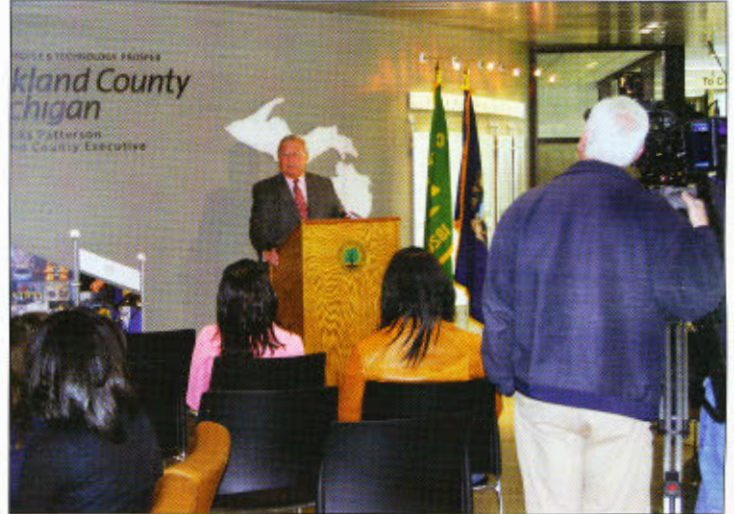


Telegraph



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eGovernment

4/40 Work Program Expands

The four-day, 40-hour workweek pilot program announced on May 22nd by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has gone beyond the executive branch's 1,600 eligible employees. To date, the Sherriff's Department, Drain Office and Probate Court have implemented the 4/40 and Circuit Court is seriously looking at it.

So far, 540 employees countywide are working 10 hours a day, four days a week and the initial response has been extremely positive.

According to Karen Jones, supervisor of the Human Resource Department's Labor Relations / EEO Division, the only groups the program doesn't easily lend itself to are those required to operate 24/7 such as the Sherriff's Office and Children's Village. However, she adds there are certain units (non-24/7) within each of those areas that may be able to utilize the 4/40 program.

"The biggest challenge we've had implementing the program is figuring overtime and holidays," Jones said. "Our goal is to make work schedules as equitable as possible for all our employees."

Under the 4/40 pilot program, employees can try it out on a temporary basis to see if it works for them, because Jones said a few people are finding it difficult to adjust to a 10 hour workday.

"We will evaluate the pluses and minuses of the program in October by conducting a survey to get feedback from both supervisors and employees," said Nancy Scarlet, director of Human Resources. "The survey results should tell us where we have to tweak the program a little to make it more appealing to employees and supervisors."

Whatever the future of the program, one thing is certain, and that is the 4/40 has generated dozens of calls from all over the country, mainly from public employee groups wanting more information on what Oakland County is doing.

Once again, Oakland County is leading the way.

Children's Village's Lewis Named States' Best

Jeff Lewis, youth specialist II at Children's Village, was recently selected as the 2008 Michigan Juvenile Detention Association (MJDA) Child Care Worker of the Year-Treatment Program.

Lewis, who has been with Children's Village for eight years, received the award earlier this month during the MJDA annual conference at Higgins Lake.

Assigned to the A-North secure residential treatment cottage, Lewis enjoys working with a challenging teenage male population. Jeff's ability to effectively communicate with the young men in his charge combined with his knack for seeking innovative strategies help young men reach their goals and complete their program.

Jody Overall, manager of Children's Village, states "Jeff's professionalism, positive rapport with residents and his investment in the program have made him an exemplary staff member. Jeff's ability to gain insight and connect with the youngsters in his care makes him a tremendous asset to the facility".

As an active duty and reserve, Jeff has ten years with the United States Air Force. He is married to Carrie and has a three year old son and three month old daughter.



Hitting the Rapids at Warp Speed

What does it feel like to shoot down a fast moving river in a rubber raft? Well just ask Julie Scislowicz, coordinator for the 4-H program at MSU Extension, because she knows.



Julie, who feels more at home curling up with a good book, is married to Rob, who comes from a physically adventurous family. Last year she was talked into going on a 25 mile bike ride up near Mackinaw City. "I accomplished that and went yahoo," Julie said. "So now it was a case of how far can we push her?"

In August, Julie, her husband and eight other people took a white water rafting trip down the Youghiogheny River, located near a little town called Ohio Pyle, Pennsylvania. (By the way, the name of the town is Native American for "frothy water.")

The day before the journey, there was a torrential downpour which made the river much more dangerous and challenging than usual. "I got a half hour of instruction prior to the trip, but was a little apprehensive because I had never done this before," Julie recalled.

For the next two and a half hours the group of 10 in two separate rafts challenged the rapids – not always successfully. At one point Julie took an unexpected dip into the water. "I was trying to see where I was paddling, but apparently leaned out too far because when we hit a rough spot in the river I fell out of the raft," Julie said.

Fortunately, the guide in the raft extended an oar to Julie and when she got close enough he yanked her back into the raft by the straps on her life preserver. "I was relieved to be back on shore," Julie recalls after finishing her first of a lifetime experience. "I felt a profound sense of accomplishment and would do it again."

So with this adventure now under her belt, what's the next challenge? "My sister in law said why don't we do a houseboat trip down the river next year," Julie stated. "I said I love that idea."

Nurse Displays Heroism

It started out to be a pretty routine day for Oakland County Public Health Nurse Pam Schmelzer. But as it turned out, June 27, 2008 was anything but normal or routine.

As Pam was sitting at her desk in the Department of Health and Human Services office on Saginaw Street in Pontiac, the only nurse on duty, a building supervisor came up to her and said a man was having a seizure in the back of the building.

911 was immediately called and Pam quickly went to the man's aid, administering CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. "When I got to him the man was purple and obviously in full cardiac arrest," Pam recalled. "I continued my efforts to revive him until EMT personnel arrived."

Unfortunately this story does not have a happy ending. The man died a short time later at a local hospital, but not for the lack of effort on Pam's part. Her training kicked in and she did all she could do to try and save a life. "I did what any other nurse would have done in a similar circumstance," Pam said modestly.

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Budget Balancing Act Accomplished – For the Time Being

The Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budgets of \$790 million (all funds) and \$782 million (all funds), respectively have been proposed by the administration and approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. The 2009 budget which takes effect October 1st calls for a 1% pay raise and a 2% increase is scheduled for 2010.

However, employees hired prior to May 31, 2003 should also be aware that the second phase of the healthcare contribution increases will go into effect in January, 2009. At that time all non-represented employees and most represented employees of county government will be on the same schedule.

The budget is balanced as required by law, but it wasn't an easy process getting there. The budget challenge for FY2008 was a shortfall of \$5.5 million; \$15.5 million for FY2009 and \$34.2 million for FY2010.

"In this budget cycle it's the first time we experienced revenue declines," said Laurie Van Pelt, director of Management and Budget.

With the administration working closely with the Board of Commissioners, department heads, the courts and the other countywide elected officials, early corrective actions were taken and the FY2009 and FY2010 budgets were brought into line to match revenues and expenditures. Collectively budget reduction targets were not only met but exceeded by \$4.9 million for FY2009. These additional savings provide a cushion for 2010 if property tax declines are worse than expected. If the \$4.9 million is not needed in FY2010, the additional savings can be used as a one time funding source to help resolve shortfalls anticipated in FY2010 and beyond. The situation remains tenuous and fluid because of Michigan's economic crisis and declining property values.

"What we're seeing in government fiscal management is unprecedented," said Van Pelt. "For the first time in some 40 years we are seeing actual reductions in taxable value on property and this trend will continue at least a year or two beyond the point that the real estate market stabilizes, which probably won't occur until at least 2010 and maybe as late as 2012 or beyond."

The problem, explains Van Pelt, is that taxable values are falling precipitously in Oakland County – a .5% decrease anticipated for 2008 after the appeals process is complete which equates to \$6.2 million less in revenues than the budget amount anticipated last September; a projected 4.5% drop in 2009, reducing tax revenue by \$9.9 million and a projected 2.5% reduction in 2010, resulting in a projected loss of \$6.4 million in tax revenue. So for all three years,

2008, 2009 and 2010, the overall 7.5% reduction in taxable value translates to a loss of \$22.5 million in county property tax revenue.

The prediction from the Equalization Division is that by next year, 60% of the homes in the county will have taxable value equal to their assessed value, meaning the only growth in property tax revenue, which the county relies on for 57% of its General Fund / General Purpose budget, will come from the other 40% of the properties and even that margin is shrinking rapidly. If the real estate market continues to fall at the same rate experienced during this past year, the FY2010 impact on the budget will be even worse than currently projected.

Van Pelt says she won't know what the 2010 budget picture looks like until November when Equalization projects what it thinks the July 2009 tax bills might be, based on sales data through September 30, 2008.

Van Pelt also points out that 1 in 60 homes in Oakland County is in some stage of foreclosure and the indications are residential foreclosures this year will top 10,000.

Budget saving efforts have been made through a myriad of steps including a hiring freeze, incentive retirement offer, which 152 employees took advantage of, and a series of position deletions. Van Pelt says in this budget cycle there were far more requests to delete positions than create new ones.

There are 53 fewer positions in the FY2009 budget and 118 fewer in the FY2010 budget for a total two year reduction of 149 positions. As Van Pelt sees it, Oakland County is way ahead of other local governments because it's adjusted for revenue sharing cuts and increases in healthcare costs.

"We're reducing positions and programs a year to two years out creating a situation where we can minimize the overall impact on employees and reduce the potential for layoffs," Van Pelt said.

Despite the serious budget challenges yet to be faced, Oakland County is still in a much better position to deal with them because it operates on a biennial budget allowing our award winning fiscal gurus to foresee problems and fix them long before it's too late.

That's one of the reasons why Oakland County has been able to adjust for increases in healthcare costs and why we are the first county in America to fully fund retiree healthcare.

Although there is a rough road ahead, our top of the line, all star fiscal management team has the expertise, skill and dedication to make the journey as smooth as possible.



We need your input!
The Telegraph is an employee-focused newsletter that needs your assistance to enrich its product.
We are constantly in the market for stories that inspire, tales of adventure or people who have a particular talent to showcase.
Let us hear from you if you fall into any of the above three categories. After all it doesn't hurt to "beat your own drum" once in a while and be recognized for a special achievement.
Please contact us with your story by calling 248-858-1048 or emailing dustmanb@oakgov.com.
We do want to hear from you.



Health & Wellness Program

Oakland County Walks Michigan

Oakland County Employee Wellness Challenge

The Oakland County Walks Michigan Employee Wellness Challenge ended on Friday, June 27. The six week challenge ended on a high note with 70 participants completing the event. The 5 participants that accumulated the most points throughout the six weeks won special prizes.

The winner of the challenge is Lisa Brewer from Register of Deeds. Lisa accumulated 1,949 points and won a Weekend Cottage gift box, a family four pack of tickets to see the Detroit Shock and a \$25 gift certificate to Meijer.

Kelly Castillo from the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office won second place. Kelly accumulated 1,767 points. Kelly's prize consisted of a Weekender gift box, a family four pack of tickets to see the Detroit Shock and a \$25 gift certificate to Meijer.

Kimberly Voss from Probate Court won third place. Kimberly accumulated 1,506 points. Her prize was a Sugar-Free gift box and a \$25 gift certificate to

Meijer.

Jean Zinger from the Health Division was our fourth place winner accumulating 1,502 points. Jean's prize was a fabulous Oakland County Health Division lunch box and a \$25 gift certificate to Meijer.

Lynda Crowell from Veterans Services' won fifth place. Lynda accumulated 1,446 points. Lynda received a stylish Oakland County cosmetics bag with a \$25 Meijer gift certificate.

Congratulations to all the winners of Oakland County Walks Michigan Employee Wellness Challenge!



PUMPKIN AUCTION FOR CHARITY PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

The Pumpkin Auction is back so get your pumpkin decorating ideas out.

It's easy and fun and we're planning on having a pumpkin full of laughs.

All you have to do is -

- Decorate or carve a pumpkin
- Place your department's pumpkin up for auction to raise money for Oakland County's Charity Pledge Campaign
- Come vote for your favorite pumpkin.

Pumpkins will be displayed from Monday, October 27 until the auction on Thursday, October 30th

Your \$1 donation per vote will be given to the County's Charity Pledge Campaign. Employees favorite pumpkin will be announced on OakSource.

Come and bid on your favorite pumpkin and take it home for Halloween!

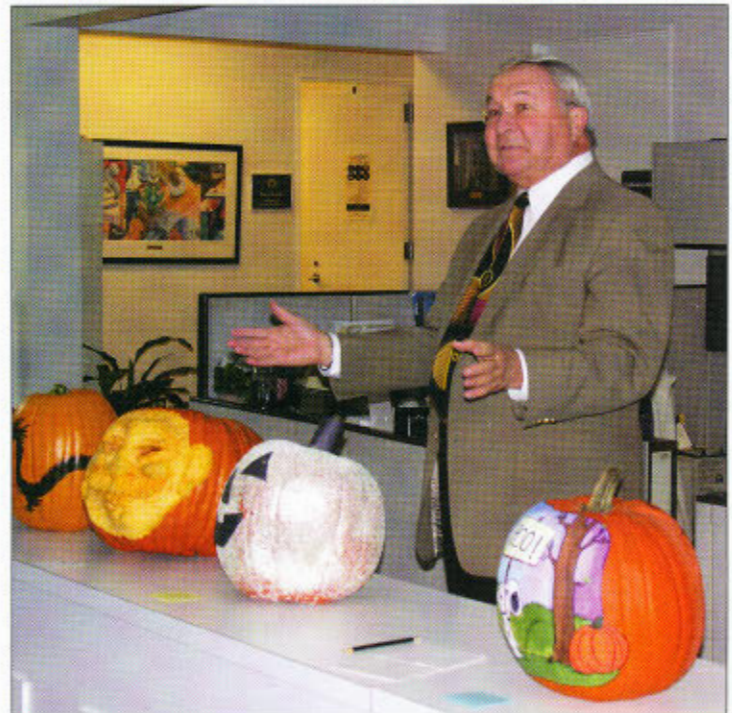
Thursday, October 30 @ 2:30 p.m.

First Floor Lobby of the Executive Office Building

Auctioneer: L Brooks Patterson

Support your department's pumpkin and the Charity Pledge Campaign

For more information about the County's Charity Pledge Campaign program and pumpkin decorating ideas visit Oakland County's OakSource>HR Services tab>Charity Pledge. Questions can be directed to Cathy Shallal via email at shallalc@oakgov.com



George Miller: Meet the New Director of Health and Human Services

George J. Miller is a well traveled journeyman who has been on the scene of Oakland County government for nearly 31 years. In that span of time Miller has acquired a wealth of experience in many areas which made him the ideal choice to succeed Dr. Thomas J. Gordon as director of Health and Human Services, the county's largest department.

"I was surprised by the appointment in the sense it came very quickly," Miller said. "I'd hoped Brooks had seen my accomplishments over the years. I very much wanted to be on Brooks' team officially and continue moving forward with the things I thought important in the Health Division."

Miller moves up to a director's position after serving as manager of the Health Division, during which time he launched Mr. Patterson's Count Your Steps pedometer walking program, developed a mass flu vaccination weekend and created a school pandemic planning guide for schools and school districts which received "Best Practice" recognition from the University of Minnesota's Public Health Emergency Planning Department and the Centers for Disease Control.

Miller's rise up the ladder of county government started in 1976 when he was a part-time non-eligible (PTNE) youth specialist at Children's Village. He landed a full time position there in 1977 and started in the detention unit at "J" building before moving over to shelter care at "H" building.

After finishing up his degree in criminal justice at the University of Detroit in 1980, Miller was promoted to youth assistance case worker and assigned to Walled Lake.

"At the time I didn't even know if Walled Lake was in Oakland County or not," Miller

recalled. "I went home and told my wife about the promotion but didn't know where it was or if we'd be moving."

Later he interviewed for a position in Substance Abuse, which at the time was part of the Health Division. He got the job and did contract management for the office of Substance Abuse.

His next step up the ladder was supervisor of Planning and Evaluation for Health, a position he held for four years.

In the mid-1990's, Miller was offered an opportunity to head up a brand new county department – Community Corrections. Originally, someone else got the job, but the person changed his mind and the offer went to Miller who enthusiastically accepted it.

"This was a great position for me because it let me build a program from the ground up," Miller noted. "We created a lot of programs to relieve jail overcrowding, assist local communities and help people put their lives back on track."

After building a solid program in Community Corrections, Miller accepted a job as administrator for the Board of Commissioners. But the job only lasted a couple of months, not because he couldn't handle it but because it wasn't a good fit for him. Miller says the job lacked enough hands-on opportunities to make changes.

Fortunately the Community Corrections position was still open and he returned, at least temporarily.

Then in 2001, Miller was appointed manager of the Health Division and his tenure began with a flurry of activity. There was the rabid horse named Goldie, the anthrax scare following 9-11 and West Nile Virus hit Oakland County with full force.



Now his career has come sort of full circle. As director of Health and Human Services, Miller will have responsibility for Children's Village where it all began some 30 years ago. In his new role, Miller will oversee 650 employees and a \$100 million budget.

Miller labels budget cuts, "second to none" as the single biggest challenge he faces in his new job. The trick, according to Miller, is being able to maintain services in a very tough economic environment. He points out that Wayne and Macomb counties have made some big personnel cuts to their health divisions, which Oakland County hasn't had to do because it's been proactive and smart in finding other less painful ways to cut costs.

Miller has been married to Cindy for the past 33 years, almost since they were sweethearts in high school. Actually, Miller was in his second or third year of college and Cindy was just starting her first year of nursing school when they got married. The couple has four daughters – Jenny, Michelle, Darcy Anne and Mandy. Mandy, 17 and their youngest, died last year after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

In his spare time, which is becoming less and less these days, Miller enjoys music, going to concerts and getting some R&R at their cottage near Port Austin / Caseville. He also has coached girls basketball at Shrine Academy for the past 13 years and Cranbrook Kingswood Junior High girls for two years.

"My new job means longer hours in some ways, but it doesn't feel burdensome," Miller said. "It feels like a challenge and I like that."

Ready to do some Holiday shopping?

Your Oakland County Logo Store has new items available for gift giving. Several new items have been added to our inventory. Check out the Logo Store online at www.oakgov.com/intranet/shop, or stop in and check out our merchandise during your lunch hour!

We have everything from beanie babies to fleece shirts. The Store is located on the fifth floor of the new Executive Office Building. You'll find a new selection of Holiday gifts for your boss/staff...and, if you don't know what to purchase for them, gift certificates are also available.

For more information, please contact Lee Ann Cieccko at 54296 or e-mail cieckol@oakgov.com.



Julie Scislowicz

For the past fifteen years, Julie Scislowicz has been the 4-H program coordinator at MSU Extension. Her job is to link the community, neighborhoods, families and individuals with the resources they need to help kids.

“Whatever we can do to assist people who care about kids do it more effectively is our goal,” Julie said.

Julie says the best part of her job is continually learning new things. She believes that it’s a very valuable thing to do because in order to help people learn, you have to keep learning yourself.

She also enjoys meeting people from all around the county and developing partnerships to make it easier for them to help young people organize 4-H clubs or after school programs.

“Julie works tirelessly with an unending spirit of optimism to implement 4-H youth development programs,” said Bev Terry, county extension director.

Away from the office, Julie enjoys reading, traveling and biking. She says her greatest accomplishment to date is surviving white water rafting in Pennsylvania. Julie and her husband, Bob, who is a truck driver, have been married for 40 years and live in Clarkston.



EMPLOYEES
of the



Laurie Phillips

Occasionally Laurie Phillips, a member of the Land Equal Tax (LET) team at Equalization, has to deal with an irate taxpayer. But Laurie says that’s usually because the person doesn’t understand the law. Once things are explained to them they usually calm right down.

In her job, Laurie makes changes to the tax rolls and makes sure they are kept in balance. Other responsibilities include doing homestead affidavits and handling ownership transfers.

“Laurie’s ability to assist the public on complex property tax issues is a tremendous asset to our division,” said Dave Hieber, manager of Equalization.

Asked what she likes most about her 10 year career at Equalization, Laurie replied: “All of it is pretty good. There’s a lot of variety and it’s nice to help taxpayers.”

Her leisure time pursuits include reading, working outside and making quilted wall hangings of various scenes. She also likes to travel, although she admits that doesn’t happen very often. Laurie has three grown children and she lives in Clarkston.



Vijay Vettiyamkumath

When it comes to someone who knows his or her way around a computer, Vijay Vettiyamkumath has few equals. As Information Technology’s technical architect, Vijay focuses on creating websites and assisting customers on court related applications.

Vijay started at IT four years ago as an application programmer II after working at Ford Motor Company in their technology department. Today he is a application analyst III who deals with publications and web technology.

Vijay says the best part of his job is working with a great team.

“Vijay is a true leader who understands technology and is always ready to pass along his knowledge to others in order to increase the overall performance of IT,” said his supervisor, Rick Perry.

At home Vijay spends a lot of time in front of the television set watching sporting events, especially the Red Wings. He also likes to keep in tip top shape by working out.

A native of India, Vijay makes the trip back to his home country about once every two years to see his brother, sister and parents. Vijay and his wife have been married for six years and they live with their three year old daughter in Walled Lake.



Michelle Estell

Michelle Estell is the newly installed supervisor of Environmental Health Services Food team at the Health Division. She serves as a standardized trainer for all new food inspectors who come through the door, reviews their reports and audits their job performance.

Although Michelle has worked in Environmental Health for thirteen years, she has only been a supervisor for the past couple of months. She also teaches the basic food safety class in the Pontiac office and at other on-site facilities around the county.

“Michelle has been a tremendous asset to the Environmental Health Unit and exemplifies a positive attitude in the workplace,” said Kathy Forzley, manager of the Health Division.

Free of her work responsibilities, Michelle likes to read, jog and spend time with her two children.

Michelle and her husband, Chuck who is a long haul truck driver, live in Clinton Township.



As a clinical casework supervisor at Children's Village, Victoria Ofiara deals daily with the residents of the facility. It's an important job and one she takes very seriously. In addition to overseeing the work of other clinicians at the Village, Victoria herself is a working supervisor who also serves as the clinician for "J" building.

"I truly love my job here, it's the best job I've ever had," Victoria says. "I love everything about it, the kids in particular and I get a real sense of fulfillment from helping them."

Her role and that of the other clinicians at Children's Village includes

providing therapeutic services to the residents such as psychological assistance, referrals and crisis intervention. "Victoria is an exemplary supervisor as well as clinician," said Jody Overall, manager of Children's Village. "With her dedication and hard work she leads by example."

In her spare time Victoria and her husband, Darren who is a sergeant with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, like to spend time on Torch Lake jet skiing. The couple lives in Grand Blanc.



Victoria Ofiara

new hires

Michele Thomassen, chemist, Walled Lake WWTP Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Lloyd Seron, maintenance laborer - Drain, Water Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Karen Drotar was hired into the Health Division's Field Nursing Unit

Moira Feinauer was hired into the Health Division's Hearing and Vision Program

Latrice Lewis was hired into the Health Division's Lead Program

Michelle Maloff was hired into the Health Division's Field Nursing Unit

Sarah Popp was hired into the Health Division's Environmental Health Unit

Cindy Spencer was hired as a supervisor in the Internal Services division

Rommel Hickman, FM&O, Heating Plant, was hired as boiler operator

Matthew George, FM&O, Facilities Mgmt, was hired as general maint. mechanic

Marvin Seibert, FM&O, Facilities Mgmt, was hired as general maint mechanic

Ryan Dushane, FM&O, Facilities Mgmt, was hired as groundskeeper II

Mary Macias, Probate Court, judicial staff attorney for Judge Barry Grant

Rachel Blenc, Probate Court, Probate Estates, student

Darrin Whitmer, Probate Court, Probate Estates, general clerical

Angelina Cummins, Probate Court, clerk for Judge Hallmark

Paulette Michel, Circuit Court, judicial secretary for Judge McDonald

Sally Schmidt, Circuit Court, clerk for Judge Anderson

David Drwencke, Circuit Court, clerk for Judge Nichols

Ryan Ballard, Circuit Court, floating court clerk

Alexander Leonowicz, Circuit Court, floating court clerk

Cynthia Lingle, Circuit Court, Judicial Administration, secretary

kudos

Michael D. Smith of the Elections Division graduated from Oakland University with a master's degree in public administration.

Melissa Davis of the Elections Division graduated from Oakland University with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Mark Wilson, STP supervisor I, WL-N STP Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, received his MDEQ class "A" certification for wastewater treatment.

Jane Kessler, PPHS, recently received a graduate certificate in Health Care Systems Teaching from Eastern Michigan University.

Regina Hosey-Branch, Health Education, received her MA in Organizational Management from Spring Arbor College.

Teresa Meredith, Management & Budget, Equalization, passed the Michigan Assessors Level II exam.

Kendra Bontinen, Management & Budget, Equalization, passed the Michigan assessors level III exam.

Eric Dunlap, Management & Budget, Equalization, passed the Michigan assessors level III exam.

Kathy Forzley, manager of the Health Division, received a Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators in September, 2008.

births

Chris George, Prosecutor's Office, and wife Erin welcomed son Baird Christopher, on 9/4/08

Holly Francis, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, and husband, Rob, welcomed a daughter, Julianna Lynn, on 6/30/08

Steve Mason, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, and wife, Kimberly, welcomed a daughter, Kaylee, on 6/5/08

Amanda Raczka, Billing Services Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, and Adam Fodor welcomed a son, Blake Wyatt Fodor, on 6/26/08

Lindsay Guellec, Billing Services Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, and Tony Allen welcomed a daughter, Haylee Allen, on 4/28/08

Jeff Hall, Prosecutor's Office, and wife Jody Hall, Corporation Counsel, welcomed son James Philip, on 9/3/08

Tom and Lisa Fockler, Health Division, adopted William Fockler age 3 on June, 2008

Amy MacGregor, Prosecutor's Office, welcomed twins -- baby boy, Jack William, and baby girl, Ryan Marie, on September 15, 2008

Arquela Walker, Probate Court, welcome daughter, Aaliya Nicole Vega, on 7/26/08

Elen Galloway, Probate Court, and husband, Sean Galloway, OCSO, welcomed daughter, Lily Simone, on 9/11/08

Courtney Marshal, Probate Court, and husband John, welcomed daughter, Sasha Nicole, on 7/25/08

Andrea Badalucco, Prosecutor's Office, welcomed daughter, Mia Catherine, on 8/6/08

Shana Cummins, Probate Court, welcomed son, Zion Tyson Miller, on 3/2/08

Heidi Pawley, Probate Court, and husband Rusty, welcome son, Ryder Michael, on 10/2/07

Whitney Calio, Waste Resource Management Division, and husband Charles, welcomed son, Nathan Charles, on 3/18/08

BENEFITS

Q & A

- Q** When is open enrollment for Natural Select 2009?
- A** Open enrollment takes place October 1 through October 15, 2008.
- Q** What is the web site address?
- A** To access the enrollment pages go to www.ocbenefits.com. You may also access it from the Oaksourc start page.
- Q** Do I have to access the web enrollment if I am making no changes?
- A** If you are making no changes to your medical, dental, vision, life insurance or reimbursement accounts for 2009, you do not need to access the web enrollment. Your current elections, including the amounts for your Health Care and Dependent Care Reimbursement accounts will be continued for 2009. However, if you have a dependent child age 19 or older in 2008, you must verify their continuing eligibility for health care, even if you want to make no other changes.
- Q** Are medical plan bi-weekly payroll contributions increasing for 2009?
- A** Yes, bi-weekly payroll contributions are increasing for most employees in 2009. Please be sure to review your Personal Information Form included in your enrollment packet to see if the increases apply to you.
- Q** Who should I contact if I have questions?
- A** You may contact the Employee Benefits Unit of the Human Resources department.

PERSON TO PERSON

L. Brooks Patterson

In this edition of the Telegraph, there is an informative article that discusses in some detail the challenges we've faced balancing the budgets for FY2009 and FY2010.

Many of the pressures on the budget are beyond our control, such as the state's economic crisis, home foreclosures and declining property values. But I think it's important for all of you to know that despite the acrobatic budget balancing act performed by our Fiscal Services Division, they've been more than up to the challenge. After all, this group of outstanding individuals consistently wins every national budget award that has come down the pike for years!



By operating on a two-year budget cycle and a five-year projection, we're able to foresee and deal with problems long before they metastasize into a fiscal cancer that can't be cured.

We're looking ahead at several more austere years, so we need to stay the course and continue our strong financial policies and practices that have enabled us to earn a AAA Bond Rating from Wall Street. Because of our expertise and hard work we have been able to avoid what other local units of government are experiencing: massive layoffs and severe program cuts.

As I said in my 2008 State of the County Address, "Oakland County works so well – because we all work so well together."

I was referring to the Board of Commissioners, the Courts, the department heads, the other countywide elected officials and of course the 4,000-plus employees who really power the engine of county government.

All of these groups stepped up – we not only met but exceeded our budget reduction targets for 2008 by \$4.9 million.

Once again everybody is playing an important role in balancing the budget over the three year period from 2008-2010, demonstrating once again why Oakland County is better than all the rest.

I truly believe, as I said in my 2008 budget message to the Board of Commissioners, that when we emerge from these budgetary challenges in the next several years, there is no doubt in my mind Oakland County will be stronger than ever.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooks".

Save the Date!

2008 Oakland County Employee Holiday Party

The 2008 Oakland County Employee Holiday Party will be held on Friday, December 12, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. at Paint Creek Country Club in Lake Orion. A delicious buffet lunch is planned along with drawings for door prizes. Employee Suggestion Program awards will be presented by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

From Whence We Came...



COMPUTER INSTALLED

An I.B.M. 1440 Computer was installed in the Data Processing Division in the basement of the west wing of the Court House on September 12. The computer which has been on order for a year, utilizes both the familiar I.B.M. cards and magnetic disc storage units. The present state of the computer can print reports at the rate of 240 lines per minute and can be altered to print 1100 lines per minute. Already on order

for delivery a year hence, is an I.B.M. 360 Model 30 which makes possible the direct input and reporting between the computer and remote stations through the County. Operations on the 1440 are measured in milliseconds (thousandth of a second) and on the 360 in nano-seconds (billionth of a second.)



Senior Programmer, Dave McBroom installing magnetic storage disc.

There is a shortage of Computer Programmers and while the County presently has all of its positions filled, if you feel you would be interested in this type of work, which involves mathematics and codes, contact the Personnel Office for an aptitude test.

Attendance Records to be kept by Computer

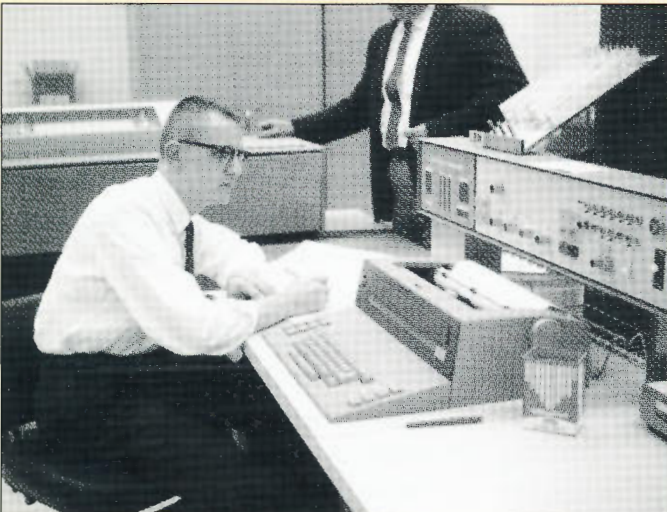
Reprinted from the Oakland County Employees' Gazette, October 21, 1966.

Update: December 1966

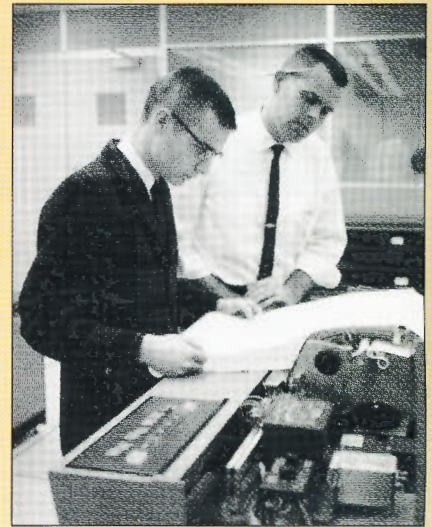
Because annual leave will be earned at five different rates, instead of the two rates we have been using in

the past, the keeping of attendance records have grown too complicated for mere mortal minds to compute.

This, plus the fact that we are having more and more employees, has led to utilization of the IBM 1440 computer of the Data Processing Division in keeping attendance records.



Dave McBroom running computer.



Programmers Marlin Starkey (l) and Richard Chapman.



Computer Console

Stuffed Pepper Soup

1st Place Oakfit Cook-off Blue Ribbon Winner
Shawn M. Griffith, Register of Deeds

- 8 oz. lean ground beef
- 1 can (28 Oz.) tomato sauce
- 1 can (28 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1/2 cup cooked white rice
- 2 cups chopped green peppers
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper

In large saucepan, brown beef and drain well. Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce and let simmer for about 40 minutes or until peppers are tender.

Serves 6

Calories = 180

Total fat = 2 g

Cholestrol = 20 mg

Sodium = 450 mg

Carbohydrates = 27g

Protein = 12g

kudos coming & going

retirements

Mike Thibodeau, chief of Golf, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 37 years of county service

Rob Coffey, Addison Oaks County Park supervisor, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 36 years of county service

Clyde Herb, chief of park operations, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 35 years of county service

Gloria Buchanan, accounting, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 35 years of county service

Dick Kallis, Glen Oaks Golf Course, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 35 years of county service

Les Gidcumb, Springfield Oaks Golf Course, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 33 years of county service

Jack Jueckstock, technical support, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 33 years of county service

Al Wummel, White Lake Oaks Golf Course maintenance supervisor, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 33 years of county service

Debbie Sajjavaro, Red Oaks Golf Course, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 31 years of county service

Joseph Figa, chief of design and development, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 30 years of county service

Dennis McGray, Red Oaks Waterpark and Golf Course, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 29 years of county service

Jan Pung, public communications officer, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 29 years of county service

Frank Trionfi, services administrator, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 29 years of county service

Joan Goddard, administration, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 24 years of county service

Linda Baker, purchasing, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 23 years of county service

Kathy Thomas, Wint Nature Center, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 23 years of county service

Sue Ball, design and development, Parks and Recreation Division, retired after 22 years of county service

Gerald Bannasch, environmental planner II – Water Maint. Admin. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, retired after 36 years of County service

Diana Calvin, Veteran's Services, retired after 37 years of service

Jack Becher, Veteran's Services, retired after 30 years of service

Jonathan Putnam, Veteran's Services, retired after 28 years of service

Tom Holmes, Veteran's Services, retired after 36 years of service

Carol Hunter, Veteran's Services, retired after 36 years of service

Pat Cosner, Information Technology, retired from the Internal Services division after 31 years of service

Mary Lyons, Information Technology, retired from the Internal Services division after 35 years of service

Cheryl Shannon, Information Technology, retired from the Technical Services and Networking division after 35 years of service

Mike Wilk, Information Technology, retired from the Administration division after 31 years of service

Dave Norkus, Health Division, EHS, retired after 32 years of service

Rosa Clay, Health Division, OSAS, retired after 16 years of service

Barb Puckett, Health Division, CSU, retired after 32 years of service

Julia Galka, Health Division, Hearing & Vision, retired after 26 years of service

Jan Betka, Health Division, Lab, retired after 29 years of service

Peg Soubly, Health Division, WIC, retired after 31 years of service

Corrine Serrell, Health Division, PPHS, retired after 26 years of service

Gary Frick, Health Division, EHS, retired after 38 years of service.

Connie Hart, Health Division, Administration, retired after 32 years of service

Timothy Jaski, Health Division, EHS, retired after 9 years of service

Joy Schumacher, Health Division, PPHS, retired after 32 years of service

Karen White, Health Division, Clinic, retired after 29 years of service

Jean Zinger, Health Division, Administration, retired after 28 years of service

Michael Hughson, FM&O, property mgmt specialist, retired after 30 years of service

John Bohn, FM&O, maintenance supervisor II, retired after 35 years of service

Jim Tillman, FM&O, groundskeeper crew chief, retired after 34 years of service

Harold Grice, FM&O, boiler operator, retired after 9.5 years of service

Willie Washington, FM&O, skilled maint mechanic II, retired after 35 years of service

Sandy Middleton, FM&O, central employee records coordinator, retired after 38 years of service

Rick Navarre, FM&O, maintenance supervisor II, retired after 33 years of service

Sue Roberson, FM&O, office assistant II, retired after 30 years of service

Don Chevalier, FM&O, custodial supervisor II, retired after 31 years of service

Sandy Wallace, FM&O, custodial worker II, retired after 33 years of service

Dick Johnston, manager, FM&O, retired after 34 years of service

Mark Conner, chief, FM&O, retired on after 33 years of service

Dave Ross, director, Facilities Management, retired after 44 years of service

Paul Gulewich, FM&O, painter, retired after 33 years of service

Robert Fachnie, Circuit Court, CHS liaison

Linda Freeland, Circuit Court, judicial secretary

Dallas Coleman, Circuit Court, Casework Services

Joy Delauter, Circuit Court, Youth Assistance, caseworker II

Kathleen Cojanu, Circuit Court, Youth and Family, caseworker II

celebrations life events

promotions and transfers

Kathryn Rose, Circuit Court, judicial secretary
Cheryl Endres, Circuit Court, judicial secretary
Mary Ann Williams, Circuit Court, judicial secretary
Deborah McAleer, Circuit Court, Youth Assistance, caseworker II
Janice Rowe, Circuit Court, Youth Assistance, caseworker II
Richard Stasys, Circuit Court, Youth Assistance, caseworker supervisor
John Greenhill, Circuit Court, Youth Assistance, caseworker supervisor
Deborah Anthony, Circuit Court, deputy register II
Marilyn McAllister, Circuit Court, Youth and Family, caseworker II
James Windell, Circuit Court, court clinical psychologist
William Bartlam, Circuit Court, Judicial Support / Judicial Assistance, manager, retired
Carole Perry-Burrell, Circuit Court, court reporter II

marriages

Phil Masters, Walled Lake WWTP Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, wed Rebecca Clausing on 6/21/08
Chris Coffey, Commerce WWTP, and Sue Piddington, Engineering Support, both with the Drain Commissioner's Office, were wed on 6/28/08
Lynda Crowell, Veterans' Services, married Glenn Shaw, 7/19/08
Nicky Hutton, Children's Village, married Sgt. Joe Brian, Sheriff's Department on 6/28/08

fond farewells

Jeff Breckenridge, Maintenance Laborer – Drain, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office
Arquela Walker, student, Probate Court, left county service to pursue career in her chosen field

Paul Lucas was promoted to maintenance mech. I, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office
Nicholas Chapman was promoted to maintenance mech. I, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office
Anthony Echols was promoted to maintenance mech. II, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office
David Kolasz to maintenance mechanic II, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office on
Steve Mason to maintenance mechanic II, Sewer/Drain Maint. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Rochelle Meacham took on a new position at Children's Village as administrator
Donna Bevington transferred from Corp. Counsel to PTNE office assistant at Veterans' Services
Liz Braddock, Health Division, was promoted to chief of Environmental Health Services

Teresa Brooks, Health Division, was promoted to Environmental Health Services supervisor

Susan Burns, Health Division, was promoted to the HIV program coordinator

Nikilia Clark, Health Division, was promoted to Environmental Health Services supervisor

Tony Drautz, Health Division, was promoted to administrator of Environmental Health Services

Dianne Ferber, Health Division, was promoted to program coordinator for the Hearing and Vision Program

Kathy Forzley, Health Division, was promoted to manager/health officer of the Health Division

Lisa Hahn, Health Division, was promoted to PHN supervisor in Field Nursing

Laura Huyghe, Health Division, was promoted to account clerk II in Health Administration

Jennifer Kirby, Health Division, was promoted to program coordinator for the Women Infant, Children's (WIC) program

Christina Nicholas, Children's Village was

promoted to the Health Division's chief of the Office of Substance Abuse Services

Karen Weiss, Health Division was promoted to supervisor of Health Central Support in the Central Support Unit

Mark P. Buffa, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to sergeant

Robert Larkin, Facilities Mgmt, FM&O, was promoted to manager of FM&O

Edward Joss, Facilities Mgmt, Administration, was promoted to supervisor – Facilities Planning

Jason Warner, Facilities Mgmt, Administration, was promoted to GIS/CAD technician I

Kurt Taylor, Facilities Mgmt, FM&O Maintenance, was promoted to chief-FM&O

Cheryl White, Facilities Mgmt, Maintenance, was promoted to maintenance supervisor I

Robert W. Smith, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to major

Timmy C. Atkins, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to captain

Daniel R. Toth, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to lieutenant

Dana Stodgel, Facilities Mgmt, Maintenance, was promoted to maintenance supervisor I

Greg White, Facilities Mgmt, Maintenance, was promoted to maintenance planner II

Michael Chaisson, Facilities Mgmt, Maintenance, was promoted to maintenance supervisor I

Wendy K. Coulter, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to secretary I

Sheryl A. Rohan, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to property room technician

Ivy Ferguson, Circuit Court, was promoted to judicial secretary for Judge Anderson

Behind The Scenes



New Stuff

Oakland County has worked very hard over the past few years to make its Web site the “gold standard” by which all other county Web sites are judged, and the effort has paid off. In fierce competition, OakGov.com was recently named the #1 county government Web site in the nation by the Center for Digital Government, a national research institute focusing on information technology and best practices in local government. The Best of the Web is a prestigious annual award that recognizes the most innovative local government portal. Oakland County took first place in a ranking of more than 3,000 county government web sites across the country.

In 2002, 2004 and 2006 Oakland County’s web site was named a Best of the Web finalist. Then in 2007, Oakland County moved up to second place in the Best of the Web competition. This year it has achieved the ultimate honor as the best county government web site in America. OakGov.com was recognized for excellence as an innovative, user-friendly web portal that delivers improved citizen access, greater efficiency and more “bang for the buck.”

The eGovernment Team



Front Row: Matt Dempsey (Student Engineer), Sandy Jaszczak, Salina Washington and Pam Zawisa
Back Row: Rafiqul Islam, Tom Nahas, Jim Taylor, Roger Thornton, Tim Shepherd, Gred Kwasnik and Chris Stinson

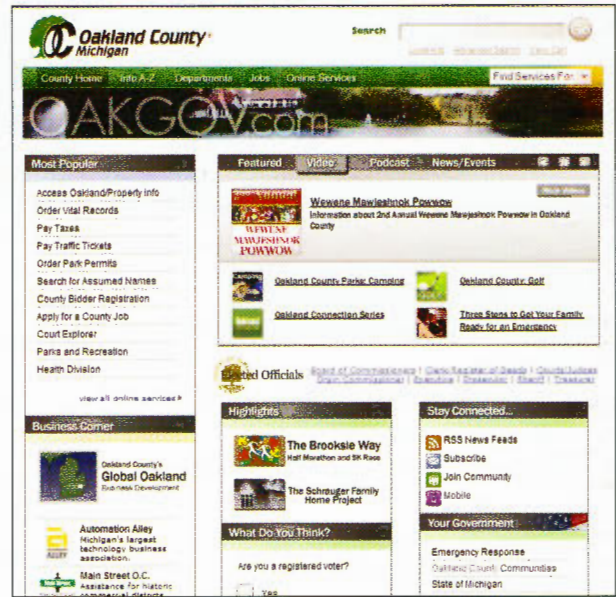


Overview

These days, technology is changing so fast it’s hard to keep up. It seems like every week there’s a new must-have gadget, a cool new Web site, or a new techie buzzword. Not even government is immune to the changing technology landscape. You may have heard the term “eGovernment,” and you might already know that Oakland County has an eGovernment team. But what does that really mean?

For starters, eGovernment is more than just the computerization of government services. eGovernment puts the power of the latest technology to work, making it easier for everyone to get what they need from the County – helping people go online instead of standing in line at a government office or waiting on hold.

Oakland County’s eGovernment team is busy working to bring County government information, programs and services right to your Web browser, whether that’s on your desktop computer or your wireless phone. The primary job of the eGovernment team is to manage the County’s ever-growing Internet presence, including the employee Intranet and public web sites like OakGov.com, GlobalOakland.com, and a Cross-Boundary Services portal that has become a tool for collaboration among local governments throughout Southeastern Michigan. This mammoth collection is made up of more than 24,000 individual web pages, 32 eCommerce services, podcasts, videos, email subscription lists, customizable maps, over 12,000 documents and forms, and more. In addition to shepherding all of that, the eGovernment team continually looks for ways to make the most of new Web technologies, to help the County provide the best, most efficient services for citizens and employees alike.



Spotlight

With all of that going on, there’s no way the eGovernment team could do it alone. A small army of Web site editors creates most of the information presented on the County’s web site, using a collaborative software program known as a Distributed Web Content Management System. More than 100 employees, spread throughout every County department, division and agency, are making changes and publishing new pages on the County’s Web site every day. The eGovernment team oversees this process in addition to creating and maintaining the overall features, functions, and design of the site. When you consider that not too long ago, Oakland County’s Web site contained only 2,000 pages and no eCommerce services, it seems pretty clear that the collaborative system is working. And now you know just how many people contributed to placing information right at your fingertips when you take a quick minute to look something up online.



The eGovernment team was a very active participant in this year’s Arts, Beats & Eats