



County Employees Recognized for Years of Dedicated Service

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Behind the Scenes

The banquet hall at the Centerpoint Marriott was packed on June 5th as Oakland County held its 27th Annual Employees Retirement and Service Awards Banquet. After a few welcoming remarks by Human Resources Director Nancy Scarlet, guests indulged in a sumptuous meal of stuffed pork chops, red skinned potatoes, honey glazed carrots and salad.

Then it was time to get down to the business at hand. Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson congratulated all the award recipients and then, with the help of Deputy County Executives Ken Rogers and Jerry Poisson, presented 25 year service award plaques to the following people:

Mary Alsup, Auditing

Robert Baker, Sheriff

Wesley Beltz, Sheriff

Annice Carlson, Health

Charles Covetz, Information Technology

Judith Cunningham, Corporation Counsel

Cynthia Duggan, Circuit Court

Mark Evo, Community Corrections

Susan Farley, Health

Julia Galka, Health

George Geckle, Sheriff

Richard Hanser, Sheriff

Mari Harvey-Edwards, District Court/3rd Division

Timothy Jenkinson, Sheriff

Thomas Law, Waster Resource Management

Gregory Marohn, Sheriff

Ernie May, Sheriff



Retiree Gail Naramor receives her Service Award from Laurie Van Pelt.

Christine McKee, Health

Janette McKenna, Information Technology

Rhonda Mohlman, Friend of the Court

Keith Palmer, Sheriff

Keith Parent, Sheriff

Tennessee Ramey, Human Resources

Edward Sager, Information Technology

Kathleen Sanders, Human Resources

Corrine Serrell, Health

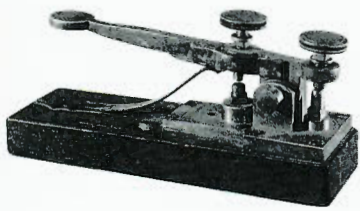
Cathy Taylor, Information Technology

Joyce Todd, Prosecuting Attorney

Walter Wells, Sheriff

Barbara Wisner, Human Resources.

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Telegraphing Our Talents

The Puppet Guy

by CamieLee A. Frasher

Recording artist, comedian, engineer, sculptor, painter, writer, director, teacher, lighting technician, marketer, storyteller, actor, inventor, these are just a few of the many hats Oakland County native Brad Lowe finds himself wearing as a talented master puppeteer who can turn almost any inanimate object into a charming comedic character. As a child he was raised in a family filled with creativity and a deep passion for the arts and so it seemed only natural for him to pursue an interest in performance art on a full-time basis. "My mom helped me make my first puppet while dad made the stage. My first shows were in our garage for the neighborhood to watch. Pretty soon people were asking, 'Hey do you do birthdays?'" and it snowballed from there." Snowballed as in for the past 35 years Lowe has been doing work in television, film, theater, workshops, Fortune 500 conventions, the Ringling Brothers Circus, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and a family program called Aunt Molly and Friends, which is expected to air July 11, 2009 at 8:30am on Channel 20. All of this has led to a multitude of prestigious awards such as the "Seal of Approval" from Action for Children's Television, a broadcast media award given for the highest standards in television broadcasting, Puppeteers of America's 2006 Paul McPharlin Award, as well as two Emmy Awards.

With the film industry blossoming in Michigan, Lowe hopes to educate film companies on the versatility of puppets. From marionettes and puppet characters, to miniature set designs and special effects, puppetry has the almost magical ability of making anything possible, which fits perfectly with an industry whose very existence does just that. "They (film companies) don't have to go to New York or California to get a good puppeteer, we have them all right here in Michigan. Companies find me



online and explain they had no idea there was a company like this in Michigan!"

The versatility and unassuming nature of puppets also make them ideal for helping out in the corporate world.

Puppets can be used to help run meetings, interview CEO's, break down communication barriers by saying things no one else would dare say, and draw in big crowds for a sales pitch. Puppets have the capacity to add humor and charm to otherwise dull events. Incorporating a wide range of topics into his act, Lowe is a superb comedic addition to any event for all types of audiences and is always well received wherever he performs.

He loves to work with children and is passionate about keeping the arts alive by using live theater to promote it. This has led to his involvement with The Puppet Mobile, a part of Oakland County Park's Mobile Recreation where they will bring the show right to you! The Puppet Mobile is comprised of a team of puppeteers that explain the different types of puppets, their origins and history. The shows include a variety of classic tales followed by a hands-on puppet workshop for ages 5 and up. "Most of these kids are experiencing live theater for the first time and it's not anything like television, it's magical. If I have one show where a student is inspired, I have done my job, I've sparked that creativity allowing their imagination to take them somewhere."

Lowe offers manipulation workshops that focus on basic skills such as moving the puppet with dexterity, teaching expression through movement and mouth sync. He also offers construction workshops that teach students how to make their own puppets. Each workshop is specifically tailored to fit the group's dynamics factoring in such variables as the size of group, ages, experience, and skill level. Lowe also offers residencies where he comes in for a program at school and covers various educational benchmarks that instructors need to fulfill including research, reading, writing, and other areas of development.

With funding for the arts diminishing, programs like The Puppet Mobile are a rare gem to have available to the community. For more information about The Puppet Mobile or to make a reservation visit oakgov.com/parksrec. To contact Brad Lowe directly please visit his website at www.thepuppetguy.com.

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Teens Reveal 'My Hope for America' Through a Photo Lens

Ten Oakland County juvenile drug court youths between the ages of 15-17, in an effort to turn their lives around, participated in a photography project led by award-winning celebrity photojournalist Linda Solomon, entitled, "My Hope for America – Reality, Hopes and Dreams." Through the Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court's intervention drug court program, known as OPTIONS, Owing the Problem, Trusting In Our New Skills, youth were chosen because they had expressed an interest in art or photography. Linda Solomon provided photography lessons and techniques to the youth. The teens were given disposable cameras and asked to go out on assignment and capture their hopes and dreams for America. Their photography, selected by Linda Solomon, The Honorable Edward Sosnick and The Honorable James Alexander, for the first time were unveiled to the youth and the public on April 21 for exhibit and sales.

"The Juvenile Drug Court helps kids and their families change their lives for the better. It is a unique program involving a cooperative approach by the prosecutor, defense attorney, dedicated probation officers, treatment providers, and other interested and helpful partners," said, The Honorable Edward Sosnick, Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court Judge. "One proven way to get a youngster off drugs and into the mainstream is to involve them in a productive activity. Photojournalist Linda Solomon presented such an opportunity culminating in our second annual photography exhibit."

Linda Solomon, a nationally recognized and award-winning photojournalist, has divided her career between capturing the most famous personalities of our time and teaching others to express themselves through photography. She has received international acclaim for her efforts to introduce photography to others. She has founded educational programs, including the nationally recognized, "It's a Snap" program that donated over one million cameras to elementary school children. Linda has also led the "My Holiday Wish" and "Pictures of Hope" programs working with homeless children from The Salvation Army Women and Children's Shelters throughout the United States.

"The images taken by the children reveal their hopes and dreams for America," said Linda Solomon, photojournalist. "This program provides an opportunity for our youth to turn their lives around by

learning new skills and techniques that may provide increased self esteem and a positive outlook on life."

The Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court has created a 19"x13" size poster entitled, "My Hope for America: Reality, Hopes and Dreams." The poster includes the students' photography and hopes for America. The posters will soon be available for sale, \$20 each, at www.oakgov.com. All proceeds will go toward the continuation of helping our youth lead drug-free lifestyles.

OPTIONS is an Oakland County intervention program for youth who are having trouble staying clean and sober. Operating within the family division of Circuit Court, it is now in its eighth year and has served over 200 youth and families. Juveniles heading down a path of self destruction and crime are given the opportunity to turn their lives around by participating in the program as an alternative to the traditional trial system. Juveniles who are referred receive intensive court supervision, substance abuse and mental health treatment, frequent substance abuse testing, and a long term commitment by the youth and parents to program requirements. Graduation occurs upon successful completion of the four-phase program.



Cont. from P. 1

Following the 25 year presentations, department directors and managers presented service award certificates to their respective employees and recent retirees with 20, 30, 35, or 40 years of service. These included:

Phil Bertolini, Deputy County Executive - 20 years of service

Dr. Thomas Gordon, Director, Human Services - 35 years of service

Judge Barry Grant, Probate Court - 30 years of service

Mike McCabe, Undersheriff - 30 years of service

Judge Brian McKenzie, District Court/1st Division - 20 years of service

Nancy Scarlet, Director, Human Resources - 20 years of service

Judge Gene Schnelz, Circuit Court - Retiree

Julie Secontine, Risk Manager - 20 years of service

Dan Stencil, Executive Officer, Parks & Recreation - 30 years of service

Recognition for employees who have completed 10 and 15 years of service is given throughout the year on the employee's anniversary date by department/division management. Congratulations to all employees receiving service awards this year!



EMPLOYEES of the Month



Julie Wightman

At the Health Division, Julie Wightman is the “go-to” person when there’s a computer or phone line problem. For the past four years Julie has been Health’s support specialist serving as liaison between IT and her department.

“I think the best part of my job is helping people,” Julie said. “It’s also a very challenging job because you never know what each day will bring.”

Away from the office, Julie spends time playing with her two dogs which are half Chihuahua and half miniature Greyhound. Julie jokes that when people see her dogs they don’t ask what kind of dogs they are, but rather, “what is that?” She also enjoys reading and working out.

“Julie consistently goes the extra mile to provide excellent customer service to the Health Division staff,” said Health Division Manager Kathy Forzley. “Her prompt attention to detail as well as her constant cheerful manner makes her an invaluable asset and a pleasure to work with.”

Julie and her husband live in Waterford with their adult children ages 20 and 21.

OakGov Media Management System

Oakland County recently unveiled the latest time-saver for County employees: the new OakGov Media Management System, a one-stop destination for Oakland County photos, images, graphics and logos. The system allows you to find, view and download digital media in different formats for a variety of purposes.

What Is It?

The OakGov Media Management System is a web-based gallery that showcases the high quality of life, work, business, and recreation enjoyed by all in Oakland County’s diverse communities. Here you can find thousands of photos depicting scenes of special events, daily life, noteworthy locations and natural beauty in each of the 62 cities, villages, and townships in Oakland County. Photos, official logos, brochures and other illustrations related to County government departments, divisions, and agencies are also here. Plus there are over 1,500 photos of employee events, such as Service Awards and Retirees luncheons, holiday celebrations, and more.

You can find images by browsing subject category, department or community, or searching by keyword. Specific images may be emailed, bookmarked for later use, or downloaded in a variety of formats that are ready to use in print, PowerPoint presentations, or on the Web. All of the digital images included in the OakGov Media Management System are the property of Oakland County and its partners and are subject to the rules of copyright.

See for Yourself!



The OakGov Media Management System is accessible via a link on the Employee Portal home page: <http://my.oakgov.com>. Employees who navigate to this page from inside the County computer network can simply click the Media Management System link to be automatically logged in. Direct access to the OakGov Media Management System is restricted to County employees. However, it is possible to use the OakGov Media Management System to easily share specific images with non-County employees, such as members of the media.

Complete, easy-to-follow instructions for using the OakGov Media Management System are available on the Help page, accessed via a link near the top of each page in the Media Management System. In addition, we welcome your feedback. Please email media@oakgov.com with any questions, suggestions or issues.

Oakland County Officials Mourn the Passing of Deputy County Executive Dennis R. Toffolo

Dennis R. Toffolo, deputy Oakland County executive, died May 18 after suffering a heart attack at his Oxford home shortly after he and his wife, Diana, returned from a ten day cruise around Italy.

Toffolo, 62, oversaw the county's Department of Economic Development & Community Affairs and several other high profile programs.

"Every time someone passes you hear a lot of superlatives about the impact he had on his friends and the community," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. "In Dennis' case, all of the superlatives are true. He lit up any room with his smile. The staff adored him. There aren't many irreplaceable people in this universe but I respectfully suggest Dennis Toffolo was one of those people."

Patterson brought Toffolo onto his executive team eight years ago as director of the Department of Community and Economic Development. He was soon elevated to deputy county executive and put in charge of the county's Emerging Sectors® business attraction and retention strategy. In five years under his guidance, the program attracted more than \$1.2 billion of investment and created or retained more than 21,000 jobs. He oversaw the county's Medical Main Street initiative to brand Oakland County as a life science center, Main Street Oakland County and the Oakland County Business Roundtable. He was also instrumental in creation and launch two weeks ago of the Economic Growth Alliance between Oakland, Genesee, Livingston and St. Clair counties.

Patterson said Toffolo's impressive business background, which included being president of the J.L. Hudson Department Store chain, made him a natural to be the county's top businessman.

"He was ready-made for economic development," Patterson said. "I just kept loading and loading him up with projects and he kept hitting them out of the park."

Doug Smith, director of economic development, said Toffolo was always the calming voice that helped put things into perspective.

"He was a great mentor and provided tremendous leadership for the county's economic development efforts," Smith said. "He worked tirelessly on behalf of the county. Eight years is such a short time and he made such a difference in the economy of Oakland County. But beyond that, he was simply a wonderful person."

Toffolo received an MBA in finance and an honorary doctorate of business administration from Central Michigan University. He was also owner of DeDonDa, a real estate firm, and Toffolo and Associates, a development firm.

Toffolo's community involvement included:

- Board of Directors, Automation Alley
- Business Advisory Board, Oakland University
- Economic Partnership Committee, Detroit Regional Chamber
- Board Member, Oakland County Downtown Development Authority
- Government Advisory Board, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- Business Advisory Board Development Board, Central Michigan University
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation Board Executive Committee
- Chair of the Certified Technology Park for Automation Alley Smart Zone
- Detroit Renaissance Economic Development Coalition of Southeast Michigan Board
- Detroit Metropolitan Visitors and Convention Bureau Board

Toffolo is survived by his wife, Diana, and three children: Dena, Dan and Don.



Paul Matthew Gavin, Jr. 1973-2009

In Memoriam

Oakland County Animal Control Officer Paul Matthew Gavin, Jr. passed away on April 26, 2009.

Paul will be remembered as a hard worker and good man who possessed a great spirit, good sense of humor and a ready smile.

Recently, Paul enjoyed one of his proudest moments when he became a firefighter for Mundy Township.

Paul will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues at Oakland County government.



Marathon Man

By Tracy Ward

Joe Murphy's first marathon was so brutal on his body that he ended up losing eight toenails after the race. But the

really hard part came during the 26.2-mile run – about the distance between the Silverdome and Detroit's Fox Theatre. With five miles left to go, his calves seized up with cramps.

Murphy, a facilities specialist with FM&O, walked, skipped, trugged, crawled and otherwise dragged himself over the finish line after four hours and 15 minutes.

He kind of smiles and shrugs about his success. Since that first marathon in and around Disney World in 2008, he has run two other marathons, five half-marathons (13.1 miles) including the Brooksie Way and two 10-mile races.

In Detroit's Turkey Trot, he and his running buddies all dressed up as elves in costumes that Mrs. Murphy (his mom) made. "It was kind of neat," Murphy says. "During the race, we caught up with Santa and 12 reindeer."

On his to-do list? Qualify for the Boston Marathon, run a marathon in Dublin, Ireland and participate in the Goofy Run at Disney World where participants run a half-marathon on Saturday and a full marathon the following day. Murphy, new to playing the bagpipe, eventually wants to combine the two activities, as in run a marathon mile, play a song on the bagpipes, run a mile, etc.

Murphy, 38, married with two boys, Evan, 5, and Kyle, 6, says it was the OakFit program, his cholesterol level and a few family photos that finally got him off the couch. He hadn't run since the Waterford Mott High School track team. He recalls that one day he joked about doing a marathon. His sister laughed and said "Yeah, right" and the challenge was on.



His secrets to long distance running? "A caramel cappuccino before the race for the sugar and the caffeine and, during the race, mind tricks," says Murphy. As he runs, he tries to think about one more mile being behind him and the Guinness beer his wife usually has waiting for him at the finish line.

He runs five days a week and actually wears out running shoes after 400-500 miles on each pair. His kids and his wife both run with him occasionally, or ride along on their bikes. "I've almost got my wife talked into doing a half (marathon,)" he says.

In his spare time Murphy is busy coaching his boys' t-ball and football teams, with friends and family and he likes to cook. He says despite eating right and all that exercise, he's not perfect. "I like ice cream," he said, leaning back in his chair with a smile. "Let's see ... oh yeah, double-chocolate brownie."

Treasurer's Office Scores the Ultimate Coffee Break

Barry Dodson, who works in the personal property collection section of the Treasurer's office, got his 15 seconds of fame in early April when Oldies 104.3 WOMC selected his entry from among hundreds for the Ultimate Coffee Break.

WOMC's Wayne Watson and Paula Cruickshank brought out coffee and donuts from Tim Hortons for the 40 employees of the Treasurer's office on April 15th. As a follow up, Barry had to do a 15 second bit on the air telling the listening audience how he liked the coffee, where he works and what he does.

Barry says he gets kidded a lot about not being computer literate so it's kind of ironic he was able to win the online contest on his very first try.

Oakland County Employees Thanked for Their "Furry Philanthropy"

How many stuffed animals does it take to fill an ambulance? That mystery was solved by members of the Oakland County 4-H Youth Leadership Institute, who sorted, counted and bagged 1,309 cuddly creatures that were donated to comfort kids experiencing medical emergencies. The animals were loaded into an ambulance provided by Community Emergency Medical Services until there wasn't an inch of space left.

The high school students accomplished their project goal, but they didn't stop there. In total, nearly 2,500 animals were collected, ensuring that no child will feel alone while riding in an ambulance.

The Institute participants credit the generosity of Oakland County employees for the success of the project. Three huge bags of stuffed animals were provided by the Sheriff's Department, and dozens of employees in other departments offered their support in the form of huggable toys.

"I can't believe how successful the event turned out to be," said Molly Robbins, an Institute participant who helped plan the project. "It's great that people still care enough to get on board for a deserving cause."

If you know a high school student who would like to participate in the 2009-10 class of the Oakland County 4-H Youth Leadership Institute, please download an application at www.msue.msu.edu/oakland, or call (248) 858-0889 to request one.



2008 Quarterly Wellness Commitment

Commit to be Fit!

Each quarter employees are asked to voluntarily commit to their own personal wellness by (1) either not smoking or participate in a smoking cessation program AND (2) commit to an exercise program or physical activity.

(5) \$200 Visa Gift Cards awarded each quarter! Remember to turn in your forms.

Congratulations to ALL of our 2008 Quarterly Wellness Commitment Winners!!

2008 Year-End Grand Prize Winners

(First Place \$500, Second Place \$300, Third Place \$200)

- First Place – Richard Renas, Health Division
- Second Place – Stacy Green, Sheriff's Office
- Third Place – Lindsey McGee, Clerk/ Register

2008 Fourth Quarter Winners

- Madeline Conover, Parks & Recreation
- Rudy Nichols, Circuit Court
- Keith Palmer, Sheriff's Office
- Matthew Pence, Information Technology
- Sarah Schultz, Health Division

- Do you need a break from work and need a little quiet time to rejuvenate yourself?? Join us for lunchtime Yoga in the Executive Office Building on Thursday's from 11:45 am – 12:20 pm or from 12:45 pm – 1:20 pm. Current classes run through September 3rd. Join at anytime during the session! For more information, contact Dawn Smith, Wellness Coordinator at 8-5473.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Employee Health Fair, August 27, 2009 at the Oakland Schools building.

2008 Third Quarter Winners

- Karla Early, Information Technology
- Nancy Ellis, Prosecutor's Office
- Gerald Petrusha, Sheriff's Office
- Deborah McAleer, Youth Assistance
- Nicki Weisberger, Prosecutor's Office

2008 Second Quarter Winners

- Jerome Becigneul, Probate Estates
- Christopher Becker, Information Technology
- Laura Huyghe, Health
- Brittany Koester, 52/1 District Court
- Karen Korbut, Information Technology

2008 First Quarter Winners

- Russ Larson, Treasurer's Office
- Kirk Miller, Drain
- Mike Plouhar, Sheriff's Office
- Denise Regal, Sheriff's Office
- Kristine Wood, Medical Examiner's Office

5,104 forms received from January through December 2008.

Average of 1,276 forms received each quarter in 2008.

OakFit Offers Walking Maps

Did you know that the OakFit website offers walking maps & trails??

- 12 Campus Walking Maps (1/2 mile to 1 1/2 mile routes, multiple campus locations)
- A Trails & Paths Mapping Service (An interactive map for users to access a network of trails, safety paths, bike routes and park paths for recreation facilities throughout Oakland County.)
- Metro-Detroit Mall Walking Guide
- Oakland County Trail Network (with equestrian trails, mountain bike trails and P & R Parks trails)

For more information visit the OakFit website Maps & Trails page at: <http://my.oakgov.com/sites/hr/wellness/Pages/MapsTrails.aspx>



Bike Racks on Campus

Regular bicycling carries many health benefits for people of all ages, including: reduced risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, and other chronic diseases; lower health care costs; and improved quality of life.

Did you know

- More than half of all American's live less than five miles from where they work according to Bicycling Magazine.
- The number of bicycles in the US is estimated to be 103 million.
- The number of bicycle commuters doubled between 1983 and 1990 according to the Bicycle Institute of America.
- In China, bicycles outnumber cars 250 to 1.

To encourage biking to work, OakFit has purchased bike racks for certain County buildings. The following locations have received bike racks: Courthouse, Friend of the Court, Information Technology, Executive Office Building, Health - North Office, and Health - South Office.

Lady Justice Restoration

At 105 year's old, she's Oakland County's longest serving employee and ready for more than a facelift. Lady Justice, the zinc alloy statue who has guarded Oakland County's Courthouse on and off since 1904, is currently being restored as part of a joint program with the Oakland County Bar Association. The statue, blindfolded to represent impartiality and carrying scales to symbolize the weighing of evidence, had suffered damage over the years. A bronze replica, using molds made from the original statue, is expected to be completed this spring. The original statue will be restored and displayed indoors. Restoration efforts are being directed by the County's Department of Facilities Management. Donations are welcome and should be sent to Penny Knope, Facilities Management, One Public Works Drive, Bldg. 95W, Waterford MI 48328. Checks should be made payable to the County of Oakland. For more information, please send an e-mail to Penny Knope at knopep@oakgov.com or call 248-858-1208.



Photos courtesy of Steve Stanford

PERSON TO PERSON L. Brooks Patterson

To steal a line from George Gershwin's 1935 musical Porgy and Bess, "summertime and the living is easy." Nothing could be truer in Oakland County where we have 1,450 beautiful lakes on which to boat and ski, some 89,000 acres of pristine parkland in which to romp and more golf holes per capita than any other place in the United States.



Then there are, of course, our signature summertime events which attract people from all over the state, the region and even the world.

In July, Quake on the Lake, America's premiere inboard hydroplane race, will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Pontiac Lake, which is rated as one of the fastest and best race courses in the country. Over three days, July 17-18-19, one hundred of the best boat racers across North America will compete for the much coveted championship title in ten different racing classes. Over the past nine years, over 300,000 spectators have witnessed 15 world record breaking performances in five different racing categories. For more information go to www.QuakeOnTheLake.org.

Up next on the calendar of family-focused summertime events is the Woodward Dream Cruise on August 15th. Starting out in 1995 as a fundraiser for a soccer field in Ferndale, the Woodward Dream Cruise has evolved over the years into the world's largest one-day automotive event. Turnout has grown from 250,000 people in that first year to more than 1.1 million today. During the event, some 40,000 classic cars parade down Woodward Avenue traversing through nine communities to celebrate America's love affair with the automobile.

Capping off the summer is Arts, Beats and Eats over the four-day Labor Day weekend. Since I came up with the original idea a decade ago, Arts, Beats and Eats has grown annually. Now more than 1.5 million people annually flock to downtown Pontiac to sample great food, enjoy wonderful music and check out the first class art. The festival was designed to provide outstanding family entertainment at a very affordable cost with free admission to the festival and concerts and low costs for food and beverages.

I would encourage you to pack up the family car this summer, hit the road and find out why Oakland County enjoys the reputation it does for an unsurpassed quality of life. There's lots to do and see. The fun is just a short drive away.

Be in the know

Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs
e-newsletter



Every other Monday you'll learn about our thriving communities, quality arts & cultural events, active historic preservation programs or how to take advantage of our county-wide system of linked trails and paths. And of course you'll learn about the latest in economic development in Oakland County.

Sign up free at www.oaklandcountyprosper.com

Judge Potts Highlights a Leaner and Greener Circuit Court in Annual State of the Court Address

The Honorable Wendy Potts, chief judge at the 6th Judicial Circuit Court in Oakland County, delivered her annual State of the Court Address at the regular meeting of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on April 24th.

In her report, Judge Potts noted that the Court is facing the same challenges everyone is being confronted with in “an era of declining revenues and severe budget cuts.” She said she would be presenting the Court’s triennial budget to the county executive which contains over \$4 million in cuts on top of some \$6 million which has been trimmed from the budget since 2003.

“These cuts are deep and hurt,” said Judge Potts. “Our bench has not been spared the pain. These budget cuts are emotional and difficult because we are dealing with people who have served the Court and community well.”

Noting this was just the start of becoming leaner, Judge Potts says the Court has dealt with the loss of 202 jail beds by working with the district courts on a pilot tether program involving 35 inmates who would normally have been sent to jail daily.

Another successful effort Judge Potts talked about in her address was the Felony Plea Program that allows district courts to take felony pleas which saves valuable time in criminal cases and moves people out of the court system more quickly.

“The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council along with the Board of Commissioners, has done a tremendous service to the citizens of Oakland County by helping to alleviate the necessity for building a new jail in a time where a new jail facility would put an unimaginable strain on the budget,” said Judge Potts.

Judge Potts says the Court is not only becoming leaner in these austere times, it is also becoming greener.

She revealed the Circuit Court bench has voted to require e-filing in all of the Court’s civil/criminal courtrooms by October 1, 2011, which will greatly diminish the need for paper and save both forest and landfill space in the process.

Judge Potts praised the effectiveness of the Judge On-Line Program which was initiated by Judge Edward Sosnick for saving fuel costs, time and money. With this program, she noted, it is possible to carry on court business using a secure phone line, saving attorneys the time and expense of actually being in the courtroom.

“Technology gives us the opportunity to do more things that will help the greening of the courthouse,” said Judge Potts. “Thanks to Phil Bertolini and Bob Daddow for their assistance in this program.”

Judge Potts closed out her remarks by saying that the Court stands with the other branches of government to address the economic crisis facing our community, adding that to meet this challenge the Court has become leaner and greener.



Chief Judge Wendy Potts

A Tremendous Team Effort

Shortly after midnight on Sunday, March 29, 2009, the Health Division was notified of a fire at the Oakland Pointe offices. Facilities Maintenance & Operations arrived on scene in the wee hours of the morning, followed by Information Technology, and Health Division staff to move three Health Division units; Substance Abuse Services, PACE, and WIC to a new permanent location in the NOHC. Furniture, phones, computers, and essential materials were assembled and installed in less than 24 hours. Countertops were built, electrical wiring installed, computers set up in a short time frame. Offices were open for business the next day with no interruption of service to the public.

The Health Division would like to thank all of the men and women from FM&O, IT, and other independent contractors for making this possible in record time. Our own staff came in to help move equipment, post signs, and make sure records were in place for the next day. This truly was a tremendous team effort by all.

Suzanne Weinert, M.Ed., CHES



kudos coming & going

births

Amber Ross, Health Division welcomed a son, Jacob Charles Ross on December 26, 2008.

Amanda Mason, Prosecutors Office, and husband Erik welcomed son, Benjamin Robert on March 14, 2009.

Jacy Garrison, WRC Environmental Unit, and husband Marty, welcomed son, Brady Cooper on March 25, 2009.

Robert Case, Sewer/Drain Main. Unit, and wife Michelle, welcomed a son, Hudson William on March 30, 2009.

Lisa Oppmann, Information Technology, and husband Brian welcomed a daughter, Rylie Anne, on April 22, 2009.

Jeff Parrott, Right of Way Unit, Water Resources Commissioner, and wife Cindy, welcomed a daughter, Lillian Grace on May 24, 2009.

Derek Meinecke, Prosecutor's Office, and wife, Mandy, welcomed daughter Jane Elizabeth on April 29, 2009

new hires

Dionne Moore-Smith, Health Division, was hired as a public health nutritionist

Amanda Paniccia, Health Division, was hired as a public health sanitarian

Amanda Matzoll, Health Division, was hired as a WIC clerk

Amanda Paniccia, EHS, was hired as a public health sanitarian

Kevin Paladino, EHS, was hired as a public health sanitarian technician

Lisa Shields was hired as a youth assistance caseworker I (PTNE)

Michael Ellsworth, Psychological Clinic, was hired as an office assistant I (PTNE)

Bailey Castiglione, Juvenile File Room, was hired as a student

Sharon Barnes was hired as visiting judge's court clerk

Jacqueline Koivu, Youth Assistance, was hired as office assistant I (PTNE)

Nicole Tabin was hired as visiting judge's court clerk (PTNE)

Rachel Williams was hired as floating court clerk (PTNE)

Ryan Carnago was hired as court clerk for Judge Colleen O'Brien

Kate Bowers, Health Division, was hired as a dietetic technician in the WIC program

Tom Barnes, EHS, Health Division, was hired as a public health sanitarian technician

Amy Cousino, EHS, Health Division, was hired as a public health sanitarian technician

Courney Anglin, EHS, Health Division, was hired as a public health sanitarian technician

Correction: Rita Lapanowski, Probate Court, court clerk for Judge O'Brien, was hired on 1/2/09. Her last name was misspelled in the Spring 2009 Edition.

Carry Amelia Nation

by Terri Easterling



A hatchet-wielding Kansas woman stormed into the boozing railroad boom town of Holly, Michigan on August 28, 1908. Carry Nation, strong and principled, was a well-educated woman who was prohibitionist, suffragette, and family and civil rights activist. She had been invited to Holly to lecture against the ills of "demon rum" by Winifred Mott of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). Ms. Nation would lecture at Baird's Opera

House, located on Holly's now infamous Battle Alley. Battle Alley, the site of numerous brawls, was home to hotels, brothels, and many of Holly's estimated 18-40 bars. Although Oakland County was a "dry" county, no one enforced the law in the remote hamlet of Holly and alcohol flowed freely. Local women were tired of



their men drinking, carousing, and neglecting their families while wasting away in bars.

Mrs. Nation, who used various forms of persuasion to make her message heard, was known as the "Kansas Saloon Smasher". She attacked saloons and their contents by wielding her famous hatchet in an effort to close the saloons, bars, and other questionable establishments that threatened family values. On that summer day in August over one hundred years ago, Carry Nation was fueled by the fervor of the many supporters who accompanied her. Carry stormed several Holly saloons, wielding her famous hatchet on her mission that day, but the battle for Prohibition and Suffrage continued for another decade.

Today the residents of Holly celebrate the occasion with a Carry Nation Festival the second weekend of September. One of the highlights of the festival is a reenactment of Carry Nation's 1908 visit to Holly.

www.carrynation.org



celebrations life events

promotions



Brian Behrend, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to deputy II

Steven Curtis, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to deputy II

Luke Decker, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to deputy II

Paul Deesen Jr., Sheriff's Office, was promoted to deputy II

Leslie Whitfield, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to deputy II

Garett Smit, Health Division was promoted to public health sanitarian

Sarah Schultz, Health Division was promoted to a public health sanitarian

Mark Swartout, Health Division was promoted to a public health sanitarian

Monique Liedel, Health Division was promoted to senior public health sanitarian

Kathy Muzia, Health Division was promoted to senior public health sanitarian

Karen Deedler, Health Division was promoted to senior public health sanitarian

Joe Kaighen, Health Division was promoted to senior public health sanitarian

Douglas Buchholz, Water Resources Commissioner, was promoted to director of operations

Charles Lawhorn, Water Resources Commissioner, was promoted to environmental planner II

Richard Cook, Water Resources Commissioner, was promoted to sewer maintenance supv. I

Nicole Cain was Promoted from office assistant II to deputy probate register I

Jacqueline Godoshian was Promoted from clerk to office assistant I

Jordon Geiger, Psychological Clinic, became a full time employee

Peter Menna, visiting judge's court clerk, transferred to the Prosecutor's Office

Caitlin Dodge, Health Division, transferred to a position at Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

Kari Chevrier, court clerk for Judge Hallmark, transferred to Judge Anderson's office as her judicial staff attorney

Lisa Gould, court clerk for the visiting judge, transferred to Judge Hallmark's office as her court clerk

kudos

Lisa Banks, Health Division, WIC Program, graduated from Central Michigan University. Lisa received her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Public Administration/Community Development.

Shiva Bachu of the Application Services Division of Information Technology received his Project Management Professional certification.

Romel Llarena of the Technical Services and Networking Division of Information Technology received his Extreme Network Associate certification.

Rob Messner of the Technical Services and Networking Division of Information Technology received his Cisco Certified Network Administrator certification.

Vivian Zhang of the Internal Services Division of Information Technology received her ITIL Certification.

Cynthia Spencer of the Internal Services Division of Information Technology received her ITIL Certification.

Patricia Ann Thompson, nurse for 13 years at Children's Village, earned her BSN from Oakland University.

Cindy Moreales, case management, Circuit Court, is celebrating 20 years of employment at the county.

Mary Eileen Kennedy, case management, Circuit Court, graduated Cum Laude from Oakland University, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.

Dan T Riley, technical assistant in the Research Unit, Planning & Economic Development Services received his Masters in Urban Planning from Wayne State University on May 7, 2009.

Oakland County Circuit Judge James Alexander was honored with the first *Change for Children Lifetime Achievement* award given by the St. Clair Butterfly Foundation for his commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of children in Michigan.

The Honorable Linda Hallmark, Oakland County Probate Judge, was the recipient of the 25th *Wonder Woman of 2009* award presented by the Women Officials' Network Foundation.

marriages



Anthony Campaign, Water Maint. Unit, water resources commissioner, married Lindsey Langdon on June 6, 2009.

Charles Lawhorn, civil engineer, Water Resources Commissioner, married Jennifer Stockwell on June 13, 2009.

Leigh-Anne (Mehnert) Stafford, Health Division married Robert Stafford on April 17, 2009.

fond farewells

Paul VanHeulen, Psychological Clinic, left his position of clinical psychologist February 25, 2009.

John Torres, court clerk for Judge Gorcyca left his position April 10, 2009.

Susan Tremonti, Psychological Clinic, left her position as chief April 17, 2009.

David Dunsmore, Court Administration, left his position as staff attorney May 8, 2009.

Gabriel Orzame, Court Administration, left the position of judicial staff attorney June 1, 2009.

Beth Schrott, judicial staff attorney for Judge Potts, left her position May 19, 2009.

Mark Cooke, court clerk for Judge Colleen O'Brien, left his position May 15, 2009.

Behind the Scenes

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office



Overview

When you turn your kitchen faucet on and fill up your glass of water, would you ever imagine the vast array of work that went into providing you with clean, fresh, and safe water? To many it comes as a surprise how involved and complex the actual functions of a water department can be.

The Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office (OCWRC) primarily is responsible for providing quality water supply, drainage systems and sewage disposal systems. There is also a continued emphasis on conducting the day-to-day business in an environmentally-friendly and responsible way.

There are several areas or units within the OCWRC Office that serve a unique purpose. Among them are Environmental, Inspection, Right of Way/Survey/Miss Dig, Soil Erosion, Lake Level Control, Lake Improvement Boards, Cross Connection/Industrial Pretreatment, Drain and Sewer Maintenance, Electrical Systems, Engineering Support, Pump Maintenance, Retention Treatment Basin, Wastewater Treatment, Water System Maintenance, and Water/Sewer Billing.

To elaborate on what a few of these areas do, Water and Sewer Billing bills approximately 40,000 customers in 14 different municipalities throughout Oakland County, while Water System Maintenance is responsible for the operation and maintenance of water supply systems for several cities, villages and townships (CVTs).

Also, Drain and Sewer Maintenance operates and maintains all county drains and sewers while providing drain and sewer inspection. This may not be the most glamorous area of OCWRC, but indeed a vital element.

Another busy unit is Pump Maintenance, which operates and maintains sewage pump stations, community well sites, pressure reducing facilities, water booster stations, water treatment facilities as well as numerous other facilities.

And lastly, Cross Connection/Industrial Pretreatment Program handles the inspection, elimination and prevention of cross connections in commercial, industrial and residential facilities. This program was designed to prevent backflow or backsiphonage of contaminated water into the drinking water supply.

For a more in-depth look at each individual unit's role within the OCWRC Office, visit www.oakgov.com/drain and browse the newly designed page.

Spotlight

In Mr. John P. McCulloch's own words - "Late last year, the Oakland County Drain Commissioner's office became the Water Resources Commissioner's office. The change was made to reflect how the duties of a drain commissioner have changed since the nineteenth century when lawmakers established the position of a county drain commissioner. The name change to water resources commissioner just made sense for us here in Oakland County.

Today, our organization has grown to encompass a much greater array of responsibilities including water treatment and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, storm water drainage, lake level controls and a wide variety of water quality issues.

I'm convinced that my new title better reflects my responsibilities. We've come a long way since the days when the county drain commissioner position was created.

Michigan law now provides that a drain commissioner 'who performs functions in addition to those functions under the drain code, such as operating sewers, maintaining lake levels, enforcing soil erosion and sedimentation control and facilitating compliance with federal clean water act mandates may, by resolution approved by a majority of the county board of commissioners and with the consent of the drain commissioner, change the name from the office of the Drain Commissioner

to the office of the Water Resources Commissioner.'

That's another way of saying that drain commissioners today often have more far reaching responsibilities and duties than they did when the position was first created. The new name gives people a more accurate reflection of the position.

Before the name change last November, when I delivered speeches around the country and the state, I would first have to explain what a drain commissioner is. It's probably one of the least understood of any elected position. It's a position that's unique to Michigan and, depending on which county is involved, is quite diverse.

As we are well aware, not all counties in Michigan have a drain commissioner. There are 83 counties in Michigan, but just 68 elected county drain commissioners. In those counties where there is no drain commissioner, the responsibility often is handled by the road commission or a soil conservation district.

Now that we've had a few months under our belts operating in Oakland County with our new moniker, I must say that it seems to be working quite well. As an added benefit, I don't need to do as much explaining about what the job entails.

In addition to the name change, we've made some personnel changes as well. I'm proud to announce that Doug Buchholz, who was deputy and manager of the operations and maintenance division, has been promoted to director of operations. With this change, our organization no longer is split into two major divisions. Now, there is a unified operation with Mr. Buchholz as its director.

In other promotions, we also have two new managers who were promoted from their previous posts as chief engineers. Sue Coffey and Steven Korth have been promoted to the position of manager."

by Angela Dillen