human rights law, and is currently employed as the staff attorney for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.



Judge Mester expressed his thoughts on swearing of Masri: "I could not be more delighted than to have the honor of swearing in Lena Masri to the Bar. Lena will bring honor to our profession and the society it serves. Lena and Brenda were exceptional students. They have chosen different paths in the law, but each will bring excellence to the choice they have made."

Rico's Restaurant

Just a few blocks north of Silver Lake Road at 2675 Dixie Highway you will find Rico's Restaurant. If genuine Mexican food is something you enjoy, all of your favorites are here. Friendly staff, fast service and good food are hallmarks of their philosophy, with a special lunch menu that features popular favorites in a lunch portion, served with rice and beans.

The luncheon burrito is made without the fillers (rice/beans) that some others use. Of course, salsa and chips are provided with your meal. Lunch specials are just \$4.00. Even better, for a limited time Rico's will give County employees a 10% discount by showing your badge.



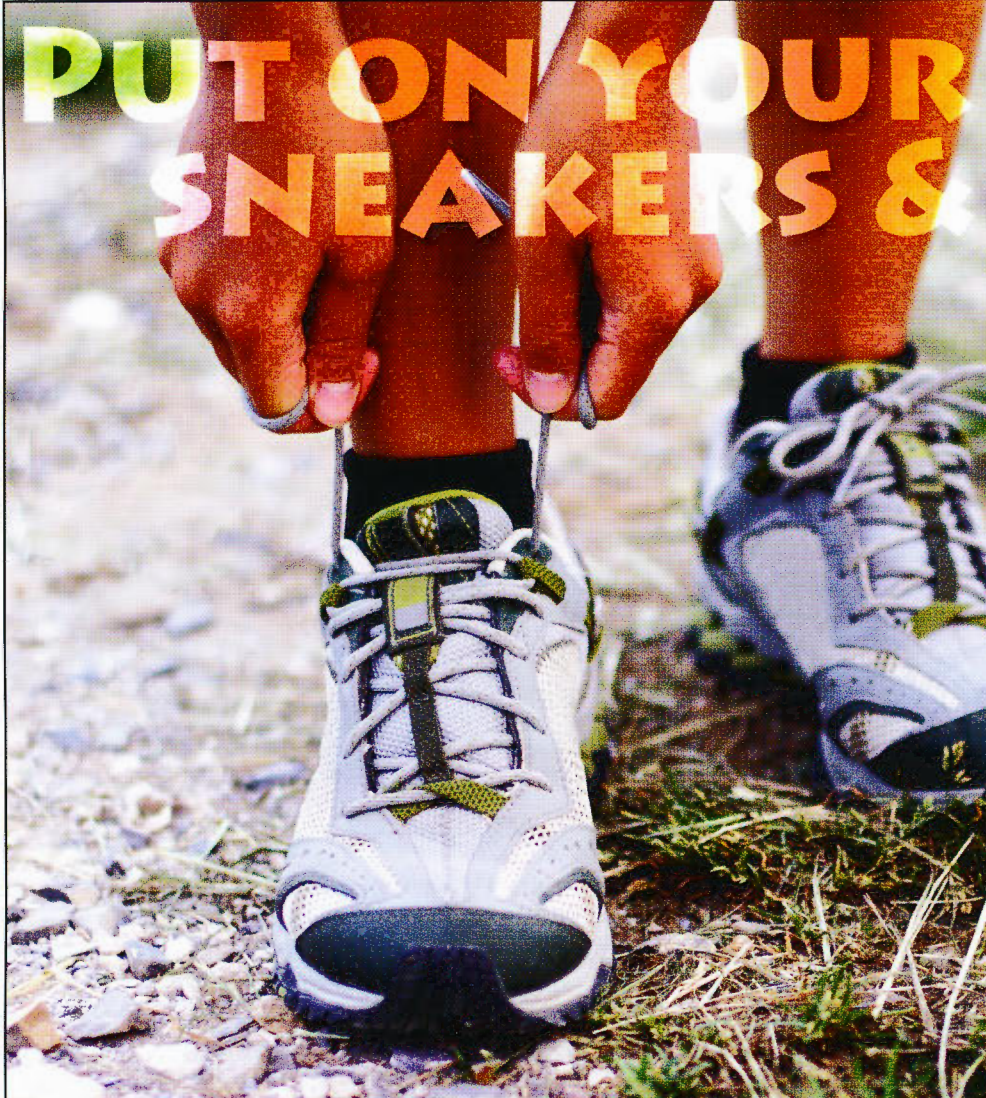
Count Your Steps to Include Employees

Put a spring in your step as County Executive L. Brooks Patterson expands his Count Your Steps program to include county employees. The four week program begins Monday, April 19, and runs through Sunday, May 16. The registration deadline is April 17th.

Patterson encourages all employees to get out and get active. "Since I began the program with Oakland County school kids, they have walked the equivalent of 26 times around the Earth. I'd like to see the same kind of success with county staff," he says.

Employees will wear a pedometer, participate in physical activity, eat healthy food, and record total daily steps on a log sheet and on the Oakland County Employee – Count Your Steps website. Those who record the most steps will be entered into a drawing for prizes that promote healthy lifestyles. Oakland County Health Division and the OakFit Wellness program administer Count Your Steps.

For more information visit www.oakgov.com/wellness.



PUT ON YOUR SNEAKERS &

COUNT YOUR STEPS

Join Oakland County Parks and Recreation and the Oakfit Wellness Program for

LUNCHTIME WALKS




Bring your Count Your Steps pedometer and get fit with fellow employees during lunchtime!

Walk Schedule:
(Approximately 1 mile)

April 20	noon	Courthouse – West Wing
April 28	noon	EOB
May 6	noon	Health Division
May 11	noon	Waterford Oaks – Lookout Lodge

For more information contact:
Laurie Stasiak at 858.4929 or stasiakl@oakgov.com

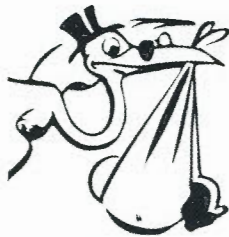
Visit the Oakfit website at www.oakgov.com/wellness



Flyer design courtesy of Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

On Aug. 3, 2010, Oakland County voters will be asked to vote on the renewal of a 10-year .2415 millage for the purpose of operating, maintaining, improving and acquiring parks and recreation areas and facilities in Oakland County.

births



Bina Trivedi, Prosecutor's Office, and husband, Rushi Patel, welcomed new daughter, Kira Patel, on January 2.

Lisa Cummings, Clerk's Office, gave birth to a beautiful

baby girl, Madeline Mary Cummings on November 30.

Shannon Penz, Clerk's Office, gave birth to a handsome baby boy, Joshua Kevin Penz on November 1.

Scott Heverly, Pump Maintenance, and wife Kristina, had a baby girl, Maddison Rose, on January 26.

Phil Castonia, Parks and Recreation, and wife Melissa welcomed son Nathan Thomas on March 2.

Chrissy Mundy, Management & Budget, Equalization, and her husband, welcome daughter, Adelea Dawn on March 3.

Danielle Iliwski, 52nd District Court, Probation Department, gave birth to son, Brennan Dale Monnier, on December 29.

Keisha Washington, Prosecutor's Office, and husband, Duane, welcomed new son, Dominic Duane, on January 11.

Courtney Marshall, Judge Pezzetti's Office, and husband John, welcomed new daughter, Bailey Renee, on January 2.



Photo by Katherine Graham, on the way to work as the sun rises and creates a beautiful Michigan morning.

kudos



On Wednesday, March 3, 2010, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners declared American Red Cross Month in the county and presented a proclamation on behalf of the county to honor their outstanding humanitarian work of this organization.



Pictured left to right are Red Cross member Debra Macon, American Red Cross Chief Executive Officer Jim Lavery, Oakland County Board Chairman Bill Bullard, Jr., and Oakland County Human Resources Director Nancy Scarlet.

Pamela F. Davis garnered "The President's Award" at the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals 11th Annual Conference in February. Davis oversees both the juvenile and adult treatment courts for Oakland County. She also is the treasurer on the MADCP Board of Directors. The Honorable Colleen O'Brien praised Davis for her commitment. "Her dedication and contribution to the Oakland County Circuit Court's treatment court programs has been remarkable."

Oakland County Parks has earned two Community Service Awards from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA).

retirements



Betty Mix retired on 2/26/10 from the Administration division of Information Technology after 16 years of service.

Beth McClure, Health Division,

retired on October 2, 2009 - 12 years of service.

Gail Perks, Health Division, retired on January 19, 2010 - 33 years of service.

Ginny Hubble, Health Division retired on January 29, 2010 - 34 years of service.

Kathy Socia, Health Division retired on February 23, 2010 - 37 years of service.

Richard L. Mathews, Public Services, Veteran's Services, will retire on March 31st after 36 years of service.

Tom Cook, Facilities Management, FM&O Maintenance Unit, retired on December 28th.

4th Annual Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial Cookout

Please attend the 4th Annual Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial Cookout on Wednesday, June 2nd from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. A picnic-style lunch will be served at the Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial site for a \$5 minimum donation. Raffle and door prizes will be available.

The Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial is at the northeast corner of the intersection of Telegraph Road and County Center Drive East, North Entrance. For more information about the Memorial or the cookout, please call 858-5103. The Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial is dedicated to the lives and service of Michigan's police officers and firefighters who died in the line of duty.

Behind The Scenes



Can-Do Kids at Children's Village

Kids in the residential program at Children's Village are transforming their outlooks from "can not" to "can do" thanks to two recently established programs.

The Teacher's Pet and Studio 1 art therapy programs are not just offering lessons in animal training and metal working, they are teaching Oakland County's young trustees real lessons in life.

"I had a young man (14 at the time) who did not believe he had the ability to complete the program. This young man's maturity elevated when he went through the program. He went from talking about what he couldn't do to what he could do," says Children's Village Program Supervisor Laura Beale.



In the Teacher's Pet program, groups of 10 boys or girls in the residential program are paired up to train dogs for 12 weeks at the Oakland County Pet Adoption Center in Auburn Hills with the help of volunteer instructors Amy Johnson and Angela Lijewski. Each pair of kids trains one dog in basic commands such as sit and stay for the duration of the program.

"It promotes teamwork," Beale says. "You are paired up with someone that is not always your best friend. You work together to provide your dog commands, structure and affection."



The tweens and teens of Children's Village's residential program reside there for a variety of reasons from being a juvenile offender to coming from an abusive home. What they have in common is a lack of self-confidence. But not after going through the Teacher's Pet program.

"One girl in the program had a dog that had trouble warming up to her. She had to keep trying," Johnson says. When the dog finally warmed up to her, "she told me if she keeps trying, maybe her mom can trust her again."

Beale says by the end of the training, her residents learn trust, compassion, how to be affectionate and how to step outside themselves.

Residential program trustees are learning similar life lessons at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC) where they go to learn metal working and mixed media art. For 12 weeks, a group of 10 girls or boys from Children's Village attend classes in BBAC's Studio 1.



"They have hope and motivation to be risk takers in a positive way," says Molly Landis, Studio 1 coordinator at BBAC. The classes teach how to handle not getting a project right on the first try. "Sometimes you fail, but it teaches you to be resilient," Landis says.

The metal working class is taught by Robin Servo and her teenage daughter, Anna. The young trustees attending their class are not aware at first that the pair is mother-child. When they finally figure it out, many kids are caught off guard that the two have such a close relationship.

"The girls are surprised they (Robin and Anna) work together and get along," Landis



says. "They're all very interested in Anna's life."

Landis shared a few letters from female Children's Village residents who attended a recent round of classes. One letter sums up all the others. "Starting this program at Children's Village has meant a lot to me. It shows me that we can do anything that we can set our mind to."

Johnson and Landis and their colleagues



are providing their services "free" to Oakland County. That is, they seek funding elsewhere from grants and donations. If you are interested in supporting what they do for Oakland County's young trustees, please visit their websites at teacherspetmichigan.org and bbartcenter.org.