

Telegraph



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State of the County

The 2007 State of the County Address on February 7th was brimming with interesting news and information that highlighted Oakland County's impressive achievements of the past year while trumpeting exciting new programs for the coming year.

In his nearly one hour address before a packed auditorium at the Michigan State University Management Education Center in Troy, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson talked at length about the great success of the Wireless Oakland project and outlined five separate options for funding an expanded Cobo Hall without putting the burden on taxpayers.

He also expressed a desire over the next 18 months to focus on what he calls "Quality of Life" issues to counter balance the attention he's given in recent years to economic development programs such as Emerging Sectors and Automation Alley.

"On the drawing board for the '08 calendar year will be the first Oakland County one-half marathon, 10k and 5k races modeled after the extremely successful Bobby Crim race in Genesee County," Mr. Patterson announced. The County Executive also said plans are in the works for the first ever Oakland County Winter Carnival featuring a cross country skiing challenge, sleigh rides, snow shoeing and ice carving.

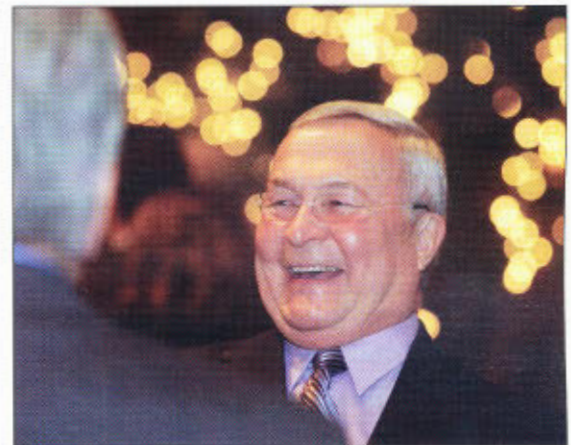
In addition, Mr. Patterson wants to put on an "Over 50 Hockey Championship Series" involving 100 qualified teams from around the region.

As he does every year, Mr. Patterson also took a few minutes to recognize and applaud the many achievements of Oakland County employees over the past year who collectively and individually earned numerous honors and awards:

- Purchasing Division – Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement Award from the National Institution of Governmental Purchasing
- Fiscal Services Division – Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting; Distinguished Budget Award and Popular Annual Financial Report from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada
- Automation Alley – U.S. Department of Commerce Award for Excellence in International Trade



State of the County crowd gathers.



Mr. Patterson enjoys a moment of relaxation before his address.

Cont. on P. 3



County women find paradise in Costa Rica

by Cindy Weil

After a six-hour plane ride, **Derenda Howard, Katie Stavale** and **Rachel Meyers**, Parks & Recreation Department employees, landed in Liberia, a northern town in Costa Rica.

Tourists flock there to see stunning beaches, a magnificent setting with islands offshore, lush

rainforest laced with a network of easy-to-walk trails and wildlife galore.

The group chose Costa Rica for their 10-day journey based on Howard's past travels to the country and economics.

"We decided we wanted to go cheap," Howard said. "Costa Rica is that, very tourist friendly, and the most developed of the eco-tour countries."

A quick first night was spent in a low budget hotel, complete with fleas. The following day the three adventurers took a bus to Hotel Manuel Antonio, the first hotel built near Manuel Antonio National Park, where they stayed four glorious nights overlooking the pristine Pacific Ocean and unending coastline.

"The town is a beautiful, beach bum kind of locale", Howard said.

They hiked in the national park and town in Quepos and ventured into the rainforest for a canopy tour adventure, traveling along zip lines from platform to platform, face to face with jungle flora and fauna.

"The highlight of the trip was the canopy tour," Meyers said. "I liked the zip line that we used to fly from tree to tree to see the whole rain forest. It was amazing!"

Travel inland by bus took them to Tabacon Hot Springs Resort at the base of Arenal Volcano for four more glorious days. The Tabacon Hot Springs, set amidst stunning lush greenery, rare orchids and superb waterfalls, offers the ultimate indulgence for those who want some peace and quiet.

"The volcano is active and the hot springs water is naturally heated by the volcano lava," Howard said. "We walked across the lava flow. "

"I think my absolute favorite tour was when Derenda and I did an extensive seven-hour hike that took us up a hill off the beaten path," Stavale said.

Howard said, "We signed up for a trek up Chato Hill, a dead volcano. The path, which was actually a rainwater runoff chute, went almost straight up 1,500 meters. It was more of a climb than a hike. The descent was as challenging, if not more than the climb. It was real technical. We were not tied together and a loss of footing could mean a fall all the way down."

Stavale added, "Our jaunt ended with a hike down to a 150-foot waterfall. It was one of the most physically challenging hikes I have taken. Our 'trail' was very muddy but worth every step! The only downfall was not being able to take pictures due to the rain and mud."

"By the end our muscles were quivering," Howard said. A visit to the hot springs completed the day's journey.

While Howard and Stavale climbed, Meyers opted for a soak in the hot springs and spa day at the resort.

"The spa day included a volcanic mud bath where warm mud was slathered on me and dried", Meyers said. "Then I was wrapped in hot towels and finally showered to get it all off. Then I had a relaxing massage. The two-hour experience was heavenly."

They saw and heard a number of howler monkeys. "A monkey howling outside our hotel room window woke us up. The howl is like a bark and a howl combined," Howard said.

According to Howard, typical Costa Rican cuisine is beans and rice with a vegetable and chicken or fish.

"We went to a restaurant with the best guacamole – they made it right in front of us and we got to pick what they put in it," Howard added.

The group returned to Liberia on day 10 to catch a return flight home.

"Costa Rica was amazing! I have never seen a place that was so green!" Stavale concluded. "I recommend a trip to Costa Rica for anyone and everyone!"



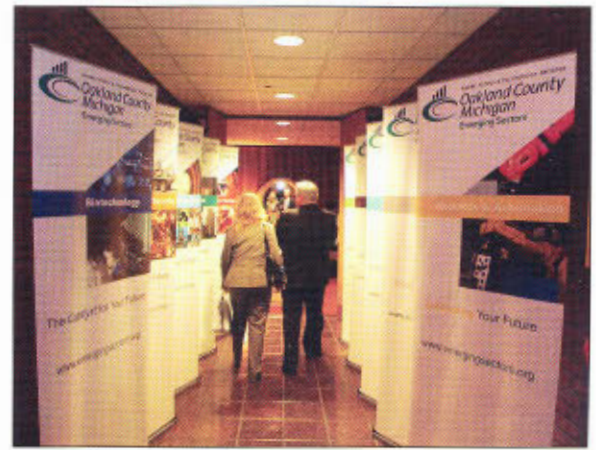
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- Oakland County International Airport – Balchen-Post Award from the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives for outstanding performance in airport snow and ice removal (2005-2006) in the category of large aviation airports
- Animal Control Division – Nomination by the ASPCA as Shelter of the Year (nationally) and Unsung Heroes Award from WCSX Radio.
- OakVideo – 2006 Digital Government Achievement Award in Government-to-Government Category
- Emergency Response and Preparedness – State Award for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training
- Retirement Division – 2006 Leadership Recognition Award from the National Association of Governmental Defined Contribution Administrators for the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- Oakland County – Fourth Most Digital County in America for populations over 500,000 from the Center for Digital Government and National Association of Counties (NACo)
- Oakland County – Eleven NACo Achievement Awards for 2006 (Apprenticeship Outreach Program; Airport Ground Run-Up; Criminal Justice Data Warehouse; Culturally Competent Chemical Dependency Program for Hispanic Families; Hospital Mutual Aid Consortium Agreements; Identity and Access Management; Infant Health Promotion Billboard Campaign; Interactive Vulnerability Zone Map; Medical Reserve Team (MRT) Program; Modular Emergency Medical System and Superhighway to Success: Career Pathways for the 21st Century
- OakVideo – CIO Magazine Award as one of its 100 Award Winners for 2006
- OakVideo – Michigan Digital Summit Award Winner for Most Innovative Use of Technology
- Oakland County – Named a 2006 Best of the Web County Portal finalist by Center for Digital Government
- Sheriff's Department – National Gains Center, recognized for the collection and dissemination of information regarding effective mental health and substance abuse services, selected Sheriff's Office Post Book Jail Diversion Program for a presentation at their national convention in May
- Oakland County Probate Judge Eugene Moore – Recipient of the 2006 "Friend of Children" Award by the Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan
- Oakland County Circuit Judge Fred Mester – Received the Oakland County Republican Party's 23rd Annual Salute to Justice Lifetime Achievement Award and the Michigan State Bar "Champion of Justice" Award
- James Windell (Family Division of Circuit Court, Clinical Psychologist) – Received the Michigan Psychological Association's Beth Clark Award for outstanding service
- Kevin O'Shaughnessey (Youth Specialist, Children's Village) – Recipient of Department of Health and Human Services Lifesaving Award
- Joshua Moyses (Youth Specialist, Children's Village) - Recipient of Department of Health and Human Services Lifesaving Award
- Dawn Smith (Human Resources) – Voted Automation Alley Member of the Year
- Julie Secontine (Risk Manager) – Received federal appointment to serve on a select national committee to review homeland security grant applications submitted by states
- Commissioner Eric Coleman – Received the 2006 County Political Leader of the Year Award and is President-Elect of the National Association of Counties (NACo)
- Dr. L. J. Dragovic (Medical Examiner) - Received a gubernatorial certificate recognizing his participation on the Task Force on Elder Abuse



Emerging Sectors banners displayed the counties commitment to developing new industries.



The new edition of Oakland received a lot of interest from the participants..

In closing, Mr. Patterson dispelled a rumor that he would not be seeking reelection in 2008. "Only God or the voters of this county will prevent me from returning to this hall next year and the years after to report on the state of Oakland County," Mr. Patterson said.

With that the County Executive thanked his audience for taking time out of their busy schedules to listen to the State of the County. Then he said good night and walked off the stage to thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Employee Wellness Fair is scheduled for Friday, September 21st at the Oakland Schools Building.

Watch the Oakfit Website for further details!

Count Your Steps Gets a Rousing Send Off for 2007

More than 1,200 enthusiastic and energetic 4th grade students from elementary schools in Walled Lake jammed the auditorium of Walled Lake Central High School on Monday, March 5th to give the 2007 version of Count Your Steps a high energy, musical launch that even a Broadway producer would have been proud of.

Radio Disney (910 AM) air personality Nik-EE and her D-Tour troupe lit up the stage at Walled Lake Central with great music and interactive games for the kids featuring hoola-hoop and jump rope contests as well as a unique version of musical chairs.

Nik-EE and her talented gang had the auditorium literally “rocking and reeling” with pulsating music. The kids really loved it and threw themselves into the festivities with all the enthusiasm they could muster.

Even our erstwhile Health Division Manager George Miller participated in the hoola-hoop contest, proving very graphically why someone of his age and physical condition should never do anything like that again in public. Let’s just say that George’s “hoola-hoop days” are far behind him.

As emcee for the event though, George did a terrific job talking about the importance of Count Your Steps and the urgent need to coax kids out from behind their Playstations and Nintendos to engage in daily physical activity. He also told the audience the program founded by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson was a pro-active way to address the growing national epidemic of childhood obesity.

George also recognized this year’s Count Your Steps sponsors: General Motors; Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan; POH Medical Center; HealthPlus of Michigan; Radio Disney; Rock Financial; Henry Ford Health Systems; HAP and Channel 20 in Detroit.

Walled Lake was chosen as the location for the 2007 CYS kick off because the district’s 3rd and 4th grade students took top honors in the program last year walking a combined total of 275,355,247 steps. Count Your Steps ran from March 5th - 30th. This year 180 schools, representing 883 classrooms and more than 22,000 3rd and 4th grade students participated in the program.



Oakland County Employees are “squeezing” fitness into their days! Here’s how:

“I’m trying to do a few things. Instead of using the phone or the computer, I try to get up and walk down the halls when I need to speak to a fellow employee.... And, I take the stairs instead of the elevator at all times. I’ve begun to eat healthier, watching not only my portions but what is on the plate. So far, I’m down 3 pounds since the first of the month!”

--Bob Gatt, *Community Corrections*

“This year my present to myself is to lose 30 pounds by my birthday on 9/18. To do that I will unbury the treadmill I already have, USE IT 5 times a week (30-45 min), by what ever means necessary. Squeezing in a workout is no longer an option...it has to be a priority...because squeezing into my clothes IS the problem.”

--Kevin Larsen, *Chief Deputy Drain Commissioner*

“I run during the lunch hour almost daily for 40/50 minutes, usually with a co-worker. On weekends I will usually run 6 to 8 miles near my home or at a park. I do light weight machines and sit-ups at least 3 times per week at my fitness club. Have a stationary bike & Nordic Track machine at home that I use if I can’t get a run in. The key is to be consistent to the extent that exercise is addictive.”

--Ron Foon, *Friend of the Court*

“We walk our 2 dogs before work and after dinner regardless of the weather. Also, I work out at Powerhouse gym on my lunch hour a few times a week. It’s convenient and they offer a membership discount to Oakland County employees.”

--Dan Cojanu, *Prosecutor’s Office*

Did you know that there are lunchtime fitness programs available for employees??

Monday’s & Wednesday’s

Waterford Oaks Activity Center

Low level cardio, plus flexibility and strength training class

10 weeks \$90

Tuesday’s & Thursday’s

Powerhouse Gym (Waterford)

Pilates/Yoga & Weight Training

10 classes \$75

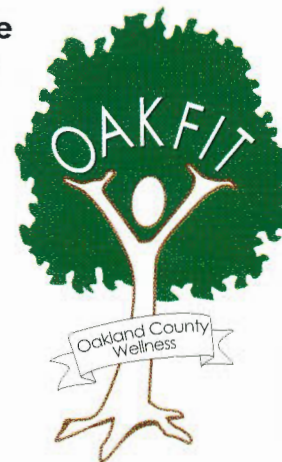
Team Fitness

Waterford Schools & Functional Physical Therapy

Pool & fitness center usage/program (able to participate in program anytime pool and fitness center is open)

3 months. \$75 (\$25 for current Waterford pool & fitness members)

For further information visit the Oakfit website or contact Dawn Smith at 248.858.5473.



Mothers, Daughters, and Leaders of Oakland County

The nominations were made, the votes were tallied, and the extraordinary women from our local community are showcased and on display at the Rochester Hills Museum through June 16, 2007.

Learn about the world-renowned surgeon from Stony Creek Village, the slave who purchased land from the founder of Pontiac, the soprano soloist who spent months performing for Holocaust survivors, and many other incredible women of Oakland County. The exhibit also presents historic women's events from a national and statewide perspective, spanning from women's suffrage to the first female governor of Michigan.

Elizabeth Denison Forth, otherwise known as Lisette Forth was an ex-slave who became the first black property owner in Pontiac. She purchased the land from Stephan Mack, Pontiac's founder, and that property is now Oak Hill Cemetery. For many years, Lisette worked for Detroit Mayor John Biddle and his family.



Martha Baldwin spearheaded many women's suffrage movements, village improvement movements, and ran fundraisers for the local library. As such, after Martha's death her local library was named the Baldwin Library in Birmingham, Michigan.



Emma Schaver was trained as a soprano soloist. She used her talents to comfort Holocaust survivors after WWII. Emma and her husband were members of the first cultural mission to Europe after WWII. She was also a performer that met the first group of Holocaust survivors relocated to New York. Later in life, Emma Schaver went on to set up a number of scholarship and endowment funds for Wayne State University, the Emma Lazaroff Schaver Library at the Shul in West Bloomfield, and many others. Emma was awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award from the State of Israel and had a memorial concert performed in her honor following her death.



This exhibit is made possible with support from the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester, the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester, the Daimler Chrysler Art Oakland Art Fund Program, Oakland County Arts & Culture, the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, Outback Steakhouse of Rochester Hills, Classic Printers, WSI, Hank's Fly Fishing, and Barbara A. Markham-Artist.

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm is a Nationally Registered Historic Site and is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. The Museum is located on Van Hoosen Road - off of Tienken Road - one mile east of Rochester Road - just one mile north of Downtown Rochester. For more information, contact the Museum at 248.656.4663 or visit the Museum's website at www.rochesterhills.org.

New Executive Office Building

2100 Pontiac Lake, Waterford, MI 48328

Building Directory

5th Floor

County Executive
Deputy County Executives
Directors
Logo Store

4th Floor

Risk Management
Payroll
Part of Fiscal Services Division

3rd Floor

Remainder of Fiscal Services Division
Labor Relationship
Lunchroom for the Building

2nd Floor

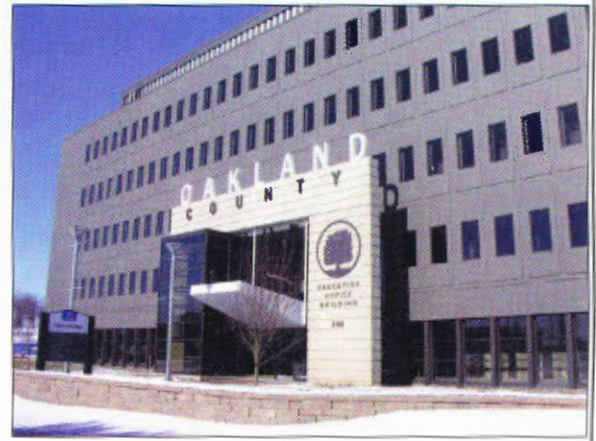
Human Resources
Public Counter for Job Applications

1st Floor

Economic Development and Community Affairs
One-Stop Shop
Waste Resource Management
Information Desk in Main Lobby
Conference Center to accommodate 240 people
Computer Training Room

Lower Level

Purchasing



All departments/divisions moving to the new EOB will retain their current telephone and fax numbers, with the exception of Risk Management. Below is a list of the new telephone numbers for employees in Risk Management:

Julie Secontine:	858-1558
Sandy Johnson:	858-1575
Terri Easterling:	858-1594
Julie Knaus:	858-1653
Dean Schultz:	858-1674
Andrea Plotkowski:	858-1694
Fax:	452-9796

EMPLOYEES of the Month

As a veteran's benefits counselor supervisor in Veterans' Services, Belinda Duggan plays the dual role of getting the maximum benefits for her clients while also making sure the office runs smoothly.



Belinda Duggan

Belinda and those she supervises are really good at what they do. Each quarter, Belinda and her team bring in approximately \$1 million for their clients.

Belinda's been a mainstay of the division since 1989 and was promoted to supervisor in 1997.

The best part of the job? Belinda says it's the people she works with - clients and colleagues alike. As she puts it, "they're a great group of people."

When she and her husband, Daniel, got married in 1987, they made a decision to visit a different state each year. With a chuckle, Belinda says it was kind of her way of ensuring they would be married for at least 50 years.

"Belinda is reliable and really takes care of business," says Diana Calvin, manager of Veterans' Services. "I always trust that Belinda will get the job done." The Duggans are currently in the process of moving from Harper Woods to northern Oakland County.

Lisa Currier is Purchasing's version of the "techie." Working as a purchasing assistance coordinator, Lisa handles the financial system, mans the help desk and does all the testing for the new computer system upgrades. She works closely with Information Technology on any problems that might come up.



Lisa Currier

She's been doing this for ten years, although Lisa actually started in Purchasing as a co-op student and then worked her way up through the ranks after earning her degree.

"The best part of my job is being able to work with the different departments," Lisa says. "I get to know a lot of people."

Lisa and her husband, Tim, who's a funeral director at Wint Funeral Home in Clarkston, have two boys ages 6 and 4. The family enjoys camping together and they often visit her parents place outside of Cadillac where other outdoor activities are enjoyed.

"Lisa is a perfect employee," says Joe Hylla, Purchasing Division manager. "When you give Lisa a problem or issue to deal with, she won't quit until a solution has been found." Lisa and her family live in Waterford.

When it comes to the Health Division, Pete Koneda has his fingers on the pulse of what's going on. That's because as the storekeeper in charge of medical supplies for the clinics, labs and emergency preparedness, he deals directly with just about everybody.



Pete Koneda

In May, Pete will celebrate his 11th anniversary with the Health Division. He originally hired into the county with Grounds as a PTNE and worked there six months before moving over to Health.

"Being able to help out everybody in the Health Division is the best part of what I do," Pete says. "It's nice to have a hand in just about every department and every job."

In his spare time, Pete likes to write and play music, canoe and spend time with his family which includes twin 13 year old daughters. He's in a band called the "Hunchies," the name coming from a rule in the game of marbles which allows "no hunchies." His group plays mostly for their own enjoyment, but they do occasionally perform out in public.

"Pete continuously performs his duties in an exemplary manner," says Sue Johnston, chief of Public Health Administrative Services. "His positive outlook and can-do attitude make him well respected by everyone." Pete and his daughters live in Waterford.

Next time your computer goes down – a good guy to know is Joe Tabor. He's the supervisor of the workstation services group at IT. It's Joe's job to make sure all PC's and laptops function properly. Joe says it really keeps him busy, but it also makes the day go by very quickly. "I love my job because I get to troubleshoot different challenges almost on a daily basis," Joe says. "The job never gets boring."



Joe Tabor

Joe started with the county as a 17 year old student, working his way up the ladder over the past 17 years.

In addition to his family, Joe's passion is professional football. On Sundays, Monday nights and occasionally on Thursday nights, you can expect to find Joe sitting in front of the TV watching the gridiron gladiators do battle.

"Joe gets things done and really rolls up his sleeves, pitches in and delivers," says David Veit, manager of Technical Systems and Networking at IT. "He is great with our IT customers, often receiving compliments on how well he handles challenging situations with expertise and a smile."

Joe and his wife, Jennifer, live in Pontiac and are parents of two boys and a girl ages 7 years, 10 years and a year and a half.

When a young person is ordered by the court to Children's Village, one of the people he or she is likely to meet is Jacquese "Jackie" Squirewell, youth specialist.

Jackie works closely with the residents of the Village, serving as their counselor and confidant. She helps them work through issues and develop skills that will make it easier for them to adapt to the outside world when they're released.

"I love working with the kids and staying close to them until their release," Jackie says. "It's gratifying to see the positive changes that come over them and know that I had a little something to do with that."

When not at work, Jackie likes to spend quality time with her family – mom and dad and brother – just hanging out watching TV or going to breakfast.

"Jackie is an exceptional youth specialist who always has the best interests of those she supervises in mind," says Joanna Overall, manager of Children's Village. "Jackie is a joy to work with and her contribution to the team is continuously upbeat and productive."

Jackie lives in Southfield.



Jacquese "Jackie" Squirewell

Paul Gulewich may not be a modern day Michelangelo and his work may not compare to that of the Sistine Chapel, but his mastery is still on display all around the county campus. Paul has been a painter in the Facilities Maintenance Division for the past 32 years. He paints everyday and his current project is a hallway at the Medical Care Facility.

"The best part of the job is being able to get around to the various departments and meeting new people," Paul says. "Over the years, I've developed lasting friendships through my job."

On occasion, Paul takes his work home with him when he's faced with a painting project at his residence. But he does admit, the home projects may take a little longer to complete than his work projects, because he has a habit of putting them off.

"Paul is recognized as a skilled painter who shows up everyday and does exceptional work with a minimum of disruption to those around him," Dick Johnston, FM&O manager says. "He is a respected leader who leads by example and is always organized."

Although Paul takes part in a wide variety of outdoor activities including cross country skiing, hiking and playing golf, his favorite pastime is reading, primarily historical novels. Paul, who lives in Waterford, has two sons ages 30 and 23.



Paul Gulewich

Oakland County Circuit Judge Gene Schnelz is Stepping Down

Below is his letter of resignation

This June will mark my 50th anniversary as an attorney, 32 years of which I have spent as a full time Judge, a truly rewarding experience. It is the type of anniversary that makes one reflect. After much prayerful consideration, I have decided it is time to make a career change. Therefore, on July 7 of this year, I will leave the Bench. I will not be leaving the practice of law however, as I love and enjoy it too much. Instead, I will be joining the law firm of Schnelz Wells PC, concentrating primarily on mediation and arbitration using my lengthy experience as a Trial Judge to also fulfill a long held desire to practice law with my son, Kurt.

I am announcing now so as to end the speculation as to my plans. This will also give ample time to complete the laborious process of selecting my successor. I picked that specific date in recognition of the 102nd anniversary of my father's birth. Given his sense of humor, I know he would enjoy the symmetry of 7/7/07.

Finally, there is a rumor circulating since I, along with three other long-term Judges, will be leaving the Bench in two years due to term limitation. That's the reason I have decided to depart now, just so I can guarantee my own personal retirement party. The rumor is correct.

The only regrets I have are leaving the wonderful daily fellowship and camaraderie of my fellow Circuit and Probate Judges. The mutual support and respect we share for each other is to be envied by any organization. I will also miss my excellent staff as well as regular interaction with the dedicated people working in the many various Courthouse and County divisions. I must also specifically note the outstanding service provided to our Courts by the Sheriff's Department. Truly, the entire County operation is a great team effort which has as its primary goal, service to the public.

Gene Schnelz
Circuit Court Judge

April Showers Bring May Flowers at the Farmers Market

The Oakland County Farmers Market, located in the County Market building at 2350 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford, will be open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. starting in May.

Visit the website at www.oakgov.com/cmarket for market information and download a produce availability guide indicating peak harvest times of Michigan agricultural products.

BENEFITS

Q & A

Q I understand the Employee Benefits Unit and the Retirement Unit have a new address.

A Yes. Effective April 5, our new address is 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328. We are located on the second floor of the new Executive Office Building, 41W.

Q Will any of your contact numbers be changing?

A No, (with one exception). The telephone numbers for the individuals in the Employee Benefits Unit and Retirement Units will remain the same. The fax number for both units will be 248.858.1511. This is new for the Retirement Unit but the same one the Benefits Unit had before the move.

Q I understand Delta Dental has made an improvement to the coverage.

A Yes. Effective January 1, 2007, dental implants became a part of the benefit. For those employees whose dental situation is such that implants are a consideration, this is something you can talk over with your dentist. More information will be following on this addition.

Q Anything on the horizon regarding our Health Care and Dependent Care flexible spending account programs?

A Yes. For those of you participating in these programs through Natural Select, we anticipate that in May or June you will be able to access your account information on-line. Professional Benefits Services will be sending a letter to participants once this option is in operation.

PERSON TO PERSON

L. Brooks Patterson



Many times over the past 14 years, Oakland County employees have stepped up to help people touched by tragedy and misfortune. Since the Casual Day program began in 1993, your contributions to the "jean jars" have totaled more than half a million dollars. These funds have been distributed to literally hundreds of charities and needy individuals throughout Oakland County and beyond. The dollars collected have gone to purchase food, clothing, defray medical expenses and for a vast array of other purposes. Your caring, compassion and generosity have made it possible for those experiencing setbacks to rise above their circumstances and deal as best they can with the sometimes harsh vicissitudes of life.

This includes my own family. When I lost my son, Brooksie, suddenly and tragically in February, our employees responded with an outpouring of sympathy which gave me and my family great strength and comfort.

A number of employees came forward to suggest a Special Casual Day for Brooksie's widow, Jessie, and their three young children. Quite honestly, the idea never occurred to me. But with so many people wanting to do something to help, a decision was made to go ahead with a special Casual Day for the family on February 22nd. As you can imagine the sudden and unexpected passing of my son left his financial estate in disarray and immediate needs of his family had to be met. More than \$6,000 was collected which will help Jessie and her children temporarily meet their day-to-day living expenses until their financial affairs can be put in order. On behalf of myself and the entire Patterson family, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the wonderful support you have shown at this difficult time. It is appreciated more than you will ever know.



It's Almost Spring and Time to Play Ball!

County employees interested in forming a departmental co-ed softball team can contact Kerry Kampsen at 2-9119 or kampsenk@oakgov.com by April 27th. Games are played on Wednesday's at 6:00 pm on fields around the county complex. The season starts in late May and ends in August.

COME PLAY! CALL TODAY!

Casual Day Fund Distributions

The Oakland County Employees Casual Day donations for 2006 totalled \$19,000. Checks were distributed to the following charities:

- Rainbow Connection, Rochester
- POH Children's Clinic, Pontiac
- Give-a-Christmas Year Round, c/o The Daily Tribune, Royal Oak
- Friends of Little Oaks, Waterford
- Child Abuse and Neglect Council, Pontiac
- Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Birmingham
- Camp Mak-A-Dream, Farmington Hills
- Donate Life Coalition of Michigan, Commerce and Easter Seals, Waterford.

Oakland County and Weight Watchers Team Up to Trim the Fat

Years ago, a 330 pound weight lifting buddy of mine was fond of saying – “Thin may be in, but fat’s where it’s at.” Well times have certainly changed. Today my buddy is about 230 pounds after undergoing quadruple heart bypass surgery. He also jogs about 5 miles a day.

Thin is definitely in these days and Oakland County has recognized that reality by launching a broad-based Wellness Initiative which now includes a partnership with Weight Watchers.

During a kick off event on January 31st, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson quipped – “I saw my picture in the paper and the only thing missing was the apple in my mouth.”

Mr. Patterson went on to say he wants a healthy workforce because of the positive impact it would have on productivity, absenteeism and the prevention of chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Weight Watchers at Work Meetings are being held at various locations around the County complex during the lunch hour. The onsite weight management meetings give employees the tools, resources and motivation they need to reach a healthy weight.

“This is the first county in the United States to take this initiative,” said Florine Mark, President and CEO of Weight Watchers Group, Inc.

According to Weight Watchers, people who attend Weight Watchers meetings lose three times more weight than those who go it alone and more physicians recommend Weight Watchers than any other weight loss plan.

At the kick off event, held in the Library Conference Room of the West Wing Extension, Florine Mark’s personal chef, Chef Tim, prepared three mouthwatering soups – broccoli and asparagus; cannelloni bean and cabbage. In addition, Walden Farms donated marshmallow dip, caramel dip and chocolate dip all of which were fat free and sugar free.

Prizes were also awarded to the following people:



Carol Machiela, Clerks Office	WW Gift Bag
Betty Mix, Information Technology	WW Gift Bag
Patty Salter, Information Technology	WW Gift Bag
Pam Width, Prosecutor’s Office	WW Gift Bag
Donna Riley, Circuit Court	WW Lunch Bag
Russ Larson, Treasurer’s Office	Set of 2 WW Cookbooks
Sue Minard, Prosecutor’s Office	Oakfit Cookbook
Natalie Neph, Treasurer’s Office	Oakfit Cookbook
Lt. Berry Zeeman, Sheriff’s Office	Oakfit Blanket
Jackie Scribner, Information Technology	Oakfit Long Sleeve T-Shirt
Phillip DeBarr, Circuit Court	Oakfit Long Sleeve T-Shirt

To learn more about Weight Watchers, visit www.8883florine.com or call 1-888-3-Florine. For additional information on the County’s Wellness Initiative visit the OakFit website at <http://www.oakgov.com/intranet/wellness/programs/weightloss.html> or contact Dawn Smith in Human Resources at 248-858-4573.

7th Annual Employee Art Show Results

The results of the Hidden Talents: 7th Annual Employee Art Show were announced at the artist’s reception on December 20th, 2007. The winning artworks were chosen by Bill Stolpin, a local printmaker and professional artist, whose art is in such collections as the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the Flint Institute of Arts.

A certificate and an art book were awarded to the following artists:

1st Place: Rachel Adler, Planning and Economic Development Services, “Landscapes,” oil paint on panel

2nd Place: Lori Taylor, Parks and Recreation, “Little Red Riding Hood,” mixed media

3rd Place: Barbara Puckett, Health Division, “Kaleidoscope,” stained glass

Honorable Mention: Robert Batzloff, Sheriff’s Department, “Dedication,” photography

Honorable Mention and People’s Choice: Keith Binkowski, (relative) Prosecutor’s Office, “Factory of Dusk,” mixed media

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the 7th Annual Oakland County Employee Art Show!



Dennis Toffolo, Deputy County Executive, and Doug Smith, Director of Economic Development presented the awards to art show participants.

kudos coming & going

births



David Burmeister, Children's Village and wife Stephanie welcomed their son Evan James Burmeister, on 2/7/07. Evan weighed 8 lbs., 7 oz.

Justine, Water Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, and Tim Gunn have a new baby boy, Kolt, born 1/22/07

Janian Hope Johnson, daughter of Eric (Miss Dig Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office) & Lisa Johnson was born 1/26/07

Matt Roth, Prosecutor's Office, welcomes the birth of son Ethan Charles Roth, born on 1/25/07.

Cindy Brown Vida, Prosecutor's Office, welcomes the birth of son Evan Thomas Vida, born on 2/9/07.

Christopher George, Prosecutor's Office, welcomes the birth of son Riordan Christopher, born on 2/25/07.

Laura Riddell, Health Division, gave birth to a baby girl on 12/19/06. Elizabeth Scarlett was 6lbs. 11ozs and 19 1/4 inches long.

Teresa Brooks, Health Division, gave birth to a baby boy on 9/30/06. Rocco Jasper was 9lbs., 3 ozs. and 21 3/4 inches long.

Dayna Kennedy, Health Division, gave birth to a baby girl on 1/30/07. Vanaya Marie was 8 lbs., 3 ozs. and 20 1/2 inches.

Michael Morris, Health Division, and his wife Jackie welcomed a new baby boy to their family on 2/12/07. Ryan Michael was 7lbs., 9ozs. and measured 20 inches long.

Ryan Robinson, Drain Commission, Survey Unit, and his wife, Christy, had a baby boy, Chase, on 11/25/06

retirements

Dennis Acker retired from Children's Village on 11/14/06

Sheila Cole (court reporter for Judge McDonald) -- January 2, 2007

Gary (Doc) Prud'homme (Youth and Family Caseworker) -- February 2, 2007

Edward Wydra, Facilities Management, FM&O, Building Safety retired on 1/26/07

new hires

Charles Rodgers was hired as a Children's Village youth specialist I

John Wing, maintenance laborer, Water Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Amanda Allgood was hired as a Children's Village youth specialist I

Trent Jordan was hired as a Children's Village youth specialist I

Kenneth Harvell was hired as a Children's Village youth specialist I

Patrick Johnson, hired as a Children's Village youth specialist I

Michael Tower, Maintenance Laborer, GWK RTB Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Renay Dillon was hired into the Health Division's Personal and Preventive Health Unit

Elizabeth Ferrise was hired into the Health Division's Personal and Preventive Health Unit

Rene Kubiak was hired into the Health Division's Personal and Preventive Health Unit

Gloria Lutey was hired into the Health Division's Personal and Preventive Health Unit

Fran McClish was hired into the Health Division's Personal and Preventive Health Unit

Jennifer Septer was hired into the Health Division's Personal and Preventive Health Unit

Garett Smith, hired into the Health Division's Environmental Health Services Unit.

Alfreda Connors, floating court reporter

Alicia Dyer, judicial staff atty

David Bilson, juvenile court referee

marriages



Danielle Franz of Information Technology to Adam Randall on August 17, 2006 on Maui, Hawaii.

Dawn Maich, GIS/IT Support, Drain

Commissioner's office, and Lon Cooper were married 10/14/06.

Congrats to Wendy Davidson (Hibbard) and her new husband Allen Davidson married on October 14, 2006.

Daniel McLean, court clerk for Judge Andrews
Pamela Voll, court reporter for Judge McDonald

Conan Duda, court clerk for Judge Warren
Therese Joseph, youth assistance caseworker I
Leo Bowman, circuit court judge

Cheryl Stocker, secretary I -- Juvenile/Adoptions

Alicia Urbain, Circuit Court projects coordinator

Kathy Spataford, clinical psychologist

Keela Johnson, court clerk for Judge Young

Cleveland Wester, youth and family caseworker

Stacey Remick, youth and family caseworker
Leeanne Teller, student, Case Management Office

Kirsten Vestrand, student, Juvenile

Krista Gaberty, public services, Veterans' Services

Annette Drussel, Facilities Management, FM&O, PTNE general helper in Building Safety Unit

Timothy Lewis, Facilities Management, FM&O, was hired as general helper in Building Safety Unit

Sheena Harrison, Case Management, was hired as an intern

Matthew Petterson, Facilities Management, FM&O, was hired as general helper in Custodial Unit

Leeanne Teller, Circuit Court Case Management, was hired on 3/9/07

Jason Kulczycki was hired as a customer service technician in the CLEMIS division

Greg Kwasnik was hired as a project manager in the eGovernment division

Michael Dagle was hired as a user support specialist in the Application Services division

fond farewells

Laura Keeley, Case Management, left Oakland County on 3/2/07 to accept a position for the District Court in Ferndale.

celebrations life events

promotions



Sherrri Gee to chief drain administrative services, Admin. Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Anthony Campaign to maintenance mechanic, Water Maintenance Unit,

Drain Commissioner's Office

Steve Korth, to chief engineer, Engineering Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Brandie Neil was promoted to Children's Village youth specialist II

Ivy Chism was promoted to Children's Village case coordinator I

Marjorie Goforth was promoted to Children's Village youth specialist II

Keith Miller was promoted to Children's Village youth specialist supervisor

Juan Santiago was promoted to Children's Village youth specialist II

Julie Wightman was promoted to Children's Village support specialist

Kenyatta Dawkins was promoted to Children's Village youth specialist II

Kristy Drouillard was promoted to Children's Village youth & family casework supervisor

Dave Lawrey to drain easement coordinator, Right-of-Way Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Henry Rokosz to maintenance mechanic I, Pump Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Mike Baker to construction inspector II, Soil Erosion Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Adam Cameron to construction inspector II, Soil Erosion Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Corinna Sutton to pump maintenance mechanic II, GWK RTB Unit, Drain commissioner's Office

Terry Chase, Health Division, was promoted as the nutrition program coordinator

Nicole Cain, promoted to office asst. II, Probate

Richard Lynch, Circuit Court, promoted to manager, Civil/Criminal Division

Gwynne Starkey, Circuit Court, promoted to chief, Civil/Criminal Division

Jenny Clerk, Circuit Court, promoted to supervisor, Clerk Support

Susan Bennington, Circuit Court, promoted to user support specialist I

Laura Hutson, Circuit Court, promoted to court clerk coordinator

Lisa Czyz, Circuit Court, promoted to supervisor, Criminal Case Support

Chalres A. Snarey, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to major/deputy chief of staff of Corrective and Court Services

Berry Zeeman, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to captain

Larry W. Perry, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to lieutenant

Christopher W. Wundrach, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to lieutenant

Dorothy F. Hall, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to lieutenant

Elton K. Hill, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to sergeant

Gerald E. Schroeder, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to sergeant

William D. Sweet, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to sergeant

Barbara E. Almas, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to secretary II

Lisa Czyz, Case Management, was promoted to supervisor of criminal case support

Ted Middleton, Facilities Management, FM&O, as promoted to shift supervisor building safety

Steve Stanford, Facilities Management / Facilities Engineering, was promoted to facilities project coordinator

Micky Simpkinson, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Eric Hix, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Shawn Pace, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Jason Randolph, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Scott R. Cadzow, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Jeffrey E. Enger, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Craig Hanselman, Sr., Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Gary Mayberry, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Heather Pender, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Nancy Pierson, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

Bethany Ziemore, Sheriff's Department, was promoted to deputy II

transfers



Christine Miracle transferred from the Friend of the Court to Support Services as a secretary II

Tonya Fugate transferred from Golden Oaks Medical Care Facility to Facilities Management, FM&O Custodial Unit

Deborah L. Dean, Management and Budget Department, transferred from Fiscal Services/Budget to Purchasing Division

kudos

Mike Saile of the Sheriff's Department was promoted to Colonel, in charge of the Michigan Region of the Civil Air Patrol. Ceremonies were held at the Sheriff's Administration Building on 11/16/07

Rob Messner received a Checkpoint Certified Security Administrator (CCSA) certification from Checkpoint Software.

Behind the Scenes

Yolkland!

Put on your Bunny ears! The seventh annual Yolkland County Executive's Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on Saturday, April 7th, from 10-1 p.m.



Judy Cunningham, Corporation Counsel, gets into the sprit of the event!

Departments from across the County started working on this event in January by attending meetings, stuffing eggs and baskets and sponsoring activities. Easter egg hunts will be held for children through age 10. Be sure your little ones open their eggs; some contain prizes!



Preparation for the event includes a year-round effort to collect and organize prizes and give-aways.

Other activities will include Bunny Bingo, Putt-Putt Golf, Bean Bag Toss, Pin the Tail on the Bunny, and the list goes on. Something new this year will be the Ping Pong Ball Drop (as opposed to the Marshmallow Drop).



Also sponsoring a booth this year is the Oakland County Credit Union and Youth Assistance Mentoring Program.



Baskets have been filled and wrapped, ready for the festivities.

Thanks to all who put forth so much effort and resources to make this event so successful every year. Most of all, thanks to Brooks Patterson, our County Executive, who initiated this event as a thank you to our hard-working and dedicated employees.



4-H members start early transporting animals and caring for them while they are on display.

Please remember that the Easter Egg Hunt is for County employees, retirees, their children and grandchildren ONLY! Hope to see you there!



Volunteers getting one of the hot dog stations ready for the crowd.