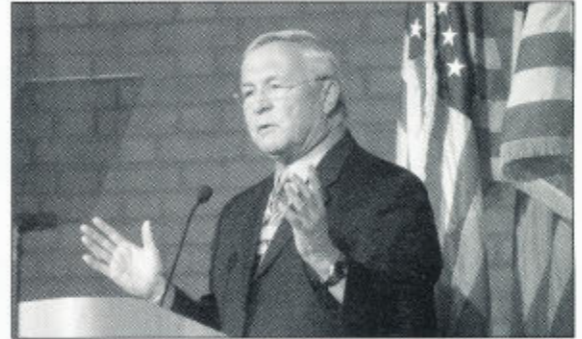


Telegraph



Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson

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Individual and Departmental Awards Highlighted

Patterson Praises Employees in 10th Annual State of the County Address

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson praised county employees during his February 12 State of the County address for their understanding and their many sacrifices during the tumultuous budget crisis of the past two years.

"Theirs (employees) has not been an easy task these past two years, as you've heard," Mr. Patterson said during his 50 minute speech. "They nonetheless continue to provide the citizens of Oakland County with friendly, quality and efficient service under some very difficult circumstances."

Mr. Patterson then went on to thank employees publicly for the extraordinary job they have done for Oakland County. He also recognized the sacrifices they have made which included picking up a portion of their own healthcare costs, paying higher co-pays for prescription coverage and accepting a scaled back salary increase.

Mr. Patterson also highlighted the awards received by departments and individuals in 2003.

Oakland County departments walked away with eight achievement awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Last year, the Fiscal Services Division became only the fourth governmental unit to earn all three awards presented annually by the Government Finance Officer's Association. The National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators presented Oakland County with its 2003 Leadership Recognition Award.

Oakland County also earned the Best Practices Award from the Polycom User's Group for the Oak Video, video arraignment project. The North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy presented the county with the Blue Heron Award which recognizes exemplary service to land conservation.

Individual honors were earned by Tim Soave, manager of Fiscal Services Division, who became one of only 200 certified public finance officers in the nation. Lynn Alexander, Senior Citizen Advocate, was selected a "Wonder Woman" for 2003 by the Women's Survival Center; Terry Cassady, Children's Village, was selected State Childcare Worker of the Year and Evelyn Reinke, Health Division, was honored with the Excellence in Leadership Award.



FROM WHENCE WE CAME

by Adam Hitch, Media and Communications

The County Garage - 1927

Perhaps one of the busiest places in the County in 1927 was the garage, with Mr. Fred Ellicott as Superintendent. The County garage at present is housing 58 motor vehicles. It is here that cars for the various departments are housed, and repaired. It is the duty of the garage to "keep the machines on the road" so that no loss of time occurs. A modernly equipped service station is maintained where repairs are made to all of the County's automotive vehicles. Supplies and parts are purchased direct from manufacturers and wholesalers, and a big savings is the result.

Telegraph

Published every three months by
Office of Media & Communications
Executive Office Building
1200 North Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341-0409
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David Van de Grift
Printing: Oakland County
Print Shop

An interesting bit of history shows a total of 12,771 hours of labor in the shop, from January 1, 1928, to June 1, 1928, and the average wage per hour was 71¢. This is in itself a large savings, considering that the labor in outside shops (at the time) was \$1.50 per hour.

The following is an accurate report of the Oakland County Garage, taken from the daily files for one year:

January 1, 1927, the garage had twenty-eight passenger cars, four trucks and eight motorcycles. This year, due to the increase in activities of all of the county departments, there are 38 passenger cars, eight trucks, two busses, one ambulance, 9 motorcycles and maintenance of three outside deputies.

The garage used 51,738 gallons of gasoline, saving 3¢ per gallon from retail prices. This does not include the 3¢ state tax which would have been saved at any public gas station. This makes a total savings on gas of \$1,552.14.

The very best grades of Sinclair Liberty Arrow and also Pennsylvania oil which retails for 30¢ per quart were used. Last year the garage used 1,602 gallons at a cost of 56¢ per gallon. This year 2,224 gallons were used at a cost of 48¢ a gallon. This shows a saving between cost and retail price of 41,601.28, an increase over last year of 622 gallons.

A total of 520 gallons of alcohol were purchased for this winter's use at 38¢ per gallon. This shows a saving between cost and retail price of 4322.40. Last winter alcohol cost 73¢ per gallon.

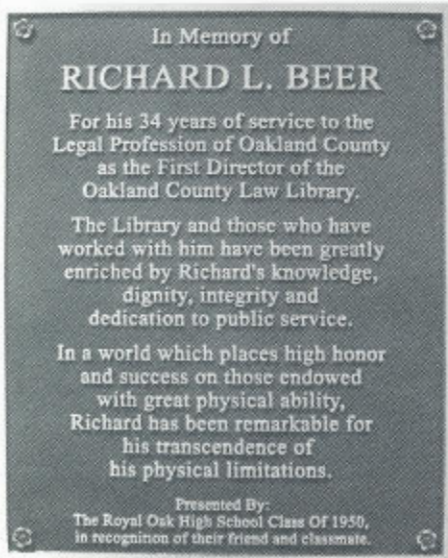
During the past year \$3,771.93 worth of tires and tubes were used. This shows a saving of 25%, or \$1,257.25.

The actual amount of repair parts used during the past year were \$8,232.00. The discounts on parts vary. The average discount was 25%. These same parts would have cost \$10,976.00, showing a saving of \$2,744.00. The average discount is an increase of 5% over last year.

The average cost of repair work for the year in 1927 was 72¢ per hour against that of 80¢ last year. This is due to the increase in number of cars necessary. The average cost per mile for this year (1927) is four cents.

That year we had fifty-eight vehicles to store. This kind of storage in any public garage would have cost at least \$10.00 per month, or a total of \$7080.00 per year. "We are very much in need of increased floor space and our cars are parked very closely together," Ellicott wrote at the time. "When all the cars are in, the isle is full, making it very unhandy to get cars in and out."

Former Law Library Director Honored With Plaque



On February 2 the late Richard Beer, who died on October 20, 2003, was remembered for his 34 years of dedicated service as director of the Oakland County Law Library with the unveiling and dedication of a special plaque in his honor.

The Honorable Steven N. Andrews, Oakland County Circuit Judge and chairman of the Oakland County Library Board, presided over the ceremony and introduced the speakers who included Lawrence Ternan, president of the Oakland County Bar Foundation; Beer's widow, Jean and William Brashear, who represented the Royal Oak class of 1950 which donated \$25,000 in cooperation with the Oakland County Bar Foundation to the law library to honor their former classmate.

Others in attendance included County Executive Patterson, Oakland County Commissioner John Scott, the Honorable Wendy L. Potts, Chief Judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court, library board members and Oakland County Bar Foundation trustees.

In Memoriam

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family of Oakland County Judge Patrick J. Brennan, who died unexpectedly on February 9, 2004.

Judge Brennan was elected to the Circuit Court Bench on November 7, 2004.

Memorial contributions can be made to Birmingham Brother Rice High School. For further information, please contact Karl Mackenzi at (248) 858-0053.

NO HAZ Gives Household Hazardous Waste the Proper Treatment

Most Oakland County households have stockpiles of hazardous materials, and they may not even know it. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average American household contains between 3 and 10 gallons of hazardous materials at any given time. These hazardous materials come in the form of household and automotive cleaners, pesticides, wood treatment and finishing products, and household batteries. Household Hazardous Waste or HHW, is the unwanted or unusable portion of products that contain substances that can be harmful to human health and the environment. These hazardous materials should not be thrown away with regular household trash since it puts you, your family, refuse haulers and disposal site workers at risk. Through the NO HAZ program residents now have an option for properly disposing of their household hazardous waste. NO HAZ - Northern Oakland County Hazardous Waste Consortium, is a group of 14 government bodies representing 17 communities who have come together under the leadership of Oakland County Waste Resource Management Division to cooperatively provide a safe, convenient, and cost effective method of handling residential household hazardous waste. Residents from all NO HAZ member communities may participate in any one of six NO HAZ collection events by simply scheduling an appointment. Appointments can be made on line or by phone.

To learn more about NO HAZ, obtain the complete schedule, a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials, or to make an appointment please visit the NO HAZ Website at www.nohaz.com or call the NO HAZ Hotline at (248) 858-5656.

Contact person: Sarah Archer, Environmental Programs Coordinator, Waste Resource Mgt. Phone: 858-2071

Email: archers@co.oakland.mi.us



Lynne McDaniels: A Portrait in Red, White and Blue

Back in 1992, Lynne McDaniels, chief of Field Services for the Health Division, signed on for a little adventure in the Air Force Reserves. As a medical person she was able to receive a direct commission which allowed her to begin working a second career one weekend a month at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Mt. Clemens.

At the time, Lynne had no idea how much of an adventure might be awaiting her. In the post 9/11 world and with hostilities continuing in Iraq, Lynne now finds herself working very hard to prepare her unit in the event it is called up for service.

As chief nurse of her unit, Lynne is second in command with responsibility for making sure everyone has the necessary equipment and the proper training should duty call. Lynne was also recently promoted from Lt. Colonel to Colonel. Lynne's unit is involved in air medical evacuation which means caring for the wounded, assisting them on and off aircraft, tending to their needs while in transit and getting them back and forth to treatment facilities.

"I was at a point in my life where I felt I needed to give something back to my country," Lynne responded when asked why she enlisted in the Air Force Reserve. "Besides there's a strong military tradition in my family."

Lynne admits it's tough balancing two careers, but says the job is made easier by a phenomenal family who understands and supports what she is doing. Lynne also appreciates the leeway her supervisor Jean Ulmer and Health Division Manager George Miller have given her to pursue both careers.

Lynne says she receives a lot of additional training and knowledge which she can apply to her fulltime job in the Health Division.

"I also get a real feeling of satisfaction from serving my country," Lynne says.



Brown Bag Lecture Series Spring/Summer 2004

Presented by the Oakland County Office of Arts, Culture & Film

The Brown Bag Lecture Series is sponsored by the Oakland County Office of Arts, Culture & Film. The presentations are from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Oakland County Auditorium, located in Building 49 West. Please bring your lunch. Coffee and tea will be served. All lectures are FREE and registration is not required.

The Oakland County Office of Arts, Culture & Film serves to enhance, strengthen and promote the arts and cultural life in Oakland County through advocacy, promotion, funding, and programming initiatives. Call (248) 858-0415 or visit www.artsoakland.com for more information.

April 15, 2004

David McCarron, Appraiser

Originally from Boston, David McCarron is a senior appraiser and auctioneer for the PBS special series, Antiques Roadshow. His resume of more than 20 years' experience includes employment at Eldred's, Sotheby's and other auction houses in the eastern and midwestern United States. He currently works at the Frank Boos Gallery in Bloomfield Hills.

May 20, 2004

A "Firm Persuasion"—The making of a Potter in 21st Century Michigan

John Glick, Artist

Having his work included in the collections of 14 museums, 13 university art collections and numerous private and corporations,

including Oakland County, has made John Glick a popular name in Michigan. Since 1964 he has been a professional studio artist working in clay combining "complex and painterly expressions". John lectures nationally and internationally and is a much sought after workshop leader. His lecture will prove to be just as interesting as his art.

June 17, 2004

Ann and Rob Burns, Musicians

Annie and Rob Burns play lively tunes on their extensive collection of replicas of Renaissance instruments, and relate music to the culture of the people who lived in the time of Shakespeare and Leonardo da Vinci. Their music brings the Renaissance alive and will delight those interested in History, Music, English, Literature and Social Studies.

Tips on Tipping

Written by:
Renee Longstaff
from "Fodor's FYI" book on How to Tip

With the summer vacation season reapidly approaching, the following article may be helpful to you as you travel.

First, you should understand that tipping isn't charity; it's a business transaction. Most people employed in the service industry receive less than minimum wage and count on tipping to round out their wages so they can make a decent living. Your role as the tipper is to know what is expected in tipping situations and be prepared before you travel and being prepared means having plenty of singles on hand.

Understand that being a good tipper means being a smart tipper. You don't need to throw scads of money at people just because you feel you should tip something. Also note that tipping is your opportunity to express your pleasure or dissatisfaction with the service you receive.

Following is a list of standard tipping practices that should come in handy throughout the United States when traveling on County business.

WAITERS AND WAITRESSES

A 15% tip is still considered the norm.

Always base your tip amount on the cost of the meal before taxes are added.

If the service was poor and you leave a reduced tip, be sure to let the server or manager know why the tip was reduced.

DOORMEN

Upon arrival, if he just opens the door and signals for a bellhop, no tip is warranted.

Hailing a cab - \$1.00.

Hailing a cab in bad weather - \$2.00.

Carrying packages or a briefcase - \$1 to \$2.

You should tip the doorman right after he performs the service.

PARKING VALETS

Tip parking valets \$1 to \$2 each time they retrieve your car and \$2 to \$3 if the parking garage is off hotel grounds.

There is no need to tip a parking booth attendant when you retrieve your own car.

HOTEL SHUTTLE DRIVERS

A typical tip is \$1 per person and another \$1 a bag for regularly scheduled runs.

If you carry your own bag, then \$1 per person is sufficient

CAB DRIVERS

A tip of 15% to 20% of the fare is customary.

An additional \$1 per bag, if the driver helps collect your bags, should also be considered.

BELLHOPS AND PORTERS

Transporting your bags (whether carrying them or using a cart) warrants \$1 or \$2 per bag, with an additional \$1 if the bags are very heavy.

This applies both on arrival and on departure.

If you are part of a large group, 50 cents per bag is okay if all bags are carted together.

Tip the bellhop at the time he provides assistance.

MAIDS

In an average hotel (with basic daily cleaning), tip between \$1 and \$2 per night - less in less expensive hotels.

For long stays, \$10 per guest per week is fine

There really isn't a need to leave a tip for a one-night stay, but \$1 or \$2 is considerate.

In giving the tip, here are a few guidelines to follow

Have your tip money ready. Fumbling for cash in your pocket or purse will create an embarrassing and needlessly lengthy transaction.

Look the person in the eye as you give them the tip. Making simple eye contact with the person who served you shows that you recognize them for the help they gave you.

Thank them for the service. Expressing your gratitude makes it clear exactly why you're tipping - as recognition for a job well done.

Before heading off on a trip, be sure you have plenty of \$1 bills in your pocket or handbag. Come prepared with singles up to \$20 worth - to make your tipping smooth and timely.

Brenda Larkin



For the past 25 years, Brenda Larkin has been a mainstay at FM&O. She serves as secretary to the division's manager who is Dick Johnston. According to Brenda, her job description is "whatever Dick tells me to do." "I love working for Dick, he's a really nice person and I like the people I work with," says Brenda.

Brenda will celebrate 26 years with the county in June. She spent her first two years in the Prosecutor's Office as a production typist. Outside of work, Brenda and her husband, Bob, who also works for FM&O like to go antique hunting. The Larkins, who live in Waterford, have two children, Kimberly, 15 and Josh, 12.

Brenda's boss, Dick Johnston, says that "In addition to her superlative clerical skills, Brenda has demonstrated a willingness to volunteer help to whomever may need it in the office."

As supervisor of the clerical staff, Nancy Stobart-Mitch is the trusted "right hand" of director Lois Thieleke at MSU Extension. Nancy, whose responsibilities are basically those of an office manager, assists in the preparation of the budget, processes all personnel requisitions, interviews prospective employees and prepares work orders for submission to Information Technology.

"The best part of my job is working with the people in the office," Nancy says. "They are a good group of people."

Prior to joining the county in 1999 Nancy owned her own computerized embroidery business.

"Nancy's probably the most well organized, keep you on the track kind of employee you'd ever want," says Lois Thieleke.

Nancy and her husband, Danny, live in White Lake and have two daughters and a son.

Nancy is a big football fan who likes to attend college football games on fall afternoons and also watches professional football. She and her husband, Danny, are Lions season ticket holders.

Nancy Stobart-Mitch



Julie Knaus



When Julie Knaus first started at Risk Management almost 15 years ago, she was a part-time employee. But it wasn't long before Julie worked herself into a fulltime position and only recently she took on additional responsibilities by taking over all workers compensation related duties.

"This job is always different, because the people you deal with on a day-to-day basis change so often," Julie says. "I like talking to people and hopefully I can help them through the difficult times when they get injured."

Risk Manager Julie Secontine says Julie is always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty and is the quintessential dream employee.

Julie and her husband, Carl, who owns two businesses, are admitted sports nuts. Being very athletic, they play tennis and engage in a variety of sports related activities.

Between the two of them, they have seven children and five grandchildren with one on the way. The couple lives in Highland.

As a level 3 auditor who oversees the day-to-day operations in the Personnel Property Section of Equalization, Karen Montreuil spends most of her time interacting with the public, mainly business people. "I truly enjoy working with taxpayers and my co-workers," says Karen. "I love my job and I am proud to say that I work for Oakland County."

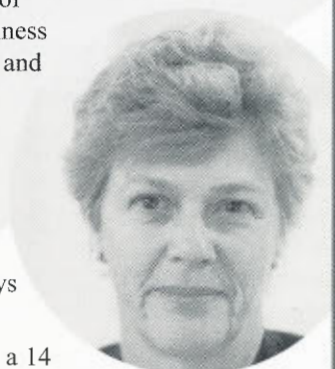
Karen joined the Equalization team in 1986 after short stints at FM&O and the Drain Office. She started in clerical at Equalization, then was transferred to the Appraiser's Section.

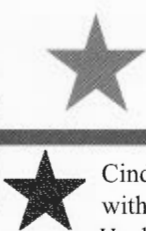
Karen is currently finishing up her Bachelor's Degree in management at the Troy branch of Northwood University.

"Karen is an outstanding employee who is always willing to step up and do what's needed," says her supervisor Rick Vincent who is an administrator with Equalization.

Karen and her husband of 41 years, David, who live in Ortonville have a son and daughter and a 14 month old granddaughter.

Karen Montreuil





Cindy Mattack, office leader in the North Health Clinic, started her career with Oakland County in 1998 as a clerk in the Southfield office's Health Education and Nutrition Unit.

"The everyday challenge of dealing with customers is the best part of my job," says Cindy. "It's really important to have people skills when interacting with the public."

In her spare time, Cindy and her husband, Jim, like to take motorcycle trips on their Harley Road King. She also likes to bowl and read.

Cindy is the proud grandmother of twin six month old granddaughters. The Mattack's live in Commerce Township and are the parents of two daughters and a son.

"Cindy is an excellent employee who is very committed to providing the best possible service to our customers," says her supervisor Sandy Briercheck, "Cindy is also very in tune with her staff and listens to their comments and concerns."



Cindy Mattack

Obesity Reaches All Time High

The signs are all around us. Airlines are adding ten pounds to approved passenger weights; popular clothing stores are selling plus-sized clothes for kids and the seats in newly built arenas are four inches wider to accommodate larger people. American adults and children weigh more than ever before and the problem continues to get worse, costing individuals and society physically, emotionally, and financially.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 65% of American adults are overweight or obese and 13% of children in the United States are overweight or obese. In addition, the 2002 Oakland County Behavior Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) reports that 24.7% of Michigan residents and 21.4% of Oakland County residents are obese.



The cause of this epidemic is easy to identify: too much food and too little exercise. With busy work schedules and extracurricular activities, Americans have become dependent on fast food. Portion sizes are triple the recommended amount and the number of un-healthy food choices are growing. More importantly, fewer people are physically active for at least 30 minutes per day as suggested by the U.S. Surgeon General. Leisure time activities like television watching, computer use and video games have made Americans sedentary.

Experts agree that obesity increases a person's risk of serious illness. Many of the illnesses associated with obesity, such as heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, and some forms of cancer, are very serious and often fatal. Emotionally, obesity is taking its toll as well. Overweight adults and children can experience low self-esteem, depression and often isolate themselves from society. The emotional repercussions of obesity are evident all around us. From being the last child picked for a team on the playground to missing out on a promotion at work, weight bias takes an emotional toll on overweight and obese individuals.

Obesity is a problem that affects more than just the individual, it ultimately costs us all. It is estimated that obesity costs society nearly \$100 billion dollars annually. In a June 19, 2003 New York Times article, a Ford Motor health care manager stated that "Michigan is among the worst states for obesity. Weight related costs are adding \$12 billion a year to the cost of medical bills, resulting in reduced productivity, increased absenteeism and higher health and disability insurance premiums. These costs are passed on to the consumer."

Realizing the numerous risks caused by obesity, Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) has established an obesity prevention initiative to address the issues related to overweight and obesity. The initiative's goal is to reduce the incidence of chronic disease resulting from obesity in Oakland County. OCHD offers presentations, displays, resource material, information and support services about healthy eating, physical activity and chronic disease prevention.

For more information about obesity contact: Contessa Rudolph, Health Educator, Oakland County Health Division at 248-424-7083.

BENEFITS

Q&A

Q Where is the most current information we have available regarding the prescription co-payments for those on the three-tier prescription plan?

A At www.ocbenefits.com. Select Drug Formulary and click on the link for Blue Cross/Blue Shield or Health Alliance Plan. You can also access the ocbenefits.com web site by selecting Directory at the top of the Oakland County intranet start page, then selecting Benefits & Retirement from the directory

Q How does the mail order prescription program for maintenance drugs work for Blue Cross/Blue Shield?

A Request a mail order packet from the Employee Benefits Unit of the Human Resources Department. Ask your doctor to write your prescription for a 90 day supply of medication (with up to 3 refills). Complete the form in the packet and send it along with your prescription and payment to the mail order provider using the envelope provided in the packet.

Q I need to add my spouse or my newborn to my coverage and update my beneficiaries, where do I find the forms?

A At www.ocbenefits.com. Under Change Forms click on Instructions and then click on the forms you wish to complete. Forward all completed forms to the Employee Benefits unit of the Human Resources Department, unless the form indicates otherwise. You only have 30 days to add a new spouse or baby.

Q How can I find information about my dental coverage?

A Go to www.subscribertoolkit.com. Enter the information requested. You will then have access to explanations of your coverage, claims information and more.

person to person

L. Brooks Patterson



One of the earliest, and as it turns out, most successful programs I've launched as County Executive is the Employee Suggestion Program.

I remember saying at the time, and it still holds true today, the county employees who work in the trenches see and experience the many challenges faced by county government on a daily basis.

ESP is designed to tap into the brainpower and creative talents of county employees to find ways to make government more efficient and less costly.

Over the past 11 years, some 1,700 suggestions have been submitted and 190 implemented for a total savings to the county of more than \$3.5 million.

In these challenging economic times money saving ideas are needed more than ever. Submitting an idea to ESP is quick and easy.

ESP forms can be found on the "O" drive under Human Resources; ESP; Suggestion Form or by calling (248) 858-0544.

On the form, describe the current practice and your idea for change and/or improvement. Outline the resulting benefit

from your idea and the departments that would be affected. Be sure and complete all the employee information and send the suggestion to Human Resources, Room 101, Executive Office Building.

That's all there is to it. If you're one of the lucky ones and your suggestion is implemented you could be off to exotic Hawaii like Jim and Cathy Taylor at IT. Their suggestion relative to Thin Client implementation will save the county an estimated \$1.3 million.

By the way, prizes awarded in the ESP program are funded entirely through my annual golf outing. Absolutely no taxpayer dollars are used.

Enter the ESP sweepstakes today and start imagining yourself as a grand prize winner on your way to Hawaii, Cancun or the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

new stuff

By Brandon Lewis
Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson have declared the week of March 21-27 Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Last year marked the most active severe weather season on record at the National Weather Service's White Lake Office. Over the course of the season (the vast majority of severe weather occurs between March and September) 199 severe weather events were recorded, seven of which were tornadoes.

The danger and destruction of severe weather warrants efforts to increase public awareness of tornado and severe weather safety. Oakland County Emergency Response and Preparedness distributes several different informational brochures to county residents and businesses.

These brochures contain essential information about severe weather, including tornado safety tips and advice on creating family disaster plans. Developing a family disaster plan and assembling a disaster supply kit are vital, and should be completed well in advance of the severe weather season. The disaster supply kit should contain essential survival supplies for the early stages of a disaster, such as clean drinking water, food, and changes of clothing. The family disaster plan details steps for families to take during an emergency, designates a meeting place for the family if its members become separated, and lists those to contact in the event of an emergency. Disaster plans should be updated and tested regularly, and disaster supply kits should be kept stocked at all times.

For more information regarding any of the information in this article, please contact Emergency Response and Preparedness at (248) 858-5300.

King Brewery & Pub

895 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48340
248-745-5900

out of the LUNCHBOX

Margarita's Mexican Village

1302 West Huron
Waterford, MI 48328
248-681-9106

It's easy to overlook King's Brewery & Pub as you drive down Oakland Avenue toward downtown Pontiac, but looks can be deceiving. Inside you will find a clean establishment with a relaxing atmosphere. The windows and lighting combine to keep the interior well-lighted and comfortable.

One of the first things that you will notice is that they provide real cloth napkins, not paper. The menu is substantial, starting with appetizers and continuing through lunch and dinner choices and specials of the day. This is not your typical menu, with many selections that cannot be found in most casual restaurants. Beef, chicken, pork, and shrimp are all on the menu. Specials like jambalaya, walleye reuben, shrimp po' boy and the pulled pork sandwich are well worth trying.

The lunch entrees range from about \$7.00 to \$10.00 and most come with hand cut french fries. All of the food is served on nicely garnished plates to complete the atmosphere. If you are interested in viewing the menu, King's has it on their website at www.kingbrewing.com. King's also features live music occasionally on the weekends with no cover charge.

There are numerous Mexican restaurants in the Pontiac area to choose from, and Margarita's is one of the best. Located on W. Huron, just west of Voorheis, it is a small restaurant with a family atmosphere.

The selections consist of fairly standard fare for Mexican restaurants. The difference at Margarita's is taste. The selections are fresh, flavorful, and prepared in traditional Mexican style.

I tried the "Big Enchilada," and I was pleasantly surprised at the presentation, the serving size, and especially the flavor! Traditional spices and seasonings are used to create an enjoyable meal that is colorful and appetizing. The portions are generous, and the enchilada is served with spanish rice, beans, and lettuce/tomato on the side.

As in most Mexican restaurants, taco chips and salsa are served as an appetizer. The salsa is mild and tasty, but the adventurous can try the hot salsa for a spicy experience! Prices are moderate and entrees range from about \$6.00 to \$9.00 for lunch.

Do you have a favorite lunch spot that is off the beaten track? Let us know!

These reviews are neither an endorsement of any particular restaurant, nor an endorsement of one restaurant over another. They are informational only. The Telegraph would be happy to receive the names of other restaurants for possible review. The County is not responsible for the quality of food or service provided by any of the restaurants reviewed.

Little Oaks Celebrates Reading Month

A steady stream of local officials visited Little Oaks, the county's child daycare center, during March to participate in National Reading Month. The special guests sat down with the children to read their favorite books or select one from the Little Oaks library. The youngsters gathered around the reader and listened attentively to hear the story. Some of the readers even brought along stuffed animals that were mentioned in the story to pass around which of course the little ones really liked. Afterwards the children had an opportunity to ask questions of the reader or share something special with them. Some of the readers who took time out of their busy schedules to share a story with the children included: County Executive Brooks Patterson; Sheriff Michael Bouchard; Judge Patrick O'Brien; Judge Wendy Potts; Commissioners Eileen Kowall and Chris Long; Corporation Counsel Judy Cunningham; Deputy Treasurer Keith Sawdon; Arts, Culture and Film Director Kristie Everett Zamora; Special Projects Coordinator Carmen Talbot; Drain Commissioner John McCulloch; Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti; County Prosecutor David Goreyca; State Representatives Fran Amos and Shelly Taub; and former Personnel Director Judy Eaton.

??????????

Something Fishy!?

How long does it take for you to solve weird riddles? Time is passing as we speak...tic...toc! This one involves absolutely no academia. If you don't solve it you might be ill. As far as difficulty is concerned it's my easiest one. Can you solve this?

To answer, call Mike Zack at 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.

kudos coming & going

new hires



Elbert Pritchett Jr.,
Airport
maintenance
mechanic I,
Aviation &
Transportation,
April 21, 2003

Harvey Mester, airport maintenance
mechanic I, Aviation & Transportation, June
30, 2003

Eileen Foss, office assistant I, Aviation &
Transportation, February 9, 2004

Signa Metivier, hired September 8, 2003 to
the Health Division's Central Support Unit
in Southfield

Ali Aljuburi, chemist, Walled Lake/Novi
STP, Drain Commissioner's Office, January
11, 2004

Andrea Zak, drain operations clerk, Pump
Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's
Office, hired December 1, 2003

Chris Cabanillas, construction inspector I,
Inspection Unit, Drain Commissioner's
Office, hired December 27, 2003

Paula Atkinson, general helper, Custodial,
FM&O, hired January 12, 2004

Jeanne Dome, general helper, Custodial,
FM&O, hired January 12, 2004

Beth Hollard, student, Pump Maintenance
Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, hired
January 24, 2004

Deborah Stalmack, general helper,
Custodial, FM&O, hired on February 9,
2004

Tim Wiacek, general helper, Maintenance,
FM&O, hired on February 24, 2004

Bethany Kenney, office assistant,
Emergency Response & Preparedness, hired
on January 10, 2004

Brandon Lewis, technical assistance,
Emergency Response & Preparedness, hired
on January 24, 2004

Dennis Alexander, youth specialist,
Children's Village

Stephen Ballew, youth specialist, Children's
Village

Aimee Loubert, youth specialist, Children's
Village

Brandie Neil, youth specialist, Children's
Village

Patrick Render, youth specialist, Children's
Village

Misty Gamez, youth specialist, Children's
Village

Edward Stotts Jr., youth specialist,
Children's Village

Ryan Kilyanek, youth specialist, Children's
Village

Joysun Collins, youth specialist, Children's
Village

Abigail Chandler, youth specialist,
Children's Village

Charlene Wallace, social worker I,
Children's Village

Emily Apsey, user support specialist, Digital
Information Service Center, Information
Technology, hired on March 1, 2004

Laura Brady, DP equipment operator,
Technical Systems and Networking
Division, Information Technology, hired on
February 23, 2004

Victoria Fowler, office assistant,
Administration Division, Information
Technology, hired on January 12, 2004

Brenda Stewart, office assistant,
Administration Division, Information
Technology, hired on December 12, 2003

kudos

Dr. Thomas Gordon, director of Human
Services, has been appointed by the Board of
Psychology as their representative to the
Health Professional Recovery Committee for a
term that expires on December 31, 2005

Greg Charland, Information Technology,
received his Bachelor's Degree in Business
Information Systems from the University of
Phoenix in November 2003

Lannie Williams, Information Technology,
received a Cisco Certified Network Associate
certificate from Cisco Networking Academy's
Davenport University /Warren, October 2003

Terry Cassady, Children's Village Youth
Specialist II, was selected as the Michigan
Juvenile Detention Association's Non-Secure
State Childcare Worker of the Year for 2003

Joe Taber, Information Technology, received
his Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan
University in December 2003

Gloria Logan, Communications Unit,
Information Technology, bowled a 300 game
in November 2003

Kelly McDoniel, clerk for the Honorable
Steven M. Andrews, Oakland County Circuit
Judge, has received the Distinguished Student
Award of the graduating Harry S. Toy Class at
the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Brad Hansen - Graduated from Oakland
University, Cum Laude with a degree in
Political Science

Tiffany Clark - One of four students honored
in Oakland County to present her econometric
model at the Michigan Academy in Grand
Rapids, MI.

Shannon Fields - One of four students honored
in Oakland County to present her econometric
model at the Michigan Academy in Grand
Rapids, MI.

Sarah Archer - New Hire: Environmental
Program Coordinator on January 2, 2004

Sarah Archer - Elected to the National
America Recycles Day, Inc. Board of
Directors

The Oakland County Circuit Court announces
the appointment of Mark A. Goldsmith as the
newest judge to the 6th Circuit Court bench.
He will assume the general jurisdiction docket
formerly held by the late Judge Patrick
Brennan.

transfers

Kathy Fraser to
Health Department
on December 27,
2003

Laurie Giglio to
Planning & Economic Development on
December 27, 2003



celebrations life events

marriages

Debbie Katz, Environmental Health Unit of the South Health Division, married Albert Holtz on November 30, 2003.

Sallyanne Morris, Grounds, FM&O, was married to Jim Foltz on December 28, 2003. She will still be known to all of us as Sallyanne Morris.

Tanya Prince, Watershed Management Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, married Brian Wall on 2/21/04.

fond farewells



Cheryl Ferguson, Cross Connection Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, left County service December 1, 2003.

Russell Bratton, Pump Maintenance Supervisor I, Pump Maintenance Unit, left County service on November 3, 2003, after 17 years of service.

births



Eric Johnson, Miss Dig Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, and his wife Lisa celebrated the birth of their baby

daughter Celeste Noelle on December 31, 2003

Sudha Maheshwari, Information Technology, and husband Gavin Shatkin welcomed their son Arjun Shatkin on November 20, 2003

Kevin Schultz, Pump Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office, and his wife Tina celebrated the birth of their daughter Kaitlyn on January 14, 2004

Judge Wendy Potts and her husband David Potts are proud grandparents to their first grandchild, Ryan Langdon Addis, born on February 29, 2004 to parents Kelly and Paul Addis. Ryan weighed in at 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Martin Seaman - Birth of son, Conner J, on September 3, 2003.

promotions

James Walden, Building Safety, Facilities, was promoted to PTA Safety Dispatcher

Charles VanBibber to Construction Inspector III, Inspection Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Shannon Wandrei to Drain Operations Clerk, Drain & Sewer Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Denis Grabocka to Maintenance Laborer, STP Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Stacie Sabady to Maintenance Laborer, STP Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Suzette Dennis to Maintenance Laborer, Water Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Joseph Gardner to Construction Inspector IV, Soil Erosion Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Mark Resendez to Maintenance Mechanic I, Pump Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Richard Craine II to Maintenance Laborer, Water Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Anthony Campain to Maintenance Laborer, Water Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Christopher Gianakos to Engineering Systems Coordinator, Miss Dig Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Jeffrey Parrot to Engineering Technician, Right-of-Way Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Ariane Fountain to Office Assistance I, Soil Erosion Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Suzanne Piddington to Assistant Chief Engineer, STP Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

David Brown to Pump Maintenance Supervisor I, Pump Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Clare Cheesman to Office Assistant II, Inspection Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Thomas Moore to Engineering Technician, Engineering Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Scott Janeczek to Pump Maintenance Mechanic II, SOCSDS, Drain Commissioner's Office

Christopher Willhite to Maintenance Mechanic I, Sewer & Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Ronald Hambleton to Maintenance Mechanic I, Sewer & Drain Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

David Cook to Maintenance Mechanic II, Water Maintenance Unit, Drain Commissioner's Office

Dale O. Cason to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

Stacy A. Green to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

John C. Jacobson to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

Melissa A. McClellan to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

David A. Row to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

Steven E. Schneider to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

Thomas M. Seling to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

Russell M. Yeiser to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

Brian D. Lippard to Sergeant, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

James A. Boomer to Shift Leader, Oakland County Sheriff's Office

Robert Robbins II to Program Supervisor, Children's Village

Andy Krumwiede to Youth Specialist Supervisor, Children's Village

Toot Thy Horn

Information Technology

new stuff

The newest kid on the block at IT is "Thin Client", an information access device much like a PC that is designed to use a centralized server. In other words, all of the software an employee needs is loaded onto the server rather than the desktop computer. Thin Client will create greater efficiencies in hardware, software maintenance and virus protection costs. In addition, if a computer crashes, the network is able to restore the files that would otherwise have been lost.

In the first two phases of switching from Thick Client to Thin Client, some 820 Gateway computers will be converted saving an initial \$900 thousand.

The Department of Information Technology has 156 fulltime employees and operates on a \$34 million annual budget. The department is comprised of four divisions: CLEMIS, which serves the technological needs of the public safety community; Systems Development, which provides technology support for county departments/divisions and local communities; the Digital Information Service Center, which includes data warehousing, eGovernment, Access Oakland as well as appraisal, taxation and GIS functions; Technical Systems and Network Group, which is the largest division and responsible for all software/hardware needs relative to PC's and servers.

A separate group is internal services which is comprised of the project management office that is responsible for the help desk, procurement and work order processing.

IT's mission statement: "Oakland County is committed to serving its people and communities. It's empowered by progressive leadership and trusted to embrace innovation in every aspect of government service."

spot light

Janette McKenna has come up through the ranks at Oakland County, starting as a summer intern in 1980, then working for the Treasurer's Office before transferring to Information Technology in 1993.

As Chief of Internal Services, Janette oversees the Help Desk/customer support and training; the Project Management Office which she developed and telephone communications.

Utilizing the county's tuition reimbursement program, Janette attended night school to earn her bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College and her master's degree in Information Systems Management from Ferris State University.

Did you know?

- 40,000 documents are downloaded monthly from the county's website.
- Oakland County's Access Oakland Program, delivering online access to specially packaged public land and tax records, provided nearly \$70,000 to local communities in fiscal year 2003.
- Gross revenues for all credit card transactions on the website in fiscal year 2003 were \$1,149,295.
- By using an eGovernment online service rather than a traditional method of interacting with the county, you would save an estimated 2 hours of time and the possibility of travel expenses and/or taking time off work.
- Using the county's online services is safe and secure - no information about personal credit card data is stored once a transaction is complete.