



# Telegraph

OAKLAND COUNTY

JUL 23 2007

Research Library



## Employees Recognized for Their Years of Service



*John Almstadt presents Catherine Ricci with her 20-year service award while Dennis Toffolo looks on.*

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Nearly 300 current and former employees of Oakland County government attended the 2007 Retirement and Service Awards Banquet held at the Deer Lake Athletic Club in Clarkston on June 8th.

After a brief welcome by Human Services Director Nancy Scarlet and remarks by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, guests feasted on a sumptuous lunch of roast turkey with all the trimmings. Then Mr. Patterson along with Deputy County Executives Ken Rogers and Jerry Poisson presented 25-year plaques to the following individuals:

Cheryl Endres

Pamela Ferguson

William Hamilton

Gerald Poisson

Deborah Bigger

Ruthie Curry

Richard Gee

Karen Dodge

Jan Betka

Christine Galbraith

Mary Heaton

Karen Carter-Gamble

Ethel Baker

Robert Cain

Michael Carolin

Robin Harmon

Herbert Holmes

Michael King

Kenneth McLellan

Mark Merritt

Craig Rathbun

Christina Russell

Michael Sutton

Valerie Wells

**Those awarded certificates  
recognizing 35 years of service  
were:**

Karl Randall

Michael Dargan

Richard Stasys

Deborah Anthony

Dorothy LaMarte

Donna Bevington

Barbara Palulian

Gerald Bannasch

Gerald Hieber

Edwin Smith

John Bohn

Mark Brigolin

Suzanne Lehsten

Judy Freed

Robert Coffey

Robert Williams

Dennis Davis

Theodore Herkowitz

Thomas Jenkinson

Dale Labair

Dennis Smith

Henry Wallace

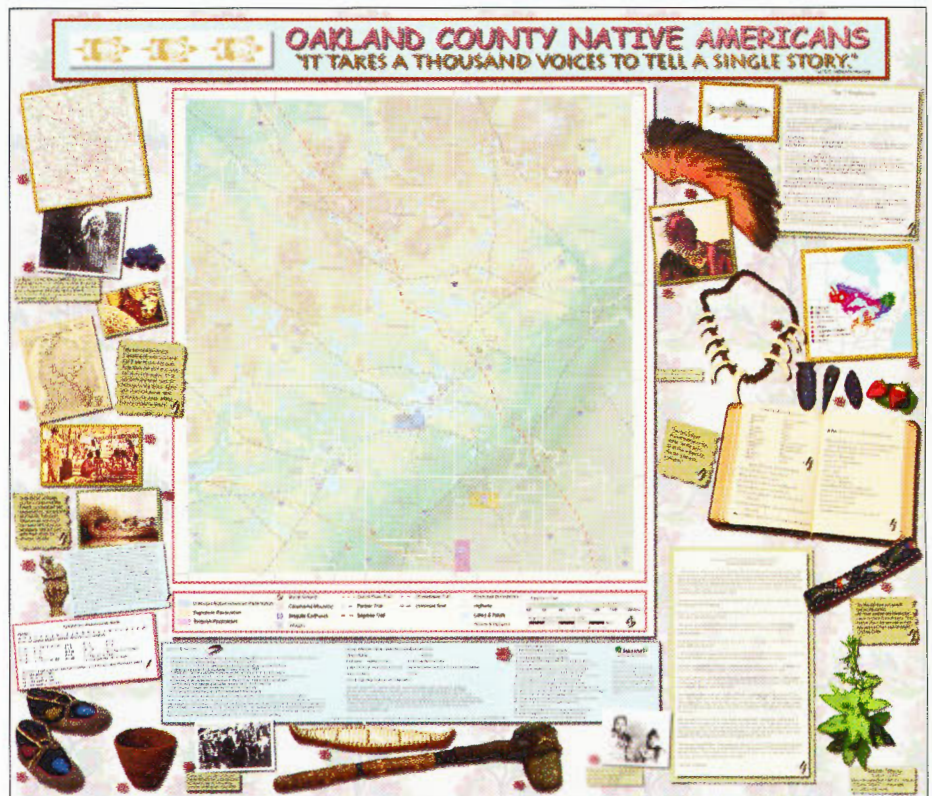
# Where People Gather: Powwow at Groveland Oaks County Park

Have you ever been to a powwow? Every weekend throughout the spring and summer, powwows are held in Native American community halls, campgrounds, cultural centers and traditional grounds across North America. Families travel together, driving across the state or even across country to participate. Powwows are not part of every Native community's tradition, but in the Great Lakes region, they have become part of Native American popular culture.

On September 15 and 16, Groveland Oaks County Park will host the first Native American Powwow in Oakland County's recorded history. It will be a celebration of music, dance, friendship and heritage. "It's a wonderful opportunity to use the park system to educate people about the culture of Native Americans in Michigan," said Oakland County Parks and Recreation Operations Administrator Sue Wells.

The "Grand Entry," which marks the beginning of the event, will start at 1:00 p.m., followed by honoring ceremonies, dancing, singing, drumming and games. In addition, food and wares will be available for purchase from certified Native American vendors.

The event is being organized by the South Eastern Michigan Indians, Inc. in partnership with Oakland County Parks & Recreation and Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services. For more information about the Powwow, please contact Oakland County Parks and Recreation Operations Administrator Sue Wells at 248-858-4634 or Groveland Oaks County Park at 248-634-9811.



## Groveland Oaks County Park

Located at 14555 Dixie Highway at Grange Hall Road (near Holly), Groveland Oaks County Park offers 360 acres of recreational amenities including, swimming, boating and a campsite voted "Best Michigan Campground" in the Oakland Press' 2006 Best of the Best Readers' Choice Awards.

## Oakland County Native American Map

A significant powwow tradition is the "Exchange of Gifts," which serves to both reestablish and create new friendships. In keeping with this tradition, on Saturday, September 15, Oakland County will present special editions of its newly published "Oakland County Native Americans" map to 50 tribal elders from across the region. More than just a physical representation, it depicts Oakland County from the perspective of its indigenous people. The 36 inch x 42 inch full-color document contains mapped information about locations of past reservations, villages, burial grounds, trails and Native American life.

Although the official unveiling of the map will be at the ceremony, advance copies are available for purchase online at [www.oakgov.com/oss/](http://www.oakgov.com/oss/) and in the One Stop Shop located in the new Oakland County Executive Office Building, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Bldg. 41W in Waterford.

## Native American Resources

For additional information about Native American, traditions, lifestyle, tools and adornment, please visit the following websites:

Cranbrook Science Institute: <http://science.cranbrook.edu/>

Smithsonian National Museum of American Indian: [www.nmai.si.edu/](http://www.nmai.si.edu/)

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU: [www.msu.edu/unit/nai](http://www.msu.edu/unit/nai)

Powwow Etiquette: <http://www.native-american-online.org/hobbies.htm>

# Telegraph

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Cont. from P. 1

**Those awarded certificates recognizing 30 years of service were:**

Heidi Hawley  
Helen Hanger  
Jamie Lyon  
Don McNeal  
Michael Amshay  
Deborah Bevan  
Dallas Coleman, Jr.  
Michael Kyle  
Barbara Sigety  
Elaine McCracken  
Sally Blundo  
Lou Ann Cason  
Christopher Coffey  
Shelley Cook  
Renee Longstaff  
Gail Naramor  
Robyn Oesch  
Manuel Ruelas  
Debra Beck  
Rebecca Halicek  
Deborah Hool  
Susan Jansson  
Lorie Willing  
Mary Grant  
Barbara Puckett  
Joy Schumacher  
Patricia White  
Christie Young  
Karen Jones  
David Van de Grift  
Margaret Bozarth  
Patricia Cosner  
Cathy Teague  
Michael Wilk  
Bennie Ellout, III  
Keith Lindsey  
Dean Schantz

Mary Batchelor  
Daniel Cojanu  
Betsy Hysell  
Joyce Raczka  
James A'Hearn  
Jan Berg-Rezmer  
Dale Cunningham  
John Graham  
Clay Jansson  
Pamela Newsom  
David Oesch  
Janice Rhines  
Robert Spezia  
Willard Brown, III  
Darlene Rice  
Deborah Lake  
Diane McGraw

**Individuals getting their certificates for 20 years of service were:**

Joanie Toole  
William Black  
Barry Ross  
Galea Darbe  
Bruce Brakel  
Sandra Burgess  
Armethyst Lucius  
Angela Martini  
Gwynne Starkey  
Julie Tillotson  
Jeri Carlson  
Sandra Wagner  
Cristina Denison  
David Schreiber  
Aileen Champion  
Barbara Burr  
Deborah Meltzer  
Deborah Desnoyers  
George Hildebrandt

Larry Mills  
David Page  
Philip Sanzica  
Dawn Creamer  
Lisa Nader  
James Emerick  
Robert Appleton  
Robert Archambeau  
Linda Shapiro  
Lisa Delbridge  
Charrie Moody  
Paulette Nadeau  
Marilynn Nepjuk  
Jeffrey Phelps  
Laverne Smith  
Hazelina Wallace  
Linda Fleischer  
Pamela Green  
Shari Griesmer-Toth  
Martha McCann  
Tori Petway  
Twyla Tripp  
Dorothy Balma  
Nancy Benavides  
Sylvia Coffey  
Kimberly Demars  
Kathi Graves  
Victoria Hall  
Vanese McLachlan  
Linda Peters  
Elizabeth Sparling  
Barbara Weberman  
Chandra Baalu  
Karla Early  
Marlene Rice  
Chris Stinson  
Vickie Worrell  
Sheryl Burns  
Michael Willhite  
Joann Browning

Emily McIntyre  
Hancock  
Janice Kabodian  
Debra Sims  
Michelle Glover  
Rose Vela  
Kenneth Alderman  
Aaron Alspaugh  
Timmy Atkins  
Amil Banny  
Robert Batzloff  
Maureen Boucher  
Eugene Carter  
Andre Ewing  
Mark Gardner  
Ted Goldstein  
James Gregory  
James Henderson  
Daniel Herold  
John Jorgensen  
David Kettlewell  
Lloyd Lacey  
Bruce Lidgard  
Gary Mc Clure  
Gary Miller  
Terry Montgomery  
James Morgan  
Robert Nagy  
Nancy Pierson  
Thomas Renusch, Jr.  
Gary Richert  
Susan Sage  
Martin Smith  
Bradley Teague  
Daniel Toth  
Michael VanCleave  
Derek Perinoff  
Diane Ewing  
Cassandra Flentroy  
Elise Keeler

Fred Welty  
Catherine Ricci  
The two people taking home certificates for 40 years of service were:  
Peter Balzerini  
Judge Eugene A. Moore

**Sixty-five employees who retired from county service between June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2007 also received certificates. They were:**

Dennis Acker  
Robert Appleton  
Keith Attar  
Robert Baker  
Mary Batchelor  
Sandra Belanger  
Margaret Birch  
M. Brancheau-Egan  
Sandra Carl  
Sheila Cole  
Karen Courtemanche  
Marva Cross  
Alma Daoudi  
Michael DeSantis  
Barbara Donahue  
Douglas Eader  
Bennie Ellout, III  
Joseph Fisher  
James Fitzpatrick  
Christine Galbraith  
Sheryl Grant  
Beverly Hagerman  
Patricia Hammer  
Melissa Hardenburgh  
Eileen Hemmi  
Pamela Hill

Diana Hojnacki  
Linda Isenberg-Barkholz  
Paul James  
Michael King  
Pamela Kolasa  
Terrie Marks  
Constance McClellan  
George McGrath  
Joyce McKay  
Patrick Miles  
Marilyn Miller  
Bonnie Moore  
Sallyanne Morris  
David Muir  
Charles Palmer  
Don Pebbles  
Alexander Pianko  
David Presnell  
Gary Prud'homme  
Nadra Queen  
Janice Rhines  
Joan Rhinevault  
Dale Romeo  
David Row  
David Scott  
Donald Smith  
James R. Smith  
Michael Sturgis  
Michael Sutton  
Beverly Thompson  
Joan Thompson  
Susan Tobin  
Sharon Tomaszewski  
Nancy Wenzel  
Alan Whitefield  
James Wright  
Christopher Wrosch  
Edward Wydra  
Dianne Zyskowski

In her closing remarks, Nancy Scarlet thanked everyone for coming and congratulated those who had been recognized for their years of dedicated service to Oakland County.

**The Telegraph was unavoidably delayed this issue due to the power outage June 28th. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.**



# EMPLOYEES of the Month



If you work at Children's Village and your computer malfunctions, as they sometimes do, then Julie Wightman is a good person to know.

As a CV support specialist, it's Julie's job to help people at the Village with their computer problems. She's also in charge of the web-based information and scheduling systems.

"I was very shocked to learn I'd been chosen as Employee of the Month," Julie said. "It really is an honor."

Julie is a nine year veteran of county government, starting her career as a typist with Community Mental Health before transferring to Children's Village, where her first job was as a tech assistant before being promoted to her current job classification.



Julie Wightman

"Julie's calm confidence and extensive computer knowledge make her an invaluable part of our workforce," said Jody Overall, manager of Children's Village.

In her spare time, Julie and her husband like to just "hang out with the family" and occasionally work on renovating their two homes. Julie's husband, whom she married about a year and a half ago, has a home in Waterford and she has a home in Ortonville where they currently reside. Julie has two grown children ages 19 and 20 and both attend Oakland University in Rochester.

## Cane Project Benefits Wounded Vets

Despite how you may feel about the war in Iraq, the one thing that most people can agree on is the great courage and commitment shown by our men and women in uniform. A group called the Michigan Woodcarvers Association has come up with a rather novel way to honor those who serve their country.

They started a project recently to provide canes, free of charge, to any member of the armed forces who has been wounded.

The canes, which are custom made, are carved by members of the group. The honor of carving the first cane went to Harold Joseph, a retired Navy man who also happens to be the father of Management and Budget Director Laurie VanPelt.

"I'll be presenting the cane to the mother of a Michigan soldier by the name of Specialist IV Nick Gunthers who was wounded by an IED (improvised explosive device) in Iraq this past January," said Harold. "She'll receive the cane during the Woodcarvers Roundup at the Osceola County Fairgrounds in Ewart."

The goal of the Roundup, which was held on June 12th, is to carve 29 more canes for wounded soldiers.

The Cane Project is the brainchild of Jack Nitz, a member of the Eastern Oklahoma Woodcarvers Association. After watching an ABC news segment on combat related leg wounds and amputations, Nitz got the idea there might be something that he, as a woodcarver and cane maker, could do to show support for the troops.

Today woodcarvers organizations in eight states have taken up cane carving to honor the sacrifice of our wounded vets. If you'd like to learn more about this wonderful project please go to: <http://www.eowca.com/cane.html>.

The Oakland County Veterans' Services Division has been made aware of the program and is studying the feasibility of adopting it for its clients.



## 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](http://www.oakgov.com/cmarket) for market information and download a produce availability guide indicating peak harvest times of Michigan agricultural products.

## Quake on the Lake

Over 70 inboard hydroplane racers will compete on Pontiac Lake at the 8th annual Quake on the Lake on July 21st and 22nd, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area. Admission is \$5 for those 13 years and older, \$2 for children ages 3-12, with those 2 and under admitted free.

Proceeds benefit the Rainbow Connection, a 501(c)(3) charity, which grants wishes to children with terminal illnesses. For more information see [www.QuakeOnTheLake.org](http://www.QuakeOnTheLake.org).

# An Adventure in India

In March, Maureen Krauss, Deputy Director for the Department of Economic Development & Community Affairs, and Lynda Earhart, a senior business development representative, traveled to India on a trade mission in hopes of convincing Indian companies to establish a location here.



Along with officials from the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, Maureen and Lynda traveled thousands of miles in 11 days on their way to four major Indian cities: Mumbai (Bombay), Pune, Bangalore and New Delhi. Oakland County is home to 11 Indian companies including TATA, a multibillion dollar company that owns Incat in Novi and Troy and Infosys in Southfield. Oakland County is also home to many successful Indian entrepreneurs who started their businesses here and are flourishing.

Business attraction is a long-term, relationship-building process. The Indian market we covet is very much like Oakland County: strong in information technology and research and development. Indian businesses see the importance of the U.S. market and are very excited to learn about opportunities for their companies in the United States and Oakland County. Maureen provided the following summary to a local Indian businessman after their "excellent adventure."

We had an absolutely amazing trip. I loved India and cannot wait to go back. The people were wonderful.

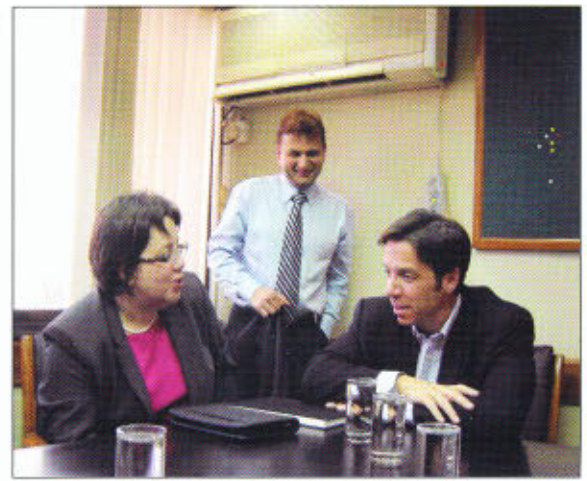
We spoke to over 200 people at our presentations and had about 70 one-on-one meetings.

We met with Infosys and Bharat Forge (its chairman), Tata, Premier, and some other very interesting companies. We toured a slum redevelopment project in Pune, which was the largest slum in Asia. We had a local meal with a family.

Lynda and I thought we were being kidnapped at one point (a long story.) I was interviewed by Z TV, we did 18-hour days, every day except the last one. We toured a computer lab set up by UPS in the middle of nowhere, where six months ago the children did not speak English or had ever seen a television or computer. They showed us PowerPoint presentations in English and sang us the familiar songs we all sang as children. They are so eager to learn!

The food was great. There was not much I did not like. We did not have enough time to shop, although I did bring some silk back. It would have been nice to have an extra day in each city as so many people wanted us to visit their facilities. It was 115 degrees the day we left, and the definition of air conditioning there is a bit different

than here. There was no time for sightseeing. What we did see came while sitting in the van we rented (which we dubbed the Partridge Family mobile. It was a little dated!). Everywhere we drove we would see cows, monkeys, even elephants on the road.



Maureen Krauss (left) selling Oakland County

The first few days were sensory overload – the beeping horns, the smells, the heavy traffic, the chaos, and the sights were a bit overwhelming. Then I think we started to get used to the pace. I did get sick upon our return home. It took a few weeks to recover from something I ate or drank in India – not a pleasant way to lose weight. I was so careful, I thought, but I broke down to drink a Diet Coke (without ice) because it looked cold. It was bottled in India with local water and that may have caused the problem.

We have several really solid prospects out of this trip, a wonderful result considering this was our first time in the market. The Indian businesses seemed very excited about the opportunities in the U.S. market, and they do not seem to have many preconceived notions about the Detroit region unlike in Europe where many people have an opinion. The society in general seems pretty ambitious from an entrepreneurial perspective but rather content with their living conditions (infrastructure issues, for instance). I never felt that I was treated differently as a woman as far as being taken seriously (something that is not completely true in the United States). People kept inviting us to their homes. I think they wanted to show that there is indeed a middle class, which you might not see when traveling around. The women in India were beautiful. The colorful saris just made the landscape even more beautiful. The countryside reminded me of Arizona.

Looks like we will be back there in January. Hopefully the weather will be a little more moderate. We cannot wait!

## Oakland County 2nd Annual Wellness Health Fair

Sept 21, 2007

10am - 3pm at the Oakland Schools Professional Development Center.

Come visit local businesses and organizations to receive information on health and wellness topics. Demo's available, many interesting hand outs, free massages and goodies. Register at the door to be entered in many wonderful raffle prizes.

No admission fees - free to Oakland County employees and retirees. Box lunches will be available to purchase and all are encouraged to attend.

For more information on the event, please contact Angie Broegman-Stinde at [broegmana@oakgov.com](mailto:broegmana@oakgov.com) or 248-858-0465.

## Lynda Earhart

## Telegraphing

Lynda Earhart is one talented woman whether it's using her skills to help a new business owner get started in Oakland County, attracting new companies from around the world or pitching in to build a 1,500 square foot summer home near Caseville.

Lynda, who is a senior business development representative in the Planning and Economic Development Services Division (PEDS), was recently honored by the Greater Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners as a Top 10 Business Woman. Quite an honor and feather in her cap, Lynda freely admits.

She was specifically singled out for recognition as a "red tape buster." What the heck is that you may ask?

"A red tape buster is a woman or organization involved in government that has consistently demonstrated commitment to helping women business owners," Lynda explained.

Lynda feels the primary talent needed by a "red tape buster" is the ability to solve problems and do it in the most efficient way.

"A lot of small business owners may have little or no knowledge as to how government works and they are often overwhelmed in trying to get anything done," Lynda said. "I help them negotiate that maze of bureaucracy."

Lynda says what she brings to the job is a background in business and a clear understanding of how a business person's mind works. In essence, Lynda believes her key strengths are critical thinking skills and analysis. The process she uses in helping a business owner deal with governmental red tape or any other business challenge begins with asking a series of questions. Such as: How long have you been in business or doing this kind of work? What is your most pressing business problem?



Lynda Earhart (left) with attendees at the Second Annual Women's Business Conference in Rochester Hills.

Recently Lynda moved from helping new business owners get started to Emerging Sectors where her challenge now is attracting cutting edge 21st Century companies to Oakland County from around the globe. Her specialty will be India, from which she just returned, and alternative energy.

"My biggest hurdle right now is getting up to speed because there's so much to learn about my new role in business attraction as well as India's business culture and alternative energy," Lynda said.

Away from the office, Lynda is using a whole set of other skills to help her husband, Larry, finish their summer home in Huron County. Growing up, Lynda as the youngest of four children and the last to leave home pretty much had her dad all to herself and helped him frequently doing remodeling projects around the house.

Now she's using things she learned at her dad's knee to install wiring, drywall and vinyl siding at their getaway cottage in Caseville.

"I grew up with a cottage on the Great Lakes and missed it very much," Lynda said. "When I mentioned that fact to Larry he said he always wanted a cottage too."

So they found a vacant lot, spent a year or two researching floor plans and then pulled a permit. Six weeks after putting in the basement, which they contracted out, the frame was up, thanks in part to many of her husband's friends pitching in.

Their new home away from home is only 100 miles away. No freeways, just paved country roads and maybe seven or eight traffic signals along the way.

Kind of a nice escape for a very busy and successful business woman who knows how to use her many talents to get things done.



Lynda's "get away" cottage near Caseville

The Telegraph is reviving it's free Want Ad section. If you have items you would like to sell, please submit them prior to the next copy deadline for the Telegraph which is September 10th.

## Our Talents **Gary Frick**



Eighteen years ago, Gary Frick, Health Division

Environmental Health Supervisor, was looking for a way to blend his love for animals with his desire to give back to the community. That's when Gary and his wife Sandy, discovered Leader Dogs for the Blind and they first became puppy raisers.

17 dogs later, the Frick's are still involved in one of the most rewarding and challenging volunteer positions available. A raiser's job begins when the puppy is approximately 7-8 weeks of age. From the moment the puppy is picked up, they rely on the raiser for their care and guidance. This year long commitment is a significant contribution of time and energy on the part of a raiser. It is more than housebreaking and caring for a puppy. The largest responsibility lies with the socialization aspect of raising a future leader dog.

"You have to get these puppies exposed to a variety of public situations so they experience as much as possible during training," explains Frick. "We get them used to being in all types of environments and watching out for obstacles that could be harmful to their future owner."

While socialization is the largest priority, dogs also learn basic obedience commands from their raisers. After about a year, graduate are paired with a blind or deaf applicant or "student" as Leader Dog calls them, and enter a more extensive training program. When a dog is issued to a student, students must then reside in a



*Chase - "Wonder Dog"*



*Gary Frick and friend*

dormitory-like campus at the Rochester facility for up to a month to learn to function independently with their dog. The dogs, in turn, begin to recognize their new partner as their own. Eventually, the student and the dog become a team, and transition to work together in public environments and the individual's home setting.

"It's great being with these dogs from the get-go and seeing them graduate. When you meet the owner and see the dog you raised help this person, it just makes you feel good," said Frick. "It's hard to not get attached to each one, but you just keep your desire to help someone else in mind."

Gary and Sandy are also a "Breeding Stock Host Family" for Leader Dog. As a host home, they care for another canine and make them easily and readily available for breeding. Their 8 year old Golden Retriever, Quincy, has bred 15 litters and over 100 puppies for Leader Dog. They also train other puppy raisers and Sandy Frick is now actually working for Leader Dog, because she is as Gary puts it "simply there all the time."

Currently, the Frick's are raising Chase, a Golden Retriever puppy that has recently been in the limelight. Chase has become part of Leader Dog's new ad campaign to promote their new logo and has been visually showcased in Times Square in NYC and on the home page of Leader Dog's website. Every now and again, you may even see Chase on County grounds as Gary works to better socialize this special dog.

In addition to Chase and Quincy, Gary and Sandy also have two cats and a Havanese dog. For more information about Leader Dogs for the Blind, visit their website at [www.leaderdog.com](http://www.leaderdog.com).

## Count Your Steps Caps off Another Successful Year

No doubt many of our county employees have children who have participated in Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's Count Your Steps pedometer walking program to fight childhood obesity. Those of you who have shared this experience with your children know first hand how great a program it really is. This year more than 22,000 third and fourth grade students in public and private schools across the county strapped on their pedometers to walk a combined total of 1.3 billion steps. Walled Lake took top honors among school districts with 215,667,548 steps followed by Troy with 156,345,759 steps and West Bloomfield with 70,605,369 steps.

As the first place school in Oakland County, St. Fabian Elementary in Farmington Hills had the honor of hosting the Count Your Steps grand finale featuring Radio Disney performers who put on a rousing Rockin' Recess Party that included singing, dancing and interactive games. They had the whole gym at St. Fabian really "rockin' and reelin'."

Mr. Patterson got the idea for the program about four years ago when he came across an alarming statistic which indicated this generation of young people might be the first in history not to outlive their parents because of the growing problem of childhood obesity. Count Your Steps is designed to get kids exercising regularly and eating nutritionally for a lifetime so they can enjoy healthier and hopefully longer lives.

# Summer Festival Schedule

- **The 13th Annual Woodward Dream Cruise will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2007. The world's largest one-day celebration of classic cars attracts more than 1 million visitors and more than 40,000 muscle cars, street rods, collector and special interest vehicles.**
- **The 10th Annual Chrysler Arts, Beats and Eats, founded by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, will be held August 31st – September 3rd in downtown Pontiac. Each year the four-day family oriented fun fest attracts 1 million visitors along with 200 musical acts on seven stages, over 150 fine artists and 50 world-class restaurants.**
- **Over 70 inboard hydroplane racers will compete on Pontiac Lake at the 8th annual Quake on the Lake on July 21st and 22nd, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area. Admission is \$5 for those 13 years and older, \$2 for children ages 3-12, with those 2 and under admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Rainbow Connection, a 501(c)(3) charity, which grants wishes to children with terminal illnesses. For more information see [www.QuakeOnTheLake.org](http://www.QuakeOnTheLake.org).**
- **On September 15 and 16, Groveland Oaks County Park will host the first Native American Powwow in Oakland County's recorded history. It will be a celebration of music, dance, friendship and heritage. The "Grand Entry" will start at 1:00 p.m., followed by honoring ceremonies, dancing, singing, drumming and games. In addition, food and wares will be available for purchase from certified Native American vendors.**

# PERSON TO PERSON

## L. Brooks Patterson



### Tough Budget in Tough Times

When I presented a very austere budget to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Wednesday night, July 11, 2007, the unfortunate response was predictable. One county union president took a cheap shot without even examining the numbers. I guarantee he had not seen the budget since it was only presented that night.

Here are the facts:

FACT: I presented a balanced budget for fiscal years 2008-2009. For 2008, all funds are proposed at \$708.9 million; for fiscal year 2009 the budget recommendation for all funds is \$715.3 million.

FACT: The proposed 2008 fiscal year budget is a mere 1.9% increase over the current fiscal year.

FACT: Property tax revenues account for 62% of all general purpose revenues, the county's largest operating fund.

FACT: Property values are flat in Oakland County (and for that matter in Michigan) and we are experiencing the slowest market value growth in four decades.

FACT: Property revenues are projected to grow at a rate of only 1% annually from this date forward through the year 2012. It's clear that more austere budgets are on the way.

FACT: Oakland County is not immune from the disastrous Michigan economy. We are approaching 8,000 foreclosures in this calendar year.

Against this backdrop of undisputable facts, I believe that my budget team (Laurie VanPelt, Tim Soave, Nancy Scarlet, to name a few) did an incredible job.

FACT: We will be closing shortly on a sale of trust certificates to fully fund an irrevocable trust of the costs of retiree health care. Retirees will not have to worry about their health benefits being taken from them at some future year, as many companies are doing in the private sector to their retirees. We will be the first county in America to have protected our retirees.

FACT: While I would have preferred to have submitted a greater pay raise, I propose a 1% salary increase for Oakland County employees.

FACT: We funded an \$8.1 million increase in the fringe benefit costs for active employees.

**THIS FUNDING EQUATES TO A 4% PAY RAISE FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES.**

FACT: Some employees will have to pay more in their health care contribution. Over the next two calendar years, contribution for health care will be increased for employees hired before May 31, 2003 to bring these rates up to the same contribution rates for employees hired on or after May 31, 2003.

RESULT: At the start of the calendar year 2009, all employees will be on the same contribution rate.

FACTUAL CONCLUSION:

Let's take a fair look at what the budget did with general compensation for employees.

General compensation increase	
+ Fringe benefit increase	
+ Salary increase	
- Increase in health care contribution	
=	<u>4.41% general compensation increase</u>

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2008 and 2009, while austere, still resulted in a 4.41% general compensation increase, and more importantly, nobody was laid off.



## Chief Judge Delivers State of the Court Address

Jail overcrowding, a new e-filing application program and the future of the Adult Treatment Court were among the topics highlighted in Oakland County Chief Judge Wendy Potts State-of-the-Court Address delivered in the Board of Commissioners auditorium on April 26th.

Judge Potts said "jail overcrowding" are two words that make her lose sleep at night. To put the problem into perspective Judge Potts noted that the number of convicted and sentenced misdemeanants or felons released over the past two years because of jail overcrowding would be enough to fill more than five rooms the size of the Board of Commissioners auditorium which seats nearly 300 people.

"Things would have been worse if not for the conviction of my colleagues to focus attention on the criminal docket," Judge Potts said. "Our pending criminal caseload including the number of pending cases involving jailed defendants dropped considerably over the past four years even though the number of criminal cases filed rose 3%."

She credited her colleagues on the Circuit Court bench with reducing in-custody case loads and freeing up beds in the jail.

Judge Potts recognized Corporation Counsel Judy Cunningham for the extraordinary job she did in chairing a committee that studied the Jail Overcrowding Emergency Act to determine if changes were needed. The committee came up with a number of amendments that were approved by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and endorsed by the Oakland County Bar Association and the Michigan Association of Counties.

"Many people worked together to make this happen, but I want to especially recognize Ms. Cunningham for her tireless and masterful efforts," said Judge Potts.

The Chief Judge also thanked the Board of Commissioners for its approval of funding for a pilot e-filing program that will be launched in August in the courtroom of Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren.

Judge Potts also called for continued funding of the Adult Treatment Court which she says keeps people out of jail and helps them overcome their addictions. In addition, she pointed out graduates of the program pay off their child support arrearages, attain high school diplomas or enroll in college and reestablish family relationships that were fractured or non-existent in the first place.

Judge Potts concluded her remarks by thanking the Board, the County Executive and the other elected officials for their long standing support and assistance.



*Chief Judge Wendy Potts*

## Start! OakFit Wellness Challenge

OakFit and the Oakland County Health Division have been proud to partner with the American Heart Association to bring employees the Start! OakFit Wellness Challenge. This year's six week challenge was based on the American Heart Association's Start! program, a physical activity program to get people moving at the workplace. It is designed to motivate all Americans to take up walking and other healthy habits as part of their daily routine to live longer, stronger, heart healthy lives.

The Start! OakFit Wellness Challenge began on May 14 and will end on June 22. To start the challenge, a kickoff fitness walk was held on May 11. Nancy Scarlet, director of Human Resources and George Miller, Health Division manager, led over 100 employees on a one mile fitness walk along County Center Drive East. Employees who participated in the walk received a pedometer to assist them in achieving the recommended 10,000 steps per day.

The goal of the Start! OakFit Wellness Challenge is to encourage Oakland County employees to increase their physical activity throughout the day. This can be accomplished by walking during lunch or on breaks, or communicating more in person instead of e-mail. By making physical activity part of a daily routine, individuals can control weight, prevent bone loss, increase energy, and manage stress.

Wellness Challenge participants have been tracking their physical activity minutes on the American Heart Association's Start! website ([ahastart.fitbug.com](http://ahastart.fitbug.com)). At the end of the competition, the person with the most physical activity minutes wins! First place prize is a bike, second place is a Nano IPod, and third place is a digital camera.

As part of the challenge, weekly fitness walks have been taking place on the County campus and led by elected officials and administrators. Employees who participate in a walk, are entered into a drawing for wellness related prizes.

Wellness Challenge participants will be invited to a grand finale celebration on July 13. The grand prize winners will be announced at the luau themed event.



## Mentors Needed for PALS Children of Promise Program

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA) is seeking mentors for children of incarcerated parents as part of its newly created Children of Promise program. Mentors are needed to engage children aged 4 to 18 years old in a positive, one-on-one relationship and act as caring role models to encourage motivation and hope for their future.

While there is no previous experience required, potential mentors must be at least 21 years of age, undergo a preliminary screening, and complete 8 initial hours of training. Trained mentors are required to meet with their assigned child for at least one hour a week and four weeks a month, for one year.

For more information or to sign up to be a mentor, call Lindsay Stover at (248) 451-1784.

# kudos coming & going

## births



Brett and Neisha Chudler, Prosecutor's Office, welcomed new son, Corey Sarge, on May 12th.

Amanda Wymer, Prosecutor's Office, welcomed new daughter, Myley Isabel, on May 5th.

Norman Guess, Jr., Children's Village, welcomed their first baby, Ava Marie, on April 10th. Ava weighed 7lbs., 14 oz.

Jody Caldwell, Drain Commissioner's Office welcomed new daughter, Addison, on April 2nd.

Ryan Dividock, Planning & Economic Development/GIS welcomed new daughter, Kara Elizabeth, on May 12th. Kara weighed 6lbs. 12 oz.

Sandra Aspinall, Prosecutor's Office welcomed new daughter, Murphy Laura Marie Aspinall, on June 1st.

Nicole Kennedy, Prosecutor's Office, welcomed new daughter, Madisyn Angela Kennedy, on June 12th.

Steve Stuart, Administration Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office welcomed new son, Camden, on May 30th.

Todd Simpson, Application Services division, and Jemarice Simpson, Internal Services division, welcomed new daughter, Lecari Taylor, on May 19th.

David Veit, Technical Services and Networking division, and Nikki Veit, Application Services division welcomed new son, Daniel Christopher, on May 29th.

Felicia Mott, Health Division, welcomed new son, Evan Vincent, on May 25th. Evan weighed 8 lbs., 1oz. and was 21 inches long.

Stephanie Mackey, HR Training welcomed new daughter, Clara Caroline Mackey, on April 7th. She weighed 9 lbs., 2 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Terri Schultz, Equalization welcomed new daughter, Emma Rose, on April 2nd. She weighed 3.9 lbs. and was 17 inches long. Emma is doing great now!

Robert Scripture, Equalization, and his wife, Colleen, welcomed new daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, on April 25th. She weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long.

## retirements

Sallyanne Morris, Crew Chief, Facilities Management, FM&O Grounds retired on April 13, 2007 after 27 years of service.

Robert Matthaehi, Jr. Custodial Supervisor III, Facilities Management, FM&O Custodial Unit, retired on June 1, 2007 after nearly 37 years of County service.

Robert Appleton, Building Safety Attendant, Facilities Management, FM&O Building Safety, retired on May 18, 2007 after 20 years of County service.

Jack Cooksey, Pump Maintenance Mechanic II, GWK Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, retired on April 6, 2007 after 33 years of County service.

Michael Sturgis, Maintenance Mechanic II, Sewer Drain Maintenance, retired on April 27, 2007 after 32 years of County service.

Barbara Donahue, Health Division, retired on May 18, 2007 after 18 years of County service.

Robert Baker, Equalization, retired on March 30, 2007.

## marriages



Carrie Lipa, Judge Goldsmith's office, married Randy Haddon on February 1, 2007 in Orlando, FL.

Stephanie Width, Central Employee

Records Coordinator from Human Resources, married Tony Bedricky on June 9, 2007.

## transfers

Donna Genre transferred from Children's Village to Health & Human Services as secretary to Dr. Thomas Gordon.

Rochelle Meacham, transferred from the Health Division to Information Technology on May 14, 2007. Rochelle received a promotion as an IT Project Manager.

## new hires

Brian Jones, FM&O Custodial Unit, Facilities Management, was hired as a general helper on March 19, 2007.

Mark Wilson, Drain Commissioner's Office, Walled Lake WWTP, was hired as STP Supervisor I on May 1, 2007.

Thomas Wittke, Sewer Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, was hired as Maintenance Laborer on April 30, 2007.

Rocky Trimble, Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, was hired as a Maintenance Laborer on April 30, 2007.

Cynthia Dibble, Children's Village, was hired as a Youth Specialist I on May 12, 2007.

Jason Payne, Children's Village, was hired as a Youth Specialist I on May 12, 2007.

Ran Zhou, Application Services division, was hired as an Application Analyst Programmer on May 29, 2007.

Kati Phipps, Application Services division, was hired as an Application Analyst Programmer on June 4, 2007.

Jason Payne, Children's Village, was hired as a Youth Specialist I on May 12, 2007.

Jeanine Jacopec, Health Division, was hired into the Personal and Preventive Health Unit.

Renu Shetty, Health Division, was hired into the Personal and Preventive Health Unit.

Mary Eileen Kennedy, Case Evaluation Office, Circuit Court, was hired in May 2007.

Johnnie Luna, Maintenance Unit, Facilities Management, FM & O, was hired as a General Maintenance Mechanic on May 21, 2007.

Doug Ammon, Grounds Unit, Facilities Management, FM & O, was hired as a Groundskeeper II on June 4, 2007.

Annette Drussel, Building Safety Unit, Facilities Management, FM & O, was hired as a Building Safety Attendant on May 26, 2007.

Madalyn Miller, Case Evaluation Office, Circuit Court, was hired in April 2007.

## fond farewells

Jerome Silagyi, Civil Engineer III, Engineering Support Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, resigned on April 20, 2007 to move to Pennsylvania.

# celebrations life events

## promotions

Brian Barnette, Sr., Facilities Management, FM&O was promoted to groundskeeper specialist.

John Stange, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to Supervisor, Drain Retention Basins Unit.

Jonathan Barbee, Vehicle Operations, was promoted to Communications Installer II.

Ted Lackie, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to Maintenance Mechanic I, Pump Maintenance Unit.

Shannon Giffin, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to Deputy II.

Matthew Leggat, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to Deputy II.

Saman Marzban, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to Deputy II.

Eric Shimmell, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to Deputy II.

John Slosson, Sheriff's Office, was promoted to Deputy II.

Stephen Yates, Facilities Management, FM & O, was promoted to Custodial Work Supervisor II.

Tom Cokley, Facilities Management, FM & O, was promoted to Custodial Work Supervisor III.

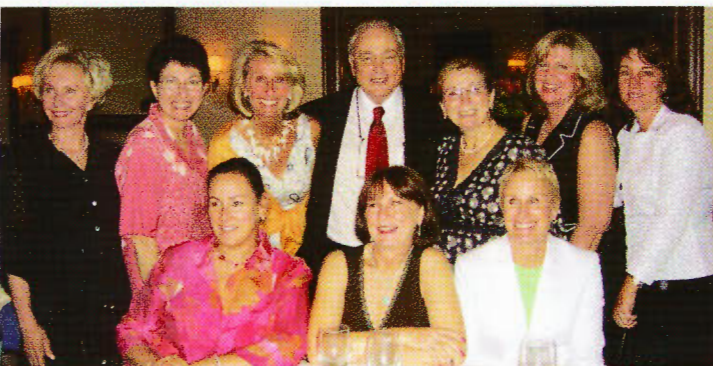
Heather Mitchell, Equalization, was promoted to Office Assistant II.

Ginger Ridenour, Equalization, was promoted to Office Assistant II.

Chrissy Soby, Equalization, was promoted to Equalization Clerk.

Elizabeth Osterkamp, Equalization, was promoted to Equalization Appraiser II.

William Thompson, Equalization, was promoted to Equalization Field Supervisor.



## kudos

Lynn Doane, Economic Development, graduated Cum Laude from Central Michigan University, receiving her Bachelor's of Science in Information Technology.

Elen Galloway, secretary to Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti, earned her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University.

Michelle Stover, Aviation & Transportation, earned her MBA in Public Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Rob Messner received a Check Point Certified Security Expert (CCSE) certification from Checkpoint Software.

Linda Bender, Health Division, recently earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from Wayne State University.

Lynn McDaniels, Health Division, recently received Board Certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Community Health from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Cathy Shallal, Manager of Human Resources was chosen by the Michigan Chapter of the International Personnel Management Association for Human Resources to receive the A. M. "Biff" Elliott Achievement Award. Cathy was recognized and honored for her contributions toward the improvement of public personnel management at a governmental level in the State of Michigan. Chaunda Nash, Human Resources, received her BBA Degree in Human Resource Management.

Colleen Stacy, Human Resources, received a BBA Degree in Human Resource Management

William Thompson, Equalization, received his Bachelor's Degree.

Cynthia Matusko, WIC program, Health Division, received her Masters of Arts degree from Siena Heights University.

Judith Cunningham, Corporation Counsel, was re-elected to the Oakland County Bar Association's (OCBA) Board of Directors. This is her second three-year term as an elected member of the OCBA Board.

Keith Lermينياux, Deputy Corporation Counsel, currently chairs the OCBA's Business/In House Counsel Committee.

Jody Hall, Sr. Assistant Corporation Counsel, has been asked to serve as Vice Chair of the OCBA's Municipal Law Committee for 2007-2008. It's anticipated that Ms. Hall will move up to serve as Chair of the Committee for the 2008-2009 term.

Ahmad Roby, Sr. Assistant Corporation Counsel, will serve as President-elect of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association. The Straker Bar is a special purpose bar that promotes legal practice opportunities for minorities and women.

## Check Out New HR Training & Development Opportunities!

The HR/Training & Development training catalog for July through December 2007 is now available for your review. The catalog details all the employee development opportunities available to Oakland County employees.

Visit our website (<http://www.oakgov.com/intranet/odt>) or go through OakSource to view the catalog which has detailed course listings, course descriptions, registration policies and procedures, and the schedule of classes.

Questions? Contact us at (248) 452-9945 or by e-mail at [hrtraining@oakgov.com](mailto:hrtraining@oakgov.com).

## Judge Schnelz & Friends

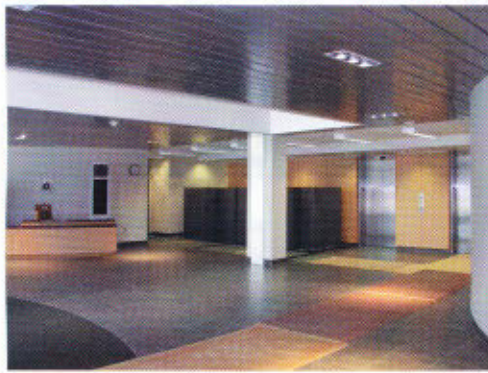
Oakland County Circuit Judge Gene Schnelz(center) at his retirement party held June 14, 2007 at Maggiano's restaurant in Troy which was hosted by the Circuit and Probate Court Judges. In the photo from left to right in the back row are: Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti; Judge Linda Hallmark; Chief Judge Wendy Potts; Judge Schnelz; Judge Martha Anderson; Judge Colleen O'Brien and Judge Cheryl Matthews. In the front row, left to right are: Judge Nanci Grant; Judge Joan Young and Judge Rae Lee Chabot. It was a great evening of friendship as his fellow judges officially sent him on his way to the next chapter of his life as a mediator/arbitrator with the Birmingham law firm of Schnelz Wells.

# Behind the Scenes

## Executive Office Move

### Overview

The new Executive Office Building is now fully occupied with 260 County employees from the County Executive's Office, Fiscal Services, Risk Management, Human Resources, Economic Development, and Purchasing.



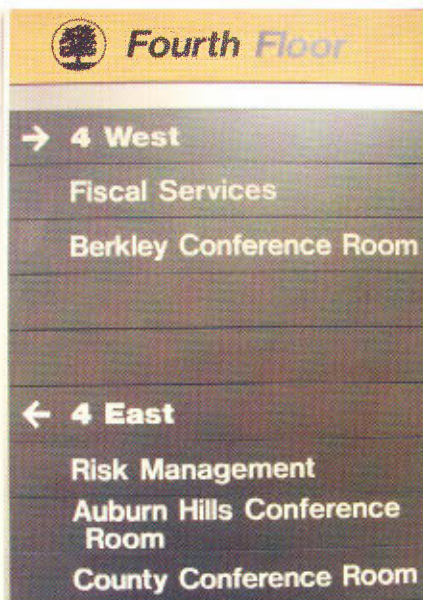
Over the past several years Facilities Management worked with architects, Neumann Smith Associates, and the contractor, Walbridge Aldinger, to bring about this remarkable and striking transformation of the old Oakland Schools administration building.

At this point, Phil Goulding's Grounds Unit is putting some finishing touches on the beautiful landscape while Bob Larkin's Facilities Planning group is putting the last pieces of furniture in place. Facilities Engineering's Alex Skoczylas and Steve Stanford are finishing up their paperwork and seeing to a few remaining punch list tasks which are things that need to be corrected as the building gets turned over to Sammy Cowell and all the folks working behind the scenes at Facilities Maintenance.

### Spotlight

The building was a complete renovation project and features all new electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems. Windows were replaced and a new roof installed. The interior of the building is completely new and features a "main street" theme running down the center of each floor. All the floors have a combination work and break room with copiers, mailboxes, lots of counter space, tables, also a microwave and refrigerator. These rooms are named for their location. For example, the one on the third floor is called "Third & Main". The rooms even have a street sign at the doorway.

Speaking of room names, many of the 27 conference rooms throughout the building are named for Oakland County communities. Towns and cities from all across Oakland are featured. While that may seem like a lot of conference rooms, many of them are small and meant to serve as a private place for people within a specific area to meet. Most of the employees are in open plan workstations rather than private offices. This type of office plan is widely used in business and permitted the County to bring various work groups together on one floor and under one roof.



### New Stuff

Perhaps one of the most exciting features of the building is the new Conference Center located at the east end of the building. This multi-functional space has an elaborate audio visual system with automated controls for everything from the projectors, screens, lights, and even window blinds. The Conference Center features the Waterford Conference Room, the Pontiac Training Room, and Oakland East and West. The Oakland Room can accommodate up to 240 people and can be divided into two rooms.

Some other facts about the building:

- The New Executive Office Building is the tallest building in Waterford Township.
- If you walk the entire building, using the stairs and going across each floor, including the conference center, before returning to your starting point you will have walked one mile, all indoors.
- The building features the Logison sound masking system which cuts down on noise from phones and people talking. The building is a quiet place in which to work, even with the open plan workstation environment.

