



the

oakland county employees newsletter

Telegraph

Chief Judge Praises Partnerships in State of the Court Address

summer 1998

INSIDE



The theme was "Working Together" as the Honorable Edward Sosnick, chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court in Oakland County, delivered his annual State of the Court Address to the regular meeting of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on May 7, 1998.

Judge Sosnick explained to those who had gathered in the auditorium to hear his remarks that he chose "Working Together" as the theme for his speech because so much of what the court accomplished in the past year was the result of collaborative efforts with private entities, volunteer groups and others.

Judge Sosnick said 1997 was an extraordinary year for the Circuit Court because of the countless hours spent by judges and administrative staff in strategic meetings, planning sessions and training to prepare for the new Family Division which opened for business on January first.

"Planning for our new division was truly a collaborative effort with the Probate Court, the County Clerk's Office, County Commissioners, the

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The Honorable Edward Sosnick, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court

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OC Hotline

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Director Honored as a Role Model

Jean Chamberlain, South Oakland Government Liaison, has been chosen by the Michigan Women's Commission as a winner of the organization's "Thirty Years - Thirty Women Award." Jean was officially honored along with the other recipients at a special reception held in the Rotunda of the State Capitol on May 19. Another ceremony was held on May 21 during the Board of

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Jean Chamberlain, one of the 30 most outstanding women in Michigan

PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

Sometime within the next 10 months, either by the end of this year or early in 1999, Oakland County government will have a top quality child care facility up and running. The Child Care Task Force, which is comprised of 18 members who come from a broad cross-section of county government, held its first meeting on May 11 to begin the process of developing goals and objectives for the project.

Americare, a company started in 1983 to provide dependent care consultation and management services to corporations and groups serving children and families, has been hired as the consultant to assist the task force in selecting the best child care provider available.

Although we could establish a child care facility which meets the minimum state standards, and there

is nothing wrong with that, I think it's important we go one step further. Our program should offer lower staff to child ratios, provide more space for children's activities, focus attention on better nutrition and encourage greater parental involvement.

Our goal is to establish a first-class facility which can meet the stringent accreditation requirements of the National Association for Education of Young Children, an organization that accredits child-care facilities that meet only the highest quality standards. Our employees and their children deserve nothing less.

In the coming weeks, the task force will make site visits to two first-rate child care facilities in Flint and Pontiac in order to get some ideas of what our facility should look like.

As the process moves

along, task force members will be taking issues back to their respective departments for the purpose of eliciting feedback which will help shape the final outcome.

The Health Division Annex across the parking lot from the Executive Office Building is still the first choice as the location for the child care center because it meets our needs. When the facility opens for business it will accommodate between 100-120 youngsters from infancy to 5 years of age.

One of the many issues yet to be addressed is the screening process to determine how applicants to the child care facility will be selected. It will be a while yet before we start accepting applications, but it will



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

be well publicized when we do, so you don't have to worry about missing out on an opportunity to place your son or daughter in Oakland County's new top-quality child care facility. We'll keep you updated on the progress of this project, designed to give our value employees greater flexibility, in carrying out their important role as parents.

Take Your Child to Work Day

Too Cool for Words!!!

Prosecutor Dave Gorcyca (pictured on the left in the back row) poses in shades with some of the boys and girls who received monogrammed sunglasses during their visit to the Prosecutor's Office during Take Your Child to Work Day.



Kids and Parents Share Office Space

by Nicole Stec

The typical weekday morning in most households starts with a goodbye as children and parents head their separate ways—but April twenty-third was different. The twenty-third was Take Your Child to Work Day. This is a

Office Building. The only downside was a Health Department meeting. As Brittany confesses with genuine honesty, "It was boring."

No one said work is all fun, but it was educational for Karla Richey and her son Austen. Austen worked all day with his mom in the Aerial Photography Lab where he picked up

ing with other employees.

Leslie Kettren of Community and Economic Development put her daughter, Jamie, to work on a map for the Geographic Information System. "Last year Jamie saw a meeting on the GIS program. This year she's seeing it implemented, and doing map work," says Leslie. As Jamie concentrated on the map's tiny symbols Leslie confessed, "She has better eyes than me."

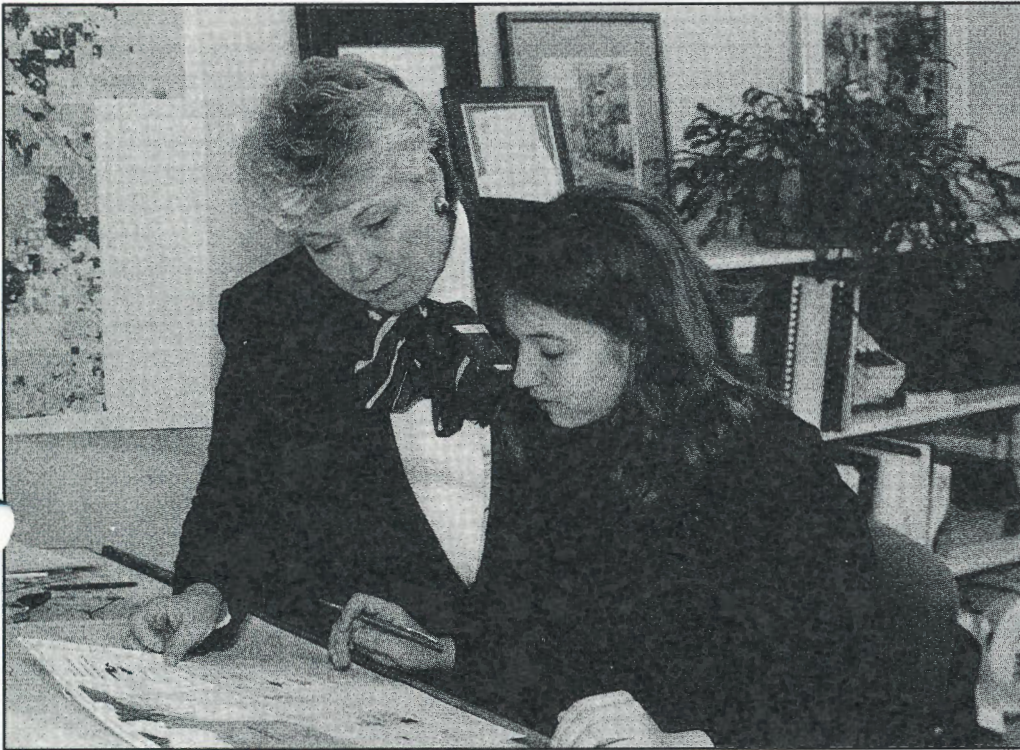
Elizabeth Hill, daughter of Dawn Hill in Payroll, passed up a free day at home to spend the day with her mom at work. "School was canceled today because the power was out, but I wanted to come here," says Elizabeth.

Take Your Child to Work Day, for the most part, was not a highly structured or organized event, but rather an exercise in individual initiative. The one exception was the Prosecutor's office which organized a busy itinerary for about 50 young boys and girls. As part of their special program the children were taken on a tour which stopped at both the Sheriff's Department and Judge Mester's courtroom.

The day was kept exciting for the children with a visit from Officer Mifsud of the Sheriff's Department, and his right-hand canine, a police tracking

dog named Cody.

Remember Brittany who was put to sleep by a Health Department meeting? The same afternoon she made friends with Lauren Van Pelt whose mom, Laurie Van Pelt, works for the Health Department. The two girls were volunteering to make copies and having a great time together. "We met when we were sitting in the meeting," says Lauren. When asked if they had anything in common to make them such fast friends the girls replied in unison: "We don't like wearing dresses!" Maybe Take Your Child to Work Day should be casual day as well!



Leslie Kettren, assistant planner in the Development and Planning Division, checks over daughter Jamie's map work which was one of the assignments Mom gave her during Take Your Child to Work Day.

unique holiday that gives parents and children a special opportunity to spend the day working and learning together.

There was a time when only the luckiest kids were able to accompany their parents to work. For the rest, their parent's workdays were like a grown-up secret. As Mike Krecek of Health reminisces, "About as close as I got to my dad's work was the parking lot. It all seemed very mysterious to me at the time." This year Mike's daughter Brittany had the opportunity that her dad missed. She was able to use her dad's computer, meet his co-workers and explore the Executive

some high-tech skills. "I'm learning about digital orthos here, but I think maybe I learn more in school," says Austen while he looks at a computer generated map. Karla has a quick come back for her son's comment. "It's still early, Austen, and we're just getting started," she says.

Angela Fredericksen of Community Development used Take Your Child to Work day as an opportunity for some sister-to-sister bonding. "We have a stay at home mother, so I wanted to bring my little sister in," says Angela. For sister Rebecca Wertz, who is eleven, the highlight of the day was sending e-mail and visit-

National County Government Week

Media representatives from the Oakland Press, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Observer & Eccentric, Troy-Somerset Gazette, Michigan Chronicle, G&G Publications and TCI Cable of Lake Orion participated in an informational get acquainted session at the Board of Commissioners offices on April 20 in recognition of National County Government Week. Seventeen county commissioners and a dozen directors from the administration were on hand to meet and greet the local media.

"There is a lack of understanding among citizens as to how county government functions and what its role is," said John McCulloch, chair of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. "It is important for the media to understand how we interact with our citizens."

In response to that comment, one reporter asked what officials were now doing to educate citizens about county government. It was pointed out that

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's regular Brown Bag luncheon series provides business people with information about county services. In addition, town hall meetings are being planned on a trial basis, which will give citizens greater insights into some of the programs and services offered by the county. The Board of Commissioners and the departments under the aegis of the County Executive also have a wealth of information available on the Internet which the general public can access.

McCulloch outlined some of the major issues the Board and the Administration would be working on in the coming months. High on the list of priorities are roads, drains, the 911 emergency system, the annual budget, Community Mental Health and the May 5 Tri-County Summit which brought together the legislative bodies of Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties as well as the city of Detroit

to discuss major regional issues.

Commissioner Don Jensen (R-Birmingham) said Oakland County government has many things to be proud of, including the Law & Research libraries and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped which he said are second to none. He also singled out for praise the Medical Care Facility, which provides top quality service to low and moderate income families and Medical Examiner L. J. Dragovic whom he called one of the best in his field and someone who is constantly being sought after by others.

"The aim of Oakland County government is to be responsive to the needs of the citizens it serves," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "I'm very proud of the men and women of county government who constantly strive to provide the public with the most efficient and cost effective service possible."

New Executive Director named at OLHSA

The reigns of leadership have changed hands at the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA). Ronald Borngesser has been selected to succeed Robert L. Conaway as executive director of the agency. Conaway is retiring after 23 years with OLHSA, nine of which were

spent heading up the organization.

Borngesser, who assumed his new duties on June 1, began his career at OLHSA in 1974 as personnel manager. For the past four years, he has served as deputy executive director and prior to that assignment he held the position of division manager for Human Services at Information Systems.

"I'm very proud the OLHSA government board has shown such confidence in me," Borngesser said. "OLHSA is a strong organization thanks to the excellent leadership provided by Bob Conaway and his predecessor Edward Revis. It's my objective to build upon the foundation that we have established."

Borngesser, who resides in Wixom, currently serves as president of the Board of Directors for New Directions Institute, the agency's charter school and as secretary of the Board of Directors of Venture, Inc., the agency's housing affiliate.

OLHSA is the second largest community action agency in the state of Michigan serving over 200,000 residents annually. Its mission is to help the low income, elderly and disabled to become self sufficient and improve quality of life.



Ronald Borngesser is the new executive director of the OLHSA

Top Guns Hit Bulls Eye

In the movie, actor Tom Cruise starred as the "Top Gun." But the real life Top Guns are Captain Mark Newman and deputies William Christensen, Greg Marohn and Roy Coats.

During the week of March 22, these four skilled shooters won the "Top Gun" plaque for their efforts in the 11th Annual Oakland County Sheriff's Department Pistol Match which was held at the gun range in the basement of the Oakland County Jail.

As participants in the four man team competition, each shooter had a chance at a maximum score of 600 points or 2400 for the team. The team of Newman, Christensen, Marohn and Coats compiled an impressive score in the 2100 point range to take top honors.

"What makes their accomplishment even more astounding is the fact they are required to use department issued weapons and follow NRA guidelines, which are different than the combat shooting guidelines which are used to train deputies," said Captain Damon Shields.

Competitors shoot at a silhouette target from a variety of distances ranging from seven feet to 50 feet.



Oakland County's Top Guns display awards. Pictured left to right are Sergeant Mark Newman, Deputy Roy Coats, Sheriff John Nichols and Deputies Greg Marohn and William Christensen.

The center rings of the target are only four inches by three inches, which makes pinpoint accuracy essential for achieving a top score.

Following the competition, a banquet was held at a local UAW hall on Walton Boulevard for the more than 300 police and civilian shooters who competed. Some \$7,000 worth of prizes were also given away.

The entry fees paid by the competitors will be used to send the 12 member Sheriff's Department Pistol Team to the national competition

which will be held during the third week of September in Jackson, Mississippi.

Last year, Deputy John Ousnamer won the service revolver match at the nationals, competing against 500 of the best shooters from across the country. Ousnamer, who has been with the department since 1989, serves as the Gun Range Officer. He is also a member of the Governor's Top Twenty, which means he is among the twenty best shooters in the state of Michigan.

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Commissioners meeting to recognize Jean's accomplishment. Following remarks by Oakland County Deputy Executive Doug Williams, Women's Commission member Elizabeth Pezzetti presented Jean with a certificate which recognized her selection as one of the thirty most outstanding women in Michigan.

"Jean has done so much to bridge the gap between government and business in order to stimulate economic development in Oakland County," said Pezzetti who nominated Jean for the award. "As the past executive manager of the Royal Oak and Oak Park Chamber of Commerce, Jean has been instrumental in the revitalization of downtown Royal Oak."

The criteria used in selecting the thirty honorees included: individuals who exemplified positive characteristics and/or acted as a positive role model for other women; contributed in a special way to the well being of the community; made a special contribution to the well being of other women through work or community service and individuals who developed specialized skills, worked in a diffi-

cult situation or overcame difficulties to achieve success.

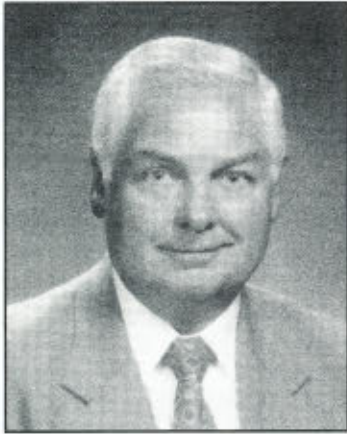
"When I established the new position of South Oakland Government Liaison in 1993, Jean Chamberlain was my first and only choice," said Mr. Patterson. "As my representative to the communities in the south end, Jean has done a truly outstanding job of forging alliances and partnerships which have benefited the economic development and revitalization that is occurring in south Oakland."

Jean finds herself in good company as an award recipient. Among the other winners are First Lady Michelle Engler, Lt. Governor Connie Binsfeld and State Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Weaver.

"I'm truly honored to receive this very prestigious award," Jean said. "It is even more thrilling when you consider the high caliber of the other women with whom I'm sharing this honor."

The Michigan Women's Commission was established by Public Act 1 of 1968. One of the powers and duties of the Commission is "to secure appropriate recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions in the state."

Commissioner Powers Appointed to a Judgeship



Commissioner Dennis Powers

Dennis Powers has become the fourth Oakland County Commissioner who has decided to seek new opportunities and challenges. Powers, a Republican representing District 10, which includes Highland, has been appointed by Governor Engler to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of 52nd District Court Judge Harold Bulgarelli who left the bench May 31.

"I knew I was in the running, but so were four other people," Powers said. "I hoped it would be me, but there was no preliminary indication at all."

Powers, 55, assumed his new duties on June 1 and will complete the remainder of Bulgarelli's six year term which expires on January 1, 2001.

Powers received his masters degree from the University of Detroit in 1968 and his juris doctorate in 1974 from the Detroit College of Law. Powers, who has been a private practice attorney for the past 19 years, is president of the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Highland Business Association.

The Board of Commissioners has the option of appointing someone to fill the few months remaining in Powers' term or leaving the seat vacant until the November election.

Other incumbent commissioners who won't be returning for another term are Donn Wolf, Gilda Jacobs and Ruth Johnson.

Donn Wolf: Goodbye and farewell

If Donn Wolf has missed anything in his sixty-some years on this planet, it hasn't been much. In addition to serving on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for the past decade, representing Farmington Hills, Donn has been a radio announcer, a night club operator and a booking agent. One other item for his resume; since 1961 he's been an ordained Episcopal minister. Donn also taught fifth grade at a very elite private school in Brookline, Massachusetts which catered to the likes of the Kennedys and the Lodges.

Prior to becoming a county commissioner, Donn spent eight years on the Farmington Hills City Council, where he served a one year term as mayor. But after nearly 20 years of public service, Donn has decided it's time for a change.

"I just wanted to spend more time with my wife and seven grandkids," said Donn explaining his decision not to seek re-election. "When your grandchildren start referring to you as Commish, rather than grandpa, then something's wrong."

Although being a county commissioner is billed as a part-time job, Donn says it's really not because there's always some event or function you have to attend as part of your offi-

cial duties. He said that in the last eighteen years he's only been able to take one vacation with his wife. Noting that he's already renewed his passport, Donn indicated that travel will be a big part of he and his wife's future plans.

In looking back over his tenure on the Board, Donn said his greatest source of personal pride comes from the role he's played making sure the county raised and spent funds in a responsible way.

In line with his upbeat and optimistic view of life, Donn said he can't remember any major disappointments while serving on the Board, because as he puts it - "those don't last too long." However, reducing the Board from 27 to 25 members does register with Donn as something he wished had not happened.

"I didn't think we should have done that," said Donn. "But we did, so you just move on to the next thing."

Even though Donn will have a little more spare time at his disposal after December, he still has a full-time job with Detroit Edison handling governmental affairs. He is also involved with the Collie Rescue League, an organization that finds homes for that particular breed of dog. One other thing he'd like to do in the future is



Commissioner Donn Wolf

read books to the blind.

"I get real satisfaction from serving people," Donn said. "Maybe it's just part of a person's make-up to want to do those kinds of things."

Donn Wolf is bullish on Oakland County's future, because the way he sees it -- "Most of the time Oakland is way ahead of the other counties in Michigan,".

Looking to the future, Donn said people are going to continue flocking to Oakland County from all over the world because "why would you want to live any place else?"

Any parting words of wisdom Donn? "As my mother often told me, don't squat with your spurs on."

You figure it out.

"As my mother often told me. don't squat with your spurs on."

In Memoriam



Michelle Mary Glover

The family of Michelle M. Glover wishes to express sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all who paid their respects and offered their sympathy during this time of immeasurable loss.

We very much appreciate all of the kindness and generosity which have been extended to our family.

The View from Here

I got to thinking the other day about some of the interesting people I've come into contact with over the years. Some I met just once; others I got to know pretty well.

As a radio and TV news reporter for 25 years, I've had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing some pretty unforgettable individuals. People like the great Jesse Owens who made Adolph Hitler choke on his "white Aryan supremacy" beliefs by, figuratively speaking, cramming three gold medals down the Führer's throat at the 1936 Olympic Games. I met Jesse at Ferris State College (now Ferris State University) in 1969. A more likeable gentleman you will not find and he had an infectious smile that could truly light up a room.

When I was a TV reporter in Cadillac, I remember traveling to Bear Mountain to interview Tiger pitcher Denny McLain, who was appearing with his band at a local resort during the off season. I waited three hours for Denny to arrive, but it was still a thrill to stand next to him and sign autographs. Here I was, this 24 year old kid being asked to autograph baseball shirts and programs, just like McLain, a Cy Young Award recipient and the majors last 30-game winner. That was before Denny's troubles began. I didn't realize at the time that some 23 years later I would be working with McLain at WXYT radio. Unfortunately, I got to know him a little bit better then. Pompous and arrogant are the first things that come to mind whenever I think of Denny. A guy who really believed he was untouchable. Guess again. Instead of being remembered as a great pitcher, Denny will occupy his place in history as a convicted felon. Too bad, but then he has no one to blame but himself.

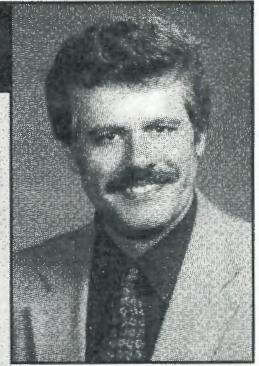
In 1988, I covered the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta for WWJ Radio and worked out of the CBS News trailer. I was standing there talking to someone when the door suddenly opened and in walked Walter Cronkite. It was like Moses parting the Red Sea

as people stepped aside to let America's most trusted broadcaster pass by. I'll never forget the first time I talked to him on the phone either. I was doing a pre-election feature and wanted Walter's insights. His secretary called me and said "Mr. Cronkite will be with you momentarily." A short pause and then this very familiar and unmistakable voice said, "Hello Bob, this is Walter Cronkite." Everything was fine once I got done stammering and gushing. Cronkite is a class act. Just like talking to an old friend you've known for years.

At the Republican National Convention that same year, I recall attending a breakfast meeting of the Michigan delegation. Seated next to me at the table was this congressman from Georgia, a former professor, who went on and on about a wide range of subjects, all of which I forget. He was quite articulate and obviously very knowledgeable. He kept snapping up my questions like a puppy going after treats. A few years later this very professorial sounding gentleman would become the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives - Newt Gingrich.

One other quick story before I close. In 1978, when I was news director at WPON Radio in Pontiac, it happened to be a slow news day one particular Friday afternoon, so I sent one of my reporters out to cover a group of Catholic Cardinals who were visiting Orchard Lake Seminary. Normally, such a visit wouldn't have commanded much attention, but as I said not much else was going on. My reporter questioned my news judgement, but he went anyway and later was glad he did. Because one of the Cardinals he interviewed later became Pope John Paul II.

See you next time.



Bob Dustman
Media and
Communications

Bingham Elected President of the National Association of Probation Executives

The National Association of Probation Executives (NAPE) recently announced that Robert L. Bingham, Family Division administrator for the Oakland County Circuit Court, has been elected as its national president effective July 1, 1998.

Founded in 1981, NAPE is a professional organization representing the chief executive officers of local county and state probation agencies, with a current membership of approximately 143. NAPE is dedicated to enhancing professionalism and effectiveness in the field of probation by creating a national network for proba-

tion executives, bringing about positive change in the field, and making available a pool of experts in probation management, program development, training and research. NAPE assists in and conducts training sessions, conferences and workshops unique to the needs of probation executives, provides technical assistance to national, state and local governments, analyzes relevant research pertinent to probation programs and publishes position papers, assists in the development of standards and accreditation procedures, and educates the public on probation issues.

Bingham received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and his master of social service degree from Bryne Mawr College. His probation career began in 1970 and since 1977, he has managed probation and court-related programs in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan. Presently, he serves as Family Division administrator of the Oakland County Circuit Court where a portion of his administrative responsibilities pertain to juvenile and juvenile probation programs. Bingham is married and resides in Rochester Hills with his wife and three children.

Prosecuting Attorney, Probation Department, many of the County Executive's departments and other groups and individuals," Judge Sosnick said. "The Department of Information Technology assisted with our computer needs to enter orders on more than 380,000 case records affected by this legislative mandate."

Divorce Settlement Week was cited by Judge Sosnick as another highly successful effort in 1997. In order to clear out the backlog of lingering domestic cases before the new Family Division began operation, some 500 cases were targeted and more than 60% were disposed of before the January 1 deadline. Judge Sosnick pointed out that Divorce Settlement Week was a cooperative effort of 89 family law practitioners who volunteered their services to facilitate and resolve more than 300 domestic cases.

Another challenge faced by the court, said Judge Sosnick, was how to handle the 3,000 additional new cases filed annually as the result of changes in laws dealing with domestic violence and stalking. Judge Sosnick noted that this tremendous increase in workload was absorbed without any accompanying resources.

"With the assistance of the Oakland County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence, we were able to revise our procedures on Personal Protection Orders," said Judge Sosnick.

He also acknowledged the participation of the Prosecutors Office, police departments throughout the County, volunteers from the Women's Survival Center, HAVEN, the National Council of Jewish Women and Juvenile Division referees for their help in streamlining the PPO procedures which will make it easier to protect the hundreds of women and children who may become targets of domestic violence.

But the scope of the Circuit Court successes in 1997 extended far beyond establishment of the new Family Division. Judge Sosnick

emphasized that the Court was able to resolve hundreds of felony drug cases last year. Also worthy of note is the fact that since 1995, revisions in bond forfeiture collection procedures have resulted in more than \$1.3 million being funneled into the County's General Fund.

Judge Sosnick also offered a few comments on the Court's handling of general civil cases which involve resolving medical malpractice, employment and property disputes.

*"We have
created
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cases," . . .*

These types of cases, he noted, account for about 35% of the Court's total new filings or approximately 10,000 new cases per year.

"We have created innovative programs to deal with the astonishing number of cases," Judge Sosnick said. "For example, we instituted a Facilitative Mediation Program as a form of alternative or concurrent dispute resolution."

Aside from the new projects and innovative programs the Court initiated last year, Judge Sosnick said it was important to note the Court also conducted business as usual. The Chief Judge pointed out that new case filings in 1997 leveled off to 29,000, down from 32,200 the previous year. But he was quick to point out that still meant each judge was required to handle 1,715 new filings or put another way, dispose of more than seven cases per day.

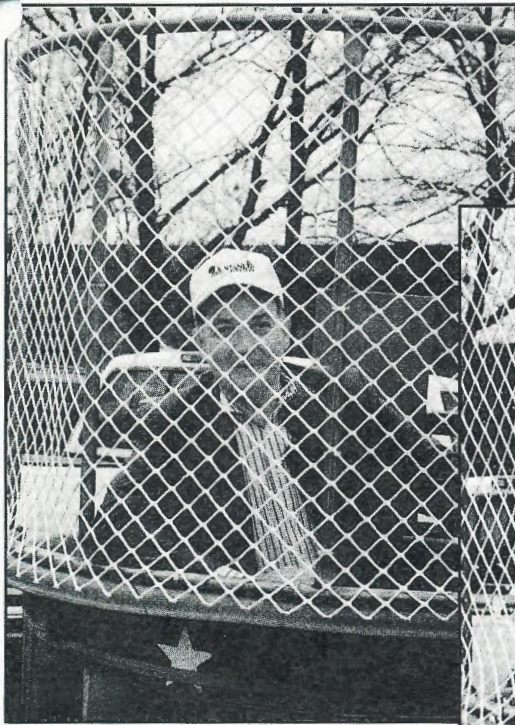
"Obviously, a judge cannot try seven cases per day, which explains why we constantly look to develop innovative case flow ideas to help deal with the matters coming forth," Judge Sosnick said.

On the criminal side of the ledger, Judge Sosnick said the Court handled 321 more criminal cases in 1997 than 1996, representing a 4.7% increase in criminal filings. Judge Sosnick underscored the tremendous workload of the Court by mentioning the fact that the judges conducted a total of 563 jury trials plus hundreds of non-jury or bench trials last year. That number, he stressed, does not include the hundreds of evidentiary hearings and the thousands of miscellaneous motions handled by the Court.

Judge Sosnick concluded his speech by announcing that the Court had created its own website which will provide Internet browsers with a wealth of information for divorcing couples and families, court forms and eventually material from the Jury office, Assignment office and the Court Administrator's office.

"Working together, we have accomplished much," said Judge Sosnick in summing up. "As we approach the end of this century and begin the next, we will continue to join in a common purpose to meet the diverse and changing needs of the public we serve."

Is Tom Eaton All Wet???



Now you see him . . .



Now you don't!!

Tom Eaton, manager of the Personnel Department's Employee Relations Division, is all wet after going into the Dunk Tank during WalkAmerica. Tom sacrificed himself to help Personnel raise dollars for the March of Dimes campaign for Healthier Babies!



FM&O Wins Walk America Challenge

It may be another month or so before we know how the Oakland County team fared in this year's Walk America event. What we do know is that Facilities Maintenance and Operations (FM&O) won its head-to-head challenge with the Personnel department.

The FM&O competitors raised a total of \$8,900 for the March of Dimes through a variety of fundrais-

ing activities including raffles, popcorn sales, donations and tennis shoe sales. Personnel brought in \$1,100 through tennis shoe sales, pizza party and casual day donations.

In the end everyone who participated in Walk America activities is a winner because each person has contributed their time, energy and/or financial resources to helping the March of Dimes reduce infant

mortality and birth defects.

In 1997, Oakland County employees collected pledges totaling more than \$28,000, good enough for fourth place among the company teams in southeast Michigan. The County goal this year was 360 walkers and \$32,000. We will find out soon how successful we were in reaching it.

kudos celebrations coming

kudos

Jack Becher, Southeast Supervisor at Veterans Services was selected as a recipient of the Catholic Youth Organization's 1998 Ed Crowe Award recognizing his outstanding contributions of volunteering service with youth.

Oakland County Parks has received the 1997 Bronze National Safety Award from Jeff Ellis & Associates for consistently exceeding the criteria for aquatic safety certification.

Carolyn Bird, M.D., Health Division, was nominated as 1998 Woman of Achievement by the Professional Women's Club, Inc. where she is a charter member.

Karen Seefelt, public health nurse in the Health Division was recognized for Excellence in Community Health Nursing Practice by the Michigan Public Health Association at its annual meeting on May 14, 1998. Karen has made a significant difference in many lives working in the AIDS Early Intervention Program.

Olympia Maragos, foster grandparent at Children's Village, was nominated for the Fifth Annual Governor's Service Awards. Congratulations.

transfers

Monica Quinones transferred to the Treasurer's Office from the Sheriffs Department on April 13, 1998.

Debbie White transferred from the Friend of the Court to the Health Division's Central Support Unit on 2-9-98 as a typist II.

Linda Peters transferred from Community Mental Health to the Health Division's Central Support Unit on 4-20-98 as a typist II.

Jenny Bartley transferred from the Health Division to Probate Court on 5-26-98.

Priscilla Carroll transferred from Community Mental Health to the Health Division's Central Support Unit on 4-13-98 as a typist II.

births

Glori Macias, Emergency Management, and her husband Tony, are the proud parents of their second son, Blake David, born on March 26, 1998.

Jody Spence-Kortekaas, Treasurers Office, and her husband Mike, welcomed their first child, daughter Emma Noel, born April 21, 1998.

Janina Macioszek, Custodial Unit of FM&O and her husband Tadeusz, welcomed their daughter Joanna on March 20, 1998.

Brad Pierce, youth specialist at Children's Village and his wife Dana, are the proud parents of their first child, a son, Ethan Bradley, born March 23, 1998.

Jerri Decker, deputy register, Family Court and her husband Luke are proud first-time parents to their son, Koltan Olsen Decker born May 3, 1998.

Debbie Thompson, Probate Court, and her husband Stephen, welcomed their son, Kyle Chase on December 31, 1997.

marriages

Sheryl Jenko, Treasurer's Office, married Paul Sutherland on May 2, 1998.

Deana Miller, Treasurer's Office, married Charles Farley of the Sheriffs Department on May 1, 1998.

Jon Tomkins, Aviation & Transportation, married Melissa Marcinek on May 16, 1998.

Amber Batey, Development & Planning, married Eric Ross on May 21, 1998.

Tom Cokley, Custodial Unit of FM&O married Patty Abeare on February 27, 1998.

Lisa Grice, Purchasing, and Timothy Currier were married on March 28, 1998 in Livonia.

Jim Weir, Safety Unit of FM&O, married Bonnie Darling on May 1, 1998.

new employees

Gordon Marshall, general helper, Aviation & Transportation, started April 21, 1998.

Calvin Sumrall, Information Technology, was hired on February 2, 1998 as an application analyst programmer in the Systems Development & Support Division.

Children's Village welcomes the following newly hired youth specialists: **Shawn Johnson, Debbie Sias, John McCarthy, Sherry Washburn and Johnna Renae.**

Janet Brinker, Information Technology, was hired on February 9, 1998 as an application analyst programmer in the Systems Development & Support Division.

Patricia Coates, Information Technology, was hired on March 23, 1998 as the supervisor of CLEMIS Support Services.

Lyndon Cabatu, Information Technology, was hired on April 13, 1998 as an application analyst programmer in the Systems Development & Support Division.

Pavel Layer, Information Technology, was hired on April 27, 1998 as an application analyst programmer in the Systems Development & Support Division.

Michelle DeWyre, health educator with the Health Department was hired in December, 1997.

Kelly Ulmer, Custodial Unit of FM&O, was hired on February 20, 1998 as general helper.

Mary McCabe was hired as general clerical at Children's Village on March 30, 1998.

The Executive Office welcomes **Jill Orler** as a summer clerical.

Kimberly Applewhite, Health Division, was hired on 12-15-97 as general clerical in the Central Support Unit.

Cynthia Mattack, Health Division, was hired on 3-23-98 as a general clerical in the Central Support Unit.

Anna Watkins, Health Division, was hired on 5-4-98 as general clerical in the Central Support Unit.

& going

promotions

Bill Black, Aviation & Transportation, was promoted to airport maintenance mechanic II on 3-28-98.

Jim Rowland, Aviation & Transportation, was promoted to airport maintenance mechanic II on 3-28-98.

Brett Battishill, Technical Support Unit of Facilities Management was promoted to engineering aide II on March 28, 1998.

Don Chevalier, Custodial Unit of FM&O was promoted to custodial worker supervisor II on 2-14-98

Patty Cokley, Custodial Unit of FM&O was promoted to custodial worker II on 3-28-98.

Sandra Higdon, Custodial Unit of FM&O was promoted to mobile unit custodial worker on 4-11-98.

D. Bowles, Custodial Unit of FM&O to Maintenance as maintenance laborer in 4-98.

David Taormina, Maintenance, was promoted to skill maintenance mechanic II on 3-28-98.

Lynn Hoopfer was promoted to program supervisor in March of this year at Children's Village.

Susan Petrenas, Health Division, Central Support Unit, was promoted to Clerk III on May 28 this year.

Linda Mikeworth, Health Division, Central Support Unit, was promoted to Clerk III on May 25, 1998.

fond farewells

Eugene Ziegler of Facilities Management retired after 23 years on April 17, 1998.

Wendy Zuzelski, Facilities Management, resigned March 20, 1998 for a new job.

Jack Pieron retired from FM&O Safety Unit after 26 years on March 13, 1998.

Paula Barger retired from FM&O Administration after 21 years on 4-24-98.

Sandra Wallace



Long after the parking lots have emptied, and the computers have been shut down, Employee of the Month Sandra Wallace is still working diligently. For the past twenty-two years Sandra has been a member of the county's Custodial department. Every night she makes her rounds, vacuuming, dusting, cleaning upholstery and keeping our offices in like-new condition, despite the heavy traffic that comes through during the day. "For the most part people are good about not leaving me too much of a mess," says Sandra, "But I try to do a good, quality job."

Sandra also does quality work in her off-hours. She has completed her associates degree in social science, and is working on finishing her bachelors degree. Right now, she is considering Oakland University's programs. "I'm interested in the counseling field," she says.

This summer Sandra is planning a get away to Traverse City. If it gets cold on Grand Traverse Bay, Sandra can wrap up in one of the homemade afghans that she knits in her spare time. "I like to look around the town, and I love to shop," she says "It's beautiful there."

See more employees next page

Thomas Fritchek, FM&O Administration retired on 4-30-98 after 15 years.

Bonnie Milton retired in December, 1997 from Childrens Village after 30 years of county service.

Helen David retired from the Health Division's Central Support Unit on 5-29-98 after approximately 10 years of service. We all wish her the best of luck and will miss her!!

swap shop

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Editor: Robert E. Dustman

Design: Sue Quinlan

Production: Jill Batey

Contributors: Nicole Stec

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Employee of the Month



Fran Margherio

Employee of the Month Fran Margherio of Children's Village can see the human faces behind the budget. "It's like running your own home, because we have children here. The budget has to cover medical expenses, laundry, food and recreation," explains Fran, who has been overseeing Children's Village's finances for thirteen years.

During her time at the Village, Fran has helped establish a computer system which keeps the records of all the Village's residents. In addition, Fran and the children play elves at Christmas when they sort and wrap the donations that flood their offices. According to Fran, though, her co-workers are the best part of the day. "We help each other through difficult times," says Fran, "After thirteen years we have seen each other's children grow up."

Fran's own son, who is one of three grown children, lives near scenic Iron Mountain in the Upper Peninsula. She also has three young grandchildren: Jessica, Christopher and Tanner. On evenings and weekends, Fran moonlights as a licensed court reporter and spends time with her husband Jack.



Jestina Redmon

Lights flash on a switchboard, the phone rings and three computer screens flicker, but Employee of the Month Jestina Redmon stays calm and focused. All this activity is part of the computer system which monitors Oakland County's internal fire alarms, neighborhood sewer and well sites, and The National Weather Service's forecasts. As a safety dispatcher, Jestina must carefully monitor the computer

screens for alarms and failures. Concise, effective communication is an important skill. As Jestina says, "I have to understand what the workers are telling me and relay information back to them, including proper procedures."

During her nineteen years at the county, Jestina has developed a close relationship with the other members of the Maintenance staff. "We're here twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. We all pitch in and help each other out. Getting Employee of the Month was nice, but I share this with the rest of the dispatchers," says Jestina.

Outside of work, Jestina is a "second mom" to her two nephews. Jestina is a devoted member of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. "I love to camp and garden," says Jestina, "but church comes first."

Laurie Hall



Do backyard blights plague your garden? Are insects putting a cramp in your summer style? If the answer is yes, Employee of the Month Laurie Hall is the expert to call. As part of the MSU extension team, Laurie answers inquiries from all over the county regarding horticultural problems and pests. "The program is an educational service to county residents," says Laurie.

The MSU Extension Department is staffed by Oakland County and Michigan State employees. Laurie hired on as a part-time county employee while she was a student at Oakland University. Now, she works full-time, advising residents, distributing soil test kits and assisting in the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. "There is always something new to learn here, or an unusual question that I wouldn't have thought of before," says Laurie.

Though May, June and July are the busiest seasons of the year at MSU Extension, Laurie still finds time outside of work to cheer on her favorite sports teams. "I have a lot of good friends, and we watch the games together," she says. Laurie lives in Clarkston with her family.

Julie Hester



Employee of the Month Julie Hester is so excited about the Women, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program that she wants everyone to know its benefits. "Every dollar spent on WIC is equal to three dollars saved on health care costs," says Julie enthusiastically. WIC's primary purpose is to provide mothers with nutrition information and children with wholesome food. Several guidelines are in place to help Health Division workers such as Julie determine whether or not a child is considered at risk. These include income, health and the child's height and weight.

Julie spends most of her time working with young mothers and children, but she also devotes time to advertising. "I like to do marketing so that different agencies within the community are aware that WIC is available for their clients," says Julie.

When she is not working with the community's children, Julie is kept busy with her eighteen year old daughter Elizabeth, and her sixteen year old son Michael. Together with her husband Don, Julie is planning her daughter's graduation party and a family camping trip.

1998 Totals

\$12,126.97

62

61%

Casual Day Fund

ESP Suggestions

Direct Deposit