

Telegraph



Dr. Tom Gordon at left and George Miller at right with Health Division award recipients Barbara Reilly, Robin Reindl, Sharon Tomaszewski, Joan Thompson, Laurie Blower, Marva Cross, Gary Frick, Gail Perks, Sue Dignard and Pat Brines.

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2005 Employees' Retirement and Service Awards

On June 10, 2005 the Oakland County Employees' Retirement and Service Awards Luncheon was held at the Centerpoint Marriott to honor some of Oakland County government's most valued and dedicated employees for their many years of service. This year's luncheon honored 271 service award recipients and retirees. The purpose of the annual luncheon is to honor those employees with 20 or more years of service.

The luncheon began with a welcome by emcee and Director of Human Resources, Nancy Scarlet. L. Brooks Patterson then congratulated all award recipients and, along with Deputy County Executives Ken Rogers and Gerald Poisson, presented service award plaques to those employees who had completed 25 years of service with Oakland County.

Receiving plaques for 25 years of service were: **Gary Alexander, William Anderson, Anthony Arnold, Martin Bay, Paul Bidinger, Kathleen Bond, Lori Bovee, Jean Brancheau-Egan, Michael Brennan, Joanne Bridson, Sandra Briercheck, Irene Bush, Sheila Cannon, Sandra Carl, Dale Cason, Thomas Cavalier, Cheryl Clark, Arthur Cockrell III, Kathleen Cojanu, James Cokley, Rosemarie Coleman, Walter Cooley, Patricia Crane, Jeffrey Crockett, Charles Crumb, Susan Cullen-Connor, Mark Darbe, Pamela Decker, Karen Dickerson, Vicki Dickie, Peggy Donovan, Janie Dudley, James English, Julie Fabrizio, Dirk Feneley, Scott Feneley, Dennis Finney, Ronald Foon, Virgie Ford, David Fournier, Michael Freed, Lori Fry, James Gibson, Sheryl Grant, Carol Griesser, Holly Hadac, Linda Hallmark, Keith Harding, Linda Harris, Joey Hickey, James Holton, Roma Honer, Maureen Howald, Kristina Huffman, Evelyn Humphrey-Shaw, Kenneth**



Award recipients Julie Casanova, Monica Velez, Sheryl Sutherland and Bob Luckey with Oakland County Treasurer Pat Dohany.

Continued on P. 3

From Whence We Came

Vintage Baseball – The Rochester Grangers

America's pastime has come a long way over the years. Don't believe me, then check out the Vintage Base Ball Association. The organization strives to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the game of base ball according to the norms of yesteryear. Using nineteenth century rules as strict guidelines, the phrases, customs and uniforms remain intact. Even the term base ball is used as two words, signifying how it was originally written.

As for how the game is played, one could be pleasantly surprised. There is no heckling of players, no swearing or any spitting whatsoever. Base ball is played like it was meant to be, with dignity, skill, and mutual respect for both teams. Even the umpire is thought of as a trusted friend. It's base ball pure and simple.



The Rochester Grangers is a local vintage base ball team that plays according to the rules of 1864. Their goal is to educate people as to how the game was played and to provide an interpretation of the era. On July 10th they will be playing the Mt. Clemens Regulars at Historic Fort Wayne and on July 23rd they will be taking on The Never Sweats on Mackinac Island. If that's too far to travel for you this summer, the Grangers play a 'home' game August 20th at Van Hoosen Farm in Rochester Hills.

For more information on the team, or their upcoming schedule, sure to check out their website www.rochestergrangers.com

So when your favorite team this summer scores a run, or as the Grangers would say 'tally an ace', instead of yelling hurray, try politely cheering huzzah!

The Beginners Guide to Vintage Base Ball

When going to the games this summer, be sure to be prepared by using this handy list of terms,



Now

Batter
Pitcher
Catcher
Run!
Score a Run
Fan
Hurrray!
Ground Ball
Out
Error
Ball Player

Then

Striker
Hurler
Behind
Leg It!
Tally an Ace
Crank
Huzzah!
Daisy Cutter
Dead
Muff
Ballist



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Brown Bag Lecture Series

September 15, 2005

Noon – 1 P.M.

Speaker: Cathy Thomas,
Oakland County Parks &
Recreation

Topic:
**Ellis Barn
Relocation to
Springfield Oaks
Park**

October 20, 2005

Noon – 1 P.M.

Speaker: Mary Andrews,
Artist and Curator

Topic:
**Michigan Quilt
Invitational:
Exploring Africa
Quilt Exhibition**

November 17, 2005

Noon – 1 P.M.

Speaker: J. B. Daveys, Artist

Topic:
**Michigan
Fingerstyle Guitar
Society**
Featuring a live
performance!

Johnson, Susan Johnston,

John Kress, Robert Larkin, Donna Ling, Dyeann

Littlejohn, William Lizenby, Judith Lockhart,

Frances Margherio, Barbara Martin, Deborah

Meer, John McDonald, Nancy McKerverey, David

Kola, Marilyn Miller, Matthew Miller, Sherry

Miller, Nancy Mills, Sallyanne Morris, Randy

Newlin, Gloria Norris, Robert Osborne, Curtis

Overby, John Owens, Jr., Kenneth Parker, David

Payne, Bruce Pearson, Steven Pearson, David

Pement, Dale Polley, Janet Pung, Douglas Quinn,

Joseph Racey, Jr., Pamela Renusch, Gregory

Renzell, Scott Reynolds, David Rheume, Karry

Rieth, Brian Risdon, Renee Robbins, Sharon

Rosebush, David Row, David Schmidt, Daniel

Scott, David Scott, Kelly Scott, Michael Searing,

Michele Shafer, Sandra Sherman, Amy Skewes,

Kimberly Slabinski, Greg Smith, James C. Smith,

Robert Smith, Timothy Soave, Margaret Soubly,

Andrew Sparks, Darwin Spaysky, John Stange,

James Starnes, Jody Stowe, Nancy Strelecky,

Laura Thierbach, Debra Thompson, Lewis

Tiernan, Sandra Tillman, Doreen Timms, Frank

Trionfi, Gary Tunis, Ronald Tunningley, Gary

Vaught, Nancy VonKoehnen, Vickie Wardell, David

Webster, Marilyn Wells, Karen White, Sheila

White, Janet Whitefield, Debra Willhite, Richard

Wiser, Donald Wood, Dale Woodliff, David Wurtz,

Judge Joan Young, Susan Young, Jeanette Zinger,

Frank Zuazo

Following the 25 year presentations, department directors and managers presented service award certificates to their respective employees and retirees. Of note were two employees who received service awards for 40 years of service, which were Dave Ross, director of Facilities Management, and Dave VanderVeen, director of Central Services.

A special presentation was also made by Board Chairperson, Bill Bullard, Jr. to County Executive L. Brooks Patterson in recognition of 30 years of service with Oakland County. Mr. Bullard highlighted many of the successful initiatives and achievements of Mr. Patterson's career including the establishment of the Rainbow Connection, the March of Dimes Humanitarian of the Year award, the distribution of nearly \$400,000 from the Casual Day fund to local charities and the savings of more than \$3.5 million dollars to taxpayers from the Employee Suggestion Program.

Service awards are presented to all employees who have completed 10 years of service and going up in 5 year increments (10, 15, 20, etc.). On behalf of the County of Oakland, we would like to congratulate all employees receiving service awards this year.

Welcome To Online Learning At Oakland County!

As part of the Human Resources Training & Development Unit's ongoing commitment to continuing development for Oakland County employees, we are providing a training initiative that can be accessed from the convenience of your desktop computer.

Computer-Based Training (CBT) is a developmental tool that you can utilize at your own pace right from your desktop computer. It is not intended to replace instructor-led courses, but designed to supplement traditional methods and provide greater opportunity for skill development. The CBT courses partner with our facilitated classes which are tied to the Oakland County Competency Model. CBT course topics include:

- Administrative Support
- Business Etiquette and Professionalism
- Communication
- Customer Service
- Grammar and Business Writing
- Management/Leadership Development
- Strategic Planning
- Team Building
- Time Management/Organization
- AND MORE!

Other CBT Highlights:

- Up to 58 courses available on the topics listed above
- "Bookmarking" feature allows you to stop and re-start the course where you left off, so courses do not have to be completed in one sitting (course duration is typically 3 – 4 hours total)
- Assessments and valuable feedback

Scheduling your Training

It is your responsibility to schedule the date(s) and time(s) when you plan to work on and complete the course with your supervisor so that training does not interfere with other job responsibilities. When scheduling time with your supervisor, it is important to note that SkillPort will "save your place" in any course you begin. This method of training allows you the flexibility to complete courses according to a schedule that is convenient for you and your supervisor. For example, you may choose to schedule two 2-hour sessions over several days for one 4-hour course. However, we do require the employee and supervisor to negotiate a realistic completion date for each course and indicate this date on the registration form.

Don't Have Access to a PC?

The Oakland County Research Library has PCs available for use by employees as well as the general public. The Library is located in the Oakland County Courthouse – Ground Floor, West Wing Extension. For more information, contact the Library at:

Phone: 248-858-0738

E-mail: reslib@co.oakland.mi.us

The Computer-Based Training methodology starts with you! We hope this program benefits your commitment to productivity, including your daily professional tasks.

More Information

Check out the CBT website at: www.myoaksource.net/intranet/odt/about/cbt.html or contact Kelly Fitzpatrick at:

Phone: 248-858-0533

E-mail: fitzpatrickk@co.oakland.mi.us

Lakeland and West Bloomfield Students at the 25th Anniversary of the Youth in Government Day Program

On April 28th, over 120 Youth in Government Commissioners from across Oakland County attended the annual Youth in Government Day Program. Students learned about the different levels and functions of County Government from Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Bill Bullard, Jr. and Nancy Scarlet, director of Human Resources for Oakland County, who represented the County Executive's Office. Students saw a video arraignment presentation in Judge Wendy Potts' courtroom, which was facilitated by Oak Video Project Manager Robert W. Pence and Judge Michael Warren. They also learned about the Canine Unit of Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard's Office.



Commissioner Rogers, Larry Crockett, Marc Wade, Elizabeth Whitfield, Sarmed Jabra.

Lakeland and West Bloomfield Students were Youth Commissioners for the day. They met with their commissioners to observe a portion of the Board Meeting, participate in Youth Committee Meetings, create a resolution which they presented at the Youth Commissioner's Board Meeting.

Lakeland Students attended the Youth in Government Luncheon with their Commissioner Eileen T. Kowall who covered the cost of the lunch for participants.

Students from Birmingham, Berkley, Clarkston, West Bloomfield, Pontiac, White Lake, Lake Orion, Troy, and Farmington learned about the county and different career options. Oakland County Sheriff's Department escorted students and Oak Management prepared a nice lunch for the students.



Commissioner Mattie McKinney Hatchett and Commissioner Tim W. Melton (back row) are pictured with students from the Pontiac Schools as they hold up sign commemorating the 25 years of the program.

The Holocaust Remembered

The Holocaust, one of the darkest periods in world history, was remembered with a special program in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners auditorium on Thursday, May 5th.

The featured speaker at the 90-minute event was Professor Andrew Port, a Wayne State University professor of German history. Professor Port spoke on the perversion of the rule of law in Nazi Germany during World War II and how it led to the persecution and extermination of some 6 million Jews in the Nazi death camps. Professor Port said a clear understanding of the Holocaust will strengthen our commitment to individual rights at home.

"The Nazis did what they did, not by ignoring law but manipulating it to further their own barbaric ends," said Oakland County circuit court judge Edward Sosnick who helped coordinate the Holocaust Remembrance Day program. "Its lessons, its dangers, impacted us all, especially those of us living in democratic societies."



Walk for your health!

Join Oakland County Parks and Recreation staff to get fit. Oakland County employees can meet park staff in the parking lot near Waterford Oaks activity center at 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Waterford.

Participants will register for Walk Michigan/Walk Oakland program to win a free trip to Mackinac Island. Trail walk dates are July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, at 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Giveaways and fun guaranteed!

Please contact Marge Gatliff at (248) 858-4611 for additional information.

The **Oakland County Animal Shelter** is coordinating the launch of a new electronic newsletter for pet lovers. Fur-e-tails is Michigan's only electronic news source dedicated to pets and their owners. Each monthly issue will contain timely news and information on:

- Taking better care of your pet
- Veterinary news and developments
- New pet products and services
- Michigan animal welfare laws
- Pet adoption and rescue organizations
- Pet lover events

To subscribe to this FREE newsletter, email your name and request to become a fur-e-tails subscriber to fur-e-tails@oaklandpetfund.org. You will be sent an email confirming your subscription.



Telegraphing Our Talents

Many Helped Prepare for Senior Prom at MCF

This year marked the 4th Annual Senior Prom at the Medical Care Facility which was held on June 24th. The theme was "Garden Party" where beautiful spring flowers and garden-themed novelties were the center of décor.



Pearlean Jones, activity coordinator and Diana Fleming, assistant activity coordinator, put the event together for over 70 residents and an additional 75 family members, guests and local dignitaries. That's a lot of work for two people, but there were many volunteers who helped make this daunting task easier.



Just a few of the many hats decorated for the 4th Annual Senior Prom

Several talented ladies from the Fiscal Services division volunteered their time to decorate straw garden hats with flowers and ribbon. The hats ranged from simply elegant to fun and whimsical with some sporting faux jewels, feathers and butterflies. There were a few ladies who had never done this type of craft before but were given a quick tutorial by fellow co-workers so everyone could participate in the fun. MCF residents added these beautiful hats to their outfits for the party.

Other Oakland County employees provided their assistance too. Prom dresses and suits were donated for the residents to wear. Some departments even loaned props and supplies to MCF for the night of the event. "We couldn't have done it all without the help from county employees," said Pearlean Jones.

Volunteers from the community also got involved. Girl Scout Troops, beauticians and nail technicians came to help get the residents ready for the big night of festivities. "The ladies were all dressed up with hair coiffed, make-up on and nails done," says MCF Manager Cindy Davis. "Our staff always goes above and beyond to make sure everyone looks just right."



A "Thank You" to County Employees

Ever wonder if your generous donations to the Casual Day Fund are appreciated by those on the receiving end of your kindness? Rest assured your thoughtfulness has not gone unnoticed. Below are excerpts from thank you letters Mr. Patterson recently received.

The first is from Save the Children recognizing county employees' generous donations to the tsunami relief effort.

Dear Mr. Patterson:

I thank you for stewarding a generous gift from Oakland County employees to Save the Children and ask that you relay our deepest appreciation to these thousands of caring individuals at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Fionia Hodgson

Vice President Giving and Public Affairs

The second "thank you" letter comes from the USO.

Dear L. Brooks Patterson:

On behalf of the USO I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$7,000 to Operation USO Care Package.

Your generous contribution helped enable Operation USO Care Package to provide thousands of service members with these much needed and much appreciated items (i.e. prepaid calling cards, disposable cameras, playing cards and toiletries).

Sincerely,

Edward A. Powell

Elaine B. Rogers

*President, Chief Executive Officer
President*

*USO Worldwide Operation
USO Metropolitan Washington*

As you can readily see your caring and compassion for others have made a difference. Thank you!

Quake to Shake Pontiac Lake

The roar of the inboard hydroplanes will again echo over Pontiac Lake this summer as Quake on the Lake makes its return visit for a sixth year at the beautiful Pontiac Lake Recreation Area on July 23-24. More than 80 of America's best hydroplane racers will be competing for APBA championship points on the challenging one-mile course.

Proceeds from this year's event will be donated to The Rainbow Connection, a 501(c)(3) charity founded by Oakland County L. Brooks Patterson that grants wishes to children with life threatening or terminal illnesses. Mr. Patterson started the charity in the early 1980's to honor the memory of a good friend and his two children who were killed in a private plane crash.

Since Quake's inaugural year in 2000, more than 100,000 spectators have lined the shores of Pontiac Lake to experience the thrills, chills and spills of inboard hydroplane racing.



EMPLOYEES of the Month



Dean Shackelford

Dean Shackelford, who says he was really surprised at being selected Employee of the Month, has been a mainstay in the Human Resources Department (formerly Personnel) for the past 27 years. In November 1978 Dean began working his way up the County's career ladder in Employee Records. From there it was on to Classifications and Salaries, Labor Relations and finally to supervisor in Employee Benefits where he has spent the last 19 years.

"The best part of my job is the fellow county workers I get to work and interact with on a daily basis," Dean said. In his spare time Dean enjoys reading and during nice weather you can usually find him bicycling in one of the metro parks.

"It's really a pleasure to work with Dean," said his supervisor, Jennifer Mason. "Dean is very bright, knowledgeable and conscientious. We are very lucky to have him."

Dean and his wife, Romaine, who have been married for 18 years live in Clarkston and are the parents of a 17-year old son, Eric.



George Butler

With three very active teenage children, George Butler may be the real life Road Warrior (apologies to Mel Gibson). George, who works in the Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS) area of Information Technology, spends a lot of his spare time transporting his 16 and 18 year old sons and 14 year old daughter to baseball, football and orchestra events.

At CLEMIS, George provides software support, a job he's done at other places over the years before coming to Oakland County government 7 years ago.

"The thing I really like about my job is the contact I have with our customers," George said. "I wouldn't be particularly happy just staring at a computer screen all day long." George and his wife, Colleen, who have been married for 22 years, live in Troy with their 3 children.

"George exemplifies Oakland County's finest ideals - such as excellence in service to the public," said Joe Sullivan, manager of CLEMIS. "George's performance in support of the entire CLEMIS membership is a constant. He is always a self-starter and a peak performer."



Stephen Long

"I was really surprised to get something like this now since I have been with the County for such a long time," said Stephen Long referring to his recent selection as Employee of the Month.

As a supervisor in "D" Cottage at Children's Village, Stephen is responsible for helping the young men in his charge transition smoothly back into the community. Stephen's career at Children's Village spans a quarter of a century and it's obvious he loves what he does.

"I really like sitting down and talking to these young men," said Stephen. "If we can't work out their problems on an individual basis then we try to do it as a group."

Away from the pressures of the job, Stephen likes working in his yard and tending to his flowers. He and his 14 year old daughter, Marsha, who is a figure skater, live in Pontiac.

"Stephen is a long term employee who brings great wisdom and expertise to his job," said Jody Overall, manager of Children's Village.



Jim Brown

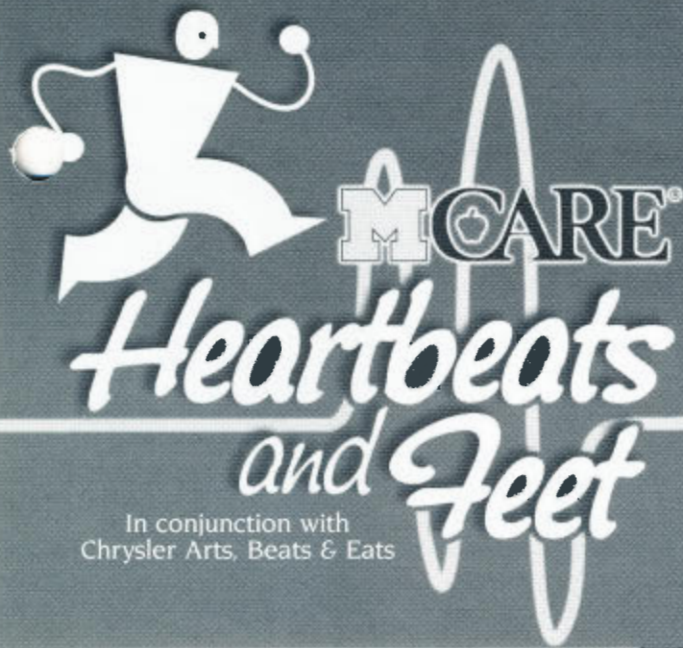
Jim Brown has found it tough to stay away from Children's Village for any length of time over the past eleven years. Since November 12, 1994, Jim has left and returned to work at Children's Village no less than a dozen times. As a youth specialist II, Jim supervises the resident's activities in "A" building north.

"What is really rewarding for me about my job is the opportunity to work on a daily basis with the kids," Jim said.

When not supervising the 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. shift at "A" north, Jim is involved with his church and also likes to spend time with his 2 grandchildren. On a warm summer weekend, Jim can also be found dropping a line in the water to do some fishing.

"Jim is our anchor in "A" building," said Jody Overall, manager of Children's Village. "The kids and staff respect him for his leadership ability and effective intervention techniques. He is an excellent troubleshooter."

Jim and his wife, Judy, have been married for 37 years. The couple, who live in Waterford, have a 35 year old daughter, Christie and a 33 year old son, Paul.



Got plans for Labor Day? Why not join L. Brooks Patterson, our County Executive, at 8:30 a.m. for a 5k (3.2-mil) walk from the Courthouse to downtown Pontiac where the Arts, Beats & Eats festival will be in progress! After enjoying the event, a free shuttle will be available to return you to the Courthouse.

This will be the second annual Heartbeats and Feet walk, an effort to promote good health in coordination with Brooks Patterson's "Count Your Steps" program.

Every participant in the walk will be given an official Heartbeats and Feet t-shirt as well as complimentary food and beverage tickets to use at the festival.

In addition to promoting physical fitness and raising awareness for good exercise, walk participants will make themselves and their favorite charity a little healthier. Pledge forms for various charities ~ including Friends of Little Oaks ~ will soon be available. Stay tuned...



Oakland County Commissioner Greg Jamian Donates \$1,500 to Friends of Little Oaks

Oakland County Commissioner Greg Jamian (R-Bloomfield Hills) has made a \$1,500 personal donation to Little Oaks, the county's childcare center.



"I want to show my support by contributing to this great cause," Jamian said.

"As Commissioners, we must personally buy into the decisions that we make. I wanted to do something that would make a difference for our employees that is why I made the donation to bring light to this great cause. With this donation, my goal is to help make Little Oaks accessible to all county employees that may need tuition assistance. I want to join Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's efforts to help county employees' children participate in this fine program," stated Commissioner Jamian.

Other commissioners making contributions recently include John Scott (R-Waterford) and Eric Wilson (R-Lake Orion).

Little Oaks was conceived by County Executive L. Brooks Patterson in 1998 as an affordable, high quality onsite childcare facility for Oakland County employees.

Michigan State Fair Centennial Celebration to Feature Seabiscuit Tribute

The Michigan State Fair, the nation's oldest state fair, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in grand style this summer with the unveiling of a statue honoring the famed race horse Seabiscuit.

Seabiscuit got his start at what was then called the Detroit Fairgrounds in 1936. Seabiscuit, the son of legendary Man-O-War, won two of the five races he ran at the fairgrounds – the Governor's and Hendries Handicaps.

"Seabiscuit came along when the United States was mired in the Great Depression and he gave hope to those suffering hardship," said Ellen Zehnder, adult treatment coordinator who is heading up the effort to secure a historical marker which will accompany the statue of Seabiscuit. "Many people are surprised to learn Seabiscuit started his amazing climb to fame at 8-Mile and Woodward."

Zehnder says a group of artists has been commissioned to do the sculpture which should be ready for unveiling during the Fair which runs from August 10-21.

BENEFITS

Q & A

The IRS has recently modified the rules for Health Care and Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts.

Q What was the change?

A As you know, under the previous rules, you could only request reimbursement from the accounts for expenses you incurred during the current calendar year. Any money you did not spend for expenses in the calendar year you lost. This was referred to as the "use it or lose it" rule.

Q How has the calendar year rule been changed?

A Effective with the 2005 plan year, which is the one we are in now, you will be able to incur claims through March 15, 2006 and charge them against your 2005 account.

Q Can you give me an example?

A Let's say you have pledged to contribute \$1,000 to your Health Care Reimbursement Account for 2005. On December 31, you have only incurred enough expenses to use up \$900 of the account. Under the old rules, you would lose the left over \$100.

Q How does it work under the new rules?

A Under the new rules if you have a medical expense in January of 2006 that is \$25 and in February of 2006 that is \$75, you could submit those expenses for reimbursement and use up the remaining \$100 from your 2005 account.

Q Why was this rule change made?

A There has been discussion at the federal level for some time to eliminate the "use it or lose it" rule and allow the funds in Health Care and Dependent Care reimbursement accounts to roll over. This is a compromise between those who want to keep the "use it or lose it" rule and those who want to allow a full rollover of the funds.

Q Where can I find more information on this change?

A More information will be included in your Natural Select package which will be distributed in September for the January 1, 2006 enrollment.

PERSON TO PERSON

L. Brooks Patterson

Just think about it. Within the next couple of years you will be able to take your laptop anywhere in Oakland County and connect to the Internet, completely wireless. Sitting at your son's or daughter's baseball game, enjoying a day at the beach or just lounging around in your own backyard – wherever you can walk or drive within Oakland County's 910 square miles, you'll have access to wireless Internet service.



Wireless Oakland will make that happen. The key point here and one that a lot of people can't seem to grasp is: Oakland County will not build, own, operate or maintain the wireless network. The private sector partners selected to administer the program will handle those functions. Although Oakland County will not be directly involved in the operational aspects of the project, we are making our estimated 2,400 assets available to our partners. These assets include dark fiber network, line of sight network, 23 government owned towers, 120 privately managed towers, 200 tornado siren poles, 350 public schools, 325 buildings and structures and 1,400 traffic signals. These assets are valued at more than \$1 billion. But for this access to our assets, communication providers will be required to offer the lower bandwidths of Wireless Oakland to users free of charge. However they will be allowed to charge fees for the higher end service.

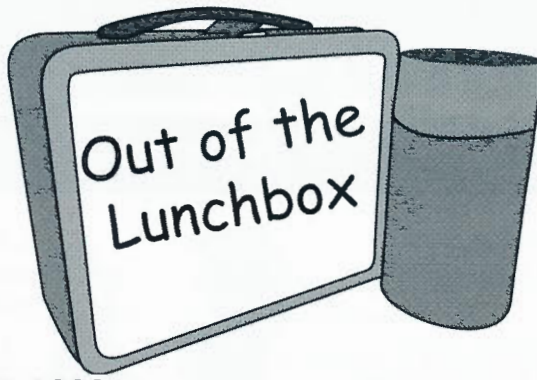
Wireless Oakland has important job related benefits as well for many of our mobile county employees. Those who work remotely from the field such as sanitarians, assessors and visiting nurses will be able to handle their job responsibilities without unnecessary travel back and forth to the office. It will make their jobs infinitely easier and more efficient. Not only that but Wireless Oakland will help drive down the cost of government by reducing inefficient and costly travel time, among other things.

In addition to blanketing Oakland County with a wireless Internet cloud, Wireless Oakland sets out to accomplish two other important goals. One is to break down the digital divide by offering "no cost" or "low cost" PCs, wireless technology and training to our underserved populations.

The second goal is to use Wireless Oakland to enhance the commercial and residential character of Oakland County. So that when I go to Europe in September to meet with banking institutions and other high-tech businesses and they ask me why they should invest in Oakland out of all the other 3,200 counties in America, I can answer: Because Oakland is the only county with free wireless Internet service.

Wireless Oakland will be showcased at Arts, Beats and Eats over the Labor Day weekend when an estimated 1.2 million people will jam the streets of downtown Pontiac. Sometime in the fall we hope to have several pilot projects up and running with the entire network becoming operational sometime in 2007.

When completed, Wireless Oakland will be the largest project of its kind in America . . . and we trust the most successful.



Mexico Lindo
6225 Highland Rd
Waterford, MI 48327-1838
Phone: (248) 666-3460

If flavorful food, fast service, and great prices sound appealing when looking for that south of the board taste for lunch, forget Taco Bell and head further west. That's right I said west! Located on M-59, just past the Oakland County Airport is a quaint Mexican Restaurant that is bursting with atmosphere and appeal.

Mexico Lindo is definitely worth the drive and service is quick for those on a time crunch. The lunch menu runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features a daily special consisting of a traditional Mexican favorite such as Enchiladas on Monday to Tostados on Friday. Such items are offered in reasonable portions and at very affordable prices.

The menu offers a further array of authentic Mexican dishes from traditional appetizers and soups to what are called the House Specialties. An item of interest in this category is the Mexican Sandwich, a plentiful portion of flour tortillas layered with beef, beans and rice and covered with melted cheese and chili. Not only delicious and filling, the item is full of that well seasoned Mexican flavor sure to please even the pickiest food connoisseur.

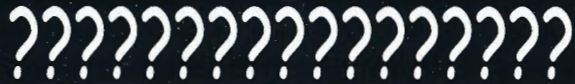
Be sure to go light on the complementary chips and salsa in order to treat yourself to some savory desserts after lunch. The only draw back to such a fantastic food fiesta is that one has to come back to work without getting to enjoy a siesta!

The American Dream Downpayment Initiative

Administered by the Oakland County Community and Home Improvement Division, the American Dream Downpayment Initiative is available to provide first-time homebuyers with a \$10,000 loan to meet downpayment and closing costs. The homebuyer must qualify under Oakland County ADDI guidelines. Generally, the applicant must be a first time homebuyer, live or work in Oakland County, and meet established income-limits. For example, gross annual income for a family of four must be less than \$55,900. The homebuyer must be able to qualify for a standard 30-year fixed mortgage from a qualified financial institution and able to contribute cash, a minimum of 2 percent of the purchase price, toward the home purchase. Pre-purchase and post-purchase housing counseling by the Oakland County Housing Counselor is required.

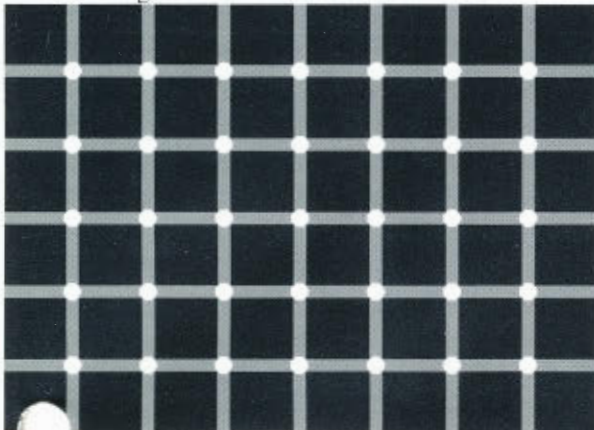
The \$10,000 downpayment assistance is in the form of a 0-percent deferred-payment loan. The house to be purchased must be located within one of Oakland County's HOME participating communities and must pass a housing quality standards inspection. The unit must become the primary residence of the recipient upon purchase.

For more information on this program, contact the ADDI coordinator, Dorothy Melvin-Johnson at (248) 858-0495.



This issues puzzle:

How many black dots can you find in the image? Note that the image is static.



To answer, call Mike Zack at (248) 858-0457, or email at zackm@co.oakland.mi.us.

If there is more than one correct response, the winning entry will be chosen by a drawing.



Last issues puzzle question and answer:

A number consisting of three different digits is subtracted from a number made up of the same digits in reverse order.

The result consists of the same three digits in yet another order. What are the three numbers?

Answer:

954; 459; 495

No winner was chosen for this contest due to a computer malfunction. We apologize for the inconvenience.

kudos coming & going

kudos

Amy Roemer, clerk for Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Fred Mester, was officially sworn in by Judge Mester as a member of the State Bar of Michigan on Friday, June 10.

Mary Strobe, Health Division, received commendation from Michigan Department of Community Health and the Michigan FIMR Network for her leadership, 6/05

Tiffany Jacobs, Equalization Department, passed State Certification Level 1, 5/05

Jennifer Farris, Equalization Department, passed State Certification Level II, 5/6/05

Terry Schultz, Equalization Department, passed State Certification Level II, 5/12/05

Linda Bender, Health Division, received a \$2,500 award to be used towards her Master's Degree in Social Work at Wayne State University. She submitted the winning entry for the Elizabeth N. Brehler Manuscript Competition, 6/05

Kim DeMars, Health Division, received a Distinguished Service Award and Appreciation for Dedicated Service to the Association from the Michigan Environmental Health Association at their recent annual conference, 6/05

Lisa Fockler, Health Division, received the Loren B. Bensley Jr. Honor Award from Central Michigan University. The award was given in recognition of Lisa's dedicated service in Health Education, 6/05

Kevin Oldani, Health Division, received an award and full scholarship for design and innovation from Lawrence Technological University and Chevrolet, 6/05

Desiree Sanders, Health Division, was accepted to the University of Michigan's School of Public Health Masters Degree Program, 6/05

transfers

Penny Knope, from Econ Develop & Comm Affairs to Facilities Management, 5/14/05

Jerome Jager, from youth specialist, Children's Village, to veterans' benefits counselor I, Veterans' Services Division, 6/10/05

Rosalind Brantley, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Travis Bravender, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Darin Clark, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Andrew Halbert, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Joshua Moyses, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Gary Perkins, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Jacquese Squirewell, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

David Thompson, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Allison Turner, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Daniel Wirsu II, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Carl Young, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Erica Young, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Danielle Zumbro, youth specialist, Children's Village Division

Barbara Schroeder, Equalization Division

Kenneth Gee, pump maintenance mechanic I, Pump Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 4/4/05

Eric Geiske, GIS/Cad technician I, GIS Mapping Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 4/4/05

Lorna Woods-Johns, GIS/Cad technician I, GIS Mapping Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 4/4/05

Andrea Waggoner, Equalization Division, 4/11/05

Zachary Semke, general helper, SOCSDS Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 4/25/05

Vickie Abernathy, general helper, Facilities Management/FM&O/Custodial, 5/2/05



Thomas O'Connor, general helper, Facilities Management/FM&O/Custodial, 5/2/05

Leauna Furney, general helper, Facilities Management/FM&O/Custodial, 5/2/05

Thomas Harder, maintenance laborer, Sewer/Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 5/9/05

Deon Robertson Jr., maintenance laborer, Sewer/Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 5/9/05

Daniel Trezona, equipment operator, Info Tech- Technical Services Division, 5/9/05

Travis Voss, maintenance laborer, Sewer/Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 5/9/05

Amy Ploof, environmental planner II, Environmental Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 5/16/05

Cassandra Tovar, Equalization Division, became a full time employee, 5/16/05

Catherine Collins, office assistant I, Pump Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 5/23/05

Cathrice Bacon, WIC Unit, Health Division, 6/05

Margaret Helen Provenzano, WIC Unit, Health Division 6/05

Dr. Varsha Deshmukh, Child Health Clinic, Health Division, 6/05

Crystal Gibson, Children's Special Health Care Clinic, Health Division, 6/05

Thomas Johnson, Children's Special Health Care Clinic, Health Division, 6/05

Shelia Klock, Central Support Unit, Health Division, 6/05

Christina Thornberry, Central Support Unit, Health Division, 6/05

Dawn Siegel, Project Manager, Info Tech-Application Services Division, 6/2/05

Tomisha King, veterans' benefits counselor I, Veterans' Services Division, 6/10/05

Gerald Cadreau, project manager, Info Tech-Application Services Division, 6/27/05

celebrations life events

promotions



Misti Friend, to GIS CAD tech. II, Equalization Division, 1/8/05

Sean Washington, to skilled maintenance mechanic II, Facilities Management/FM&O/

Maintenance, 2/05/05

Edward Parker, to pump maintenance mechanic II, SOCSDS Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 3/5/05

Joyce Renfrow, to court administrator, 52-1 District Court in Novi, 3/25/05

John Bennington, to deputy II, Sheriff's Office, 4/2/05

Paul Caswell, to deputy II, Sheriff's Office, 4/2/05

Maurice Cummings, to youth & family caseworker, 4/2/05

Jeremy Doty, to deputy II, Sheriff's Office, 5

Craig Hanselman II, to deputy II, Sheriff's Office, 4/2/05

Joycelyn Isenberg, to appraiser II, Equalization Division, 4/16/05

David Mayer, to deputy II, Sheriff's Office, 4/16/05

Daniel Cole, to boiler mechanic, Facilities Management/FM&O/Heating Plant, 4/30/05

Teresa Falzarano, to account clerk II, Customer Service Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 4/30/05

Salvatore Marra, to deputy II, Sheriff's Office, 4/30/05

Janet Rehm, to deputy court administrator, 52-1 District Court in Novi, 4/30/2005

Michael Battles, to youth specialist supervisor, 5/14/05

Elmer Dunny, to meter mechanic II, Sewer/Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, 5/14/05

Michael Eastham, to maintenance mechanic II, Walled Lake WWTP, Drain Commissioner's Office, 5/14/05

Teresa M. Hofman-Lawrence, to inmate substance abuse technician, Sheriff's Office,

5/14/05

Amanda Marshall, to appraiser aide, Equalization Division, 5/14/05

Marcus A. Merrell, to inmate caseworker, Sheriff's Office, 5/14/05

Robert Scripture, to level II, Equalization Division, 5/14/05

Christie Bellak, to public health nurse III, 6/05

Pam Schmelzer, to public health nurse III, 6/05

Karen Weiss, to public health nurse III, 6/05

retirements

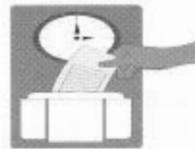
Carrie Hicks, custodial worker II, Facilities Management/FM&O/Custodial, 3/18/05

Diane Brown, chief of telephone communications, Info Tech-Internal Services, 4/29/05

Beth Shafer, Equalization Division, 4/30/05

Pam Tolbert, Equalization Division, 4/30/05

Hazel Jensen, technical assistant, Facilities Management/Administration, 6/1/05



marriages

Melissa Shabdue, Soil Erosion Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, married Anthony Felice on 3/18/05

Cyndi Malek, customer services, Drain Commissioner's Office, married Kevin Kish on 3/21/05

Holly Polakowski, Sewer/Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, married Robert Francis on 4/2/05

Ed Tucker, Mgmt. & Budget - Purchasing, married Val Kaufherr, Mgmt. & Budget - Fiscal Services, on 5/3/05

births



Robert Robbins II, program supervisor & wife, Deanna, had a baby girl, Mallory Faith Robbins, on 10/12/04

Michael Ignash, Inspection Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office & wife, Sarah, had a baby girl, Sydney Nicole, on 3/3/05

Nicole Mato, Health Division, had a baby girl, Megan, on 3/6/05

Vickie Gardner, Health Division, had a baby boy, Alec Troy, on 3/8/05

Jeffrey Parrott, Right-of-Way, Drain Commissioner's Office & wife, Cindy, had a baby girl, Lauren Alexis, on 3/8/05

Corinna Sutton, GWK Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office & husband, Christopher, had a baby boy, Jacob Daniel, on 3/14/05

Tracy Bunse, Health Division, had a baby boy, Tyler Alan, on 4/5/05

Mike Morris, Health Division & wife, Jackie, had a baby girl, Katelyn Marie, on 4/15/05

Kelly Steck, Case Management Office & husband, Greg, had a baby boy, Wyatt Gregory, on 5/2/05

Kelly Burdinie, Health Division, had a baby girl, Hannah, on 5/10/05

David Hieber, Equalization Division, & wife, Ann-Margaret, had a baby girl, Alexa Nicole, on 5/16/05

Patty Salter, Info Tech- Internal Services Division, & husband, Steve, had a baby girl, Taylor Lynn, on 5/28/05

fond farewells

Andrea Zak, Pump Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, resigned 4/15/05 and relocated to Denver.

Stephen David, Walled Lake STP, Drain Commissioner's Office, resigned 4/24/05.

Jessica Dopierala, from Mediation/Facilitation, in order to start law school in the fall, 4/29/05



Toot Thy Horn

Facilities Maintenance & Operations



New Stuff

- Oakland County's Grounds Unit always has an exciting project in the works to keep the County Complex looking beautiful. The next big thing for FM&O is the giant planters that will be brought in to help direct traffic around the complex. These planters, which are 7 feet across and 3 feet high, will be planted with a variety of plants. Not only will these planters add beauty to the landscape, but they will also provide additional security to buildings that have parking lots close to their entrance.
- Plans for a new Sheriff's Administration Building as well as a new Executive Administration Building are in the works for the county. FM&O is working closely with architects and construction managers on these projects. Both buildings are expected to be completed in 2006.
- Soon there will be a newly upgraded computerized maintenance management system on the county web site. This system will allow county employees to log on and submit maintenance requests or notify the staffs of any concerns, complaints, or dangerous working conditions that need attention. With this new system, county employees will have the opportunity to work together to keep the complex in the best possible shape.
- FM&O will be overseeing the installation and completion of a brand new, 200-unit CCTV camera security system for the complex. This system will also include alarms and updated access control in many of the facilities throughout the county complex.



The Executive Office Building gets a facelift during spring planting.

Overview

"Oakland County's FM&O has been around since 1972" said FM&O Manager Dick Johnston. He went on to explain that FM&O takes care of the Oakland County complex throughout the year, and is involved in more than just flowers and gardening. The department's main units are Maintenance and Operations, Central Heating, Safety, Grounds, and Custodial Services. FM&O also oversees the Oakland County Farmer's Market.

Currently there are 174 full time staff members, 26 part-time positions and an additional 10 part-time summer positions. These hard workers are responsible for 41 buildings (1,921,398 sq. ft), 600 acres of grounds, 60 acres of parking lots, one mile of sidewalks, and over 30 miles of utilities. All of this falls under the guidance of the Director of Facilities Management, Dave Ross.



Spotlight

- Although Phil Goulding is the chief of landscaping, FM&O Grounds Unit has some very specialized help. "For every type of grounds project, there is an expert on staff," says flower crew leader Sally Anne Morris. She explained that there are staff members who specialize in building rock walls, planting trees and shrubs, planting flowers, and even a lawn expert. Each one of these sections has a leader who designs the projects, orders all the necessary materials, and oversees the day to day building and maintenance of the project.
- The Grounds Unit of FM&O is the most visible unit in the department. Not only does it keep the gardens planted and the trees and shrubbery pruned, it also takes care of all pest management for the county complex.
- In addition to the spring, summer, and fall campus maintenance, the grounds crew also handles some cold weather jobs for Oakland County. The crew is responsible for shoveling and salting the 60 acres of parking lots on the complex, as well as all the connecting roads and side walks. FM&O Grounds is just one of the many units keeping the Oakland County complex in tip top condition, making it the most beautiful campus around.



Sally Morris pruning some of the beautiful plants in the Executive Office Building.