

the

oakland county employees newsletter



# Telegraph



## Annual Luncheon Recognizes Employees' Years of Service

June 12, 1998 was a day to recognize and thank some of Oakland County government's most valued and dedicated employees for their many years of service. More than 300 people attended the Oakland County Employees Retirement and Service Awards Program at the Deer Lake Athletic Club in Clarkston. Following welcoming remarks by Tom Eaton, deputy director of Personnel, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson joined with Deputy County Executives Ken Rogers and Doug Williams in presenting gold watches to those employees who had completed 25 years of service with Oakland County.



Joyce Renfrow, 52-1 District Court, is beaming after receiving her gold watch from Mr. Patterson.

Receiving gold watches were: Karl Randall, Aviation & Transportation; Lynn Erickson, The Honorable Richard Kuhn, Porferia Mellado, Circuit Court; Bridget Balzerini, Peggy Craft, Mary Jo Hammond, Suzanne Payne, Stephanie Schroeder, Clerk/Register; Donald Slavin, Corporation Counsel, Doug Williams, County Executive Administration; Joyce Renfrow, 52/1 District Court; B. June VanKeuren, 52/2 District

Court; Sharon Parker, 52/3 District Court; Edward Clark, Jr., George Kuhn, Drain Commissioner; Douglas MacFarlane, Edwin Smith, Equalization; Alexander Skoczylas, Facilities Engineering; Phillip Goulding, Steven Schell, John Wright, Facilities Maintenance & Operations; Marlene White, Fiscal Services; Dr. Thomas Gordon, Human Services; Barbara DeVaney, Debra Martin, Information

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(248) 858-1022

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## PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

Sometimes the biggest tree sprouts from the planting of a single seed. This might also apply to ideas, which at first blush seem simple but eventually grow into something much larger than originally anticipated.

Such was the case a short while ago when a waiter at Colangelo's Restaurant in Pontiac suggested to me that a "taste fest" might be a good way for local restaurants to showcase their culinary delights.

So from the planting of that single seed of an idea grew this huge event which we have dubbed Arts, Beats & Eats. This four day extravaganza, which is scheduled for the weekend of September 4, 5, 6 & 7 in downtown Pontiac, will feature more than 100 arts and

crafts exhibitors, gourmet foods supplied by 30 of Oakland County's finest eating establishments and more than 60 local and national musical acts, including the Jeff Healy Band; Howling Diablos; Morris Day and the Time; Mighty Blue Kings and Nashville headliner, Martina McBride.

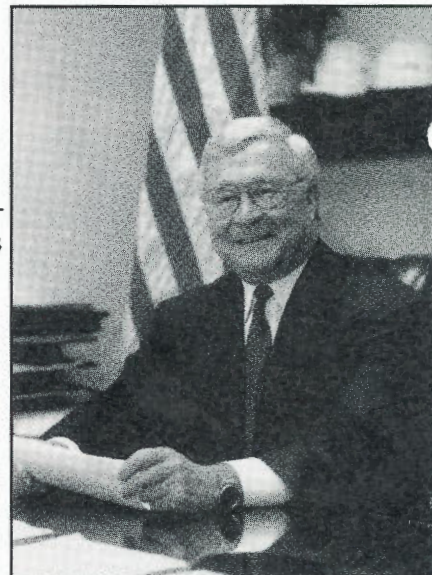
Aside from filling the air with the sounds of great music, the entertainment will help raise funds for a variety of charities including the Rainbow Connection, HAVEN, Fan Club Foundation for the Arts, Pontiac Rescue Mission, Boys & Girls Club of North Oakland, the Chrysler Oakland Arts Fund, the Dittrich Foundation and Lighthouse of North Oakland County.

Sponsors of the event,

which have pledged a total of more than \$350,000 toward making Arts, Beats & Eats a resounding success in its inaugural year, include WJR Radio, WXYZ-TV, the Detroit Free Press, Chrysler, K-Mart, Microsoft, Flagstar Bank, Pepsi, Big Net and Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Everyone knows that Oakland County is one of America's premier high-tech workplaces, boasting more than 40,000 businesses which produce an annual effective buying power of \$26 billion. But what is not as well known is the fact that Oakland County has a quality of life that is second to none.

Arts, Beats & Eats will



**L. Brooks Patterson**  
Oakland County Executive

showcase Oakland's many cultural amenities, from great food to great art to great music. It promises to be a wonderful swan song for the summer of 1998. And we encourage you and your family to be a part of it,

I'll look forward to seeing you at Arts, Beats & Eats on September 4, 5, 6 & 7.

## Diana Calvin Continues Crusade to Win Veteran's Benefits



**Diana Calvin**

After twenty-seven years of fighting side-by-side with veterans to win benefits, Diana Calvin, a former Veteran's Services counselor, is stepping out of the trenches and into a leadership position. Diana has been promoted to Veteran's Services manager and is looking forward to facing a whole new set of challenges. "I knew what responsibilities I would face in this job-- mainly administrative," says Diana. However, she is quick to point out that the main goal of her position is, as always, to provide veterans with the best service possible. "We like to say to veterans: just tell us your story and we'll take care of the rest," she says.

Diana and her staff guide veterans through the maze of paper work that can separate former soldiers from their rightful benefits. When they're successful, veterans and their families can receive burial benefits, transportation to VA hospitals or years worth of back benefits.

"Winning compensation is so rewarding. We're helping veterans and their families improve their quality of life," says Diana.

As the Veterans' Services manager, Diana is no longer strictly involved with individual veterans and their families, she must also have a broad view of her department and how it interacts with outside agencies. Among other things, Diana will be implementing training programs that keep counselors abreast of ever changing benefit laws, overseeing the budget and carefully monitoring the number of claims won by her office. "I'll miss working one-on-one with the clients," says Diana, "but I'll put my nose in a few doors just to see how things are going with them."

Diana succeeds Carl Pardon who retired this year after serving twenty-four years as head of Veterans' Services.



# Sheriff Nichols Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

On a Tuesday night in June, family, friends and admirers of Oakland County Sheriff John F. Nichols gathered at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham to honor the man who has devoted more than 50 years of his life to keeping the streets safe from the predatory elements in our society.

On June 30, 1998 Sheriff Nichols received the "1998 Salute to Justice-John N. O'Brien Award" in recognition of a "lifetime record of service to the community." Previous award recipients have been judges, so it's not surprising the sheriff felt especially proud as a police officer to have been accorded this great honor.

Sheriff Nichols' long and distinguished career in law enforcement dates back to January 5, 1942 when he joined the Detroit Police Department. He served in the Uniformed Patrol Division until he answered his country's call to duty and joined the United States Army, commanding an infantry rifle company in Europe during World War II.

After his discharge from military service in 1946, the sheriff returned to the Detroit Police Department where he spent the next 31 years ascending the ladder of success. He became

superintendent of police in 1968 and two years later became only the second person in the department's history to be appointed commissioner from within the ranks.

Prior to being elected Oakland County Sheriff in 1984, John Nichols served as undersheriff for three years and three years as chief of police in Farmington Hills.

Over the years, Sheriff Nichols has earned 24 police merit citations, one unit citation, three commissioner citations, the Legion of Merit from the Michigan National Guard, the Liberty Bell Award, the Ira W. Jayne Award from the NAACP, the VFW Commendation Medal and the Governors Distinguished Public Employee Award.

"I am still in a state of disbelief that I was considered worthy of such a prestigious recognition," Sheriff Nichols said in response to receiving the John N. O'Brien Award.

The John N. O'Brien Award is presented annually in honor of the late judge who served on the Oakland County Circuit bench from 1973 to 1993. Following his death in March of 1993, the Republican Committee of Oakland County established the John N. O'Brien Award to recognize out-



**Sheriff John Nichols**

standing individuals who had contributed their time and energies to the community through public service, participation in charitable projects and volunteer work.

Past recipients of the award are the Honorable Edward Sosnick, the Honorable Hilda Gage, the Honorable Fred Mester, the Honorable Gene Schnelz and the Honorable Henry Saad.

## Park Patrolman is 1997's Special Deputy of the Year

by Nicole Stec

Walter "Bill" Storm, Jr. of Clarkston is 1997's Special Deputy of the Year. The award is the capstone of a ten year career that, in Storm's words, "just keeps getting better and better!" Storm, who is a deputy for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department parks division, received the award from Sheriff John R. Nichols on May 13.

Over the past decade, Deputy Storm has provided the security that helps thousands of visitors enjoy their county parks. He is one of thirty part-time deputies who patrol the parks on foot and in patrol cars. "I've liked the work because it's a service to the community," says Storm "Guests comment that they like to see us here providing protection. Some-

times when I approach guests I'll see a look on their faces that says, 'Boy am I glad you're here!' It's at times like these that I get the most satisfaction."

Sergeant Tim McIsaac, who nominated Storm for the Special Deputy Awards, agrees that safety plays an important role in guest satisfaction. "Our guests list a sense of security in their top three reasons why they like visiting the Oakland County Parks," says McIsaac.

Besides providing a sense of security, Storm also creates a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for park visitors. As Sergeant McIsaac adds, "Bill makes everyone feel at ease, from answering questions from kids about being a deputy to settling problems before they escalate.

He's honest, fair and keeps the personal safety of our guests and staff in mind at all times."

Deputy Storm is just as helpful behind the scenes as he is patrolling the park. He assists Sergeant McIsaac in the hiring and training of new parks deputies, as well as with the computerized payroll and scheduling systems.

Storm brings a lifetime of experience to the parks division. He is a former member of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department Reserves, a General Motors retiree and a Vietnam Veteran; he is also a lay minister and youth director at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Waterford.



# Partnership Enables Autistic Students to Develop Job Skills



Barbara Donahue, administrative assistant for Personal and Preventive Health Services, looks on as Scott Lawson receives a gift of gratitude for his participation in the community job site program.

Since November, 1997, the Oakland County Health Division has provided a community job site at its Pontiac office for the Oakland Schools Autistic Program. One day a week, teen and young adult volunteers who are afflicted with this psychological disorder spend four hours working on a variety of projects.

The volunteers perform a wide range of duties from collating information packets to stuffing envelopes, putting labels on mass mailings and assembling internal packets which the Health Division uses in its various programs.

"This program has proven to be a win-win situation for all concerned," said Barbara Donahue, administrative assistant for Personal and Preventive Health Services. "The volunteers save us a great deal of staff resource time and they acquire job skills which can be used in the future."

## Up, Up and Away

If you're looking for a family oriented event, something the kids would really enjoy, then mark your calendar for August 28, 29 & 30th. Those are the dates for the Hot Air Balloon Festival at Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg.

The event, sponsored by Oakland County Parks & Recreation, will feature balloon rides, bands, dancers, pony rides, hayrides and a maze to challenge the youngsters. In addition, Parks

& Rec will have on hand some of its novelties such as the Bouncer, the Orbitron, Dunk Tank and Treadwall.

There will also be plenty of good things to eat with a variety of food booths scattered throughout the park.

"The balloon festival is geared toward the kids, but it's a pretty well-rounded family event as well," said Linda Baker of the Parks & Recreation department.

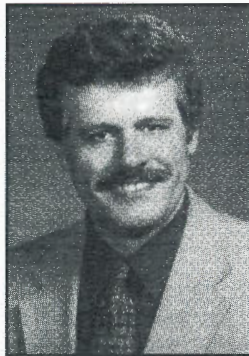
## Do You Know This Little Girl?



A Kodak envelope containing photo negatives of a small girl was found in the Oakland County parking lot in the first week of August.

If the negatives are yours or you know who they belong to, call the Office of Media and Communications at (248) 858-4096.





**Bob Dustman**  
Media and  
Communications

## *The View from Here*

Going about our daily routines, it's pretty easy to forget there's a whole wide world out there just waiting to be explored. Every so often, I think, you have to get away from the hum-drum of daily life to sample what the world has to offer. I did exactly that recently with a two week trip to Europe, which took my wife and I to Turkey, the Greek Islands and Rome. For a down home country boy it was quite an eye opening experience.

Our first stop was Istanbul, Turkey, which is a teeming city of about 10 million people with traffic to match. Our tour guide told us traffic signals were merely suggestions and although he was kidding, people drove like that was the case. On the whole, Turkey is a poor country with per capita income pegged at \$3,500. But there are some well-to-do Turks who live in \$5 million and \$25 million homes along the Bosphorous.

Perhaps the key cultural experience in Istanbul is the Grand Bazaar which is basically a giant flea market with vendors of every kind. There you can find everything from Turkish carpets to leather jackets, old copperware and interesting ceramics. But shopping in the Grand Bazaar is not a leisurely experience. It's more like combat. Merchants will come out of their shops and literally try to drag you in to see what goods they have for sale. There's no such thing as a polite "no". You have to be forceful, otherwise you'll remain their captive until you give up and buy something. There's also no such thing as a set price. You negotiate on everything and sometimes you can come up with a real bargain, like we did on a Turkish carpet. After about an hour and much going back and forth haggling on price, we finally got the carpet we wanted for half the original cost.

Using the public restroom facilities in Turkey is a unique experience to say the very least. These so-called water closets are nothing more than holes in the ground for

which you pay a quarter for the privilege of using. But be sure and bring your own toilet paper. That amenity is not offered as one of our companions found out. Since he had no intention of using the bucket of water that was provided, our friend decided to rip up his underwear for use as toilet paper. A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do - right?

From Istanbul, we boarded the cruise ship Marco Polo for our trip through the Greek Islands. To describe the islands as breathtakingly beautiful would be a serious understatement. We toured the island of Santorini which possesses a lunar landscape of dark volcanic rocks. As you approach the shore, the high cliffs upon which scores of white houses are perched, pose an elegant sight.

Next stop was Mykonos which is the vacation getaway for the very rich and famous. In fact, rooms at one of the island's premier four star hotels started at about \$1,000 per night and go up from there. On Mykonos, my wife used the phrase "poso ine" quite often. How much is this became her battle cry. There's probably more jewelry stores on this island per square foot than any other place in the world and we visited them all. Fortunately the damage was minimal.

Our last two days of the cruise were spent in Rome - the Eternal City. To stand among the ruins of the Coliseum where gladiators battled centuries ago or the Forum where the great political debates of a by-gone age were waged, gives one a true sense and appreciation of history. It also puts into perspective the fact the United States is still in its infancy.

It was a wonderful trip, full of great experiences which produced lasting memories. But as eager as I was to get away, I was equally happy to return home. Because as Dorothy so aptly put it in the Wizard of Oz - "there's no place like home."



## A Vacation Like No Other

In a city like Reno, Nevada where the odds are usually stacked against you, a 42 year old man found out that lady luck just happened to be on his side - at least this one time, thanks to the quick thinking of a vacationing Oakland County employee.

Pam Dikeman, Circuit Court probation officer, and her husband were winding up their vacation in Reno last March by taking a

leisurely stroll along a terraced plaza to check out some of

the new developments springing up along the river front.

As they were walking, Pam thought to herself how swollen the river appeared to be from all the melting snow running down from the mountains. She was also struck by the river's strong current. At that point, she noticed a man sitting on a wall next to the river.

"He was just sitting on the bottom step below us on the next terrace," Pam recounted. "He was wearing hiking boots and dangling his feet in the river. All of sudden he threw off his jacket and took out his wallet and tossed both behind him."

The next thing Pam knew the man jumped into the river and the current quickly swept him away. While Pam's

husband tried to keep track of the man by following the current down the river, she collared a maintenance man whose truck just happened to be equipped with a radio. They put out a call for help and rescue units caught up with the man about a half a mile downriver. Rescuers used a grappling hook to try and pluck the victim from the river but he wasn't cooperating.

*"This wasn't exactly what I wanted to be doing on my vacation," Pam lamented.*

A rope and ladder were eventually used to pull him to safety. Pam retrieved the man's jacket and wallet, which contained only an identification card but no money, an indication he may have had a run of tough luck lately and perhaps was looking for a way to end it all. He was taken to a local hospital with assorted cuts and bruises and suffering from hypothermia.

"This wasn't exactly what I wanted to be doing on my vacation," Pam lamented.

But aside from a rather traumatic adventure, Pam's vacation went smoothly and she even had some luck at the casino. Her luck was apparently contagious. Just ask Howard Mendez who is alive today because Pam Dikeman just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

### Airport Hosts Open House September 13

The Oakland County International Airport will sponsor its thirteenth annual Airport Open House on Sunday, September 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Parking is free and so is the admission - come join us for Oakland County's largest aviation event. See you there!!

## Oakland County Employees Receive 10% Discount on Arts, Beats & Eats Tickets

All Oakland County employees can receive 10% off the advance purchase of food and beverage tickets for Arts, Beats & Eats. Simply call (248) 334-4600 to order tickets with VISA or MasterCard, or purchase tickets at the Arts, Beats and Eats office, 30 N. Saginaw St., Suite 800, Pontiac. For more information on Arts, Beats and Eats, see County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's column on page two.



# Aloha from Hawaii

Entering the Employee Suggestion Program can pay huge dividends and open up new vistas. Just ask Lynn Sonkiss, Fiscal Services, who was initially reluctant to submit her suggestion to ESP, but finally did so after some intense hounding from her husband.

Lynn not only entered the ESP sweepstakes, but she wound up becoming one of the grand prize winners, capturing the first place prize of a trip for two to Hawaii. Lynn's award winning suggestion was to make modifications to a computer program which tracks habitual offenders who are housed at the Oakland County Jail. Her idea has enabled the county to find some people who weren't being billed for services provided. As a result of Lynn's brainstorm, the county will receive an extra \$38 per day in reimbursement from the state of Michigan for each inmate who falls under this category, amounting to more than a half million dollars in additional annual revenues.

"It was simply great," said Lynn when asked how she and her husband enjoyed their two week vacation in Hawaii. "If I hadn't won the trip we probably wouldn't have gone this soon. We're planning on going back in the next couple of years."

During their stay, the Sonkiss' visited three islands, took a couple of helicopter tours, went hiking, did some snorkeling and toured Volcano's National Park.


When Lynn first came up with her revenue generating suggestion, she had no intention of participating in ESP. She felt she was just doing her job, but her husband kept after her to submit the idea. After refusing his overtures for a couple of weeks, Lynn finally relented and

put her idea into the hopper. It proved to be a good move, otherwise she and her husband may never have enjoyed the splendor of Hawaii or the many wonderful memories the visit produced. Lynn's favorite moment in Hawaii was the helicopter ride over Kauai where she saw the waterfall setting that was used in Jurassic Park.

Lynn has spent her entire seven year career in county government in the Fiscal Services Division. She and her husband reside in Highland.

Since its inception in 1993, the Employee Sugges-

tion Program has saved the taxpayers of Oakland County more than \$3.3 million. Over the past years, nearly \$60,000 worth of prize money and trips have been awarded to ESP winners. ESP is not supported by any taxpayer dollars, but is paid for entirely out of the proceeds from the county executive's annual golf outing.



A view of Wailua Falls on the island of Kauai. This is the same waterfall used in the opening segment of the TV series Fantasy Island.



Lynn Sonkiss' view of the island of Maui from her snorkel cruise during her ESP vacation to Hawaii.



continued from page 1

Technology; Shirla Kugler, Medical Care Facility; Thomas Hoyes, Medical Examiner; Deborah Anthony, Linda Freeland, Mary Gohl, Linda Hudson, Ruth Jordan, John Ward, Probate Court; Robert Williams, Prosecuting Attorney; Mary Jo Leutheuser, Development & Planning; Linda Spiekerman-Harvey, Reimbursement, William Dugan, Caron Eno, Gary Godschalk, James Jones, William Kay, Jr., Phillip Kayga, Alice Kirksey, James Lehtola, Patrick Miles, Ronald Troy, Sheriff Department; Carol Witham, Veterans' Services.

Department directors and managers presented service award plaques to the following employees. The Honorable Gerald McNally, 52/2 District Court; Susan Gorney, Probate Court; and Cynthia Nelson, Prosecuting Attorney, received a plaque for 30 years of service. Employees receiving 20 year service award plaques were: Kenneth Taber, Animal Control; Robert Lloyd, Yvette Thrush, Auditing; Helen Hanger, Board of Commissioners; Patricia Lahar, Eddie Morgan, Children's Village; Nancy VanCamp, Circuit Court; George Miller, Community Corrections; Kathy Fancher, Barbara Sigety, Community Development; Dennis Berger, Mario Chigi, Dorothy MacCleary, Mary Michaels, Community Mental Health Board; Marilou Drews, Mary Neff, 52/1 District Court; Kathleen Brang, Employment & Training; Margaret Hill, Sandra Lantto, Tamara Smith, Equalization; Linda Nembhard, Susan Roberson, Kurt Taylor, Lawrence Wesson, Facilities Maintenance & Operations; Loretta Bertucci, Penny Cremer, Gail Naramor, Robyn Oesch, Thomas Ott, Vicki Poynter, Mark Williams, Fiscal Services; Joan Boyle, Jo Ellen Cody, Patrick Cronin, April Hutchings, Kenneth Tolbert, Joseph Salamone, Friend of the Court;

Dolores Acord, Nelson Haynes, Marilyn Kern, Carolyn LaGrow, Deborah McKee, Patricia Miele, Joy Schumacher, Patricia Varterian, Christie Young, Robert Zigler, Health; Graceanne Hill, John Mahoney, James Tryles, Information Technology; Inez Eaton, Mary Myers, Medical Facility;

In commemoration of their retirement, R. Gary Downhour, Marilou Drews, James Heilingenthal, William Kay, Jr., Elizabeth Kici, Bonnie Milton, Elizabeth Nunn, Roy Plagens, and Gloria Rose were presented Certificate of Retirement plaques. Mary



Gold Watch recipients (left to right) are Dr. Thomas Gordon, director of Human Services; Bonnie Milton, Children's Village retiree; Michael Worrell, manager of Children's Village and Patricia Lahar, Children's Village, who received her 20 year Service Award.

Debra Donovan, Joseph Figa, Jr., Billely Newton, Dean Schantz, Nancy Seets, Daniel Stencil, Parks & Recreation; Judy Eaton, Betty Francis, Karen Hall, Roxanne Hill, April Sprague, David Van de Grift, Personnel, Deborah Bevan, Teresa Castiglione, Larry Clarfelt, Joan Connolly, Donald Epperson, Cynthia Harper, Leonard Kleparek, Probate Court; Daniel Cojanu, Prosecuting Attorney; Deborah Bachman, Joyce Raczka, Reimbursement; Michael Edwin, Kenneth Everingham, James Hubanks, Paul James, Michael McCabe, Connie McReynolds, Thomas Quisenberry, Kim Rossman, Paul Semann, Patricia Simmons, Sheriff Department, Susan Danhausen, Shelley Domin, Rebecca Geror, Treasurer and John Becher, Veterans' Services.

Ann Williams and Carol Pardon were eligible for retirement but elected to leave county employment under the defined contribution plan and received service award plaques in recognition of their outstanding service records.

Commissioners Fran Amos and Eugene Kaczmar were in attendance. Lynn Allen, County Clerk/ Register of Deeds, co-presented with L. Brooks Patterson gold watches to the five employees from his office.

The annual Retirement & Service Award Program is coordinated by Audrey Venus of the Training Unit of the Employee Relations Division of Personnel.



Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?

Does the Little Mermaid wear an algebra?

Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?

How do I set my laser printer on stun?

How is it possible to have a civil war?

Is a castrated pig disgruntled?

If God dropped acid, would he see people?

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest have to drown too?

If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?

If the #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2?

If work is so terrific, how come they have to pay you to do it?

If you're born again, do you have two belly buttons?

If you ate pasta and antipasta, would you still be hungry?

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done? Why are hemorrhoids called "hemorrhoids" instead of "asteroids"?

Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?

Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?

What happens when none of your bees wax?

Where are we going? And what's with this hand basket?

If the black box flight recorder is not damaged during a plane crash, why isn't the whole airplane made out of the stuff?

Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

If most car accidents occur within five miles of home, why doesn't everyone just move 10 miles away?

In a n e ?

P o n d e r i n g s

?  
?

?

## How much is one vote worth?

In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.

In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.

In 1876, one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.

In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.

In 1933, one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.

In 1960, one vote change in each precinct in Illinois would have denied John F. Kennedy the Presidency.

## Your vote counts.

### the Telegraph

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# kudos celebrations coming

## kudos

On May 4, 1998, Cranbrook Schools held a ceremony to honor **Judge David F. Breck**. Judge Breck was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award. The Distinguished Alumni Award is annually bestowed upon an alumni who has exemplified the ideals of the Cranbrook schools in both his professional and personal lives. Congratulations Judge Breck!

**Barton W. Morris, Jr.**, clerk to the Hon. David F. Breck, recently graduated from the Detroit College of Law. Graduation ceremonies were conducted on May 31, 1998. Bart intends to sit for the Michigan State Bar exam in July. Congratulations Bart!

**Kevin Schultz**, pump maintenance mechanic I, Drain Commissioner, attained his D-4 certification from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Kudos to **Jack Becher**, supervisor at Veterans' Services who is now the chairman of the board of the Warren Family YMCA. Jack also sits on the Metro Board of the Detroit YMCA.

**Shelley Domin**, Treasurer's Office, received her Masters of Business Administration, Leadership Concentration, on June 19 from Baker Graduate College, Flint.

**Scott Vess**, Treasurer's Office, received his Bachelors Degree in Accounting, CPA oriented, from Walsh College, summer, 1998.

**Stephanie Forbus**, Health Division Central Support Unit, received a business degree from Baker College in June.

## transfers

**Sheryl Bean** transferred from Parks & Recreation on May 4 as a general helper in the Data Center Operations Division of Information Technology.

**Wendy Conklin** transferred from Equalization on May 25 as a user support specialist in the Systems Development and Support Division of Information Technology.

**Kim Morris** transferred from Management & Budget on June 1 as a user support specialist in the Systems Development and Support Division of Information Technology.

**Holly Oen** transferred from Equalization to the Health Division Central Support Unit.

**Cherri Janeczek** transferred from the Clerk's Office to the Health Division Central Support Unit.

## fond farewells

**Carl A. Pardon**, Division Manager of Veterans' Services, retired after 24 years with Oakland County Veterans' Services. Best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

## new employees

**Israel Brown** was hired into the Drain Commissioner's office as a construction inspector I on May 18.

**Abby Marsden**, Aviation & Transportation, was hired on June 20 as a general clerical.

**Coral Cahoon** and **Edith Gibbons** were hired into the Health Division Central Support Unit.

## promotions

**Michael Chencharick**, Drain Commissioner's office, Inspection Division, was promoted from construction inspector I to construction inspector I on May 9.

**James Fitzpatrick**, Children's Village, was promoted to youth specialist II in January of this year.

**Diana M. Calvin**, supervisor at Veterans' Services, was promoted to Division Manager of Veterans' Services on June 22, 1998. Good luck!



# ing & going sales

## births

**Michael McMahon** of the Drain Commissioner's office, Engineering & Construction Division, and his wife Shelly, are the proud parents of a daughter, Abigail Marie, born on June 1.

**Steve Korth** of the Drain Commissioner's office, Engineering & Construction Division, and his wife Christine, are the proud parents of a daughter, Megan Alexandra, born February 17.

**Amy Skewes** (Secretary to Judge Hallmark) and her husband Jeff are the proud first-time parents to their son, Daniel Joseph, born March 9, 1998.

**Chris VanMill**, Treasurer's Office, and his wife, Audrey, announce the birth of their second child, Steven Paul, on July 8.

**Mary Dettloff** of Children's Village and husband Michael, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Christopher Michael, born April 9, 1998.

## marriages

**Jim Rowland**, Aviation & Transportation, married Mona Mawhorter on July 18.

## swap shop

### For Sale:

1980 28' Marinette, 400 hrs, 250 Chrysler engine, full galley and bathroom facilities, sleeps six, \$15,000. 625-0298 after 6 pm.

1992 Saturn SC2. 2 door; 5 speed manual; A/C; power windows/locks; sunroof; AM/FM/Cass. 95,000 miles. Car is in good condition but it does need two new rear tires. Maintenance history available. Contact Kelly in Judge Breck's chambers, 858-0335. \$4,000

## Fall Bowling Tournament

**Date:** Saturday, November 7

**Time:** Check in at noon, bowl at 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Century Bowl  
7345 Highland Rd.  
Waterford

**Event:** 3 game team event, 5 members a team; any combination men/women. A minimum of 3 members must be county employees. Non-league bowlers welcome

**Cost:** \$125/team (\$25/person)  
This includes pizzas!

**Prizes:** Cash prizes. The amount depends on the number of teams entered. Door prizes and other contests.



# Employee of the Month



## Margaret Onuskanich

According to Employee of the Month Margaret Onuskanich, starting work at six a.m. has its advantages, "In the winter I don't have to worry about sliding into anybody; there's no one else on the road!" Margaret has to be up bright and early because she is a food services supervisor for Children's Village. There is no sleeping in at this kitchen, because the ovens start heating up at the crack of

dawn. Every day 193 kids and 239 staff members hungrily await the delicious food that the kitchen serves up.

To Margaret, meal quality is just as important as making sure there is enough food to feed the masses. "We make a lot of our foods from scratch; cookies, chili, anything that we can prepare from scratch we will," says Margaret. As well as helping out in the kitchen, Margaret also plans a monthly menu. Thanks to well planned menus and a trained staff, the kitchen is never chaotic. "We have a routine down so things stay under control," says Margaret.

Since Margaret starts work early she has afternoons free to devote to her garden. Margaret also enjoys weekends up-north. She lives with her twenty year old son Jerry.



## Marline Rodgers

When the police are baffled and the cause of death is undetermined, Employee of the Month Marline Rodgers swings into action. Marline is an investigator for the Medical Examiner's Office and her job is to make sense out of unexplained deaths. As Marline explains, investigations are a detailed process of clue gathering. "We come to the scene and we take photos of everything that we find.

Then, we interview witnesses and family members. We also look for drugs, medications or alcohol which may have led to the death."

Though a fascinating puzzle, Marline admits that the intensity of her work can be emotionally draining. "This is not the kind of job you want to take home with you," she says. Marline occasionally investigates deaths caused by SIDS, or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. These cases can be the most disturbing. "Sometimes I meet the parents," says Marline, "I cry with them, but I don't have answers for them. I have a strong faith in God though, so I know that even if I don't have answers everything happens for a reason."

Marline spends her free time tutoring adults with literacy problems, and serving on the board of a foster care program.

## Deborah Bachman



Receipts, ledgers and audits. These terms may strike fear into the layperson's heart, but Employee of the Month Deborah Bachman is right at home with the jargon. Deborah is an accountant for the Reimbursement Division. As part of her daily routine, Deborah updates computer ledgers and keeps records for her department's annual report. However, Deborah can do much more than just crunch numbers; she is also training her staff to use HRFIS, the county's new accounting software. "Whatever needs to be taken care of I'll do. That's what it boils down to," says Deborah.

To keep her skills sharp Deborah takes advantage of educational opportunities. "I consider myself lucky. Through work, I get to go to computer classes. The classes help me have more knowledge which in turn helps the county," says Deborah.

In her spare time, Deborah takes a break from numbers and practices the art of quilting. "I've made six so far, but I gave most of them away," says Deborah. The quilts make great gifts for her two brothers, sister, niece and nephew. Deborah makes her home in Waterford.

## Jemarice Tademy



For Employee of the Month Jemarice Tademy, work can be like a reunion of old friends. "Most of us went to OU and live in the area so we have a lot in common," says Jemarice of her co-workers. "I look forward to coming to work and talking to these guys. They're a lot of fun." Jemarice started working in the Personnel Department in 1991 while still a student at Oakland University. Now, she works with a huge store of employee information. She processes salary upgrades and promotions, and organizes and prints employment statistic reports. Jemarice's efficiency and expert knowledge of software insure that pay changes are promptly reflected in our checks.

The office has been particularly busy lately, but the Personnel staff has been pulling together. "Whenever somebody falls short, help is there," says Jemarice. In return, Jemarice has been there for the Personnel Department. She has worked extra hours to keep the office on schedule.

Jemarice is a film buff with an ever increasing video collection. Jemarice also enjoys spending time with her family. She spent the fourth of July in Atlanta visiting relatives, and she lives with her parents in Pontiac.

## 1998 Totals

\$20,450.32

81

74%

Casual Day Fund

ESP Suggestions

Direct Deposit