

The TELEGRAPH

A newsletter dedicated to the people of Oakland County Government

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February 1997

County government "renews" itself

An overflow crowd of more than 300 people stood elbow-to-elbow in the Board of Commissioners auditorium to witness the swearing in of the county's top elected officials on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Taking the oath of office was nothing new for **County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Clerk Register of Deeds Lynn Allen, Drain Commissioner George Kuhn, Sheriff John Nichols, and Treasurer C. Hugh Dohany.** They had all been there and done that before. But it was a first-of-a-kind experience for the "newest" kid on the block, **Prosecutor David Gorcyca.**

Gorcyca steps into the shoes worn by two-term Prosecutor Richard Thompson who was defeated in the August primary. As the newest member of the county administration, Gorcyca took center stage at the ceremony. His father, Gerald, spoke about his son in glowing terms, pointing out that young



Oakland County Circuit Court Chief Judge Edward Sosnick (left) administers the Oath of Office to the county's elected officials. Pictured (left to right) are County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Sheriff John Nichols, Clerk Lynn Allen, Treasurer C. Hugh Dohany and Drain Commissioner George Kuhn. Newly elected Prosecutor David Gorcyca was sworn in separately and is not pictured.

David established signs of leadership ability as far back as second grade when he was named citizen of the year.

After being sworn in, Gorcyca delivered a few brief remarks, during which he commented on his desire to establish a Computer Crimes Division to protect against computer espionage, cellular phone fraud, and automatic banking theft.

"Access into our personal back-

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Party spotlights ESP winners & charity givers

A near capacity crowd of 400 holiday revelers jammed into one of the large banquet rooms at the Northfield Hilton in Troy on Friday, Dec. 6 to join in the spirit of the holiday season with their fellow Oakland County government colleagues.

After partaking of a sumptuous buffet of tasty chicken, assorted salads, mouth-watering deserts, and other goodies, everyone sat back and watched as Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson handed out checks totaling \$20,000 to seven local charities which used the money to purchase food, clothing, and other items for the needy during the holidays. The money donated came from the Casual Day Fund which county employees contribute to all year long. Since

the program began in 1993, more than \$74,000 has been given by Oakland County government employees to area charities.

As in past years, the grand prize winners in the Employee Suggestion Program were also announced. Taking home the top prize of a week for two in Hawaii was **Lynn Sonskiss, Fiscal Services Division.** Sonskiss' suggestion to revise the tracking system used for habitual offenders housed in the County Jail will produce an additional \$586,351 in annual revenue for the county.

Mari Harvey, District Court, was awarded the second place prize of a week for two in Cancun for her idea to revise Accounts Receivable procedures that are used in District Court. Harvey's suggestion will bring in \$253,800 in additional revenues.

The third place prize of a weekend for two in Toronto was won by **Maureen Code, Equalization Division,** whose suggestion to have Equalization and the Treasurer's office share property database information will result in a cost savings of \$36,750.

Dave Curtis, Sheriff's Department, thought it might be a good idea for the Jail to purchase shampoo in bulk. The ESP Committee agreed and Curtis walked off with one of the six \$500 cash awards. Curtis' brainstorm will save the county more than \$9,000 annually.

Pat Carey, Clerk/Register of Deeds, is \$500 richer for suggesting that the County Clerk directory be put on disk, rather than being typeset each year. Net savings: \$8,400.

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PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

When C. Vincent Luzzi began his long and distinguished career with Oakland County government, Lyndon Johnson was President of the United States, the major world trouble spot was in a tiny Southeast Asian country called Vietnam and the Detroit Lions were still in search of a championship. Of course, much has happened in the ensuing 32 years, except for the fact the Lions are still looking for a title. For one thing, Vince has climbed the ladder of success from an entry level position as a personnel technician to director of the Personnel Department, where he has been responsible for a staff of 42 people and a budget of \$3.3 million.

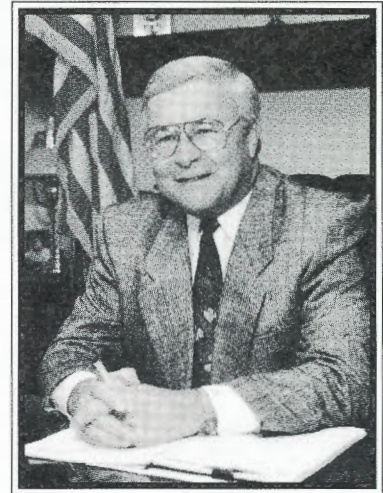
Unfortunately for us, Vince has decided to retire from county service in order to pursue other challenges and interests. No doubt one of the things high on his list will be to play more golf and perhaps do a little more scuba diving. Whatever he decides to do with his leisure time, his many friends here at 1200 N. Telegraph Road wish him much happiness.

Vince leaves some pretty big shoes to fill, but I have every confidence his successor, **Judy Eaton**, will be up to the task.

My friendship with Vince goes back to my days as Oakland County Prosecutor. When I decided to run for County Executive, Vince was one of the first people I approached about working in my administration.

Vince has been a dynamic leader and innovative thinker during his tenure with county government. For example, it was Vince who came up with the idea for the Deferred Retirement Buy Out program which we implemented in 1995. Under it, eligible employees, some 400 in all, were offered an immediate lump sum redemption of their retirement dollars in exchange for surrendering any claim on future medical benefits. The program proved to be immediately successful because it reduced the county's liability to the Employees Health Care Trust by \$9 million in one year. Further, the county is spared the obligation of contributing approximately \$796,000 annually to the Health Care Fund for the next 30 years — a savings in the neighborhood of \$23 million. Not a bad legacy for Vince to leave behind.

On behalf of the employees of county government and the citizens of Oakland County, thanks Vince for your many years of dedi-



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

cated service and for being the kind of person we could always count on.

We will miss you, but at the same time we wish you much happiness and success in the future. Please keep us posted on what you are doing and come back to visit us often.

Health adopts Christmas family

This past holiday season, the Central Support Unit at the North Office Branch of the Health Division decided to do something a little bit different. Instead of exchanging gifts, they decided to adopt a family who faced the prospects of a bleak Christmas.



Terrie Pecheniuk (left) and Diana Hagle, Health Division, with some of the Christmas gifts given to a Pontiac mom and her children.

Mary Hahnefeld, office leader, got the idea from the folks at Information Technology, who for the past two years have adopted a needy family.

"When I suggested to my co-workers that we do the same thing, everyone seemed pleased with the idea," Hahnefeld said.

So on Dec. 20, during their lunch break, three employees of the Health Division showed up at the Pontiac home of their adopted family with arm loads of presents, household supplies, and food, which had either been purchased or donated. Among the gifts were assorted toys and books, a brand new VCR, microwave, videos, and gift certificates for food.

Hahnefeld hopes the Adopt-A-Family program becomes an annual tradition with the Health unit.

According to Hahnefeld, the single mom, who has three children, ages ten months, three years, and eight years, was absolutely "tickled to death" with the bounty she and her kids received.

Brown Bag Lecture

"Design & Construction of Meadow Brook Hall"

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Meadow Brook Hall is one of the great mansions of the United States. Originally owned by Matilda Wilson, the mansion was built from 1926-9 in the style known as "Tudor Revival." Given to Oakland University upon the death of Mrs. Wilson, the home still contains original examples of some of the finest furnishings and art that only the wealthiest Americans could afford in the early 1900s.

— The Galleria —

"30 Views of Medieval Architecture"

A fine print collection of Dr. Carl Barnes, Jr., currently on display through March.

1997 ushers in pockets full of cash for ESP winners

Seven Oakland County employees will start off the new year with a cache of cash, compliments of the Employee Suggestion Program. As the latest interim ESP winners, each of the seven will receive \$50 for the following ideas to save taxpayer dollars and improve governmental efficiency:

- **Linda Swartz**, Information Technology, who suggested allowing outside companies to participate in our Casual Day program, which will increase the amount of contributions given to local charities at the end of the year.
- **Joyce Harbison**, Personnel Department, who suggested giving out Oakland County logo pens at job fairs to promote the county.
- **Joann Bianchette**, Health Division, whose suggestion to use the results of hearing tests done by Oakland Schools, where possible, will save about \$920 per year while

eliminating a duplication of effort.

- **Marie Cooper**, Community Mental Health, who has suggested installing a pay phone in the CMH lobby for client convenience.
- **Patricia Cosner**, Information Technology, suggested elimination of the lunch allowance for travel within the county, which will save on travel reimbursements.
- **Mary Gaedt**, Drain Commissioner's Office, who has suggested selling old dental equipment and tools at the county auction rather than disposing of these items.
- **Donna Pendergast**, Prosecutor's Office, who suggested installing a window in the second floor door leading from the Courthouse new addition to the west wing in order to improve visibility and safety.

Suggestions from employees are accepted year round, however in order to be eligible for the top awards at the end of the year suggestions must be implemented by Oct. 31.

Board puts house in order for 1997

At their first regular meeting of the new year on Thursday, Jan. 9, the members of the Board of Commissioners were sworn into office for their new terms and also filled key leadership positions.

John McCulloch (R-Royal Oak) was re-elected chairperson and Ruth Johnson (R-Holly) returns as vice chairperson.

There are two new faces on the Board this year. Frank Millard (R-Waterford) succeeds Larry Crake who decided not to seek reelection. Eric Coleman (D-Southfield) fills the void left when Nancy Quarles was elected to the State Legislature. Coleman is a former member of the Southfield School Board and is employed by an investment company.

Listed below, are the 1997 standing committess the Board also selected.

FINANCE/PERSONNEL

Sue Ann Douglas (chair)
 Fran Amos (vice ch./R)
 Jeff Kingzett (vice ch./D)
 Tom Law
 Chuck Palmer
 Don Jensen
 John Garfield
 Shelley Taub
 JoAnne Holbert
 Eric Coleman

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 Nancy Dingeldey (vice ch./R)
 Lawrence Pernick (vice ch./D)
 Donn Wolf
 Lawrence Obrecht

Dan Devine
 Frank Millard
 Ruel McPherson
 Gilda Jacobs

PLANNING/BUILDING

Chuck Palmer (chair)
 John Garfield (vice ch./R)
 Eric Coleman (vice ch./D)
 David Moffitt
 Donna Huntoon
 Lawrence Obrecht
 Fran Amos
 Eugene Kaczmar
 Jeff Kingzett

PUBLIC SERVICES

Shelley Taub (chair)

Donna Huntoon (vice ch./R)
 Ruel McPherson (vice ch. /D)
 Thomas Law
 Dan Devine
 Frank Millard
 Lawrence Pernick

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dennis Powers (chair)
 Don Jensen (vice ch./R)
 Eugene Kaczmar (vice ch./D)
 David Moffitt
 Ruth Johnson
 Kay Schmid
 Nancy Dingeldey
 JoAnne Holbert
 John McCulloch (ex officio)
 Sue Ann Douglas (ex officio)

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Did you know?

■ The average age of an Oakland County resident is about 35.1 years.

■ The age is expected to increase to 35.5 by the year 2000.

■ Oakland County reflects national population and aging trends.

■ Boomers and Generation X total half the county population.

■ Our population will increase 18.2 percent over the next 25 years.

United Way thanks volunteers for success

by Jane Oswalt, United Way Campaign Chair

I would like to thank all the captains from the various divisions and departments of county government who volunteered their time and energy to make this year's 1996 United Way Campaign such a success. During the preliminary tally, we have exceeded last year's employee contribution of cash donations and pledges by seven percent.

United Way's Steering Committee received donations from several organizations and had a raffle for the captains who were able to turn their pledges in on time. The following volunteer captains won prizes:

- **Marilyn Baker**, Parks & Recreation, gift certificate for two meals from Shelley's Coney, 1188 Joslyn, Pontiac.
- **Pam Ferguson**, Probate Court, Jafra package compliments of Proferia Mellado, Circuit Court, Skin and Nail Care consultant.

- **Pam Hill**, Medical Examiner's, Sunday Brunch for two at the Kingsley Hotel and Suites (Jay Haratsis, general manager).
 - **Debbie Lake**, Employment & Training, \$20 complimentary meal certificate from Don Pablos, 513 N. Telegraph Road, Waterford.
 - **Donald Slavin**, Corporation Counsel, stereo cassette player with three-band graphic equalizer compliments of Betty Yancey, Health Department.
 - **Vickie Wardell**, Medical Care Facility, \$20 gift certificate from the Olive Garden, 479 N. Telegraph Road, Waterford.
 - **Patricia Cook**, Materials Management, United Way coffee mug.
 - **Keyonna Cotton**, Friend of the Court, United Way coffee mug.
- Thank you United Way captains for all of your hard work and thank you managers and directors for allowing these volunteers to give their time and energy to such a worth while campaign.

Parks' Lifeguard competition no 'day at the beach'

The word "lifeguard" may bring to mind images of swim suits, sunglasses, and suntans.

But at the Oakland County Parks, water safety is the name of the game. OCP guards showed their skills by winning the Second Annual Michigan Recreation and Park Association Lifeguard Competition. Red Oaks Waterpark hosted 80 Michigan lifeguards for the Thursday, Aug. 8 event.

The competition tested skills needed to

save lives: strength, endurance, and water/rescue knowledge. Events included Active Victim Recovery; Spinal Scenario (victim with head injury); and the Iron Guard (rescue of 155-pound dummy).

The winners included:

FIRST PLACE, WOMEN'S DIVISION

• **Emily Haak & Leann Descamps**, Red Oaks Waterpark.

SECOND PLACE, WOMEN'S DIVISION

• **Mackenzie Fetters & Allison Vallad**,

Groveland Oaks.

FIRST PLACE, MEN'S DIVISION

• **Chris Ettinger & Saylor Frase**, Waterford Oaks Waterpark.

SECOND PLACE, MEN'S DIVISION

• **Brad Crawford & Michael Johnson**, Red Oaks Waterpark.

CO-ED DIVISION, THIRD PLACE

• **Sarah Weddle**, Independence Oaks.

BEACH LIFEGUARD COMPETITION:

• **Groveland Oaks.**

Sheriff's Dept. opens Detention Facility

The opening of the new Frank Greenan Detention Facility, prior to the start of the new year, was given the Oakland County Sheriff's Department a little breathing room. Located in Auburn Hills, adjacent to Animal Control and the Trustee Camp, the new 200-bed facility was named in honor of Frank Greenan, who in 1932, became the first Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy to die in the line of duty.

The facility is comprised of two dormitories, each holding 100 inmates and providing much needed space for housing prisoners. The dorms are separated by the administration and services corp

which features a kitchen and laundry, complete with commercial equipment that can handle linen and uniform cleaning needs for not only the facility, but also the Trustee Camp and Boot Camp.

The Facilities Engineering Division served as the general contractor on the work, which is a departure from its usual role in such construction projects.

"When the county acts as the general contractor, the county saves money in construction costs and is also able to play a greater role in the overall process of seeing a facility built," said **Jim Emerick**, facilities engineer, who has responsibility for management of the project.

WMU scholarship named in honor of Judge Howard

Western Michigan University has named a scholarship for the **Hon. Barry L. Howard**, chief judge pro tem of the Oakland County Circuit Court.

The Barry L. Howard Medallion Scholarship is among the largest and most prestigious merit scholarships in American public higher education. The scholarship was one

of 18 merit scholarships presented at a special ceremony in Kalamazoo on Friday, Oct. 25.

These four-year, \$25,000 undergraduate scholarships attract a large number of the best and brightest high school graduates to WMU. While many of the scholarships are named for the benefactors who fund them, a select few, including Judge Howard's, are

named for persons whom the university wishes to honor.

The Barry L. Howard Medallion Scholarship recipient for 1996 is Jason Pinchot, a student from Barrington, Ill., majoring in bio-medical sciences with a minor in political science. According to Judge Howard, Jason is an outstanding young man and worthy of the scholarship.

The View from Here

Being human, I occasionally make mistakes. It was called to my attention recently that there was no mention in the last edition of the Telegraph of the outstanding heroism displayed by members of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department during last November's shooting rampage at Ford Motor Company's Wixom Assembly Plant. That was a huge oversight on my part, and if possible, I would like to make amends.

The actions of the Sheriff's Department personnel who were on the scene of the shooting that day were exemplary and extremely courageous. Two deputies, **Matt Miller** and **Gerald Petrusha**, were wounded in the line of duty when they encountered the alleged gunman as he was leaving the plant. Deputy Petrusha gallantly risked his own life by pulling Deputy Miller

to safety. Both were wounded in the hail of gunfire, but fortunately their injuries were not life threatening and they recovered.

In commenting on the performance of his deputies, Oakland County Sheriff **John Nichols** was quoted in a newspaper article as saying: "I've been around a long time and I have never been so proud of an operation in my whole career. I feel like a new father. I'm so proud of that department."

I couldn't agree more Sheriff. We are all very proud of those who put themselves in harms way on that November day.

It's an honor to have these dedicated and brave individuals as an integral part of our first class team here at Oakland County. We owe each of them a debt of gratitude for the job they do. As in the case of the Wixom Plant shooting, our men and women who wear the badge never know from day to day

what danger may confront them. Yet they face their duty with unwavering courage, day in and day out.

Because of their sacrifice, you and I are able to live and work in relative safety, protected from the evil forces that lurk about in our society.

On behalf of a grateful county, I salute the men and women of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department for helping to safeguard our constitutional right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."



Bob Dustman
Media and
Communications
Officer

Vision for the future

Our youth are one of our most valuable resources. What are you doing to invest in their future?

Youth With a Vision is planning to begin operation at the end of the month and is now recruiting volunteers to work with the youth of North Oakland County. YWAV's mission is to provide students the opportunity to develop a **vision** for their future through a variety of positive educational, social and recreational activities.

YWAV will also be sponsoring a celebrity golf outing on Saturday, May 10.

To volunteer services, recommend a student for the program or receive more information, call (810) 674-4881.

Christmas Afterthoughts

by Betty Ramey

I would venture to guess that, like me, many of you are glad the holidays are over. Now as soon as the Visa bills are paid we can all breathe a sigh of relief and have a few months before we start fretting about it again!

On behalf of the staff of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the local Marine Corps, and most of all, the hundreds of children who had a brighter Christmas as a result of your generosity, let me take this opportunity to say a big **THANK YOU** to all the county employees who participated in the Toys for Tots program.

This was a record year in the number of toys we were able to send to children in the Metro area. This year too, a much wider variety of toys were dropped off (no Tickle me Elmo though)! In addition to this program being a way for us all to share with those less fortunate, it also gives many of us an opportunity to act like a kid again and buy the toys we like.

This is always a fun program for the Library staff and we are so pleased to see many of our fellow employees get caught up in the true spirit of Christmas!

Again, **thank you, and have a healthy and prosperous 1997.**

Betty Ramey, supervisor of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, is surrounded by some of the gifts donated by county employees to the Toys for Tots program this past holiday season.



It's Faaann-tastic...

Jason Ryan of the **Detroit Pistons** has discounted tickets for the Pistons game on Friday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. with the Charlotte Hornets. The tickets are for any **Oakland County employee** who is interested. There is no limit on how many you can buy. The tickets are normally \$20. They've been discounted to \$12. All you have to do is call Jason at (810) 377-0169 and let him know how many tickets you want.

The ole' ball game

The Oakland County Employee Softball League is looking for **MORE TEAMS** for the 1997 season. If you are interested in forming a team, please call Jody Stowe, Veterans' Services, at 858-0802 for league information.

Court implements new assignment system

The Oakland Circuit Court has revised its system for appointing attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal cases. The new Criminal Assignment System went into effect on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Planning for the Criminal Assignment System began in late 1995 in response to the Supreme Court's request that the Circuit Court devise a new criminal assignment plan. The Oakland County Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee submitted a plan to the court which was modified by the Bench, adopted by Administrative Order and presented to the Supreme Court last January. In March, The Supreme Court approved the new plan.

Under the new system, criminal offenses will be classified in three categories; category one included all capital offenses with a maximum sentence of life in prison; category two includes all felony offenses with a maximum sentence of more than five year's imprisonment to less than life; category three includes all felony offenses and misdemeanors with a maximum sentence of five years or less.

All category three assignments will be made on a rotational basis by the Court Administrator's office. Recent caseload data suggests that category three cases account for nearly 80 percent of all criminal assignments. Circuit Judges have the option of continuing to make category one and two assignments or requesting that the Court Administrator make those assignments, also on a rotational basis.

Subsequent to the Supreme Court's approval of the plan, a ten-member Criminal Assignment Committee was established consisting of five lawyers selected by the Oak-

land County Bar Association. The committee began meeting in April to determine the qualifications of attorneys necessary for placement in the three categories. In addition, the committee began to develop the policies and procedures governing administration of the new system.

Redesign of the court's method for assigning counsel to indigent defendants has proven to be an enormous undertaking. In the last five months the committee and the Court Administrator's office have spent countless hours on many activities including:

- Sending 450 applications to potential attorney participants.
- Developing a point system to score attorney applications.
- Scoring applications from 300 attorneys, placing them in appropriate category levels and notifying them of their placements.
- Forming subcommittees to focus on attorney training application reviews, policies and procedures relative to the system.
- Developing educational and training programs on criminal law practice.
- Reviewing and considering proposed standards for assigned counsel.
- Making speeches and writing letters and articles informing attorneys about elements of the new system.
- Seeking approval from the Board of Commissioners for a new staff person and necessary equipment to handle the responsibilities associated with the system.
- Working with the Department of Information Technology to develop automation necessary for the rotational assignment of attorneys and statistical reporting.
- Correlating charge codes and maximum sentences for more than 800 felony charges to make appropriate attorney appointments.

Although many functional changes have been made to accommodate the new assignment system, the foremost objective has been to ensure the provision of qualified legal representation to indigent defendants. To that end, the Criminal Assignment Committee will continue to monitor and adapt its criminal law curriculum to ensure that proper instruction is provided to participating attorneys.

Special recognition must be afforded to the committee, consisting of **Judges Deborah Tyner** (co-chair), **Steven Andrews, David Breck, Fred Mester, and Francis X. O'Brien** and attorneys **Thomas Cranmer** (co-chair), **Elias Escobedo, Jr., Judith Gracey, Ron Pentz, and Martin Reisig**, for their diligence and leadership in bringing this system to fruition. Successful implementation of this program would have been difficult to achieve if not for the cooperation of committee members as well as the Circuit Bench and Bar Association in general. Furthermore, the Court Administrator's office has been actively involved from the onset and has provided the administrative support necessary to accommodate the Administrative Order.

The new Criminal Assignment System represents a significant change in the appointment of defense counsel. The court is confident that the new system will enhance the appointment process while maintaining qualified legal representation for indigent defendants. The Circuit Bench, the Oakland County Bar Association, and the Criminal Assignment Committee will continue to monitor the new system to ensure that its integrity and impartiality are maintained.

Local probation heads collaborate on article

Oakland County Probate Court Administrator **Robert L. Bingham** and **Kenneth J. Aud**, chief adult probation officer, recently had the honor of appearing as contributors in the fall 1996 edition of "Executive Exchange," the quarterly publication of the National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE). Bingham served as guest editor, and Aud appeared as a contributor to the article,

"Learning From Our Peers." In this article, Aud and probation executives from New York, California, and Nevada responded to questions which addressed their administrative experiences and accomplishments in the field of probation.

Since 1970, Bingham has worked in probation and court related capacities in Pennsylvania and Illinois prior to coming to Oakland County in September 1994. He has

served as a NAPE board member since 1990.

Aud has been with Oakland County government for 13 years, and has held the positions of pre-trial services officer, probation officer, supervisor, program manager, administrator with the American Correctional Association, and is currently chief probation officer for Oakland County Circuit Court.

More Employees of the Month

Skilled Maintenance Mechanic II **Lin** **White**, is among the recently honored Employees of the Month Award recipients. "The award came as shock to me since it was the second time I had received it," said White.

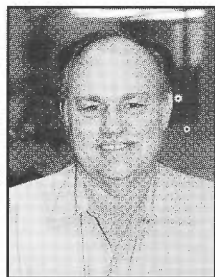


White began working for Oakland County in 1974. His duties include monitoring the maintenance of four Oakland County buildings. It can be said that whenever anything goes wrong, White is the person to call and fix it. White's positive attitude and dedication to his work are the reasons he was selected Employee of the Month. White says he wants to "thank the county for allowing me to work here because it has been a wonderful experience."

John Bohn, maintenance supervisor, had much praise for White saying, "Lin is an excellent employee who is very conscientious and always willing to help," according to Bohn. The praises do not stop there. "I cannot say enough about Lin. He is a hard working individual who is caring and understanding."

When not at work, White keeps busy restoring old trucks and showing them in competitions. He has won numerous awards and currently is working on restoring a truck to show in the spring.

General Maintenance Mechanic **Richard Eash** is one of the latest recipients of the Employee of the Month Award. "I am very surprised and appreciate the recognition. I did not expect it," said Eash after receiving the award.



Eash, who maintains the grounds for Parks and Recreation, has been employed by Oakland County since 1971. He started working in the Central Garage and in 1983 was promoted to Parks and Recreation. Currently, Eash's duties include maintaining the buildings and the grounds at Independence Oaks and Orion Oaks. Eash's main responsibility is monitoring the existing conditions of the parks. Recently, Eash was instrumental in helping design a handicapped access ramp for the dock at Orion Oaks.

"Richard is very dedicated and willing to help on any special projects whenever the need arises," remarked Ray Delasko, Independence Oaks park supervisor. In addition, Dan Stencil, chief of park operations, praised Eash saying "Richard is very dedicated and works very effectively."

Outside of work, Eash enjoys spending time playing golf and keeping busy with his screen printing business.

Elizabeth **Block**, Health Division office leader, is among the recent recipients of the Employee of the Month Award. "I never expected this. I am extremely surprised and shocked," replied Block.



Block joined Oakland County in 1972 and since then has been instrumental in the development of the Health Division. When asked about her experience in the Health Division, Block commented, "the continuous growth that I have been a part of with the Health Division is remarkable." Block has seen evidence of this with an expansion of a new office in Walled Lake where she works. Her responsibilities include overseeing the clerical staff and making sure the entire office functions efficiently and effectively.

Rosemarie Rowney, Health Division manager remarked, "Beth was pivotal in the organization and opening of our Walled Lake office. Beth is an excellent employee and has been instrumental with the good work she does."

When not at work, Block enjoys spending time with her husband and two teenage daughters in Huntington Woods. Her hobbies include reading, enjoying the outdoors while cross-country skiing and spending time up north.

Viv at the Movies

by Mary Viviano, Friend of the Court

"Michael"

I saw several movies over the holiday season and I was really looking forward to "Michael." However, this angel of a movie crashed and burned.

It is the story of three lost souls who are dispatched by a tabloid paper, the National Mirror, to investigate the existence of an angel in Iowa. This archangel Michael, por-

trayed by John Travolta, is on his last visit to earth. He is far from angelic as he smokes, drinks, burps, and beds his way through the film.

The three souls whom he is to influence are Hugh Driscoll, played wonderfully by Robert Pastorelli, Dorothy Winter, portrayed by Andie McDowell and Frank Quinlan who is painfully brought to life by William Hurt. Most of the movie takes place during a car ride from Iowa to Chicago.

There are some original moments in the film that keep your interest, but just barely,

such as Michael's curious nature and the "Pie Scene." Unfortunately, the rest of the moments are dull and boring, particularly "The Dog" and "The Death" scenes. The writing is sluggish and the performances are substandard, with the exception of Robert Pastorelli. The greatest downfall of this film on heaven and earth is that there is no chemistry between Andie McDowell and William Hurt and because of this the movie has no heart.

And let's face it, a movie about an angel that lacks heart is not much of a movie.

Another \$500 winner was **Carol Compagnoni**, Probate Court, whose suggestion to require police agencies to submit multiple copies of juvenile complaints will result in an annual savings of \$5,153.

Dorothy LaMarte, Community Corrections, received her \$500 wind-fall for suggesting that all accounting forms be computerized, starting with the MB-1 Travel series. Her idea will save the county more \$1,800 annually.

Karen Dedenbach and Pam Agelink, Clerk/Register of Deeds, collaborated on a suggestion calling for a reduction in first aid supplies to essential items only. They got \$500 for the suggestion and the county will realize a savings of \$1,642.



The top prize winners in the Employee Suggestion Program. Pictured in the front row (left to right) are Pam Agelink, Karen Dedenbach, Helen Andrews, Maureen Code, Mari Harvey and Lynn Sonkiss. In the back row (left to right) are Dave Curtis, Joe Maletta, who accepted the prize for Chris Carpenter, Dorothy LaMarte, JoAnn Bianchette, Carol Compagnoni, Pat Carey, Jim Fitzpatrick and Mona Kempf.

The final \$500 cash award winner was **Helen Andrews**, Personnel, whose idea to reformat employee transaction forms so that window envelopes can be used will save an estimated \$1,360 annually.

A random drawing was also held to select the four \$250 cash award winners. The winners were: **Mona Kempf**, Reimbursement; **Joanne Bianchette**, Health; **Chris Carpenter**, Information Technology and **James Fitzpatrick**, Children's Village.

The suggestions submitted and implemented in 1996 will result in a cost savings of \$905,964 to the county. The total savings from suggestions implemented since the ESP program began in 1993 have amounted to more than \$2.9 million.

Fiscal Services earns excellence recognition award

The men and women who crunch the numbers for Oakland County are among the very best in the nation. This is not an idle boast, but fact, because recently the Fiscal Services Division received notification from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) that it had qualified for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This is the fifth consecutive year the Fiscal Services Division has won the prestigious award, which very few governmental units in the United States are accorded.

According to the letter **Tom Ott**, Fiscal Services Division manager, received from

the GFOA, "the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management standards."

In the 1980s, the government sector established a standards board which spelled out in great detail what government accounting standards should be. The GFOA then took this blueprint and devised an award for governmental units that prepare financial reports which meet prescribed standards.

"To receive this award takes quite a bit of doing," Ott said. "There are a lot of intricacies in how each fund must be maintained and how disclosures are made."

Ott says an award of this type provides a comfort level for investors because it's one of the things bond rating firms look at when setting rates. For instance, Ott noted that shortly after Oakland County became involved in the program, Wall Street increased the county's bond ratings.

"What this award means to me personally is that we have a group of fine professionals who take a tremendous amount of pride in what they do and they want to do the very best they can to produce the most outstanding financial instrument possible," Ott said.

Ott said.

ground and records is too easily obtained for nefarious purposes that in the future will cost all taxpayers and citizens," Goreyca said.

The otherwise solemn occasion was not completely devoid of lighter moments. For example, as **Oakland County Circuit Court Chief Edward Sosnick** was preparing to administer the oath of office to the elected officials by asking them to raise their hands, Mr. Patterson blurted out, "I do." Judge Sosnick, not to be outdone, shot back: "Wrong ceremony," which sent a wave of laughter throughout the auditorium.

MICH*FIT Fitness Contest

Move across Michigan in a new fitness adventure! All Oakland County employees and family members over the age of 18 can join the MICH*FIT fitness contest sponsored by the Oakland County Health Division's Health Education Unit and the Oakland Fitness Council.

Earn and record mileage points by participating in various fitness activities (walk, jog, treadmill, bike, swim, etc.). A map will be provided to log up to 650 miles in selected cities in Michigan. Win exciting prizes such as travel packs, T-shirts, coolers, gift certificates to Sports and Rec and more when you reach certain destinations along the way. If you complete all 650 miles, you will have traveled around Michigan! Your journey begins Monday, April 7 in honor of National Public Health Week and runs through Friday, Aug. 29.

So let's get moving Oakland County! If you have questions or would like a complete MICH*FIT membership packet, which includes detailed information about the program and how to get started, contact Sherrine Thomas at (810) 858-5108.

Court initiates new facilitation project

The Oakland County Circuit Court made true facilitative mediation available to litigants on Tuesday, Oct. 1 with implementation of the Facilitation Project.

Facilitation is an innovative program which encourages litigants to use mediation to settle their disputes early in a lawsuit. Cases filed on or after Oct. 1 can be submitted for facilitative mediation approximately 75 days after the case has been filed. Facilitation is part of the coordinated effort of the Oakland Circuit Court and the Oakland County Bar Association to reduce the cost of litigation and increase access to the courts.

Facilitative mediation involves one or more meetings with a trained neutral facilitator who acts as a catalyst for dispute resolution. The facilitator asks questions, helps define issues, opens channels of communication and assists in generating alternative settlement proposals and solutions. Henry Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy" is an example of facilitative mediation on a global scale.

The Oakland Circuit Court has approved a number of attorneys to act as facilitators. To qualify as a facilitator for the project, attorneys are required to have at least five years of experience and to have completed at least 16 hours of intensive training in facilitative mediation. The first round of training was offered in late September by the Oakland Mediation Center and the American Arbitration Association. The attorneys will charge an hourly fee for their services. Usually, each party pays a portion of the fee.

Courts which offer facilitative mediation have met with impressively high rates of settlement. Facilitative mediation has many advantages for clients. Since the parties are responsible for fashioning the agreement, they are usually more satisfied with the result. It allows the client to have direct control over resolving the dispute. Successful facilitation also avoids the expense of trials and pre-trial preparation. Facilitative mediation is far less destructive to long-term and ongoing relationships because it focuses on solving the problem and does away with the "winner-take-all" mentality seen in the traditional lawsuit.

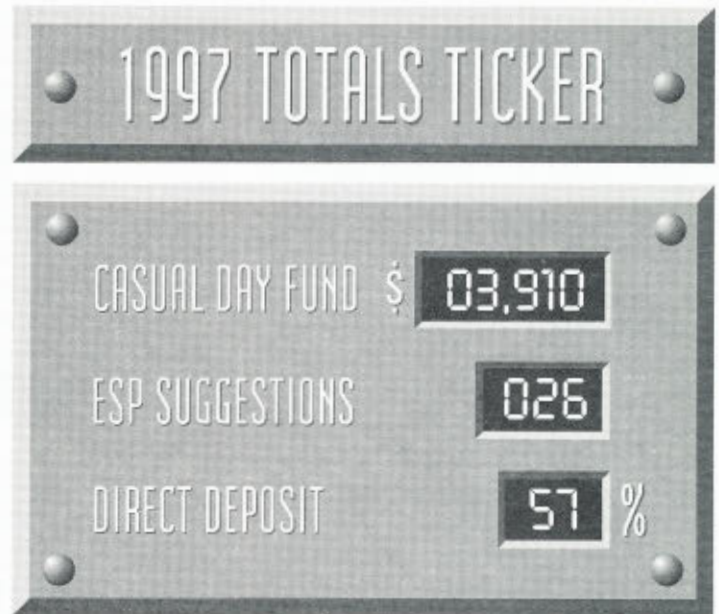
Circuit Court welcomes newest judge

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our new Circuit Court Judge, the **Hon. Nanci J. Grant**. Her six-year term began on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Since 1989, Grant has worked as a trial attorney, acquiring extensive trial and courtroom experience in both state and federal court.

Although this is her first judgeship, Grant is no stranger to the proceedings of the Oakland County Circuit Courthouse. She has worked there as a researcher, clerk, and an arbitrator. She also interned at Friend of the Court.

Currently, Judge Grant is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and is serving her second elected term to the State Bar Representative Assembly. She is also a member of the Oakland County Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.



What's the B-U-Z-Z-?

Getting to and from the county campus is a whole lot easier these days because of all the road improvements that have occurred since last fall.

Thanks to the efforts of the Road Commission for Oakland County and Facilities Engineering, it is now possible for motorists to cross Telegraph Road from west to east on Pontiac Lake Road. In addition, travelers coming in from M-59 on Pontiac Lake Road are no longer forced to turn left at the Road Commission building and wait in long lines to go to the east side of the campus. Some work remains such as the final resurfacing of the south entrance, which will occur in the spring and the installation of street lighting and new service center maps at both entrances.

You can almost hear the champagne corks popping in **Dr. Dragovic's** office. The medical examiner and his first-rate staff will be leaving their second rate offices sometime in the not too distant future to take up residence in a brand new building.

When the current Medical Examiners Office, which is located in the rear of the Law Enforcement complex, was built in 1970 only 200 autopsies were performed annually. Today that number has grown to more than 1100 and additional space is desperately needed. Construction on the new M.E. building, which will be located directly north of the North Office Building, will begin early this summer, with completion scheduled in the summer of 1998.

The **judges and staff of the 52-4 District Court** will enjoy a little extra elbow room when they move into their new digs next year.

Oakland County and the city of Troy have worked out a unique lease agreement that will provide a new 22,000-square-foot home for the court, without the necessity of spending millions of dollars to construct a building from the ground up. Instead, an existing community activity center, located on the Troy Service Center, will be renovated to accommodate the growing space needs of the court. By renovating, instead of building, the county will save approximately \$2.5 million in construction costs.

We All Win!

Everyone wins by reading the new Health Spot boards (they replace the former CHARGE boards) which provide up-to-date information on leading a healthier life. There are 80 such boards located in various county buildings that are updated monthly. "We've added color and pizzazz" says **Roxanne Strom**, an auxiliary health worker for the Health Education Unit and coordinator of the Health Spot boards.

The new boards were introduced in August with a contest for readers. Those who guessed "90 percent" as the correct percentage of adult smokers who started smoking as teens were entered in a drawing for a \$30 gift certificate, generously donated by Bill Hall, manager of The Shoe Store located in Highlander Square in Waterford. The lucky winner, **Mary Zednik** of our Parks and Recreation Department, was thrilled to learn she'd won and thought the certificate would come in handy for the winter boots she's planning to purchase. For the location of a Health Spot board near you, call 858-1394.

Watch the "Health Spot" for future contests.



Kathleen Altman (left), Health Education Unit, who devised the new "Health Spot" Contest, presents a \$30 gift certificate to the winner, Mary Zednik, Parks and Recreation.

COMING & GOING

NEW EMPLOYEES

Somona Beach, Community Corrections Division, was hired in December as a student intern.

Mark Brady, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired on Jan. 13 as a general helper.

Melissa Chiger, Sheriff's Department, was hired on Dec. 9 as a classification agent.

Myrldeen Conner, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was re-hired on Jan. 13 as a custodial worker II.

Diane Corbett, Executive Office, began in January as a co-op student from Oakland University.

Jennifer Delle-Monache, Media & Communications, began Feb. 24 as an intern from Oakland University.

Tracy Edgemon, Information Technology, was hired on Nov. 4 as a department receptionist.

Christopher Ewald, an Equalization co-op student for two years, was hired on Nov. 11 as general clerical.

Carol Grove, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Telephone Unit, was hired on Nov. 25 as a telecommunication technician.

Melissa Halpin, Office of Arts, Culture & Film, was hired as a student intern from Oakland University.

Shannon Hughes, Equalization, was hired Oct. 7 as a real property appraiser I.

Amy Hundley, Equalization, was hired on Jan. 13 as a co-op student.

John Karns, Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Division, was hired on Nov. 18 as a maintenance laborer at the Eight Mile Water Department.

Karen Lannan, Drain Commissioner Engineering & Construction Division, was hired on Oct. 7 as a civil engineer I.

Lavorice Lewis, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Safety Unit, was hired on Oct. 12 as general clerical.

Deborah Mason, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired Oct. 21 as general clerical.

Cheryl McClenic, was hired on Jan. 21 as a research attorney for Judge Denise Langford Morris' office.

Nicole Mills, Drain Commissioner's Inspection Unit, was hired on Nov. 12 as general clerical.

Marianne Nichols, Community Corrections Division, was hired in December as a student intern.

Olivia Rucker, Equalization, was hired on Sept. 4 as a co-op student.

Lisa Smith, Community Corrections Division, was hired in October as a pretrial services investigator.

Kendra Watson, Equalization, was hired Sept. 3 as a co-op student.

FOND FAREWELLS

Velore Brown, Equalization real property appraiser, resigned on Oct. 18 to work in the City of Southfield as a real property appraiser.

Juan Flores, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Maintenance unit, retired on disability Oct. 31 after 22 years of service. He was a skilled maintenance mechanic II.

Ara "Alex" Kachadourian, Media & Communications, completed his internship upon his graduation from Oakland University.

C. Vincent Luzi, Director of Personnel, retired on Jan. 30 after 32 years of service.

Eugene Matkowski, Equalization, retired Jan. 31 after eight years of service. He was a personal property appraiser.

Lorenzo Rocha Sr., Facilities Management Safety Division, died Dec. 18 at the age of 51. He started at the county in 1978 with the Safety Division as a building safety attendant.

Bill Shurkey, Information Technology, retired on Nov. 15.

NEW PLACES & FACES

PROMOTIONS

Robert Archambeau, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Heating Unit, was promoted on May 11 to skilled maintenance mechanic II.

Jacline Branford-Scribner, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was promoted on Dec. 7 to custodial worker II.

Timothy Brown, Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Department, was promoted on July 20 to civil engineer III.

Anita Campbell, Equalization, was promoted to senior tax description technician on Aug. 31.

Leree Cardona-Telinsky, Equalization, was promoted to clerk II on Oct. 12.

Jerry Colon, Drain Commissioner's Eight Mile Water Unit, was promoted on Oct. 22 to maintenance laborer.

Judy Eaton, Personnel Department, was appointed Director of Personnel in February.

Earl Flick, Drain Commissioner's SOCSDS Division, was promoted on Dec. 21 to pump maintenance mechanic I.

Joe Horn, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Grounds Unit, was promoted on Nov. 9 to grounds keeper I.

Kristina Huffman, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Safety Unit, was promoted on Jan. 11 to building safety attendant.

Dan Kelly, Maintenance & Operations Maintenance Unit, was promoted on Dec. 7 to skilled maintenance mechanic II.

Kerry Leach, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was promoted on Nov. 9 to custodial worker II.

George Miller, former Community Corrections manager, was promoted to administrative director of the Board of Commissioners on Jan. 27.

Elizabeth Millner, Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Department, was promoted on Nov. 9 to engineer aide II.

Jerry Perna, Maintenance & Operations Maintenance Unit, was promoted on Dec. 7 to skilled maintenance mechanic II.

Elizabeth Raymond, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Safety Unit, was promoted on Jan. 4 to building safety attendant - bonus (dispatch).

Suzanne Reynolds, Drain Commissioner's Eight Mile Water Unit, was promoted on Sept. 14 to clerk I.

Belinda Shelton Duggan, Veterans' Services Division, was promoted on Jan. 4 to supervisor of the Pontiac Unit.

Valentina Standfield, Equalization, was promoted to clerk on Dec. 3.

Kristina Stevens, Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Department, was promoted on Dec. 21 to engineer aide I.

Kelly Stout, Drain Commissioner's Operation and Maintenance Administration, was promoted on Sept. 14 to secretary I.

Richard Turner, Drain Commissioner's Sewer Maintenance Unit, was promoted on Dec. 2 to maintenance laborer.

Wendy Zuzelski, Facilities Engineering Technical Support unit, was promoted on Nov. 23 to engineer aide II.

TRANSFERS

Toni Cooperrider, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Safety Unit building safety attendant, transferred from Clerk/Registrar of Deeds on Oct. 5.

Audrea Marion, Reimbursement general clerical, transferred from Community Corrections Division on Nov. 23.

Penny Knope, Drain Commissioner's Sewer Maintenance typist II, transferred from FM&O on Oct. 5.

Mark Slankster, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Maintenance unit maintenance laborer, transferred from Drain Commissioner's office on Dec. 28.

Chris Wittke, Information Technology student engineer, transferred from Auditing on Sept. 24.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHS

Christine Aguilera, Community Mental Health, and her husband, Manuel, had a son, Alexander, born on Jan. 12 weighing 7 lbs., 4 ozs.

Toni Cooperrider, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Safety Unit, and her husband, Stephan, are the proud parents of a daughter, Amy Jeannine, born on Jan. 15 weighing 6 lbs., 7 ozs. and measuring 17 inches long.

Sue Dignard, Health Division Dental Clinic, and her husband, Richard, are the proud parents of a son, Adam John, born on Dec. 14, weighing 7 lbs., 3 ozs.

Tim Leh, Community Corrections Division, and his wife, Colleen, are the proud parents of a son, Alex James Sullivan, born on Nov. 19.

Jim and Cathy Taylor, Information Technology, are the proud parents of Amanda Elaine, born Oct. 18.

KUDOS

• **George W. Kuhn**, Oakland County Drain Commissioner, is proud to announce that in December the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality notified the following employees that they had successfully passed the written examination for certification as Water Distribution System Operators: **Gary Aho**, S-2; **Gerald Bannasch**, S-2, S-3; **David Brown**, S-3, S-4; **Andrew Case**, S-1, S-3; **Terry Gorham**, S-1, S-3; **Olden Green**, S-4; **Carol Greisser**, S-2; **Scott Guzzy**, S-1, S-3; **Byron Hanson**, S-4; **Mark Hopkins**, S-2, S-3; **Shoma Khasnabis**, S-4; **Joychan Kurian**, S-4; **Ben Lewis**, S-1; **Philip Sanzica**, S-1, S-2, S-3 and **Douglas Smith**, S-2.

The classifications allow for the opera-

tion of public water distribution systems with varying populations.

• **L. J. Dragovic, M.D.**, chief medical examiner, was the recipient of the Great Lakes Transplantation Association's annual Professional Service Award on Nov. 21.

• **Keith Krinn**, Administrative Assistant in Environmental Health Services, Oakland County Health Division, had his article, "The Environmental Health Internship: A Mutually Beneficial Relationship," published in the November issue of the "Journal of Environment Health."

• **Oakland County Parks & Recreation manager Ralph Richard**, and some of his employees, including **Mike Thibodeau, Frank Trionfi, Jon Kipke, Jim Dunleavy, Jan Pung, and Dan Stencil** participated in a 55-mile relay race and raised \$500 for the American Cancer Society. **Sandy Dorey** organized the team and the fund raiser was dedicated to **Miriam Kaptur**, a West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation employee, who died from breast cancer.

• **Detroit Monthly** has named **Waterford Oaks Waterpark** the "Best Waterworld," citing its dual-flume waterslide, wave-action pool, children's water playground and group raft ride.

THE SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Little Tikes Country Play Kitchen. Like new; \$75 (paid \$130); call Peggy (810) 858-2930 days or (810) 682-8726 evenings.

FOR SALE: 1992 Eagle Talon. All wheel drive; loaded; 5-speed; white with sunroof; \$11,500 obo. (810) 858-0363.

Oakland County Information Hotline: (810) 858-1022

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Oakland County news

Press **3** for Arts & Cultural Events

Press **4** for Community & Minority
Affairs News

Employee of the Month

by Ara Kachadourian, Media & Communications

“I was shocked and surprised,” was **Karen Pelowski’s** reaction to receiving the Employee of the Month Award. Pelowski, a counselor at Children’s Village, said, “it was very nice to be recognized and I appreciate the award.”



Pelowski began her career with Oakland County working for Probate Court, but transferred to Children’s Village in 1990. As a counselor, Pelowski is deeply involved in helping to make a difference in the lives of the young people with whom she works. Her duties include working with felony teenage males whom she tries to steer away from entering the criminal system before they become adults. In addition, Pelowski serves as a liaison between the court and attorneys involved in various cases.

Ronald Frink, case management supervisor, remarked, “Karen is a phenomenal individual who has a strong work ethic.” Frink added, “Karen certainly deserves to be recognized for her extreme professionalism and dedication.” Administrative intake supervisor Peter Balzerini praised Pelowski saying, “Karen is a very conscientious and thorough employee who is dependable.”

When not at work, Pelowski’s hobbies include traveling, swimming, boating, and skiing.

Judi Lockhart, Reimbursement collection supervisor, is among the many shining stars demonstrating her dedication through hard work. “I was surprised and embarrassed; it was nice to be recognized for what I consider part of my job,” Lockhart said about the Employee of the Month Award.



Lockhart began her career at Oakland County in 1979 at the Circuit Court. Since then, she has been responsible in making the Reimbursement Division more effective and efficient. In addition, Lockhart has been instrumental in training employees to use PC’s. Another duty includes supervising account clerks who work with parents of juvenile delinquents. When asked about her experience in working for the county, Lockhart replied, “I enjoy working with the people here; it is nice to be part of a wonderful group of people.”

“I cannot say enough about Judi,” said Linda Spiekerman-Harvey, chief of Reimbursement at the Probate Court. “Judi is an excellent employee and has been instrumental in the day-to-day functioning of our office.”

When not at work, Lockhart is busy with other projects within the community. She is involved in her church choir and is a PTA president. However, what keeps her occupied most is spending time with her husband and their two children.

“I appreciate the recognition and feel very honored,” remarked **Bill Carlson**, Health Division supervising sanitarian, upon receiving the Employee of the Month Award.

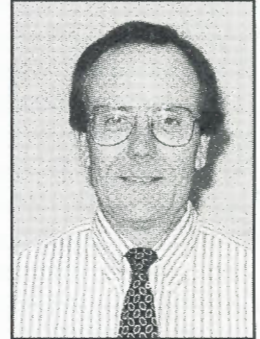


Photo: Sal Najera

Carlson, a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Public Health, began his career in Oakland County in 1970. Since joining the county he has worked through the ranks of Environmental Health Services to the supervisory level. His duties include planning, organizing and evaluating Environmental Health programs relating to environmental safety. Carlson has been instrumental in directing environmental investigations that affect the public. Carlson was responsible for determining causes of pollution in the Rouge River and finding the cause of the recent Legionnaires Disease outbreak in the Farmington area. Yet, Carlson states, “it was a team effort.”

Ron Grimes, Environmental Health Services administrator, said, “Bill does a top-notch job.” According to Carlson, his philosophy is “what you do when you are not at work is who you really are.”

When he is not busy at work, Carlson is active outdoors. Carlson’s activities include long-distance bicycling (4000 miles a year), sea kayaking on the Great Lakes and exploring America on his BMW motorcycle.

Equalization Engineer Technician Penny Peters, upon receiving the Employee of the Month Award, replied, “It was such a surprise and I appreciate being recognized, but the credit goes also to my co-workers.”



Peters began her career in the Equalization Department in 1988 as a clerk and was later promoted to engineer technician. Since joining Oakland County, Peters has been a valuable asset working on various projects. The latest project which Peters has been involved in is the development of the GPS Program. The GPS, a mapping system, is among the latest methods used to track and detect information about land parcels. Peters’ expertise has been an integral part to the development of the base mapping process. When asked what she likes about working for Oakland County, Peters replied, “the opportunity to work with professional and intelligent people.”

Cliff Robbins, Equalization description supervisor, remarked, “Penny is a very conscientious employee who consistently performs well beyond the call of duty.” Robbins further commented saying, “Penny is a very valuable asset to Oakland County.”

Whenever she is not busy, Peters’ hobbies include bicycle riding and spending time with her husband and two teenagers.