

Telegraph

OAKLAND COUNTY

APR 01 2009

Research Library



County Executive Announces New Triennial Budget in 2009 State of the County Speech



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Toot Thy Horn

Before a packed house of more than 500 invited guests attending his annual State of the County address, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson announced the county will begin using a new triennial budgeting process.

“We will be the first county in Michigan, and we believe the United States, to move to a triennial budget,” Mr. Patterson said. “We will project line item detail out three fiscal years: the current fiscal year plus 2010 and 2011 as an example.”

Currently, Oakland County is the only county in Michigan and one of the few governments in the U.S. that operates on the biennial budget.

By maintaining a two year rolling budget, Oakland County is able to stay in the black for the current fiscal year and the next, in this case 2009 and 2010.

“A three year budget will give us the benefits of what a two year budget has done – but obviously more,” Mr. Patterson said. “It will give us more advanced notice; more long term planning; more opportunities to react before a crisis arises.”

Mr. Patterson also took the time to praise the Fiscal Services Division for its 17-year exemplary record of earning the highest award for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from the Government Finance Officers of the United States and Canada.

He also credited Management and Budget Director Laurie Van Pelt, Deputy County Executive Bob Daddow and the Budget Task Force for their leadership in guiding Oakland County through turbulent economic waters and helping to maintain the county’s prized AAA Bond Rating.

Mr. Patterson also acknowledged the many and significant contributions of county employees. He mentioned that since 1993, employees have donated more than a half million dollars to a weekly Casual Day Fund while also taking home dozens of local, state and national awards for their outstanding work.

One of the more exciting revelations in the nearly hour long speech was the fact Oakland County is in the process of organizing a Hollywood style film festival in 2010. Mr. Patterson said State Representative Gail Haines brought the idea to him about six months ago as a way to capitalize on the burgeoning film and entertainment industry that is sprouting roots in the state because of the advantageous tax policies designed to lure them here. Mr. Patterson also indicated that several local investors, lead by noted developer Alfred Taubman, is planning to build the state’s largest film studio in Oakland County, creating almost 3,600 new jobs.

Mr. Patterson closed out his 15th annual address at the Michigan State University Management Conference Center in Troy by recognizing the contributions of former Michigan Congressman Joe Knollenberg and Oakland County Treasurer Pat Dohany who were both defeated in their bids for reelection in November.

From Whence We Came...

Witch's Hat Depot

In 1970 The Oakland County Sesqui-Centennial Executive Committee published the "Oakland County Book of History," encompassing the history of Oakland County from 1820-1970. This 623-page book will be used in future articles as a source and reference for the "From Whence We Came" articles. Readers are invited to share their own stories or add to the ones published.

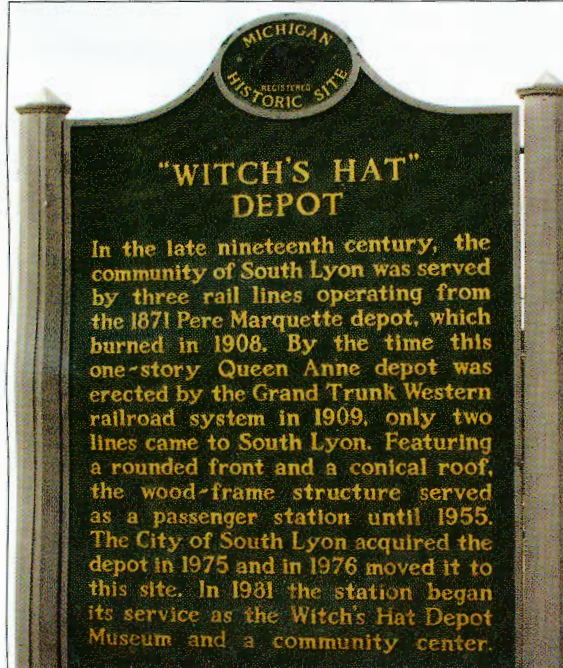
From p. 346-347 (Lyon Township) - In 1871 the Pere Marquette Railway was constructed through South Lyon. The line ran from Detroit to Grand Rapids. Later the Grand Trunk Railroad also built lines through South Lyon. The Grand Trunk route connected to Jackson and Pontiac. Later the Toledo and Ann Arbor Rail Company decided that it would be advantageous for it to connect with the routes of the Pere Marquette and Grand Trunk. The decision was effectuated by building a spur line from Ann Arbor to South Lyon. The connection didn't prove to be as profitable as estimated and the railroad removed the tracks one Sunday morning. The track removal was done on Sunday so that the local people would not be able to get an injunction to halt the work. The coming of the railroads meant that the mail could be brought by train. Earlier it had come by horse and carriage from Ann Arbor. Rail service meant many advantages for the local farmers. Now they could ship their produce to market and could obtain machinery the same way - a vast improvement over the horse and wagon methods they had been using.

Also, the Pere Marquette ran excursion trips to Grand Rapids and Detroit on Sundays. These one day trips were very popular with the people of South Lyon; they discussed their excursions all year long.

Written by Beryl Schoening, 1970, for the Oakland County Book of History, Arthur A. Hagman, Editor.



The railroad depot in South Lyon. This was an important depot because the Pere Marquette Railroad and the Grand Trunk met here. Note the signal tower to the right of the depot.



The South Lyon railroad depot as it looks today.

Michigan Trivia

Many of us have lived in Michigan for all or at least a portion of our lives, but really what do we know about the Great Lakes State?

For example can you tell me what ambitious automotive pioneer organized General Motors in 1908? Stumped? It was William Crapo (interesting middle name, don't you think?) Durant.

Did you know that the Davison Freeway in Detroit was the world's very first urban freeway and it was completed in 1942.

In 1866 James Vernor introduced Vernor's Ginger Ale which was the world's first carbonated soft drink.

The world's first traffic light was installed at Woodward and Grand Avenues in Detroit.

Just a few little tidbits you can toss out at the next party you attend to dazzle people with your knowledge of Michigan history. More to come in future editions.



Telegraphing Our Talents



By Michael Zack with historical background provided by Steve Stanford

Many county residents and employees have seen the panorama of the Oakland cars shown at the top of the page and

on display at the Oakland County Courthouse. It has an interesting history.

The original photograph belonged to Mrs. Dorothy Foisy of Rochester Hills. The photograph documents the Oakland Motor Company's exhibit in the August 11, 1916 parade through Pontiac that celebrated Oakland County's centennial. Cars from every year of production (1908 to 1916) are featured in the lineup. In 1925 Oakland introduced a new, smaller car, called the Pontiac. By 1931 the Pontiac proved to be so popular that the name of the division was changed.

This original panoramic photograph, by H. George Studio in Pontiac, was brought to me coiled tightly in a cardboard shoe box. It showed some damage from years in storage as well as some damage from an earlier attempt at unrolling the photo paper image. The first thing to do was to get the image unrolled and reasonably flat to prepare it for scanning. I got out a home humidifier, allowing it to run directly under the photo, with the photo about two feet above it. After 3-4 days the photo was starting to unroll slightly. It was then placed on my ironing board with the humidifier underneath and I began to slowly let the photo unroll on its own, without any force applied. Each day I would refill the humidifier and further unroll the photo as the tension relaxed, being careful not to force it in any way. This process took about three weeks. In just less than one month I had coaxed the print to unroll enough for the next phase - scanning.

I scanned the photo in overlapping sections of about 10" each. The image had to be placed carefully to insure that there was some overlap in each scan. The entire image was nearly 6' long and had to be held stationary during the scans because of the overhang on each side of the scanner.

After scanning came the work of stitching the sections together. Each section was overlapped and blended with the previous section. After matching each 10" section by overlapping them there were a lot of small adjustments to make to exposure and contrast to get everything back into place on one image.

Due to the condition of the print and the anomalies of the original some blurring was unavoidable as the original panorama creator had not matched his photo plates perfectly, but the results were nevertheless rewarding. This panorama had not been seen in its entirety in decades, and now it is displayed for all to see!

Oakland County Events Summer 2009

May 9 - 10, 2009

Birmingham

Birmingham Fine Art Festival

248-644-0866

May 16 - 17, 2009

Lake Orion

Flower Fair and Home & Garden

Marketplace

248-693-9742

May 16 - 17, 2009

Rochester Hills

Fine Art at the Village

248-689-8734

May 21 - 25, 2009

Hazel Park

Hazel Park's Memorial Festival

248-547-5535

May 22 - 25, 2009

Orchard Lake

St. Mary's Polish Country Fair

248-706-6775

June 7, 2009

Ferndale

Motor City Pride

313-537-7000

June 13 - 14, 2009

Royal Oak

15th Annual Clay, Glass & Metal Festival

248-547-4000

June 20, 2009

Sylvan Lake

Sylvan Lake Home and Garden Tour

248-615-6296

June 27 - 28, 2009

Lathrup Village

Art-In-The-Park

248-557-2600

June 27 - 28, 2009

Northville

Art in the Sun

248-344-0954

June 27 - 28, 2009

Waterford

Log Cabin Days

248-683-2697

June 27 - July 4, 2009

Clawson

Clawson Fourth of July Celebration

248-435-7892

July 3, 2009

Oak Park

4th of July Parade & Park Activities

248-691-7555

July 7 - 12, 2009

Davisburg

Oakland County Fair

July 10 - 12, 2009

Lake Orion

North Oakland Fine Art Festival

248-685-3748

July 17 - 19, 2009

Farmington

Art on the Grand

248-473-1870

July 17 - 19, 2009

Farmington

Farmington Area Founders Festival

248-477-1199

July 17 - 19, 2009

Waterford/White Lake Twp.

Quake on the Lake

July 18 - 19, 2009

Farmington Hills

Czech and Slovak Festival

248-932-5450

July 22 - 25, 2009

Novi

Michigan 50's Festival

248-349-1950

July 24 - 26, 2009

Orchard Lake

Orchard Lake Fine Art Show

248-685-3748

Aug. 1 - 2, 2009

Rochester Hills

Summer Fine Art at the Village

248-689-8734

Aug. 7 - 9, 2009

Milford

Milford Memories Summer Festival

248-685-7129

Aug. 14 - 16, 2009

Oakland County

Woodward Dream Cruise Weekend

248-546-1573

Employees of the Month

When the troubled kids who are placed in Children's Village need some TLC, compassionate discipline or an attentive ear for their problems, Jeff Lewis is there to offer the help that is needed.



Jeff Lewis

Jeff, who is a youth specialist at the Village, works with teens in a secure treatment program providing treatment and counseling so that one day they may be able to become productive members of the community. "The most rewarding part of what I do is working with these kids and knowing I have made a difference in their lives," Jeff said. "I want to be a mentor to them and someone they know they can turn to with their problems."

Jeff has been at Children's Village for nine years and before that served in the United States Air Force. Last year, Jeff was named State Worker of the Year by the Michigan Juvenile Detention Association and also Employee of the Year by Children's Village. "Jeff is an exceptional employee who takes great pride in his work," said Jody Overall, manager of Children's Village.

In his spare time, Jeff likes to travel, fish and spend time with his family which includes wife Carrie and two young children, ages 4 and 1. The Lewis's make their home in Waterford Township.

Few people in Oakland County government have more on their plate or have bigger challenges to face than Lynn Sonkiss, chief of Fiscal Services. With an ailing economy which creates severe budget challenges for all local units of government, including Oakland County, Lynn spends her days trying to keep ahead of a fluid and rapidly changing financial landscape.



Lynn Sonkiss

As chief of Fiscal Services, Lynn oversees the accounting functions of Water Resources, Facilities Management, IT and Parks and Recreation. Prior to becoming chief in 2002, Lynn was supervisor of IT Accounting in Fiscal Services. Her career at Oakland County spans a total of 18 years, all of it spent in Fiscal Services. "I really enjoy working internally with my colleagues in Fiscal Services and externally with the people in the various departments which I oversee," Lynn said. With her busy schedule, Lynn doesn't have much time for hobbies, but when she does have a spare moment or two she enjoys spending time at home with her husband and two Labrador Retrievers.

"Lynn is one of the most valuable employees (among a number of valuable employees) in the Fiscal Services Division," said Tim Soave, manager of Fiscal Services. "Her accounting and financial abilities are second to none and she works very hard to provide the most accurate and useful information possible."

Lynn hopes to be able to spend more time in the summer biking and traveling to visit family. Lynn and her husband live in Hartland.

As the environmental program coordinator in Waste Resources, Whitney Calio manages the NO-Haz and Michigan Green Schools Program while also being involved in solid waste planning.



Whitney Calio

Prior to becoming coordinator 4½ years ago, Whitney was the solid waste coordinator for Calhoun County. "I really enjoy working with people who are enthusiastic about environmental issues," Whitney said. "The schools and students in Oakland County are really passionate about the Green Schools program."

Whitney explains that a school can be designated a Green School if it participates in 10 of 20 listed environmental and energy saving activities. The NO-Haz program is a consortium of local communities that offer household hazardous waste collections for their residents. Some of the items that qualify include paint, batteries, pesticides and electronics / computer equipment.

"Whitney is a super employee for PEDS and the county," said Dan Hunter, manager of Planning and Economic Development Services. "She oversaw the first computer collection effort last fall which was very well received."

In her free time, Whitney likes to spend time with her husband who just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq as a reservist in the Michigan National Guard and their two young boys, ages 1 and 3. Whitney and her family live in Berkley.

One of the pillars in the IT Department is Tammi Shephard who serves as project manager for such programs as Collaborative Asset Management (CAN) and the second generation of Access Oakland. Basically it's Tammi's job to manage and implement technology programs for IT's customers which are the various departments of county government. "What I really enjoy most about my job is the variety of things I get to do," Tammi said. "There seems to be a new challenge coming my way pretty much on a regular basis."



Tammi Shephard

She's been project manager for the past two or three years and prior to that was a user support specialist at IT. Her career with Oakland County government spans five years. "Tammi is a hard working and extremely dependable employee who has the unique ability to master any assignment she is given," said Ed Poisson, IT director. "She's highly respected and admired by everyone at IT."

Away from the office, Tammi likes to relax with her husband in the summer on their 24-foot pontoon boat on Williams Lake in Waterford Township where they live.

A message from Harvey Mesler

Oakland County International Airport

I was diagnosed with cancer January last year and had to undergo many tests, cat scans, a couple of surgeries and treatments. Then I was told I had Stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma. And with all of the tests and surgeries I used up all my vacation and personal time because I had to miss many days of work.

And at that time my airport family stepped in to help me. They sent a message to Mr. Patterson, our great boss, and being a kind hearted person he held a Special Casual Day for me which helped me and my family in our time of need. There were many others that heard about this and donated to the fund too. So I would like to thank my Oakland County family for all the love, support and kindness during this difficult time.

Currently UofM has done all they can do for me and last month referred me to the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland where I was accepted into a clinical trial and I'm currently being treated.

And so it's times like these when you discover what friendship means. Friendship begins when a sacrifice is made to help another when nothing but a smile is expected in return. Friendship thrives when one accepts the help and has nothing to give but a smile in return. Together, we can face another day and continue to hope and fight because of your friendship.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

The Mesler Family

Harvey, Jeannine & Ben Mesler

<http://www.carepages.com/carepages/firemanharvey>

(Editors Note: On October 30, 2008 a Special Casual Day was held for Harvey during which \$1,038 was raised.)

Mom's Strawberry Cake

1 box any brand strawberry or white cake mix

2/3 c. extra light oil

1/2 c. water

1 small box strawberry Jell-o

1 pkg frozen or 2 c. fresh strawberries, divided

4 eggs or egg substitute

Reserve 1/2 of strawberries. Mix all remaining ingredients together and pour into greased and floured 9x13 baking pan or layer pans. Bake at 350° for approximately 30 minutes. Top with reserved strawberries and whipped topping.



Would you like to be a part of the Telegraph Editorial Team?

We have positions available for employees who are creative, motivated and excited to share the county happenings with their co-workers. We'll meet four times a year to brainstorm story ideas and lay out the structure of the newsletter. Each member of the Editorial Team will have the opportunity to contribute ideas, articles and their own unique personality to each edition. Good writing skills are a plus, but not necessary. Please contact Bob Dustman (dustmanb@oakgov.com) or Pam Tremble (tremblep@oakgov.com) to express your interest in joining the team.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Do You Have ESP?

You do if you're an employee of Oakland County! The program has yielded over \$5.5M in savings to the county in its 16 years of existence. All current county employees, with the exception of elected officials, administrators, managers, chiefs, and some supervisors, are eligible to participate in the Employee Suggestion Program, also known as ESP. The program was created by County Executive Brooks Patterson and seeks to inspire employees to submit cost saving suggestions and more efficient business practices.

A committee of evaluators reviews an average of 110 suggestions each year. As suggestions are received, they are time stamped, logged into a database by the HR staff, and reviewed for eligibility by the ESP Coordinator. Some reasons that a suggestion would not be eligible include if it is a duplicate of a previously considered suggestion, the idea would require a change in Merit Rules or public law, or the idea is already under consideration. Suggestions submitted on the County's Cost Reduction Blog may also be submitted to the ESP Program if they meet ESP eligibility as stated above. They must be submitted separately on the ESP form. Eligible suggestions are assigned to an evaluator who consults with the appropriate department official(s) in order to conduct a complete investigation. The evaluator is not aware of who made the suggestion, nor is the suggestor aware of who is conducting the evaluation. The evaluator presents his or her findings to the ESP Committee which then votes whether or not to recommend the suggestion for implementation. The ESP Coordinator notifies the affected department(s) of the Committee's recommendation and monitors implementation, although the final decision rests with the implementing department.

Prizes for implemented suggestions are awarded annually at the County Executive Holiday Party. The awards, which are not paid for with taxpayer dollars, but by proceeds from the County Executive's Annual Golf Outing, are based on the amount of savings generated by the idea as calculated by the Fiscal Services Division. More details, including FAQ's can be found by clicking on the following link http://my.oakgov.com/sites/hr/Emp/ESP/Pages/default_OC.aspx or by contacting ESP coordinator Clare Cheesman at cheesmanc@oakgov.com or 248-858-0539.



BENEFITS

Q & A

Q I have heard that the Blue Choice, Point of Service (POS) Medical Plan is being discontinued??

A Yes. Effective January 1, 2010, this plan will no longer be available. It is being discontinued by Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Q What will I need to do?

A If you have your current medical coverage through the Blue Choice, Point of Service Plan, you will need to select a new medical plan to be effective January 1, 2010 during the Natural Select open enrollment period which will take place in October.

Q What plans will I have to choose from?

A You may choose from the Blue Preferred (PPO) Plan or the Comprehensive Major Medical (CMM) Plan. Some employees (hired prior to May 31, 2003) also have the choice of the Health Alliance Plan (HAP). Those who do not make a new selection during open enrollment will be placed into the Comprehensive Major Medical (CMM) plan by default.

Q What should I do between now and open enrollment?

A We recommend that you talk with your doctor about the alternative medical plans you will have available so during the open enrollment period you will know which plan will best suit your medical needs going forward. Please refer to your Natural Select workbook from last fall for details on the medical plans. You may also find information on the plans and bi-weekly contribution amounts at www.ocbenefits.com

PERSON TO PERSON

L. Brooks Patterson

The budget challenges confronting Oakland County over the next few years will be severe. Much of what we're facing is out of our control – a 15-month long national recession; auto sales at the lowest level in over 25 years; a statewide unemployment rate that tops the nation at 10.6%; escalating home foreclosures and property values rapidly on the decline.

But that doesn't mean we're sitting idly by doing nothing just hoping for things to get better. Our two-year rolling budget and five-year economic forecast gives us a longer range view than most on where our fiscal train is heading which gives us the advantage of seeing and dealing with potential problems earlier.

This approach has enabled us to develop balanced budgets for 2009 and 2010. Now we're pushing the envelope even further. As I announced in my February 3rd State of the County address, we will soon be using a three-year budget process, something no other county in Michigan or America for that matter is doing.

It will give us all the benefits of a two-year budget but more – more advanced notice; more long term planning; and more opportunities to react before a crisis emerges.

A three-year budget is a bold move because it's really tough to develop reliable figures that far in advance. But I have total confidence that my award winning Management and Budget team can handle this challenge as they have done so many others in the past.

Over the past decade when signs of a recession started appearing on the horizon, we were very aggressive in adjusting the budget to make sure spending did not exceed revenues.

We took numerous proactive steps like implementing technological enhancements including e-Government, an asset management system and GIS; restructuring and downsizing which has resulted in \$37.6 million worth of savings through privatizations since 1993 and retirement incentive offers in 2002 and 2008 which lead to 379 retirements and 343 deleted positions. We also instituted a hiring freeze and made changes in fringe benefits to cope with declining property tax revenues which account for 59% of our General Fund / General Purpose budget.

Our current strategy is to work on the projected shortfall for 2012 – three years out – to accelerate some of the savings by taking early action. In other words, our goal is to cut the budget by \$10 million in each of the next three years so that by 2012 we will have trimmed some \$30 million from the General Fund, making our future budget tasks all that more manageable going forward.

Each of the countywide elected officials – Sheriff, Prosecutor, Clerk, Drain Commissioner, Treasurer, Board of Commissioners and Circuit & Probate Courts – has been given a budget task equal to their particular portion of the budget shortfall. They have all promised to do their part to keep Oakland County heading in the right direction.

No doubt about it, these are extremely tough times in which we live. But I am confident Oakland County will emerge from this economic crisis better and stronger than ever before.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Administrative Enhancements to Prescription Drug Plan

The Department of Human Resources is pleased to announce that with the addition of Navitus Health Solutions as your prescription drug provider in April of 2008, several administrative enhancements have become available. In this article we will just touch on those that are taking place. Please note that all of these enhancements are effective beginning July 1, 2009.

90 Days at Retail

You will be able to obtain a 90 day supply of medication at participating local retail pharmacies, with one co-payment. This is the same benefit you now have through the mail order provider, WellDyneRx. You may of course continue to utilize WellDyneRx for your 90 day prescriptions if you wish. The choice will be yours.

Tablet Splitting

You will be able (though not required) to split certain approved medications in half and save half the co-payment. Rather than receiving a quantity of 30 tablets for a 30 day supply of a drug with a 10mg strength and pay a \$10 co-payment, you could receive a quantity of 15 tablets for a 30 day supply of a drug with a 20mg strength, cut them in half (which would give you 30 doses) and pay only a \$5 co-payment.

Generic Copay Waiver Program

To encourage the use of generic medication, if your doctor writes a prescription for one of the generic drugs covered under the generic co-pay waiver program your first 30 supply of the drug will have a \$0 (Zero) co-payment.

Formulary Transition

In order to complete our transition to the Navitus formulary, Navitus will be taking steps to phase out the Blue Cross/Blue Shield formulary, which has continued to be used since the April 2008 move to Navitus. For the vast majority of employees, this transition will be completely transparent. For some, it will result in co-payments changing on prescription drugs you already receive (for those with the three tier drug plan). This same process occurred periodically under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield formulary as drugs moved from one payment tier to another. Lastly, the Navitus formulary includes Prior Authorization, Step Therapy and Quantity Limits provisions for a limited number of drugs.

Over the Counter Drugs

As part of the transition to the Navitus formulary, certain over the counter drugs will be covered with a doctor's prescription.

In Summary

It's important to note that the co-payments of \$5 for tier 1 drugs, \$10 for tier 2 drugs and \$25 for tier 3 drugs are not changing. We know you probably have questions so watch for more information being sent out over the next few weeks.

Navitus Customer Care will be happy to answer any questions at 1-866-333-2757.

New Faces in County Government for 2009

Oakland County's new prosecutor, Jessica Cooper, has worn various judicial robes during her distinguished 28 year career, starting at the District Court level and rising to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

As a young attorney in 1978, Ms. Cooper ran for 46th District Court and in an upset victory beat the incumbent. In the process, she became the first female judge in Southfield and one of only a handful in Oakland County.

In 1986, Ms. Cooper was elected to the 6th Circuit Court in Oakland County where she served until 2000.

During her tenure on the bench in Oakland County, Ms. Cooper presided over the high profile murder trial of Jack Kevorkian who she sentenced to prison for 10 to 25 years after he was convicted by a jury of second degree murder.

Oakland County has two new judges sitting on the 6th Circuit Court bench succeeding retiring judges Fred Mester and Steven Andrews. Probate Judge Barry Grant also retired and was succeeded by Judge Daniel A. O'Brien.

Lisa Gorcyca who was the top vote-getter in the November election is a former assistant prosecutor worked as chief of the prosecutor's office of domestic violence and elder abuse. She is married to former Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorcyca. Judge Gorcyca will preside over the court's Civil / Criminal Division cases.

The Honorable Eileen Brennan also donned her judicial black robe during investiture ceremonies at the Board of Commissioners auditorium in January. Judge Brennan, who comes to Circuit Court from the 44th District Court in Royal Oak was assigned to the Family Division.

On Thursday, January 8th, members of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners were sworn into office. In addition to the twenty returning members of the commission five new members were sworn in.

Kim Capello, Republican, represents Novi, Novi Township and Northville. Janet Jackson, Democrat, represents Lathrup, Berkley and a portion of Southfield. Gary McGillivray, Democrat, represents Madison Heights with portions of Royal Oak and Troy. Steve Schwartz, Democrat, represents Farmington, Farmington Hills. Shelly Taub, Republican, who is returning to the commission following a stint in the State Legislature, represents Orchard Lake along with portions of West Bloomfield and Bloomfield township.

Bill Bullard, Jr., Republican, representing Highland Township, Springfield Township, Holly Township, the Village of Holly and Rose Township, has been nominated to serve as Chair of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

**The 10th Annual
Quake on the Lake
inboard hydroplane races
on Pontiac Lake in
Waterford / White
Lake Townships
will be held
July 17-19, 2009**



kudos coming & going

promotions



Darin Clark, Children's Village, was promoted to a youth specialist Supervisor effective 12/20/2008.

Adam Ritchie, Human

Resources, was promoted to retirement supervisor.

Laura Beale, Children's Village, was promoted to program supervisor on 12/20/08.

Steve Masters, Drain Commission, was promote to auto mechanic II on 11/8/08.

Brenda Larkin, FM&O, was promoted to central employee records coordinator on 12/20/08.

Latonya Smith-McClennan, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to sergeant on 12/20/08.

Kevin Schulz to pump maint. supervisor I, Pump Maint. Unit, Water Resources Commissioner, on 2/14/09.

Jeffrey Cripps to construction inspector III, Inspection Unit, Water Resources Commissioner, 8/30/08.

Jacqueline Howes-Evanson was promoted on 12/6/08 from youth & family caseworker II to youth & family casework supervisor, Drug Court.

Candace Sereno was promoted on 12/8/09 from technical assistant (PTNE) to full time business analyst, Drug Court.

Lori Hale, office assistant II, transferred on 1/2/09 from Psychological Clinic to the Deputy Register area and was promoted to deputy register I.

new hires



Lucia Lang, was hired 2/3/2009 as a social worker I at Children's Village.

Charles Tischer, Drain Commission, was hired as Water Resources Commission community liaison on 1/12/09.

Terry Fields hired as chief of recreation programs and services, Parks and Recreation.

Mary Ellen Brennan, circuit court judge, was hired on 1/1/09.

Lisa Gorcyca, circuit court judge, was hired on 1/1/09.

Ryan Matthew, circuit court, clerk for Judge Brennan, was hired on 1/2/09.

Kirsten Turner, Circuit Court, judicial secretary for Judge Brennan, was hired on 1/2/09.

Susan Capell, Circuit Court, judicial staff attorney for Judge Andrews, was hired on 1/5/09.

Jessica Hallmark, Circuit Court, court clerk for Chief Judge Potts, was hired on 2/3/09.

Daniel A. O'Brien, probate court judge, was hired on 1/1/09.

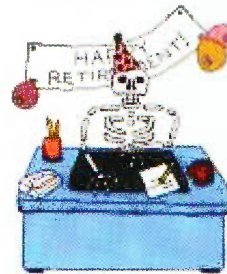
Mary Kavanagh, Probate Court, judicial secretary for Judge O'Brien, was hired on 1/2/09.

Rita Lapinski, Probate Court, court clerk for Judge O'Brien, was hired on 1/2/09.

Amy Peterman, Probate Court, judicial staff attorney for Judge O'Brien, was hired on 1/2/09.

Colleen Armstrong, Probate Court, court clerk for Judge O'Brien, was hired on 1/2/09.

retirements



Alan Wilson, sewer maint. supervisor I, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Water Resources Commissioner, retired on 2/27/09 after 36 years of service.

Probate Judge Barry Grant retired on 1/1/09.

transfers



Linda Renda, office assistant I, transferred from Youth Assistance to Friend of the Court on 1/21/09.

Sheila Garin, judicial staff attorney, transferred on 1/2/09 from Judge Andrew's staff to Judge Gorcyca's staff.

Deborah Goltz, judicial secretary, transferred on 1/2/09 from Judge Andrew's staff to Judge Gorcyca's staff.

Extra Graziano, court clerk, transferred from Visiting Judges' staff to Judge Gorcyca's staff.

Peter Menna, court clerk, transferred on 1/2/09 to Visiting Judge Andrew's staff.

Daniel McLean, court clerk, transferred on 1/2/09 from Judge Andrew's staff to Judge Gorcyca's staff.

Francine Snyder, judicial staff attorney, transferred on 1/2/09 from Judge Mester's staff to Judge Brennan's staff.

Brianna Lewis, deputy register II, transferred on 1/3/09 from Juvenile Deputy area to Adoptions.

marriages



Philip Landin, Pump Maint. Unit, Water Resources Commissioner, married Charlotte Haynes on 2/3/09.

births



Kelli Megyesi, Prosecutor's Office, and husband Kyle welcomed daughter Lila Elizabeth born on January 31, 2009.

Jeff Schrameck, Prosecutor's Office, and wife Jennifer

welcomed daughter, Lauren Amber, on February 4, 2009.

Jennifer DeMerritt, Prosecutor's Office, and husband Derrick welcomed twins -- daughter, Mikaila Susan, and son, William Steven, on January 27, 2009.

Erin Marinco, Circuit Court, and husband Aaron, welcomed their first son, Ricky "Anthony" on 7/10/08.

Gary Nigro, Drain Commission, and his wife Ellie, welcomed a new son, Joshua, on 12/18/09.

Timothy Lewis, FM&O, and wife, Tara, welcomed daughter Katherine on 11/8/08.

Tim McDonald, Prosecutor's Office, and his wife, Jen, welcome baby girl, Madeline Powers, 12/22/08.

Diane McCloskey, Prosecutor's Office, and husband, Tim, welcomed daughter Alayna Elizabeth, born March 3, 2009.

Marcel Benavides, Prosecutor's Office, and wife Jennifer welcomed daughter, Sophia Grace Marie Benavides, born March 11, 2009.

Erin Marinco, case management office, and her husband, Aaron, welcomed their first son, Rick "Anthony" on 7/10/08.

Laura Hutson, court administration, and her husband, David Hutson, Prosecutor's Office, welcomed new son, Jack William, on 11/4/08.

Melinda Deel, judicial staff attorney for Judge Anderson, and her husband Ryan, judicial staff attorney for Judge Hallmark, welcomed twin body Jackson and Brennan on 10/21/08.

Chris Bujak, court operations business supervisor, and her husband, Joe, welcomed new son Zachary Bowen, on 11/7/08.

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

kudos



Scott Herverly, Drain Commission, received his S-1 MDEQ Distribution Certificate.

Donna Weinstein, youth assistance caseworker in Royal Oak was granted the degree Ph.D. in Education with a major in Counseling from Oakland University.

Darlene Low, office assistant II in the Register of Deeds Office, earned an Associates degree in Business from Baker College.

Janell Howard, account clerk in the Register of Deeds Office, earned an Associates degree in Business from Baker College.

Michael Smith of the Oakland County Clerk's Elections Division has earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Oakland University.

David Vicini, Water Maint. Unit, Water Resources Commissioner, received his MDEQ Waterworks System Operator S-4 Certification, 11/5/08.

Groveland Oaks County Park is the first park in the State of Michigan to earn the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation's Environmental Stewardship Program Certification.

Sandy Dorey and Sue Wells, Parks and Recreation, were elected to the 2009 Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Board of Directors. Dorey will serve as senior chair and Wells was named regional director.

Judge Nanci Grant was named secretary of the Judicial Tenure Commission.

Paulette Michel, secretary to Judge McDonald, passed the Bar Exam and was sworn in on 11/5/08.

Judge Colleen A. O'Brien was appointed by Chief Judge Wendy Potts to serve as presiding judge of the Civil/Criminal Division.

Bryan Paris, Management and Budget, Equalization, passed his appraisal I certification.

Mark Adams just received the Volunteer of the year award from the NAACP.

fond farewells

Nicole Dallo, Circuit Court intern, left Oakland County on 1/12/09 to complete her studies.

Deborah Anthony, Adoptions, deputy register II, resigned on 12/30/08.

Denise Collins, judicial secretary for Judge Barry Grant, resigned on 1/1/09.

Mary Macias, judicial staff attorney for Judge Barry Grant, resigned on 1/1/09.

Dave Mester, court clerk for Judge Barry Grant, resigned on 1/1/09.

Darrin Whitmer, court clerk for Judge Barry Grant, resigned on 1/1/09.

Gwendolyn Finley, court reporter for Judge Barry Grant, resigned on 1/11/09.

Joy Delauter, youth assistance caseworker II, resigned on 1/2/09.

Wayne Macintosh, court clinical psychologist, resigned on 1/9/09.

Nicole Dallo, case management college intern, resigned on 1/12/09.

march of dimes[®] march for babies[™]

The 17th Annual March of Dimes March for Babies (formerly called Walk America) will be held Sunday, April 26, 2009 at the Troy Civic Center. In 2008 the Oakland County team raised \$22,000 to help fund research, community services, education and advocacy, all aimed at preventing birth defects, premature births and infant mortality.

Behind The Scenes



Emergency Response & Preparedness (ERP)

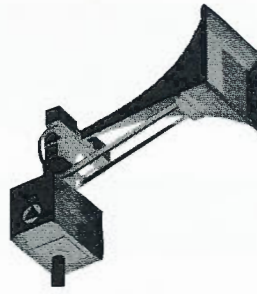
Overview

Oakland County Emergency Response & Preparedness (ERP) is responsible for the day to day activities for emergency management. Many of the things we do are behind the scenes – planning, grant writing, disaster exercises, and developing brochures for the public to be prepared for any natural or man made disaster situation that can occur in Oakland County.

It gets real busy when emergencies occur – the 2003 black out, chemical releases (Oakland County has over 400 facilities with hazardous substances, not including what is transported through the county), train derailments, tornado touchdowns, etc. We house Oakland County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where over 28 county departments and private agencies, such as the Salvation Army, assemble to provide a coordinated response and recovery effort. We also activate the EOC for special events such as the PGA Championship and the Woodward Dream Cruise.

Spotlight

Due to the severe storms that blew through Oakland County last year, effective immediately the outdoor sirens will be activated, not just for tornadoes, but for severe thunderstorms with damaging winds at/near/greater than 70 mph.



Be prepared for the upcoming storm season. County employees can print materials available on our website at www.oakgov.com/erp. ERP staff is the voice behind the severe weather box that goes off on Thursdays and during severe weather.

The biggest problem we face today locally and nationally is getting the public to take more responsibility for their own preparedness in case of a disaster. So as a county employee you need to make a family disaster plan and create a 72 hour disaster kit that includes food, water, flashlight, radio, medicine, etc. Be prepared, be aware of your environment and listen to local media daily for weather reports. You can also take one of our courses, such as CPR and AED.

New Stuff

ERP and FM&O developed the Facility Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan currently

being rolled out which outlines procedures to protect county employees and visitors during a situation that affects buildings on the county campus and/or county offices off campus.

Did You Know?

- Oakland County has an average of six tornadoes each year.
- In 2008 there were 139 storm warnings issued in Oakland County
- The deadliest Michigan tornado on record occurred in 1953 when 115 people were killed in Genesee and Lapeer Counties



2nd Annual

"Children's Village & Oakland Schools Foundation Golf Outing"

Sponsored by the Oakland County Children's Village Foundation
& the Oakland Schools Education Foundation



Friday, May 29, 2009

Lyon Oaks Golf Club
Wixom, Michigan



Shotgun Start 10:00 a.m.

Corporate and Tee & Green Sponsorships Available

For Additional Information, Contact Greg Alessi:
248.858.1135 or alessig@oakgov.com