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oakland county employees newsletter



Telegraph



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Oakland County's first annual Arts, Beats & Eats Festival, held in downtown Pontiac over the Labor Day weekend, attracted an estimated 375,000 people who enjoyed the four-day party under mostly sunny skies and warm temperatures. It didn't take long for Saginaw Street to come alive with the sights, sounds and smells provided by more than 120 artists, 30 of Oakland County's finest restaurants and 65 local and national musical acts including Morris Day and the Time, Howling Diablos, the Jeff Healy Band and Nashville headliner, Martina McBride.

Preliminary figures indicate that the restaurants and artists who participated in Arts, Beats & Eats fared well in moving their

goods. Restaurant sales topped \$370,000 and based on our survey, artists registered total sales of about \$500,000. In fact, 15% of the artists sold everything they had and nearly 50% of the restaurants ran out of food by Monday afternoon, forcing them to replenish their stock.

During the festival, patrons consumed 66,000 cups of soda pop and water, SMART buses shuttled 31,000 people to and from the event and more than \$75,000 was raised for charity, which will be split among seven deserving organizations including the Rainbow Connection, Chrysler Oakland Arts Fund, HAVEN, Pontiac Rescue Mission, the Boys and Girls

see ARTS on page 8



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

Sometimes it's hard for people to get their arms around a concept as large as county government. To many it's an enigma, to others it's a giant, monolithic amalgamation of departments, divisions, programs and policies and still others view it as a faceless, nameless bureaucratic machine which somehow manages to plod along.

I can't speak for other county government organizations, but here in Oakland County the heart and sole of our operation is based in the dedicated men and women who come to their jobs everyday eager to provide the best possible service they

can. People like Larry Falardeau, chief planner in Development & Planning, who recently received a "Pioneer in Public Service Award" from the Statewide Trailways and Greenways Conference for his efforts to establish nature trails throughout Oakland County. Then there's the folks in Community Development, led by manager Karry Rieth, whose department is the proud recipient of the 1998 John J. Gunther Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in recognition of their outstanding success in creating decent housing for low and moderate income families.

Earlier this year, Oakland County was awarded a AAA bond rating from Wall Street, in large measure because of our management practices. Much of the credit for that goes to Management and Budget Director Robert Daddow and his extraordinary staff. Not long ago, the Government Finance Officers Association notified the Fiscal Services Division that it would be receiving the distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. By the way, the GFOA also honored Fiscal Services with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and recently Oakland became the first county in Michigan to receive the Popular Annual Financial Report Award from the GFOA - again kudos for Fiscal Services.

Since 1993, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized Oakland County government with more than three dozen awards for outstanding achievement, everything from the development of the Reichold chemical site in Ferndale (Development & Planning) to regional mugshot system (Information Technology and Sheriff's

Department), secure treatment program for chronic juvenile offenders (Children's Village), Women's, Infants and Children's Program (Health Division) and Community Corrections.

I also receive letters from citizens on occasion who express their appreciation for the kindness and help accorded them by county employees. Here's a couple of examples.

West Bloomfield resident, John Patterson (no relation) writes: "Wednesday, 20 June, White Lake Oaks starting tee was a mass of golf addicts with the one single thought - get on the tee! But in the middle of this cluster of humanity was everyone's friend, Jack McGrath - the starter - the man in charge. Cool, calm and organized with everything under control. Next time you play White Lake, shake this guy's hand."

Thanks John, I will. His letter goes on to also praise Nancy Seets and her staff for "the manicured fairways and greens."

Then there's this letter from Ken Hamblin, a visitor from Denver, who got stranded at Oakland/Troy Airport without transportation to the Hertz Car Rental office in Troy. Hamblin writes: "I was stranded and would have remained so had it not been for one of your employees, a gentleman named David." In the frustration of the moment our appreciative friend forgot to get David's last name. We did some checking and found out David's last name is Meitzler. He goes on to write: "I want you to know that instead of ignoring my predicament, David took it upon himself to drive me to my rental car. His courtesy illustrates that touch of class we like to associate with the men and women who toil in general aviation."

The point of all this is that Oakland County government is not some large unfeeling entity without an identity. Rather, it is a group of caring, dedicated and hard working individuals who routinely go above and beyond what is required of them to make county government better and more efficient.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to the employees of Oakland County government for the outstanding jobs they have done. Whatever success we have achieved as a servant of the people is directly attributable to your efforts. As a group and individually, you should be very proud of what you have accomplished. I know I am very proud of all of you.

Employees turn great ESP ideas into \$\$\$



The most recent group of employees to be honored by the Employee Suggestion Program

Nearly a third of the County employees who attended the September 10 managers meeting at Information Technology walked away with \$50 checks in their pockets, courtesy of the Employees Suggestion Program. A total of seventeen employees personally received the minimonetary windfalls from Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson who rewarded them for submitting ideas that will ultimately save taxpayer dollars, increase revenues or make county government more efficient.

It was a really big day for **Terri Hege**, Community Mental Health, who submitted not one, not two, but three suggestions

which earned her \$50 each. Hege teamed up with co-worker **Marilyn Nepjuk**, Community Mental Health, on a suggestion that could conceivably produce a minimum of \$25,000 per year in new revenues. Their idea is for CMH to become a Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan participating provider in the traditional outpatient clinic. If the suggestion is implemented, CMH would then be able to bill the Blues for intake interviews, individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy and psychological testing services.

Hege also picked up an ESP check for suggesting staff time could be saved if the current CMH account receivable system's

electronic secondary billing function was automated or a new system was purchased which came equipped with an electronic secondary billing function. Hege's other financially rewarding idea to modify the current CMH accounts receivable systems so claims can be sent via electronic data interchange to the clearinghouse

for processing would save staff time in preparing mailings and filing claims.

Donna Bevington, deputy register in Probate Court, turned in a suggestion which had it been in effect during the last year would have saved the county an estimated \$565,000. Her idea is to start collecting \$1,000 performance bonds posted with the Probate Court for non-performance by fiduciaries and attorneys.

A \$35,000 savings to the county would be realized if the suggestion submitted by **James Foltz**, grounds keeper crew chief for Facilities Maintenance & Operations,

see **SUGGESTIONS** on page 8

Planner Recognized as a "Pioneer"

At first blush, Larry Falardeau doesn't look anything like Davy Crockett or Daniel Boone, but nonetheless, he is just as much a trailblazer in his own right as they were - a true pioneer. As Development and Planning's chief planner and landscape architect, Falardeau has been a leader in the effort to develop nature trails in Oakland County. During his sixteen years with Oakland County, Falardeau has spearheaded a number of nature trail projects including the Paint Creek Trail between Lake Orion and Rochester, the West Bloomfield Trail, the Huron Valley Trail, the Headwaters Trail and the Polly Ann Trail, whose master plan was recently completed.

Falardeau's work has not gone unnoticed either. On September 28, Larry received the first ever "Pioneer in Public Service Award" during the Connecting Michigan: First Statewide Trailways and Greenways Conference which was held in Battle Creek.

"I am very surprised but truly honored to receive this award," said Falardeau. "I'm also very appreciative that the award selection committee thought enough of my work to give me this recognition."

In selecting Falardeau for this very prestigious honor, the conference's steering committee cited his tireless efforts to promote the concept of a trailway and greenway network throughout Oakland County, as well as his skillful preparation of conceptual maps, dozens of presentations and a popular brochure which has shown the feasibility and benefits of such a network.

"While Oakland County is generally recognized nationally as a leader in the high tech arena, what is not as widely known is that we offer a quality of life that is second to none," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "Through the dedicated work of Larry Falardeau and others, we are getting the message across that Oakland County offers many of the amenities which contribute to a full and enjoyable way of life."

Falardeau says the trailways and greenways projects have dramatically improved the quality of life for Oakland residents and also promoted better inter-governmental cooperation between communities. Abandoned rail corridors, internal park trails that already exist, utility corridors and conservation easements are the various options available which can be transformed into trails used by bikers, hikers, cross county skiers and horseback riders.



Larry Falardeau

Hail & Farewell to the Dean of County Clerks: Lynn Allen

When Lynn D. Allen was appointed Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds in November of 1968 to fill out the unexpired term of John Murphy who had died, Richard Nixon had just been elected president, the Vietnam war was still raging and man had

not yet walked on the moon. Now after nearly 30 years as one of the county's longest serving and most distinguished public officials, Mr. Allen is calling it a career.

By the time you read this, Lynn and his wife Mary Ann, will be relaxing in the home they built seven years ago in Oscoda.

The Clerk's Office has been a family affair for the Allens. Prior to Lynn's ascension to the post, both his mother and father had served as County Clerk and Register of Deeds.

Looking back on his years of service to the citizens of Oakland County, there are many accomplishments Lynn Allen can point to with great pride. According to IBM, the Oakland County Clerk's Office installed the first on-line computerized court system in the world. It allowed attorneys as far back as 1976 to access the computer system and extract court docket information. Seven years later, in 1983, the Register's Office was able to provide the same service to title companies.

In 1992, the Clerk's Office introduced a new type of voting system which was tested first in the city of Pontiac with impressive results. Preliminary election totals were in by 9:20 p.m. and the final tallies were completed by 10:00 p.m. When this new optical scan equipment was used county-wide, vote totals were in by midnight instead of 2 or 3 a.m. as was the case with the old equipment. It

wasn't long before the Clerk's Office was also providing citizens election results on the Internet, a move which Lynn said dramatically reduced the number of calls the Clerk's Office received on election night.

"Right now we have the best staff we've ever had in this office," said Mr. Allen. "I just can't say enough for the people we have working here. They constantly come up with ideas that assist the general public in ways you would never think of. I'm proud as heck of the whole group."

The Clerk's Office, like the county as a whole, has changed dramatically over the past 30 years. When Lynn started, the budget for the office was between \$3-4 million, now it's nearly \$7 million and the number of circuit judges has increased from seven to seventeen, which has also increased the workload for the Clerk's staff.

"The best part of my job is the ability to interact with people," Mr Allen said. "We deal with so many things. We serve as clerk to the Board of Commissioners, the Gun Board, the Plat Board, Circuit Court and Vital Statistics."

One service he used to perform, but doesn't anymore, is swearing in new U.S. citizens and that's a task he really misses because as he puts it "it's interesting to see the people and where they come from."

Mr. Allen admits he's getting eager to just kick back and relax a little bit and do some of the things he really enjoys like traveling, playing golf, hunting and fishing. He enters retirement with a good feeling though about the job he's done. "I feel good about leaving because I think I'm leaving the Clerk's Office in good shape," said Mr. Allen. "We have an excellent staff and an excellent deputy whom I hope the circuit judges will appoint as my successor."

Mr. Allen has great confidence in his deputy, William Caddell. He says Caddell has excellent people skills which will allow him to work well with the public. Mr. Allen also credits Caddell with being a good counselor and problem solver. It's a mutual admiration society between the two men.

"Lynn Allen is to county clerks what sterling is to silver," Caddell said. "Lynn's the dean of clerks in the state of Michigan; he knows his business and no one can con him into anything. Lynn Allen commands great respect; he is truly one of a kind."

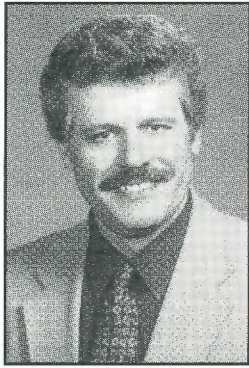
Caddell confesses to having bitter-sweet feelings about Mr. Allen's retirement. On the one hand, Caddell wants to succeed him, but on the other, he knows he's losing a good friend and mentor, someone who has guided him during his five and a half years in the Clerk's Office.

As Lynn Allen heads off into a well deserved retirement, he offers these words of advice to his successor: "Keep up the good work." On behalf of a grateful county, thanks, Lynn, for everything. We'll miss you, but we wish you well. Let us know how you're doing.



then . . .
and
now . . .





Bob Dustman
Media and Com-
munications

The View from Here

As we grow older, it becomes very easy to fall into a rut and start putting limits on ourselves because of our age. We fall victim to this notion that because Father Time is "nipping at our heels", we can't or should not do certain things.

For example, the idea of someone who's in their sixties rollerblading sounds strange to many people. Yet I know of a gentleman, age 67, who rollerblades regularly. Why does he do it? Because he likes it.

That's the whole point. As people live longer and healthier, they feel the need to express themselves in ways which a generation ago may have been looked upon as "not acting one's age".

I'm inspired by people like a 90 year old man who competed in this year's Detroit Free Press Marathon. He ran the first mile and walked the last 25 plus. But he finished the race in a little over eight hours. Quite an accomplishment for anyone, let alone someone who is flirting with the century mark.

Past generations were famous for acting their age. They were too eager to retire to the couch or that over-stuffed easy chair. Why be content to watch the parade when you can lead it? Life is to be lived. After all, we are here but once and this is not a dress rehearsal.

Whenever I contemplate taking it easy or cutting back on my physical activity, I look to people like John Glenn who at the young age of 77 is taking another voyage into space. Getting ready for that

mission would be a challenge for someone half his age, yet Glenn is putting himself through this rigorous regime one more time. Why? Because it's something he wanted to do. He didn't look in the mirror and say "Gee I'm too old." That thought probably never even occurred to him, because he's too busy being involved in life's rich pageant.

My mother, who is 77, might disagree, but age is really just a state of mind when you get down to it. We can't do anything about getting older, but there's a lot we can do about getting old. Don't let age limit your opportunities. If you're 60 and want to take up skydiving, do it!

I'm 52 and in two weeks I'll be competing in the state power lifting championships, an event I won 23 years ago. Will I get my butt kicked? Probably. But at least I'll be there doing what I want to do. Not to impress anyone else, but to prove to myself I'm still up to the challenge.

There's a passage from the Bible (I Corinthians 13:2): "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

I prefer to nurture the child within because he whets my appetite for adventure and quenches my thirst for new experiences.

The child within is my firewall against age. He keeps my wonderment about all things fresh and alive and helps me retain a youthful perspective of the universe around me. The child within is my friend and hopefully my companion for life.

Community Development Scores High Marks with HUD

Oakland County's Community Development Division has been singled out for recognition and praise by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Best Practices in community development. In presenting the award, Robert Lualdi, community development and planning representative from the Michigan HUD office, said that "HUD's intent is to raise the level of performance for all communities by using Best Practices as models and resources for success."

Community Development was honored for its Home Improvement Program (HIP), specifically for creating decent housing and suitable living conditions for low and moderate income families in Oakland County.

"This prestigious award is the result of tremendous effort by the dedicated staff who implement this valuable program every day," said Karry Reith, manager of the Community Development Division.

During 1996, Oakland County rehabilitated 247 low and moderate income single family homes at a total cost of more than \$2.5 million. Of these units, 182 were completed with \$1.5 million of Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) and 95 units with \$1.09 million of HOME funds. The average cost per unit was \$10,499, which is less than the national average of \$12,725. The number of units completed by Community Development far exceeds the national averages of 67 units for similar size grantees.

Cultural Director Seeks New Opportunities



Steve Weikal

In his role as Director of the Office of Arts, Culture & Film for the past six years, Steve Weikal has earned the respect and admiration of the cultural community in Metro Detroit. Weikal has used his vision to give the office a credibility that did not exist before Brooks Patterson added him to the team in 1993.

Weikal, who is an accomplished magician, is doing a disappearing act of sorts though. But this

is no sleight of hand or illusion; it's for real. After six years of putting his distinct imprint on an office which has done so much to promote and enhance Oakland County's quality of life, Weikal is leaving to become Director of Conferences for Automotive News Magazine.

"The position is a new business unit of the magazine, which gives me an opportunity to grow it from scratch, much as I did with this job," Weikal said. "Automotive News is to the auto industry what Variety is to the entertainment industry. It will give me an opportunity to apply my skills on a world-wide level."

There are many things which occurred on Weikal's watch which he points to with a great deal of pride. Among these are increased state funding for the arts, preservation and restoration of the Birmingham Theater, attracting the Big Apple Circus to

Oakland County, the McMath Hulbert Observatory reopening and the first annual Arts, Beats & Eats Festival in downtown Pontiac.

Weikal is also proud of the fact the various art shows held in the Galleria have been resounding successes and the Brown Bag Lecture Series at the Information Technology Auditorium has continually set attendance records.

Although Weikal has accomplished more than any of his predecessors, he does regret not being able to do certain things. For example, Weikal wanted to publish a cultural guide for the county and had hoped to attract more feature length film activity to the county. But all in all, Weikal feels he will be leaving the office in very good shape for his successor.

Despite his euphoria over starting a new job, there is a bitter-sweet taste for Weikal in his departure. "I'm actually sorry to be leaving," Weikal said. "This has been family for six years and I'll miss the team. I'd take this group anywhere with me to do anything."

As far as a time table for choosing his successor, Weikal says Mr. Patterson wants to find someone quickly. Weikal added that the cultural community needs a new person on board as soon as possible. Weikal also indicated there will be some flexibility in his schedule which will allow him to come back and help the new person settle into the new job.

"This has been one terrific adventure for me," Weikal said. "After all, we have to remember it's not the destination, it's the journey."

CDC Specialist Helps Track Health Problems in Oakland County

As Nancy Eberle, the Health Division's new Prevention Specialist from the Centers for Disease Control, sees it, dealing with health issues at the county level is where "the rubber meets the road." Eberle, who received her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana and her masters degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, believes that here is where she'll be able to take advantage of her experience and apply what she's learned.

Eberle was assigned to Oakland County in August as part of a three year post master Fellowship program administered by the CDC. She spent a year with CDC working in two separate six month assignments and she'll spend the remaining two years here in Oakland County.

"It's been great being here," Eberle said. "This assignment works well for me

because I have an opportunity to work on more traditional health education issues and also do epidemiology, so it's a good fit."

Currently, Eberle is working on Hepatitis A, analyzing the data received on the disease. Once she determines why there's been an increase in Hepatitis A cases over the past couple of years, she'll develop some recommendations for prevention. When this project is completed, she'll turn her attention to Hepatitis B.

But Eberle, a Wisconsin native who is renting an apartment in Rochester during her stay here, doesn't spend all of her time peering through a microscope or tracking down the cause of illnesses. When she has an opportunity to kick back and relax, Eberle enjoys hiking and camping in the great outdoors or playing around with her new passion - making pottery.

As someone who hails from a more rural environment, Eberle is amazed at all of the development occurring in Oakland County, the miles and miles of new homes springing up everywhere.

"From what I've seen so far, Oakland County is a pretty diverse area," Eberle said. "There are urban communities in the south end bordering Wayne County and rural communities in the northern part."

For now Eberle likes using her skills at the County level. And her boss, Health Division Manager Rosemarie Rowney, likes having her here as well.

"We are extremely proud and excited to have been given the opportunity to capitalize on the talents of a well trained and skilled health professional," Rowney said. "Nancy brings an added value to the Health Division calculated to be in excess of \$100,000."

Drain Official Leaves to Explore New Challenges

George Kuhn's number two guy in the Drain Office has crossed over into the private sector, leaving behind a 27 year career in county government which has been filled with many accomplishments.

Glen Yrjananien, chief deputy Drain Commissioner, rose through the ranks of the department starting on February 22, 1971, when he was hired as a civil engineer.

"I've done every engineering job possible in the Drain Office," said Yrjananien. "My work experience includes construction field surveying, design work on dam structures and storm drains, and the myriad of administrative duties that go along with such responsibilities."

Yrjananien's tenure with the Drain Office even predates his boss, George Kuhn. When Yrjananien arrived at the County, Daniel Berry was Drain Commissioner but he was eventually replaced by Board Chairman, Bill Richards who lost to Kuhn in the 1972 election.

"Probably the reason I stayed around so long is because I really like working here and really enjoy the people I've worked with," Yrjananien said. "To leave now was a hard decision, but I was offered an excellent opportunity in the private sector

and decided to take it since I'll be going there as a partner in the firm."

Yrjananien has joined the consulting firm of Nowak and Fraus Inc., which employs 85 people and operates offices in Royal Oak and Pontiac. But don't expect to see Yrjananien just sitting behind a big desk making important executive decisions all the time.

"This firm is not so large I won't be able to have my hands in some of the engineering work," said Yrjananien. "I've always enjoyed that part of the job." In his new position, Yrjananien will be dealing essentially with land developers. While he is excited about his new job, Yrjananien says he will miss many aspects of his old job, such as the people he has worked with and some of the events he has participated in over the years, like traveling to New York with the County Executive to lobby for a higher bond rating for Oakland County.

Because of the great working relationship he's had with George Kuhn, Yrjananien gave 3 months notice in order to tie up some loose ends and provide for a smooth transition.

"I can honestly say that in my entire working career I've never come across

another individual who was as dedicated, loyal, and professionally effective as Glen Yrjananien has been in carrying out his duties on a day to day basis," said George



Glen Yrjananien

Kuhn. Kuhn has tapped James Porter, manager of the Operations and Maintenance Division, to succeed Yrjananien as chief deputy Drain Commissioner. That appointment is subject to approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Yrjananien and his wife, Judy, who is a registered nurse at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester, live in Clarkston. Both of their children are grown. Their son, who appears to be following in dad's footsteps, is a civil engineer and their daughter works at a florist shop in Fowlerville.

"Oakland County is a great place to work," said Yrjananien. "I would highly recommend it."

\$ County Bounty Helps Locate High Tech Talent

Seems like the County of Oakland is going into the bounty hunter business, but not in the sense you think. Taking a page from the private sector, the Personnel Department has launched a County Bounty Program in an effort to find new employees to fill high tech jobs.

"We came up with the idea of offering a referral bonus to County employees because of the difficulty we've had in finding people to fill certain positions," said Sharon Edwards, supervisor of selection and placement for the Personnel Department. "Putting the whole County workforce to work for us to recruit new people seems like a pretty cost effective way to go, especially since it costs \$1200 to put just one ad in the Sunday Detroit News."

Edwards encourages employees to start watching for current positions on which bounties have been placed. For example, bounties are currently being offered on civil engineer III - wastewater (\$2,000), application/analyst programmer I and II (\$1500), and senior psychologist (\$1000).

If an employee knows of someone who meets the minimum qualifications for these positions, Edwards says they should talk

to that person and urge them to apply with the County. When the person comes in, they should let Personnel know who referred them so that if the prospect goes through the testing procedure, is hired, and completes the probationary period, the County employee can receive a bounty on the referral.

"Just one application received for one of these positions would be lovely, especially for civil engineer III since that position has been open for a long time," said Edwards. "Engineers are hard to find and even more so civil engineers who have wastewater treatment experience."

Edwards emphasizes that no additional County funds are needed to pay the bounties, since the money will come out of the vacant positions.

Every County department has received information to post regarding what positions are subject to the bounties. Edwards suggests employees check with Personnel periodically to see if those positions are still open. Specific guidelines relative to the County Bounty Program are listed on the O drive.

ARTS from page 1

Club of North Oakland County and the Dittrich Foundation.

"This four-day extravaganza was a win-win for all concerned," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson who actually originated the Arts, Beats & Eats concept. "Everyone who showed up for the festival had a great time, the artists and restaurants kept their cash registers humming and a lot of worthwhile charities benefited from the generosity of others.

Mr. Patterson got the idea for Arts, Beats & Eats from a waiter while eating lunch one day at Colangelos restaurant in Pontiac. The waiter suggested that Pontiac should have a taste fest to showcase the culinary expertise of its restaurants. After giving it some thought, Mr. Patterson felt that rather than just a taste fest, why not expand the concept to include artists and entertainment. So from the small seed of an idea grew Arts, Beats & Eats, a family



oriented fun fest that is destined to grow even larger in the years ahead.

Despite the large crowds, Pontiac police reported no major problems. Only two arrests were made during the weekend. It seems a couple of enterprising individuals decided to set up their own illegal parking lot on someone else's property. They were promptly busted by the cops and spent the weekend doing something other than collecting parking fees.

"Nothing of this magnitude can be accomplished without the support and cooperation of a lot of people," Mr. Patterson said. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the host city of Pontiac, Mayor Walter Moore, event coordinator Jonathan Witz, the artists, entertainers, restaurant owners, volunteers and last but by no means least, the event patrons for making Arts, Beats & Eats such an overwhelming success in its inaugural year."

SUGGESTIONS from page 3

is implemented. Foltz has suggested splitting the responsibility for snowplowing and salting the county's service center between FM&O and the Road Commission. In exchange for relieving road crews of plowing service center roads, the Road Commission would provide the county with free salt.

Kurian Joychan, chemist for the Drain Commission, picked up his \$50 check for an idea that could save the county between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Joychan says the cost saving could be realized if the Drain Department produced its own testing solution rather than buying the product from vendors.

Darlene Marion, account clerk with Parks & Recreation, has come up with a way to beef up the Casual Day Fund. If Marion's idea is implemented, an annual county employee craft show would be held at the County Market with the proceeds funneled into the Casual Day Fund where it can be split among a number of deserving charities.

While not providing any immediate cost savings, two suggestions submitted could prevent injuries at county facilities while reducing future county liability. **Barbara Sigety**, eligibility coordinator in Community Development, has suggested the installation of handrails on the steps of the east entrance to the Executive Office Building. **Mary Pappas**, clerk III in Veterans' Services, thinks it would be a good move to put up handrails on both sides of the walls at the West Oakland Office Building.

Mary Pardee, secretary II in the Personnel Department, suggested developing a standard mileage list from the Executive Office Building/county complex to frequent cities of destination. Such a list would take the guess work out of tracking mileage.

Russell Larsen, clerk II in printing and mail service, did his math and found that reducing postcards to 4 by 6 inches would allow the county to send out mailings at the postcard rate rather than first class, thereby saving twelve cents per card with an ultimate savings of more than \$2,500.

Other \$50 ESP winners were: **Jennifer Edens**, Clerks Office; **Tomi Hunt**, Risk Management; **Carol Lee**, Clerk/Register; **Charles Claus**, Prosecutor's Office; **Joan Hutchinson**, Circuit Court and **Cynthia Harper**, Probate Court.

Seven other ESP winners were not able to attend the September 10 managers meeting to receive their checks in person. They are: **Nancy VanCamp**, Circuit Court; **Ryan Runnels**, Equalization; **Nancy Wenzel**, Board of Commissioners; **Karyn Zerba**, Children's Village; **John Ward**, Juvenile Court referee and **Mark Brigolin**, grounds keeper crew chief.

"I am very proud of all these employees for making the effort to submit suggestions that will help county government become more efficient and cost effective in the years ahead," Mr. Patterson said.

Springfield Oaks - A County Tradition

As the century nears the millenium, Springfield Oaks celebrates its 70th anniversary.

The Springfield Oaks Golf Course is on the verge of celebrating a milestone in its long and rich heritage. June 1999 will mark the 70th anniversary of the completion of the park, which got its start in 1926 when the Davis family, the original settlers of Davisburg, donated 170 acres of property to Oakland County for use as a park and golf course. Construction of Springfield Oaks began in October 1927 and

was ready for the public to enjoy by June of 1929. The second tee, fairway and green is the only remaining original unrestored hole on the course.

The James Harvey Davis house became the green keeper's home and eventually a clubhouse until 1973 when it was restored by the Springfield Township Historical Society with the assistance of Oakland County Parks.

Commissioner's Golf Outing Provides Opportunity for Camaraderie

The Board of Commissioners hosted its annual golf outing on September 28 at Springfield Oaks.

It wasn't exactly the PGA Open, but it was a lot of fun anyway as the Oakland County Board of Commissioners hosted its annual golf outing at Springfield Oaks on Friday, September 28. Seven teams of four players competed in the best ball tournament.

The team of Commissioner Ruth Johnson, Prosecutor David Gorcyca, Undersheriff Henry Buffa and Frank Trionfi, chief of Administration Services for Parks & Recreation beat all comers with a nine hole score of 32.

Ralph Richard, Parks & Rec manager, took top honors in the longest drive category among the men, while Commissioners Ruth Johnson and Kay Schmid finished one and two among the women. Dave Ross, director of Facilities Management, was the winner in the closest to the pin competition.

Gifts of hats and sleeves of golf balls were awarded to the winners. Commissioner Schmid, on behalf of all the participants, extends her appreciation to everyone at Parks & Recreation for providing the continental breakfast, free golf and golf carts.

Phone conversations last 30 seconds.

A 5 day vacation requires only one suitcase.

You can open all your own jars.

You can go to the bathroom alone.

You can kill your own food

The garage is all yours.

You can see the humor in "Terms of Endearment".

You never have to clean the toilet.

You can be showered and ready in 10 minutes.

If you're 34 and single, no one notices.

Flowers fix everything.

Three pair of shoes are more than enough.

You can whip your shirt off on a hot day.

Car mechanics tell you the truth.

You don't care if someone doesn't notice your new haircut.

Gray hair and wrinkles add character.

Wedding dress \$2,000, Tux rental 100 bucks.

If you retain water, it is in a canteen.

You don't have to curl up next to some big, hairy guy every night.

If another guy shows up at the party in the same outfit, you might become lifelong buddies.

Why it's Great to be a GUY

the Telegraph

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kudos celebrations com

kudos

Carolyn Burtch, Circuit Court records clerk in the County Clerk's Legal Records Unit was on the internet for the "Catch of the Week". She caught a 19 lb. 7 oz. Steelhead! The caption read, "She owned a boat, that's why her hubby married her".

Personnel: **Lois Koeber** and **Sharon Edwards** passed an examination to gain certification as Senior Professional Human Resources (SPHR). **Jack Hooper** passed the examination to gain certification as a Professional Human Resources.

Karen Cipriani was honored by the American Cancer Society for outstanding leadership as vice president of volunteerism.

Joe Hylla was awarded the Marvin Klang Award at the September conference of the MMPOA (Michigan Public Purchasing Officers Association). The award is voted on by Purchasing peers throughout the State of Michigan and represents outstanding achievements in governmental purchasing.

Oakland County Community Mental Health's el Centro "LaFamilia" program has won the 1998 La Promesa Award from the National Latino Children's Institute. It marks the first time the award has been given to a SE Michigan program.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation volunteers **Richard** and **Vivian Taylor** received the 1998 Margaret Whitehead Senior Citizen of the Year Award during a special presentation on Mackinac Island October 27.

Dave Smith and **Mike Donnellon**, Parks and Recreation, recently earned the title of "Certified Playground Safety Inspectors. With newly acquired knowledge, Mike and Dave will help make the parks system a safer place for young visitors.

At the 150th Michigan State Fair on September 5, 1998, **Jack Becker**, supervisor at Veterans' Services, was presented with a plaque and congratulated for his outstanding service to the community as a member of the Lions Club International.

Judge David F. Breck received the "Champion of Justice" Award from the State Bar for his "extraordinary accomplishment in support of the concept of equal justice under the law." From the Library Board: Congratulations to **Phyllis Jose** and **Martha Sue McDermott**

on receiving their 20 year plaques and to **Donald Bliss** on receiving his Retirement Plaque.

births

Jeremy (Electronics) and **Rose Hunt**, had a baby girl, Alexa, on July 15, 1998.

David (Pump Maintenance) and **Teresa Brown** had a baby girl, Ashley, on May 24, 1998.

Jon (Sewer and Drain Maintenance) and **Sarah Kohnert** had a baby boy, Maximilian, on June 9, 1998.

Brian (Metering) and **Kathy Bennett** had a baby girl, Megan Elizabeth, on June 11.

Boyd Brokenshaw, Parks and Recreation, and his wife Darlene, welcomed a baby daughter, Ashley Marie, on July 16.

Jerry Silagyi of the Drain Commissioner's office, Engineering & Construction Division, and his wife Nena, are the proud parents of a daughter, Isabella Rose, born on June 19, 1998.

Patrick Roberts of the Drain Commissioner's office, Survey Division, and his wife Marleen, are the proud parents of a daughter, Marissa, born on July 2, 1998.

Wendy (Engineering & Support Dept of Drain Commissioners) and **Michael Gardner** had a baby boy, Thomas Michael, on 2-22-98.

Kevin (Engineering & Support Dept of Drain Commissioners) and **Kari Watts** had a baby boy, Griffin James, on April 30, 1998.

Ray Sutton, Aviation & Transportation, is a proud, first-time grandfather to Lillyanna Elizabeth Smithe, born 9-13-98.

new hires

Greg Gagnon, hired in as student engineer at the Dept. Of Facilities Management on 4-27-98.

Brian Basemore, general clerical, started on August 1, 1998 in the Clerks Office.

Jeanie Kolb was hired as a general clerical for the Elections Office on June 1, 1998.

Kimberly Hutchison hired in as general clerical in the Operation/Maintenance Dept of the Drain Commissioner's Office on March 16, 1998.

Richard Blain hired in as maintenance laborer in the Sewer & Drain Maintenance Dept. on March 16, 1998

Joe Washburn hired in as maintenance laborer in the Sewer & Drain Maintenance Dept. on March 30, 1998.

Richard Whetstone, FM&O Custodial, hired in on 4-27-98 as a general helper.

Thomas Pecheniuk, FM&O Safety, was hired in on 5-9-98 as general helper

Cherylyn Spencer, FM&O Custodial, hired in as general helper on 5-26-98.

Roger Lowery, FM&O Custodial, hired in on 7-6-98 as general helper.

Reginna Chidester was recently hired as a health educator for the Oakland County Health Division.

Susan Grech was hired a general staff nurse at Children's Village.

Jason Wolfe was hired as a general clerical at Children's Village.

William Thompson was hired as a youth specialist I at Children's Village.

transfers

Barbara Draper, R.N., B.S.N., was appointed to the position of Health Program Coordinator at Children's Village. She comes to C.V. via the Health Division.

Karen Peruske, transferred from Support Services on July 18, 1998 to the Clerks Office.

Barb Reznick, transferred from Circuit Court on January 1, 1998 to the Clerks Office.

Lisa Garneau, transferred from the Clerk's Office to Register of Deeds on 7-6-98.

Donna Corell transferred from FM & O Custodial to FM & O Support Services on 8-1-98.

marriages

Congratulations to **Clara Reid**, Clerk's Office, on her marriage to Bryan Rudd on July 25, 1998.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Perry**, Clerk's Office, who married John Heasley on May 2, 1998.

Congratulations to **Lisa Dombrowski**, Register of Deeds, who married Eric Johnson from our Micrographics Unit on April 18, 1998.

ing & going

David Bilson, clerk for Judge Breck, married Julie Schumacher in Cleveland on August 1, 1998.

A summer vacation turned into a wedding for **Karen Smith**, Parks & Rec and Sonny Kohn who were married July 2 during a visit to Fort Worth, Texas.

Karvan Midgett (Eight Mile Water) married Nichole Keels on July 18, 1998.

Audrey Marcella (Engineering Support) married Thomas Goerss on June 27, 1998.

Juli Thoel, Community Mental Health, married Frank Kimble on September 26, 1998.

promotions

John Davis, Drain Commission's Operation/Maintenance Administration, was promoted from engineering systems coordinator to applications analyst programmer II on 12-20-97.

Gary Stepp, Dewer Drain Maintenance was promoted from maintenance laborer to maintenance mechanic I on February 28, 1998.

Ruth Allor, Water Maintenance, was promoted from general helper to laborer on February 28.

Kathleen Altman was recently promoted from public health educator II to public health educator III.

Nicole Mills, Drain Commissioner's office, Inspection Division, was promoted from typist I to typist II on May 23, 1998.

Joseph Gardner, Drain Commissioner's Office, Inspection Division, was promoted from construction inspector II to construction inspector III on September 12, 1998.

Mark Davis, Drain Commissioner's office, Right of Way Department, was promoted from engineering aide II to engineering technician on August 29, 1998.

Christopher Gianakos of the Drain Commissioner's office, Right of Way Department, was promoted from engineering aide I to engineering aide II on August 29, 1998.

Patricia Hodge, Water Maintenance, was promoted from general helper to maintenance laborer on February 28.

Roger Fleishans, Sewer Drain Maintenance, was promoted from maintenance laborer to maintenance mechanic I on February 28, 1998.

Holly Polakowski, Pump Maintenance, was promoted from typist II to clerk III on January 31, 1998.

Barbara Percoulis, general clerical, Operations & Maintenance Div. Of Drain Commissioner, was promoted to typist I on May 9, 1998.

Garth E. Wootten, veterans benefits counselor II has been promoted to veterans benefits counselor supervisor

Employee of the Month

Nadia Batarseh

Nadia Batarseh, public health nurse, has proven to be a valuable asset for the Oakland County Health Division in her role dealing with local schools, children and their families. Nadia has been especially helpful in bridging the cultural barrier with Chaldean and Arabic families who don't speak English.



She also demonstrated her talents in providing the expertise which led to a quick resolution of the lead poisoning problem which afflicted several members of an Oakland County family recently. "It's a challenge to get involved in things like the lead poisoning outbreak," Nadia said. "You need to exercise a good deal of judgment. It's a good learning experience as well." Nadia came to the United States from her native country of Jordan ten years ago and went to work as a public health nurse in the city of Detroit for five years, before joining the staff at Oakland County in 1995. "Nadia is so valuable to our team because she is a highly respected public health nurse and so well thought of in her own cultural community," said Rosemarie Rowney, manager of the Health Division. "Nadia is fluent in Arabic and helps us enormously whenever we need cultural competence." In her spare time, Nadia likes to read a lot and travel, especially to Canada and destinations in northern Michigan. She and her husband, who is in the computer business, live in Warren.

more employees of the month on next page

of the Walled Lake office for Veterans Services Division on August 15, 1998.

Jason White, FM&O Safety, was promoted to BSA Nonus on 5-9-98.

Patricia White, FM&O Custodial, was promoted to custodial worker II 8-1-98.

Michael Rana, FM&O Maintenance, was promoted to skilled maintenance mechanic II on 1-17-98.

James McBride, FM&O Custodial, was promoted to custodial worker II 6-6-98

Sean Washington, FM&O Custodial, was promoted to custodial worker II on 7-18-98.

goodbyes

Glen Yrjanainen, chief deputy Drain Commissioner, resigned from county employment after 27 years of service, effective October 14, 1998. Glen has accepted a position as vice president of Nowak & Fraus.

Robert Callsen of the Drain Commissioner's office, Inspection Department, retired from county employment effective

August 31, 1998.

Janice Coleman, court reporter for Judge Breck, took a new position with Federal District Court Judge Victoria Roberts in Detroit. Janice worked in Oakland County for over 17 years and will be missed very much. We wish her the best of luck in her new venture.

Kevin Luebbert of Sewer Drain Maintenance, resigned on May 15, 1998.

Wendy Gardner of Engineering Support, resigned on May 22, 1998.

swap shop

Two matching Missionary chairs, newly caned and refinished, perfect condition (about 1890) - \$250 each. Caned stool, Art Deco (about 1910) - \$125.00 Please call Carol at 858-0936

Boat for sale: 1992 Rinker 20' - red/white, cuddy cabin, porta potty, fishing equipment included (fish finder, downriggers, poles, tackle!) \$10,000 OBO (call Bill at 248-674-9327)

Employee of the Month



Fred Welty

When asked if she would like to offer a comment or two about Fred Welty's selection as Employee of the Month, his boss, Diana Calvin, manager of Veterans Services, remarked: "You mean I'm limited to just one or two comments about Fred?" Calvin said she could speak at length about Fred's value to Veterans' Services, where he serves as a client transporter. Calvin calls Fred one of the most dedicated and reliable employees the division has ever had. "Fred Welty gives one thousand percent to his job and he is well

liked by the clients and loved by the staff," Calvin said. It's Fred's job to pick up veterans and drive them to V.A. hospitals where they receive medical, psychiatric and substance abuse treatments. "I'm with them all day long acting as their advocate with the V.A. and making sure they get all their medications," Fred said. "Working with people is the best part of my job." Fred, who has worked for Veterans' Services for nine years, says in his spare time he enjoys hunting and other outdoor activities. But in the past year, most of his leisure time has been spent on family matters since his father passed away in November and his mother is elderly and diabetic. Fred lives in Orion Township.



Charles Lewis

With his skill as a painter, Charles Lewis improves the aesthetics of the offices and buildings that adorn the county government campus. Classified as a maintenance mechanic painter, Charles or "Sid" as he's known around the county complex, often finds himself performing a myriad of tasks in addition to painting. His boss, Chuck Lester, cites Sid's "superior performance and

exemplary attitude toward county government" as two of the main reasons why Lewis was chosen as Employee of the Month. "Sid is an outstanding employee in every respect," Lester said. FM&O has been Sid's home away from home for the nine years he's spent at 1200 N. Telegraph Road. "I really appreciate the fact I've been recognized for my efforts in this way," Sid said. When not at work, Sid enjoys hunting, fishing or anything really which gets him outdoors as much as possible, even playing a little golf from time to time. Sid, who lives in Troy, has a son in the Air Force and a daughter.

Morris James



When the Health Division needed an expert to unravel the mystery of a lead poisoning outbreak which struck an Oakland County family recently, Morris James got the call. As the project coordinator for the HUD Lead Remediation Grant, Morris quickly went to work to find the source of the lead contamination. Because of his successful efforts in pinpointing the cause of this outbreak, as well as his outstanding work in tracking down the source of the Legionnaires outbreak in 1996, Morris has been selected as Employee of the Month. "I was totally surprised upon learning I had won the award," Morris said. "I didn't have a clue." Morris' current task is to oversee the removal of dangerous lead from 25 homes in Pontiac and Ferndale, so that they're lead-safe for children. "Whenever we need someone who is creative, innovative and a problem solver with a strong scientific background, we turn to Morris," said Rosemarie Rowney, manager of the Health Division. Morris, who lives in Southfield, has spent his entire ten year career with the County in the Health Division. Morris is an accomplished singer who enjoys traveling.

Jack Smith



As Chief of Support Services with responsibility for five separate units and some thirty employees, Jack Smith takes great pride in being able to provide beneficial services to other county departments. His unwavering dedication to his job has earned Jack Employee of the Month honors. He is kept busy overseeing the operations of printing, mail room, record retention, convenience copier fund and radio communications, which was added to his already full plate in December, 1997.

"Jack is one of Central Services brightest stars," said his boss, J. David VanderVeen, director of Central Services. In addition to his hectic schedule, Jack somehow managed to find time to continue his education and recently earned his baccalaureate degree. Jack has been a mainstay with county government for the past 23 years, beginning his illustrious career in the record retention unit. "Although it's wonderful to receive recognition as Employee of the Month, I like to keep in mind the fact there are a lot of talented people in Support Services who make me look good," said Jack. "I'm quite thankful for each and every one of them." Jack and his wife Tricia, who works for Emergency Management, have been married for ten years and have a eight year old daughter, Whitney. When it comes time to relax, Jack enjoys playing golf and spending time with his family.

1998 Totals

\$25,215.29

125

77%

Casual Day Fund

ESP Suggestions

Direct Deposit