

# The TELEGRAPH

A newsletter dedicated to the hard-

work of Oakland County Government

Volume VI, Issue XXIV

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January 1998

## Employee Christmas Party Reflects Joy of the Holiday Season



The mood was festive and spirits were high as more than 400 em-

ployees of Oakland County government joined together on December 19 to share the joy of the holiday season. As in past years, the annual Employees Christmas Party, which again in 1997 was held at the Northfield Hilton in Troy, featured two exciting events: the distribution of funds to local charities from the Casual Day Fund and the announcement of the grand prize winners in the Employees Suggestion Program.



Back row, left to right: Jennifer Mason, Carl Pardon, Doug Williams, Doug Nicols, Joe Buese, Jerry Kymla, Karen Lannan, Dan Young, Ellen Halsey, Nicole Hutton, Deanna Fett. Front row, left to right: Elaine VanDyke, Madelyn Thomas, Mike Wilk (accepting award for Pat Cosner), Geri McGregor, Mary Pardee, Marie Cooper, Kathy Kelley, Carol Morin

The co-winners of the top prize - a trip to Hawaii or the \$4,000 cash equivalent were Doug Nichols and Joe Buese, both of whom work for Community Mental Health. Their suggestion to have CMH contract with an outside agency to collect eligible Medicaid reimbursements on behalf of certain CMH clients will save the County an estimated \$302,000 per year in medical expenses.

Taking home the second place prize of a trip to Cancun or the \$2,000 cash equivalent were Nichole Hutton and Deanna Fett of the Purchasing Division. The County will realize a savings of more than \$28,000 as a result of their idea to streamline ticket purchasing procedures by allowing individual departments to work directly with the travel agent and Fiscal Services when buying tickets.

In 1997, separate trips to Toronto or the \$750 cash equivalent were awarded to Ellen Halsey, Clerk/Registers Office and Jerry Kymla, Community Mental Health. Halsey won for her suggestion to change certain election procedures such as reducing the number of voting applications distributed to precincts and providing reusable laminated signs and voting sleeves. Her suggestion will save taxpayers more than \$19,000 annually. Kymla won for suggesting that the Assertive Community Treatment Program take over the 24 hour phone coverage for all of South Adult Services at a cost savings of more than \$20,000 per year.

The \$500 cash award winners were: Karen Lannan, Drain Department, who suggested the Drain Office give out their maps

in a CAD computer format on disk; Madelyn Thomas and Elaine Vandyke, Drain Commissioner's Office, for their suggestion that the Public Works Building include the postal address that is printed on Drain Office stationery in order to better serve the public; Geri McGregor, Veterans Services, who suggested providing Veterans Services employees with "read-only" access to veteran military discharge records so that this kind of proprietary information can be accessed without requiring assistance from the Clerk's Office; Dan Young, FM&O, whose suggestion to attach office name plates with Velcro rather than glue will save money and dry wall repairs and Pat Cosner, Information Technology, who suggested the County

see **EMPLOYEES** on page 9

# PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

In my State of the County Address last March, I introduced the idea of establishing a Child Care program on our campus for working parents who had small children at home. At the time, I suggested it was a concept whose time had come.

I'm happy to report that Judy Eaton, director of Personnel; Dave Ross, director of Facilities Management and Stan Fayne, Oakland County's risk manager, are moving full steam ahead on plans to implement a Child Care program just as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of this year.

Recently, a survey was conducted to assess employee interest in a Child Care program and the response we received was simply overwhelming in terms of the number of people who identified the need for such a service. In fact, of the more than 1,000 comments we received, most were supportive of this concept.

Work and family issues are becoming more important for many people in toChild's fast-paced society. Working parents sometimes have difficulty finding Child Care that they can trust or that's convenient for their particular situation.

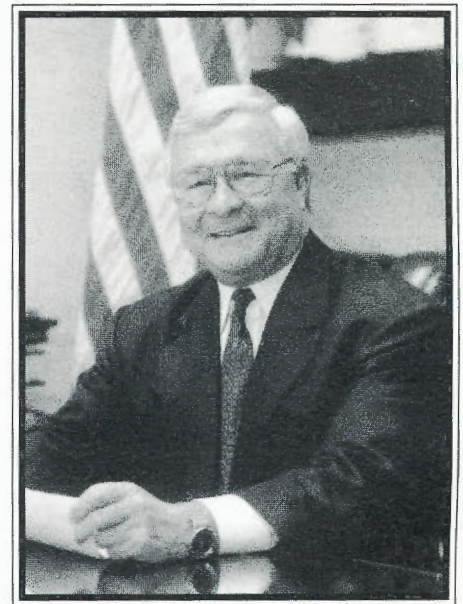
The benefits of having a Child Care program on our campus are pretty obvious. Working parents would be able to spend more time with their children on the way to work in the morning and on the drive home in the evening. Employees would

also have the opportunity to visit their children during lunch.

Although nothing has been finalized as yet, it appears the Health Care Annex across the parking lot from the Executive Office Building would be an ideal location. It is an attractive spot for a variety of reasons: the building is located in the center of the county campus, there is ample parking and easy access, abundant space outside which could be used for a playground, the annex is well lighted, there are kitchen facilities and the building is not part of an office complex.

Our plan is to find a well qualified Child Care provider through the bidding process who would be responsible for running the program, setting the rates and collecting the fees. As envisioned, the Child Care Center would accommodate about 120 children, from infant to five years of age.

A county supported Child Care Center is a win-win arrangement for all concerned. It would give working parents an opportunity to bond with their children and share with them those precious moments such as the child's first step. Moments you can never get back once they're lost. A Child Care Center provides a tangible benefit as well to the county because it gives us a fighting chance to hold onto valued employees we might otherwise lose. It would also help our recruiting efforts, especially in those

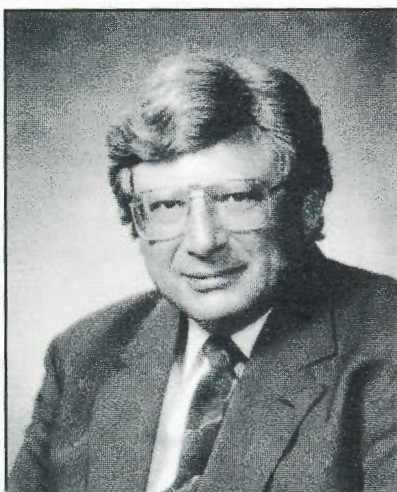


**L. Brooks Patterson**  
Oakland County Executive

areas where its difficult to find qualified workers such as programmers. In fact, Judy Eaton tells me we lost a good programmer applicant because the county did not offer a Child Care program.

Well, all of that is changing and by the end of 1998, Oakland County will join the ranks of other major organizations across America which give their employees an opportunity to pursue a career without forcing them to sacrifice their important role as parents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "L. Brooks Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.



*We lost a well-liked and dedicated friend*

**C**ommissioner Larry Pernick died following a committee meeting of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, November 6, 1997. Mr. Pernick, 66, collapsed in the parking lot outside the Oakland County Courthouse in Pontiac on Thursday afternoon, following a three-hour planning session with colleagues.

Despite efforts to revive him, he was pronounced dead at North Oakland Medical Center about 4 p.m.

A lifelong Democrat from Southfield, Mr. Pernick was Oakland County's longest-serving commissioner, first joining the commission in 1969.

Mr. Pernick is survived by his wife Anne, sons Nat and Daniel, a daughter Margo Weitzer and nine grandchildren.

The family has requested that contributions can be made to the Larry Pernick Health Education Fund for Oakland County and mailed in care of the Oakland County Health Division, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341-0432.

# Mail Room Cracks Down on Personal Packages

It appears LTD Commodities, a mail order catalog company, has gotten a foothold in Oakland County government and folks in the mail room are none too happy about it.

Recently, the mail room has seen a dramatic increase in the number of personal packages coming in, many of them from LTD Commodities. In the past, these packages would be delivered to employees without any question. But now that 12-15 of these packages are arriving on a daily

basis, eyebrows are being raised and changes are in the offing.

"We never had much of a problem with personal packages before," said Jack Smith, supervisor of Support Services, who oversees the mail room. "We always got a few boxes of candy or fruit, but we always delivered them."

Smith indicated that nothing probably would have been said if it was just the occasional package coming in. But he noted

that some employees are getting four or five cases of products on a pretty regular basis and a few of these multiple deliveries are the size of a standard desk.

"I came to the determination we were hired to do county work and not deliver or cart around personal packages," Smith said.

In the future, the mail room staff will carefully screen every package that arrives. In some cases, the package may be returned to the company and not delivered to the employee who ordered it. According to Smith, this would occur if there are frequent deliveries or the package was simply too large.

"If an employee wants a package shipped to their place of work, then they can use UPS or Federal Express," Smith said. "If we spend our time delivering these personal packages, it could delay the delivery of some of the 12,000 pieces of mail we have going out on a daily basis."

## It's Resolution Time Again

by Nicole Stec

Traditionally, the beginning of a New Year symbolizes fresh starts, regeneration and limitless possibilities. However, it's also a time to take stock, meditate on personal achievements or shortcomings, and make resolutions for change in the coming year. This year Oakland County employees have made a wide array of resolutions, but losing weight and eating right are by far the most popular New Year's vows.

Jane Oswalt of the Executive Office staff is not alone in that she wants to, "Stay away from the junk food, and lose a little weight." Similarly, Roy D. Lake of Budget has decided to continue his wholesome habits, "I don't drink and I don't smoke, so I'm pretty well covered in that area, but I am going to try eating healthier." Rochelle Tarchalski of Personnel has resolved to "Go to bed earlier so I can get up in the morning." And several people who wish to remain anonymous are planning to commit to a work-out program.

While some of our co-workers are sweating through their daily exercise, others will be looking for less physical ways to improve themselves. Kathy Taylor of Development and Planning wants to ease relations on the home front. "I'm going to try to be more patient with my fifteen year old son James," says Kathy "and once again I'm going to try not to swear.

This resolution is usually broken by January fifth!" Laverne Smith of Budget had to ponder a moment to think of a resolution, but her visiting son Charlton Cavette, age nine, had a quick answer: "I'm going to stay out of trouble!"

Yet some county employees find that New Year's resolutions are either seldom kept or unnecessary. Jo Anne Schwager of Health comments that "I've never made resolutions. I'm always making changes, so I don't need a particular time of the year to try to commit." Paulette Nadeau who works in the Fiscal Services office expresses the same thought: "No *New Year's* resolutions, because no matter what time of year it is, I resolve to live each day to its fullest."

As the new year approaches some of us intent on self-improvement will try to make life style changes, but maybe the time has come for resolutions to be fun, and therefore, easy to keep. For instance, I don't think that Ken Rogers will have trouble keeping his resolution—to work on his golf game—at least not after the snow melts. I've decided to follow his lead. I resolve to spend more time reading and watching movies, my two favorite things to do. Hopefully everyone here at Oakland County will find time not just for the resolutions they have to do, but for resolutions they want to do as well.

The TELEGRAPH

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*This information map stands at both County entrances along with copies of maps for visitors.*

## New Signage Points the Way

Visitors to the Oakland County Government campus will experience an easier time finding their way around because of all the new and improved signage which is now in place.

There are new large information signs and map boxes at both the north and south entrances to the complex and all of the buildings now have numbers on them. East of Telegraph, on the Pontiac side, all of the buildings have even numbers, starting at 10 East for the Law Enforcement Complex on the south. To the west of Telegraph, the Waterford side, all of the buildings have odd numbers beginning with 41 West for Oakland Schools.

"The new system takes a little getting used to," said Dave Ross, director of Facilities Management. "But its a vast improvement over what we had before."

Ross said the old system, which was put in place in the early 1960's, was developed in a haphazard way. As a result, a lot of signage was outdated, badly faded and in some cases even inaccurate.

In terms of getting the word out to the public about the new signs, Ross said he's contacted all the departments and asked them to reference the signage by building and building address and incorporate that information on their letterheads.

"Departments and employees should reference building names and numbers more than the function when communicating with the public," Ross said. "Then once they locate the building, visitors can find the particular function they're looking for."

Steve Stanford, project planner for Facilities Management, said he spent a good deal of time at both entrances watching visitors look at the maps. Based on his own personal unscientific observations, Stanford said it appears people are able to find the building they are looking for fairly quickly and easily.

"From what I've seen, we're probably helping a thousand people a week," Stanford said. "The most significant thing about this new way-finding system is that its based on the concept of getting visitors to the right building first without them having to drive around the whole campus."

Stanford noted that some orientation cues have been incorporated into the new system which most people might not even be aware of. For example, he said all of the signs on the east side of Telegraph have a red background and all of the buildings on the west side have a blue background. In addition, the numbers grow larger as visitors drive north.

Stanford estimated that between 400 and 500 people stop to look at the maps located at both entrances every week.

## Generous Gift Aids Animal Shelter

When James W. Lewis of Rochester Hills died he bequeathed a gift of \$10,000 to the Oakland County Animal Shelter. In addition, Lewis' estate gave the shelter his 17 year old long haired tortoise shell cat, named Sheba.

"I spoke to a relative of Mr. Lewis' who said he wanted to leave his money where it would do the most good," said Sandy Gay, manager of the Animal Control Division.

Gay said this was one of the largest donations the shelter has ever received, although they did get a similar \$10,000

*"Mr. Lewis . . . said he wanted to leave his money where it would do the most good."*

check from a woman who passed away about three years ago.

Mr. Lewis' money will be put to good use, as he would have wanted. The plan is to purchase some cages for the animals and to also produce educational materials such as the "Responsible Pet Ownership Program". Part of the money will also be set aside to provide special care for injured or sick dogs.

"We get a lot of dogs in here with broken legs and if we can get them fixed up, we can find homes for these animals," Gay said.

## The View from Here

Happy New Year! I hope 1998 will be a glorious and prosperous year for all of you.

Now that the old year has given way to the new, it seems like an appropriate time to consider making a few changes to the Telegraph. My new graphic artist, Sue Quinlan, has come up with several ideas worth considering.

Sue has suggested a regular feature which highlights the people, functions and achievements of individual county departments. This would be a very personalized view that might include a human interest story about a particular employee.

Or how about a column that addresses questions concerning employee benefits? It might be called - "For Your Benefit" and structured in a question and answer format. A possible sample question: "I have worked in the Health Division for 24 years, but am planning to retire next year.

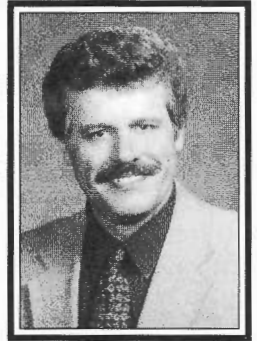
What are my options for receiving the money I've been saving in the Deferred Compensation Plan?"

In the belief that there are many creative people working for county government, why not showcase their talents? The Telegraph could become a forum for writers, poets, crafters, painters, photographers and the like. This regular feature might be called - "Telegraphing our Talents".

Another provocative thought Sue had was to challenge readers with a puzzle. Those who solved the puzzle would win a dinner for two, a day off or some other worthwhile prize.

We're also looking at the possibility of featuring a cartoon in upcoming issues of the Telegraph as well as providing in-depth coverage of the county's softball league playoffs in the spring, along with scores, standings and schedules of the county teams.

These are just of the few of the ideas we've come up with for making the Telegraph the kind of publication you look forward to reading. Let us know what you think. And please feel free to offer any suggestions you might have for **i m p r o v i n g** YOUR newsletter.



**Bob Dustman**  
Media and  
Communications

Our goal is to make the Telegraph the best product of its kind available. In order to do that, we need to tap into the creative juices of our fellow employees.

Don't be shy - let us hear from you and enjoy 1998.

## Ice Rinks Debut at Waterford Oaks County Park

**T**wo lighted natural ice skating rinks make their debut at Waterford Oaks County Park — home of the Fridge, Michigan's first refrigerated toboggan run — this winter. One rink is for recreational skating (125' x 125') and the other for hockey (170' x 85'). There is no charge to skate, but visitors must provide their own equipment.

"It's a great opportunity for families and groups to spend time together," Dan Stencil, chief of parks, said. "The rinks are a great asset to the Fridge, making Waterford Oaks a more diverse winter recreation center."

The ice rinks will be open during the Fridge's operating times of Tuesday - Fri-

day from 4 - 9:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Sunday noon - 8 p.m.

"Because the outdoor rinks depend on long periods of freezing temperatures, we're hoping the rinks will be open from mid-December through February," Stencil said. "The rinks have white vinyl liners to help reduce the sun's ultraviolet rays from melting the ice."

The Fridge drops riders 55 feet onto a 1,000 foot slide over dips and straight-aways. Speeds can reach 30 mph. Wooden toboggans, provided and transported by parks staff, seat four riders who must be more than 30" tall. No infant riders.

Washable clothing suitable for an outdoor winter activity is recommended. Gloves or mittens must be worn.

Admission to the Fridge permits all-day use. Tickets are \$8/person; \$6/Oakland County resident discount rate; and \$4/child 30"-43" tall. A \$2 single ride ticket can be applied to a same day admission purchase.

A group rate of \$4/person is available for groups of 20 or more with prior approval. Group rates are: Monday (open only for groups of 100 people or more), Tuesday-Friday 9-4:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. and Sundays 5-8 p.m.

Oakland County Parks also offers transportation. Please contact Mobile Recreation at (248) 858-0916 for more information.

## New Medical Examiner's Facility Begins to Take Shape

The first shovel full of earth has been turned over and work is proceeding on schedule for the new \$10.2 million building which will house the Medical Examiner and his staff. This 38,000 square foot facility is located on the County Service Center north of the County Courthouse and will be a vast improvement over the current location at the rear of the Law Enforcement Complex.

The steel structure for the building has been completed and the first floor concrete is in place. You may have noticed a pine tree placed on the upper level of the steel work. This is a long standing tradition among steel fabricators. The tree is placed at the highest point on the building when the steel frame is completed. The tradition seems to have started with the "Rowan Tree" which takes its name from Celt and Scottish legends that tell of privacy, peace, and sanctuary associated with this magical tree. A kind of Rowan Tree known as "quickbeam" is the tree of life and placement of a tree on the rough frame of an ancient wood building was a way of honoring the forest from which the timber came. As construction materials changed from wood to steel, the tradition continued.

Masonry walls are going up and the building is being enclosed for winter so that construction can continue inside. In addition to the face brick that will follow the block installation, interior work will begin on mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire protection systems as well as partitions and many more components while the snow flies.

Have you noticed the little green pedestrian bridge that crosses the creek adjacent to the north parking lot? This bridge will provide employee and public access from the parking lot across the creek. The bridge is also designed to allow crossing with snow removal and grounds keeping equipment.

Harley Ellington Design of Southfield is the architect/engineer on the project. LaSalle General Contractors of Canton, Michigan is the contractor for the project. Construction began this past August and the project is currently right on schedule. Completion is scheduled for third quarter of 1998.



### O: Drive Suggestions Exhausted

Sometimes too much of a good thing can be bad. Take for example one of the more popular suggestions contributed to the Employee Suggestion Program.

Over the past couple of years, nearly two dozen suggestions have been submitted to ESP dealing with putting various types of information or lists on the County's O:Drive.

Well, the ESP Screening Committee has decided that enough is enough. So in the future any ideas that come in suggesting information be placed on the O:Drive will no longer be eligible for consideration. Which means that if your sight is set on winning one of those luxurious trips or cash awards that are handed out at the Employee's Christmas Party in December, you'll have to come up with something else in order to qualify.

## Grant Garner's Accolades

The newest member of the Oakland County Circuit Court bench has wasted precious little time in making her presence felt. Judge Nanci Grant, whose six year term began on January 2, 1997, has received three separate honors for her outstanding contributions to the legal profession.

Judge Grant received the Merit Award from the Citizens Alliance for the Probate Court of Oakland County for "creating and implementing the series - 'Removing the Mysteries of the Probate Court'." In addition, she was selected

by the monthly magazine, Hour Detroit, as one of the new leaders in the Metro Detroit area.

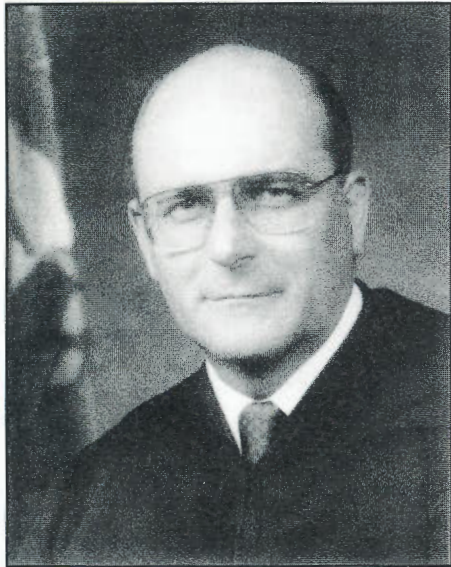
Judge Grant was also recognized by Crain's Detroit Business as one of Metro Detroit's "Forty Best and Brightest Under the Age of 40."

Prior to earning a spot on the Circuit Court bench, Judge Grant was a trial attorney with the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, VanDusen and Freeman. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law Schools.



**Judge Nanci Grant**  
Oakland County Circuit Court

# Civil Rights Group Honors Oakland Judge



**Judge Fred Mester**  
Oakland County Circuit Court

Citing his "love and compassion", the northern Oakland County branch of the NAACP has presented Oakland County

Circuit Judge Fred Mester with its 1997 President's Award as a Distinguished Humanitarian.

In bestowing this prestigious award upon Judge Mester at the organization's 77th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner, NAACP President Liz Bond said, "Though Judge Mester has seen the horror and tragedy that violent crime wreaks on its victims, society and ourselves, he has nevertheless maintained his belief in the goodness of all."

Because of his caring nature, Judge Mester has always been ready and willing to help those in need. For example, several years ago a young man by the name of Kenneth Briggs ignored his own personal safety to rescue a 12 year old girl from a gang rape. Despite the potential harm to himself, Kenneth helped police by identifying the suspects. His involvement in the case enabled the prosecution to win a conviction.

Realizing the threat to Kenneth, Judge Mester arranged for him to stay in Canada until his life was no longer at risk. Over the years, Judge Mester has provided Kenneth with moral support and the resources needed to pursue a college education. The Judge has also recommended him for employment with the Detroit Lions. Kenneth is very appreciative of what Judge Mester has done for him, saying the Judge is "as a father to me."

Not one to idle away his time, Judge Mester teaches law at three colleges and universities and also serves as chair of the William Booth Legal Aid Clinic which provides holistic legal support for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. He is also the guiding force behind the "Reading to Reduce Recidivism" program which utilizes community resources to help convicted felons improve their reading and learning skills as an important first step in becoming productive citizens.

## Sosnick Reappointed Chief Judge

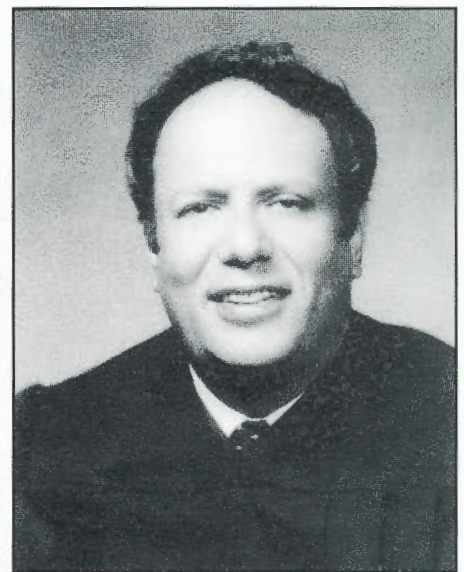
The Michigan Supreme Court has reappointed the Honorable Edward Sosnick to a second term as Chief Judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court.

Prior to his first appointment as chief judge for the 1996-97 term, Judge Sosnick served as the Circuit Court's Chief Judge Pro Tempore in 1994-95.

During his tenure, the Court has registered a number of significant accomplishments, including the highly successful crackdown on parents who were delinquent in making their child support payments. The so-called "Pay-up Round-up", which was conducted in cooperation with Friend of the Court, resulted in the collection of \$404,000 in back child support payments.

Another very productive program, which occurred on Judge Sosnick's watch, was Divorce Settlement Week, which was a joint effort of Circuit Court and Friend of the Court. During the week-long push in October to clear the backlog of old divorce cases, more than 300 domestic cases were resolved to clear the way for the new Family Division of Circuit Court which went into operation January 1, 1998. The bottom line is that more than 60% of the divorce cases originally scheduled were disposed of (303 out of 500).

"These results were well beyond our expectations," said Judge Sosnick. "This project demonstrates what a concentrated, collaborative effort can bring about."



**Chief Judge Edward Sosnick**  
Oakland County Circuit Court

# A Tale of Two Runners



Sunday, October 19, 1997 dawned as a day of challenge for two of Oakland County's finest. It was the day Deputy Corporation Counsel Jody McLeod and Management and Budget Director Robert Daddow met at the starting line of the Detroit Free Press Marathon to test their courage against the 26.2 mile course.

Daddow is a marathon veteran with five previous long runs under his belt. But for McLeod this was a completely new and unique experience and one she isn't anxious to repeat.

"This was probably my last marathon," McLeod said. "Give me childbirth any time."

Actually, she was pretty happy with her time of 4 hours and 54 minutes, noting that she averaged 10 minute miles for the first 20 miles before as she put it - "crashing and burning."

Jody, who has always been physically active, began training for the Free Press Marathon in June and increased the distance she ran on a weekly basis. Her long runs were reserved for Saturdays - starting out with 8 miles, then increas-

ing to 10 miles, 12 miles, 14 miles and so on until she could cover 20 miles.

Her training regime was a family affair. Jody's 8 year old son rode his bike as mom ran and her husband was close by to give her water, especially on her long runs.

"After finishing the marathon I was in a lot of pain because of the acid buildup in my muscles," McLeod recalled. "But I went home and stretched and took a hot bath."



The next day, Jody was a little sore, but not as sore as she was following the race.

Daddow, always the picture of supreme confidence, said he never had any

doubts about his ability to finish the grueling 26.2 mile course. However, he is a little disappointed he wasn't able to crack the four hour mark. His time was a very respectable 4 hours 18 minutes and 11 seconds.

"I don't know about this runner's high they talk about, but you sure do hit a wall at about 20 miles," Daddow said. "You have to experience the feeling to really appreciate it. It's hard even to pick up your legs."

## Hardworking Volunteers Make 1997 United Way Possible

by Porferia "Porki" Mellado  
United Way Campaign Chair

As Chairperson of the 1997 United Way, I would like to thank you for your generous pledges. I would like to thank all of the United Way captains from each department and division and the managers and directors for allowing these volunteers to give their time and energy to such a worthwhile campaign. All of their hard work and commitment have paid off for this year's campaign. A preliminary tally shows we have exceeded last year's employee contributions by 8%. We are still receiving pledge cards and donations from the Retirees Association.

At this year's captains' meeting we had a drawing for the captains present. Headquarters Salon, on Highland Road in Waterford, donated several prizes: one tanning package, two haircuts from their stylists Dolly Cotter and Terri King and a manicure from Diana Moriarty. United Way donated plastic squeeze bottles and candy dishes. I donated a Jafra cosmetic set also.

I will include a final total and summary of this year's United Way campaign in the next issue of the Telegraph.

## Oakland County Information Hotline (248) 858-1022

Giving you your choice of news:

Press **1** for Employee Information

Press **2** for late breaking  
Oakland County news

Press **3** for Arts & Cultural Events

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



# Viv's Views

by Mary Viviano, Friend of the Court

## "Devil's Advocate"

I saw this film in Dallas, Texas while visiting my friend Mindy. Devil's Advocate is a story about a hot, young, southern defense attorney who is wooed by a powerful mega-firm in New York City. I know, it sounds familiar and you are right, it is similar to another movie, "The Firm", but with a few twists and some interesting special effects.

Keanu Reeves agrees to pick a jury for Mr. Milton's firm in New York City. His expertise results in a favorable verdict and he is asked by Mr. Milton, portrayed by Al Pacino, to join the firm. The young hot-shot is given piles of money and perks, including a huge apartment on Fifth Avenue overlooking Central Park. He and his innocent wife jump at the offer and all appears well until the "boy wonder" is assigned a pivotal murder case and his wife, Mary, is left alone and miserable.

She begins to sink into a deep madness, so it seems - but I will not reveal the plot twists. What I will divulge is that instead of a courtroom drama, the action focuses

on a struggle between good and evil as the characters battle for their very souls.

Keanu Reeves puts in a credible performance, but this is Al's movie. I am not one of Mr. Pacino's greatest fans because I believe he has overacted in every film he has appeared in since "The Godfather Part II", but his style is perfectly suited for this "devilish" role.

This is not great cinema, but it is entertaining. The action moves at a good pace with the aid of the special effects. I wouldn't sell my soul to see this film, but if you are running late and you miss the movie you wanted to see, pay the devil his due and see Devil's Advocate.

### EMPLOYEES from page 1

discontinue the lunch expense reimbursement for travel within Oakland County.

A random drawing was also held to select the \$250 cash award winners. The lucky individuals were Katherine Kelly, Information Technology; Mary Pardee, Personnel Department; Marie Cooper, Community Mental Health and Carol Morin, Fiscal Services.

The employee suggestions implemented in 1997 will save Oakland County an estimated \$378,000, bringing to \$3.3 million the total cost savings of the ESP program since its inception in 1993.

One of the great features of ESP is the fact that absolutely no taxpayer dollars are used to fund the program. The trips and cash awards are all paid for by funds raised during the County Executive's Annual Golf Outing each summer.

Ten local charities also shared the spotlight at the Christmas party. A total of \$21,000 in Casual Day Funds was distributed to: Give-A-Christmas; Lighthouse North; Pontiac Rescue Mission; Haven; Koats for

Kids; Blankets for Babies; Carehouse; Area Agency on Aging 1B Homebound for the Elderly; Alliance for Children's Education and Community Services of Oakland.

A total of \$2,500 in non-payday Casual Day dollars went to purchase cleaning supplies and water to aid the relief effort for Ohio Valley flood victims; defray funeral expenses for the son of a woman who works at the Oakland County cafeteria and to help an individual struck by an untimely illness.

"We were able to make life a little easier for people in need because of the generosity of those work for county government," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said. "The dollars employees put into the jean jars every Friday help improve the quality of life for literally thousands of our fellow citizens. On their behalf, I thank each and every one of you and wish you all a happy and prosperous 1998."



Charity representatives, Back row, left to right: Rick Williams, director of Community & Minority Affairs; Roxanne Bryan, Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County/Care House; Pastor Kent Clark, Pontiac Rescue Mission; John Erich, Community Services of Oakland; State Representative David Galloway, Koats for Kids and Blankets for Babies. Front row, left to right: Michelle Pafford, Area Agency on Aging 1-B Homebound for the Elderly; Barbara Miller, Alliance for Children's Education/Frost Elementary School; Ann Borg, HAVEN; and Noreen Keating, Lighthouse North. Not pictured is Keith Strnad, Give-A-Christmas

## KUDOS

**Commissioner Nancy Dingeldey** of Wixom has been appointed to a one year term as vice chair of the National Association of Counties Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee.

**Communications officer Jan Pung**, Parks & Recreation, has been appointed to the Leadership Oakland Executive Committee.

**Timothy J. Soave**, chief-Fiscal Services Division, has been elected by the general membership to serve a two-year term of office on the Michigan Municipal Finance Officers Association (MMFOA) Board of Directors.

**Jeffrey C. Pardee**, deputy director of Management & Budget, has been appointed to the Government Finance Officers' Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Standing Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Management.

**Judith K. Cunningham**, court administrator/judicial assistant for the Oakland County Circuit Court, was elected president of the Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University Alumni Association.

**Childrens Village Youth Specialist II Jerry Seawright** was selected as the State Child Care Worker of the Year by the Michigan Juvenile Detention Association (MJDA).

**Childrens Village Youth Specialist Darrell Wallace** was recently inducted into the University of Missouri Athletic Hall of Fame. Wallace was the school's all time leading rusher with 2,607 yards.

**County Clerk Lynn D. Allen** has been appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court Local Intergovernmental Council by Conrad L. Mallett, Jr., Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

**Lisa Fockler**, public health educator in the Health Division, received the Society of Public Health Education President's Award at the association's annual conference in September.

**52/2 District Court** in Clarkston and the entire staff, including Judge McNally, for Le Denim Day™ on October 10, to bring attention to the fight against breast cancer. Everyone donned pink ribbon pins to adorn their denim attire. Contributions were sent to Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

## NEW PLACES & FACES

### TRANSFERS

**Tracy Edgemon** transferred from Information Technology to Central Services on November 24, 1997.

**Mary Mailley** transferred from Community Mental Health to Community Corrections/Court Community Service on September 29, 1997.

**Jamie Lyon** transferred from the Health Division to the position of technical assistant in the Community Corrections Division on November 10, 1997.

**Christopher Gianakos**, Drain Commissioner's Office, Right of Way Department, engineering aide I, transferred from the Register of Deeds Office on July 26, 1997.

### NEW EMPLOYEES

**Stacy Ulman**, Information Technology, was hired in full time on November 24, 1997 as the department's receptionist.

**Patricia Dickson**, Information Technology, was hired on October 27, 1997 as an application analyst programmer in the Systems Development & Support Division.

**Lisa Feldman**, pretrial services investigator, joined the Community Corrections/Pretrial Services Supervision team on September 22, 1997.

The Community Corrections Division has hired the following part-time staff to work in their new Weekend Alternative for Misdemeanants (WAM) program: **Patricia Ballentine, Pat Mullin, Karen Sweet** and **Kathleen VandenBrulle**.

**Nicole Sclafani** was hired into the Drain Commissioner's Office as a construction inspector I on August 25, 1997.

**Christopher Hamilton** hired into the Drain Commissioner's Office, Engineering & Construction Division, as an engineering aide I on August 11, 1997.

**John Worthington** hired at SOCSDS as pump maintenance mechanic I on August 25, 1997.

**Ruth Allor** hired at Eight Mile Water Department as general helper on August 25, 1997.

**Patricia Hodge** hired at Eight Mile Water Department as general helper on August 18, 1997.

**Usha Menon** hired at Operations & Maintenance as engineering aide I on September 15, 1997.

**Jeremy Hunt** hired at Operations Maintenance as electronics technician on October 1, 1997.

**Barbara Percoulis** hired at Eight Mile Water Department as general clerical on October 27, 1997.

**Tracie Wallace** hired at Operations Maintenance as student co-op on October 16, 1997.

Risk Management & Safety is very proud to welcome new employee, **Brian Peters**, field claims investigator, to our ranks.

**Patrick Carr** joined Technical Support in June as a park maintenance aide.

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHS

**Mike Pucher**, Community Development, and his wife, Wendy, welcomed their first child, a daughter Kay, born October 12, weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 20" long.

Children's Village youth specialist **Ed Jones** and wife Yvonne gave birth to their third daughter on Christmas day. Jordyn Angel Marie came into this world weighing 7 lbs and 19" inches long.

**Dale Bowdway** of Sewer Maintenance and his wife Julie, welcomed their new baby girl, Breanna, on August 4, 1997.

### MARRIAGES

**Desiree Marcks** of Parks & Recreation, and Todd Stanfield were married on November 1. After a reception at Beaver Creek Golf Links, they honeymooned in Florida.

**Linda Thomas**, pretrial services investigator in Community Corrections, married Todd Barna on September 13, 1997.

**Shoma Khasnabis**, Drain Commissioner's Office, Engineering & Construction Division, married Rakesh Jha on July 18, 1997.

**Terri Dibble**, Environmental Health Services, married Norman Rose on January 10, 1998.

**Terry Ritchie**, Pump Maintenance, married Danielle Himmelspace on June 24, 1997.

**Kristina Stevens**, Operations & Maintenance, married Robert Hedges on August 23, 1997.

**Gerry Bannasch**, Operations & Maintenance, married Deborah Roberts on September 26, 1997.

**Sue Nanney**, Parks & Recreation Public Communications, married Jim

# Employee of the Month

by Nicole Stec, Media & Communications

## Linda Ackley

Employee of the Month Linda Ackley represents a strong arm of the law. She is a collection supervisor for Reimbursement's Circuit Court Unit. With the help of her staff, Linda makes sure that court ordered fees are paid and recorded. However, she does much more than collect bills. Through interviews, Linda determines whether or not clients have the capability to pay their court costs. She is also responsible for an integral step in the justice process—Linda interprets the judges' orders and makes sure the restitution costs reflect the ruling.



Linda's top job priority, however, is making sure that fifteen full-time employees and four part-time employees work together smoothly and efficiently. "I see that the work gets done while making sure that the on the job experience is as enjoyable as possible," says Linda.

To make her off-time as enjoyable as possible Linda retires to a cabin in Northern Michigan that she describes as, "fifteen acres of solitude in the woods that I love." Linda and her boyfriend enjoy pontoon boating and fishing in front of her Walled Lake home.

## Eva Clark

Amidst the hustle, bustle and stress of an ordinary workday, Employee of the Month Eva Clark has the human touch. As a member of the Employee Relations Division of the Personnel Department, this dynamic and caring lady is always available to help county employees deal with a personal crisis or on the job stress.



Eva and her career are a perfect match. Her genuine interest and empathy shine through. "I find people fascinating. Everyone has a story to tell," says Eva. By providing a listening ear, she is able to help her clients see the big picture. "When people are in a crisis situation," explains Eva, "they are unable to have an objective point of view. I give hope and choices."

Not content to just help people maintain mental health, Eva also teaches physical well being. She is a fitness trainer. However, Eva always finds time in her busy agenda for daughters Beth and Kim. Eva and her girls live together in Clarkston.

*more Employee of the Month next page . . . .*

Tottingham in September. Parks and Recreation staff made a strong showing at Michigan Recreation and Park Association's 25th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing. The team of Ralph Richard, Mike Thibodeau, Joe DeRousha and Gary Bersch had the best score for the men's division. The September outing provides scholarship for students studying for careers in the leisure services field.

## COMING & GOING

### FOND FAREWELLS

**Gianna Mitchell**, Community Corrections, resigned her position as pretrial investigator on October 3 to move to Georgia where her husband serves in the Navy.

**Kathy Christ**, clerk I with Community Corrections/Pretrial Services, resigned her full-time position on October 3 to work part-time with the Personnel clerical pool.

**Mark Johnson** of Operations and Maintenance, resigned on August 1, 1997 to work at GMC Truck & Bus.

## PROMOTIONS

**Sue Edmonds**, Community Corrections/Pretrial Services, has been promoted to pretrial services investigator II.

**Elaine Van Dyke**, Drain Commissioner's Office, Engineering & Construction Division, was promoted to account clerk I on September 13, 1997.

**Jeffrey Cripps**, Drain Commissioner's Office, Inspection Department, was promoted to construction inspector II on August 16, 1997.

**Kelly Stout** of Operations and Maintenance promoted to secretary II on September 15, 1997.

**Steve Stuart** of Operations & Maintenance promoted to engineering systems coordinator on July 19, 1997.

**Pat Flood** of Sewer Maintenance promoted to maintenance mechanic II on September 13, 1997.

**Audrey Marcella** of Operations & Maintenance was promoted to engineering aide II on August 16, 1997.

## THE SWAP SHOP

**FOR SALE:** Like New - NordicTrack Pro, Cross Country Skier. Paid \$600, will sell for \$375. Ask for Peggy at 858-2930 (days) or evenings at 682-8726.

## 1998 TOTALS TICKER

CASUAL DAY FUND \$ 9,742

ESP SUGGESTIONS 10

DIRECT DEPOSIT 57%

# Employee of the Month

## Linda Davis

Linda Davis remembers a time when the Executive Office Building housed the staff and residents of the Medical Care Facility. Now, twenty-seven years later, this Employee of the Month is still a vital member of the Facility's team. This long term commitment to her job has given Linda, who is a nurse assistant, the opportunity to develop a rapport with the Care Facility's residents.



Foremost, Linda provides the residents with quality care. She administers various treatments, helps clients bathe and makes sure they are comfortable. In this way Linda feels gratified that her job makes a difference in clients' lives. "The nice thing about working here," comments Linda "is that the residents really appreciate what I do for them."

At home Linda relaxes with mystery novels and lottery speculations. She is looking forward to retirement in Connecticut, where she'll join her family in their home state.

## Ellen Dorshow-Gordon

County epidemiologist Ellen Dorshow-Gordon was shocked when she received her Employee of the Month Award. However, with all the work that she has done this year the award is timely, and well deserved. In 1997 Ellen has had to deal with two major outbreaks: Legionnaires disease and Hepatitis A. As an epidemiologist Ellen must use her scientific training to determine the sources and causes of communicable diseases. "I loved to do puzzles as a kid," comments Ellen. "Now I try to piece together what happens in an outbreak."

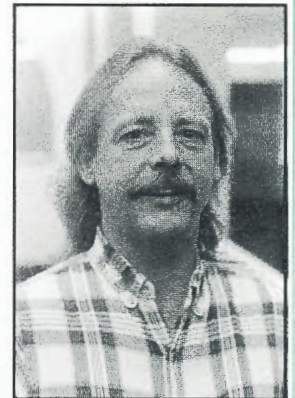


Ellen's enormous task, to gather enough data to form a non-speculative hypotheses, requires the assistance of many people. "My job would be impossible without the help of so many talented people here in the Health Division," says Ellen. However, the county is lucky to have a competent scientist like Ellen at the helm of investigations.

Ellen's job is so serious that at home she really appreciates relaxing with historical novels, or spending time with her daughter Gayle. Her next challenge for the future is to start kick boxing with her daughter, but if this proves too stressful she might try Tai-Chi instead. Ellen and her family live in Oak Park.

## Daniel Scott

"This is the perfect job for me" says Employee of the Month Daniel Scott. "I'm never stuck in an office." As an eighteen year veteran of the Facilities Management Department, Daniel is responsible for moving furniture in all county buildings. He's kept busy from nine to five traveling between the county's widely dispersed offices.



Daniel started at the county as an inspector for the Drain Commission, but he has found his niche in maintenance. "I like to get out and around people. I must know ninety percent of the staff, because I'm in a different place everyday," says Daniel. It's this friendliness and easy going attitude that make Daniel stand out.

Though he travels around the county during the work week, Daniel spends his weekends at home. "I have three kids, two boys and one little girl," comments Daniel. "Over the week end they're all I have time for." Daniel and his family live in Oxford.

## Ronald Frink

For years, Children's Village has maintained its reputation as an outstanding facility dedicated to the County's youth. Employee of the Month Ronald Frink helps maintain the Village's high standards. Ronald is a counseling supervisor for Case Management. As such, he provides in-service training for new counselors, while giving continual guidance to the existing staff. In addition, he also screens incoming residents to make sure they are placed in appropriate programs within the Village.



Out of his many responsibilities, Ronald receives the most enjoyment when he helps his staff master new concepts. "I get so much satisfaction when I see my employees attain a wider knowledge base. When they learn, they receive a positive boost and their on-the-job functioning improves," explains Ronald.

Ronald continues to put his appreciation for learning to work at home. He enjoys reading the classics and bird watching. However, when he really wants to unwind Ronald and his wife walk ski and enjoy their paddle boat at their home on Lake Oakland.