

the

oakland county employees newsletter



Telegraph



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winter 1999

Sheriff John Nichols 1918-1998

"If a man has done his best, what else is there?"
General George S. Patton



They came from near and far to pay their final respects to the man who epitomized the best in law enforcement for more than half a century. More than 1,000 people from all walks of life packed Mt. Zion Temple in Independence Township to say good-bye to Oakland County Sheriff John Nichols who died peacefully in his sleep at 3:25 a.m. on December 18 at the Huron Valley - Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township.

During the service for John Nichols, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson eulogized the Sheriff as someone who cast a long shadow and had an impact on "our lives, our careers and our communities, as few others have."

"We can debate whether times make the man or whether the man makes the times, but there is no

debate that John Nichols was the right man at the right time to lead the Oakland County Sheriffs Department and to mold it into a highly respected, professional, effective crime-fighting machine," Mr. Patterson told the crowd of mourners.

Mr. Patterson also recalled the many items of memorabilia which decorated the Sheriff's office, everything from street signs to army helmets, cavalry saddles, pictures of Patton, Schwartzkoff and the Pope. There were the signs on his desk, Mr. Patterson noted, which read "ulcer department" or "I don't get mad, I get even . . . you, too, could be Nichol-ized."

Mr. Patterson, during his remarks, also said that "John Nichols was the embodiment of pride, integrity and guts. He had pride in his

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(248) 858-1022

OC Hotline

press **1** for Employee Information

press **2** for Latest OC News

press **3** for Arts & Cultural Events

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

OAKLAND COUNTY

ESP Winners & Casual Day Recipients Headline Annual Employees' Holiday Party

The ballroom of the Northfield Hilton in Troy was jammed packed on Friday, December 4 with some 300 Oakland County employees eager to kick off the holiday season in grand style. Following a delicious buffet, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson distributed checks totaling \$28,000 to ten local charities which will use the funds to help the needy.

Charities receiving money from the Casual Day Fund were: Give-A-Christmas which funds nine charitable institutions; Lighthouse North which provides emergency food, clothing, housing assistance, prescription assistance and other services to seniors and young mothers; Pontiac Rescue Mission which assists needy men, women and children; HAVEN which provides shelter and

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Research Library

PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

If an idea has worked well in the past, sometimes its appropriate to get it out of mothballs, dust it off and bring it back for an encore performance. With that thought in mind, look for Departmental Tours II to make an appearance near you in 1999.

As many of you may recall, I conducted an in-depth and extensive eleven month department-by-department tour shortly after taking office in 1993. Accompanying me on these visits were selected members of my administrative team who listened attentively, took copious notes and carefully considered all of the suggestions which were offered.

These visits proved to be very worthwhile in terms of fact finding. For one thing, we learned how desperately our employees needed technological support. There were only 200 personal computers in use in county government in 1993. For the previous twenty years, Oakland County was held captive by a 100% mainframe dominant philosophy. But after hearing the lamentations of our valued employees, I made a commitment to arm them with the latest technology available. As a result, Oakland County government was transformed into a state-of-the-art distributed computing environment and the most recent count shows there are 2500 P.C.'s in use on the county campus.

Other complaints were heard and addressed during our series of face-to-

face meetings with county employees. Among other things, we found the men and women of the Equalization and Friend of the Court divisions laboring in the most antiquated, cramped and cold quarters imaginable, with visqueen stapled around windows to cut down on drafts and dangerous space heaters under desks to provide heat.

It wasn't long after this discovery that both divisions were relocated to the more spacious and user-friendly 73,000 square foot Oakland Pointe Office Park on Elizabeth Lake Road.

The success of that first tour has given rise to a second tour scheduled for early this year which will allow us to take a fresh look at some of the new problems our employees are facing.

I'll be taking along on these visits a team comprised of Management and Budget Director Bob Daddow, Information Technology Director John Mahoney, Personnel Director Judy Eaton and Facilities Management Director Dave Ross. As with the first tour six years ago, they will be listening attentively to your concerns with an eye toward making any changes which may be warranted. The 1993 departmental visits resulted in a wealth of valuable information which we then sculpted into an action plan for improving the product we offer our citizens.



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

I have set aside every Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to visit each and every department in county government. We'll begin with the Executive departments and then schedule meetings with each of the elected officials and their employees.

I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible during these tours and listening to what you have to say. One thing you can be sure of is that we will use what is learned during these visits to make your jobs easier and more productive and in turn, improve the services we offer to the citizens of Oakland County.

Commissioners End Year on Note of Unity

On December 10th, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners set aside time during their final meeting for 1998 to host a Unity Day Program where the eight outgoing Commissioners were recognized for their dedicated service to the citizens of Oakland County.

The Unity Day Program was a festive celebration of the many cultures and traditions within our community. The highlight of the Celebration was performances by young people from local schools and dishes contributed by area restaurants.

The Commissioners and county employees thoroughly enjoyed the outstanding performances of four local student groups, including: Dondero High School String

Quartet (Royal Oak), Oakland Intermediate School - Diversity Student Council (Area-wide), Abbott Middle School Choir (West Bloomfield) and Pontiac Central High School Choir (Pontiac).

A rousing duet by two singers from Pontiac Central could be heard throughout the Courthouse. The talented students from all of the schools were such an inspiration that Commission Chairperson John P. McCulloch stated that "Future Board events will continue to feature performances from one of Oakland County's greatest treasures -- our young people."

And what would a celebration be without food! Several local restaurants contributed a wide assortment of foods. Par-

ticipating merchants included: Beans and Cornbread, Dakota Bread Company, Dawn Donuts, Felice Family Food Center, Hanna's German Baker, Passage to India and Stage and Company Deli. Felice provided several delicious cakes decorated with their new equipment which can transpose any photo onto a cake!

The Commissioners also expressed appreciation to their colleagues who would not be returning in January -- Robert Hoffman, JoAnne Holbert, Donna Huntoon, Gilda Jacobs, Ruth Johnson, Eugene Kaczmar, Jeff Kingzett and Donn Wolf. Each was presented with a plaque and warmly thanked for their years of service.

County Commission Begins 1999 with New Faces in the Lineup



New Faces on the Board of Commissioners:

Bottom row, left to right: David Galloway, William Patterson, Brenda Causey-Mitchell and Tim Melton.

Back row, left to right: George Suarez, Ron Colasanti, Terry Sever, Michelle Friedman-Appel and Vincent Gregory (returning member}.

Among the 25 County Commissioners sworn in by County Clerk William "Doc" Caddell on Tuesday, January 5, 1999 were eight newcomers. Joining the seventeen veteran commissioners are: Michelle Friedman -Appel (D-Oak Park, Huntington Woods); Ron Colasanti (R-Highland, Milford); David N. Galloway (R-White Lake, Independence Township); Tim W. Melton (D-Auburn Hills, Pontiac); Brenda Causey-Mitchell (D-Pontiac); William R. Patterson (R-Oxford); Terry L. Sever (R-Farmington) and George W. Suarez (D-Madison Heights, Royal Oak).

After the swearing in ceremonies, the commissioners got down to business by holding their first meeting of the new year. But not before they and those who were in attendance had an opportunity to partake of some mouth-watering nourishment. The bill of fare included roast beef, cole slaw and delectable cakes from Felice which were decorated with a county seal and adorned with congratulatory best wishes for the county commissioners.

"Everyone had a great time eating," said Sheryl Mitchell, administrative analyst for the Board. "But you had to get in line early, because the food went really fast."

One of the first orders of business was to officially elect the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Board, with John McCulloch and Lawrence Obrecht filling those respective positions.

Next on the agenda was the assignment of members to the Board's five standing committees. Sue Ann Douglas will chair the Finance Committee with Don Jensen and Michelle Friedman-Appel serving as vice-chairs. Committee members are: Chuck Palmer, Larry Obrecht, Shelley Taub, Frank Millard, Fran Amos and Eric Coleman.

Chair of the General Government Committee is Shelley Taub with Nancy Dingeldey and Ruel McPherson serving as vice-chairs. Committee members are: Thomas Law, John Garfield, William Patterson, Terry Sever and Tim Melton.

Tom Law will serve as chair of the Personnel Committee with Dan Devine and Vincent Gregory serving as vice-chairs. The committee is comprised of David Moffitt, Ron Colasanti, David Galloway and George Suarez.

The Planning and Building Committee is chaired by Chuck Palmer with Fran Amos and George Suarez serving as vice-chairs. Committee members are: Don Jensen, Kay Schmid, John Garfield, Ron Colasanti, Terry Sever, Vincent Gregory and Tim Melton.

Public Services is headed up by Frank Millard with David Moffitt and Brenda Causey-Mitchell serving as vice-chairs. The committee is made up of Kay Schmid, Nancy Dingeldey, David Galloway, William Patterson and Ruel McPherson.

The Republican Caucus chairman is Dan Devine with Terry Sever serving as vice-chair. Eric Coleman and Tim Melton will serve as chair and vice-chair respectively of the Democratic Caucus.

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department, the pride that a general has for his troops, that a father has for his sons and daughters. Pride in their chosen profession, pride in the way they looked and behaved on the street, the way they testified in court.”

Following the service, a five mile long procession of cars led by a riderless horse escorted Sheriff Nichols on his final journey south on I-75, west on Square Lake Road and south on Woodward to Roseland Park Cemetery in Berkley where his body was interred.

Undersheriff Henry Buffa, Major Tom Quisenberry and Captains Barnett Jones, Damon Shields, Doug Eader, Mike McCabe and Henry Wallace carried their commander's casket into the cemetery chapel.

The Sheriff's widow, Jean, their children and hundreds of uniformed officers and civilians followed

into the warmth.

Outside the crackle of a 21 gun salute, a tribute to a fallen soldier, could be heard. The

somber, haunting notes of a bugler

playing Taps echoed throughout the cemetery and the solemnity of the moment was punctuated by two Detroit Police helicopters flying overhead, one of which pulled away to signify the lost man formation.

It was the end of an era - an era begun in 1942 when John F. Nichols joined the Detroit Police Department as a probationary officer. He served in the Uniform Patrol Division until he joined the United States Army, where he ultimately commanded an Infantry Rifle Company in Europe during World War II.

After his discharge in 1946, Sheriff Nichols returned to the Detroit Police Department where he worked his way through the ranks during the next 31 years, eventually being appointed Superintendent of Police in 1968. In 1970, he became only the second man ever to be appointed Commissioner of Police from within the ranks of the Department.

In 1973, John Nichols tossed his hat into the political ring, challenging then State Senator Coleman Young for the post of Mayor of Detroit. The Sheriff lost a very close election to Young, who was to guide the city of Detroit for the next 20 years.

After eleven months in the private sector, John Nichols returned to law enforcement as Undersheriff to Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen. Three years later, Sheriff Nichols became police chief in Farmington Hills and in 1984, he was elected Oakland County Sheriff, receiving

- Approval of the Frank Greenan Detention Facility which provided 180 additional inmate beds
- Initiation of a military style Bootcamp program
- Origination of the Sentence Reduction Program
- Founding of the Inmate Employability Program
- Implementation of the Inmate Zero Tolerance Program

“Before John Nichols became Sheriff, morale in the department was at its lowest point ever; we were on the brink of despair,” recalls Captain Mike McCabe. “The department also lacked a good working relationship with the other police agencies in Oakland County.”

But McCabe said Sheriff Nichols changed all that. By instituting a series of poli-

cies, procedures, rules, regulations and guidelines, Sheriff Nichols was able to restore morale in the department. He also used his enormous credibility as an admired and

respected law enforcement professional to rekindle a strong working relationship between the Sheriffs Department and the other 44 police agencies in Oakland County.

“Sheriff Nichols was the number one man in law enforcement throughout the community,” said Undersheriff Henry Buffa. “His depth, perception and know how was unsurpassed.”

Now John Nichols, his life's work completed here on earth, belongs to the ages. He was a leader and a warrior to the end.

“Before John Nichols became Sheriff, morale in the department was at its lowest point ever; we were on the brink of despair,” recalls Captain Mike McCabe.

69.3% of the votes cast. He was re-elected Sheriff in 1988 with 70.5% of the vote, again in 1992 with 64.9% of the vote and finally in 1996 with 51.2% of the vote.

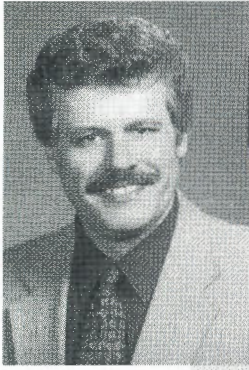
During his illustrious 14 years at the helm of the 1,000 person Oakland County Sheriff's Department, John Nichols compiled an enviable list of accomplishments which included:

- Expansion of the Inmate Services Unit
- Construction of the new Jail Annex which provided 488 more beds for inmates

ATTITUDE

by Charles Swindoll

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of Attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company. . . a church. . . a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the Attitude we will embrace. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our Attitude. . . I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you. . . we are in charge of our Attitudes.”



Bob Dustman
Media and Com-
munications

The View from Here

I'm in pretty good spirits these days because I not only survived another holiday season, but I also managed to make it through the "Blizzard of 1999" with barely a hair out of place. Actually, the former accomplishment was a lot more difficult than the latter.

In a metaphorical sense, I spent most of the holiday season in a "blizzard" of activity, going from one party to the next without much down time in between. There were the parties associated with work such as the Employees Christmas Party, the Director's Christmas Party and the Manager's Christmas Party - not to mention the surprise party for Rich Strenger, Development & Planning, who recently graduated from law school. By the way Rich, congratulations on a job well done. It's not easy holding down a full time job and then attending classes at night and somewhere betwixt and between trying to find time to study.

The cavalcade of celebrations continued with my wife's company holiday party, which not so conveniently occurred the night before the Manager's party and just ahead of a dinner party with friends that weekend.

Then there's my wife's family and the myriad of holiday festivities which found us hop-scotching between Livonia, Ann Arbor and Harsen's Island. In terms of sheer numbers, her family makes the Kennedy clan look small. Family reunions are better suited for a convention center than they are someone's home. My wife and I have been together nearly four years now and every time I turn around, I'm meeting a new relative. Guess I'd better stop turning around! Anyway,

keeping names and faces straight has become a full time job and when they're all in one place, at one time during the holidays the experience reaches nightmarish portions.

My wife is recovering from sore ribs caused by my nudging her gently whenever someone walks toward us at a family gathering who I don't recognize. If I were given a pop quiz on matching names with faces, I'd fail miserably. In my family, if you remember my mother's name, my brother's name and my son's name, you're pretty much in the clear.

I envy her large family, but I must confess to feeling left out sometimes whenever they start reminiscing about times past or some of the colorful characters who have come and gone.

At any rate, the holidays are over for another year and quite frankly I'm glad my life is returning to normal, or as normal as it ever gets for me.

The timing of the "Blizzard of '99" was perfect as far as I was concerned. We had just returned from - guess where? That's right, spending New Year's Eve with my wife's sister and brother-in-law, niece and nephew. Nothing was planned for Saturday or Sunday. My battle cry was - "No where to go, so bring on the snow." Mother Nature complied and we spent the weekend sitting by the fireplace watching Old Man Winter dump on us.

It was a very comfortable way to usher in the New Year.

Have a great 1999 everybody. I'm ready for spring. How about you?

Motorcycle Charity Run Raises Funds for Seriously Ill Kids

More than 500 motorcyclists revved up their bikes on Sunday, October 4, 1998 and headed out from Oakland County International Airport to Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor on a mission of mercy. The 1998 Motorcycle Charity Run down M-59 to U.S. -23 and ultimately to the University of Michigan campus raised \$17,000, an increase of \$2,500 over the year before despite the fact there were 174 fewer riders this year.

The money will go toward providing long-term hospitalized youngsters suffering from cancer and other debilitating diseases with the educational materials and part time teachers they need to keep up on school-work during their absence from class.

"We had more than a dozen Oakland County employees, mainly from the airport and Road Commission, participating in this year's charity run," said Karl Randall, manager of Oakland County International Airport, who rode his classic 1975 Honda CB 750K in this year's event.

Kaz Mamon, a private business owner in Oakland County, started the event two years ago and he chose Oakland County International Airport as the starting location because of its accessibility to M-59.

"When I went to Karl with my idea for the charity run, he was very receptive," Mamon said. "Karl and his fine staff at the airport bent over backwards to work with me and make this thing happen."

The charity run receives donations from a wide variety of sources including corporate sponsors, riders, 50/50 drawings, raffles and the sale of commemorative t-shirts with all of the proceeds going to help the kids at Mott Children's Hospital.

If you'd like to be a participant in next year's Motorcycle Charity Run, you can contact Kaz Mamon at his email address which is <http://members.AOL.COM/KMamon3654/MOTT.html> or you can leave a message on his voice mail at (248) 452-7769.

Personnel Department Shines In Giving

by Dawn Smith, Personnel Department

The Personnel Department has been known for getting involved in numerous charities around Oakland County, as well as in neighboring counties.

This year, the March of Dimes WalkAmerica turned out to be a fun filled event. The Personnel Department worked hard at selling paper tennis shoes and raising pledges for the walk. A challenge by FM&O to see who could raise the most funds for this great cause made us work even harder. A dunk tank was set up at the walk site in Auburn Hills with the losing team subjected to the indignity of being dunked. Tom Eaton was the chosen Personnel representative. When the scores were all tallied up and totals figured out, it was definitely a land slide with FM&O raising a larger sum than our department. (Raffles, golf and other large events helped FM&O with their large fund raising totals.) Tom Eaton showed up at the dunk tank on walk day with his suit and tie and was ready for the fun. Little did he know that his wife, Judy Eaton, would be one of the first to dunk him. Just about everyone in Personnel pledged a walker, or walked in WalkAmerica 1998. The challenge seemed to get a lot more people involved this year.

The Personnel Department has also been dressing Goodfellow Dolls since 1994 for the Fraser Goodfellows. When we originally started dressing dolls, all dresses were store bought and were made to fit a different type of doll. In 1997, Karen Hall decided to try her hand at sewing a few outfits. Using left over material and lace from other sewing projects, she created some of her



An assortment of Goodfellow Dolls dressed in hand-sewn outfits made by talented employees of the Personnel Department.

own patterns and started putting outfits together. Most outfits also have a special hat to match the outfit material. She has made dresses, skirts and tops, jumpsuits and pajamas. The hand-sewn outfits certainly add an extra special touch to the Goodfellow Dolls.

Needless to say, these outfits turned out to be a huge success and everyone started asking Karen to make outfits for them. This year with all of Karen's hard work and dedication, she was able to make 30 different outfits. Also making handsewn outfits this year were Betty Francis, Mary Pardee and Saroj Lalaji. Each outfit turned out beautiful and added a smile to a young girl's face. The Personnel Department has really contributed to the success of the Fraser Goodfellow Doll Program.

Lozeena Investigation Headlined in National Publication

The Oakland County Health Division's successful investigation of a lead poisoning outbreak among members of a local family has found its way into print and was featured in a December 11 publication distributed nationally by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

The CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, which is widely viewed as the bible of public health professionals, highlighted the Health Division's efforts to track down the origin of the lead poisoning outbreak. It marked the first time anywhere in the world that lead poisoning had been traced to Lozeena, which is a bright orange powder used by Iraqis to

color rice and meat. Normally, lead poisoning is associated with paint or contaminated water.

"Being featured in the CDC publication is a major feather in our caps," said Rosemarie Rowney, manager of the Health Division. "This weekly report is read by virtually all public health agencies in the nation and serves as a wonderful educational tool for keeping current on important public health issues."

The Health Division's investigation found that thirteen members of an Oakland County family had higher than normal levels of lead in their blood. The origin of the contamination was traced to Lozeena

which health officials determined was brought into the United States from Iraq. Testing of Lozeena sold commercially at retail stores in the Detroit area showed the product to be safe for human consumption.

Lead poisoning symptoms can include stomach upset and cramps, colic and behavioral problems. Young children are especially vulnerable to concentrations of lead poisoning because they absorb the substance more quickly than adults.

The state estimates that lead poisoning affects more than 38,000 Michigan children and officials suggest annual testing for kids ages 6 months to 6 years.

Former Radio Communications Supervisor Earns Statewide Honor



Deputy Dennis Smith displays the awards he received as 1998 APCO Technician of the Year.

Dennis Smith, the former supervisor of Radio Communications in the Support Services Division, has been selected by the Michigan Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Officials (APCO) as the 1998 Technician of the Year. Smith received the prestigious award during the association's annual business meeting which was held on October 22, 1998 in Frankenmuth.

"I'm extremely thrilled to have received the award, especially in light of the fact I was nominated by my peers in the radio communications field," Smith said.

In announcing Smith's selection as Technician of the Year in its September/October 1998 newsletter, APCO said: "Dennis has for many years contributed behind the scenes to the welfare and safety of the citizens and law enforcement. He was instrumental in the development and maintenance of Oakland County's multi-site 800 MHz trunked voice and radio system as well as a UHF data system."

Smith, who has been a county employee for 27 years, transferred from Radio Communications to the Sheriff's Department in March of 1998, ending a nine year stint as supervisor. Despite his new assignment, Smith still serves on APCO's Frequency Allocation Committee and chairs the Engineering Committee.

Smith's award comes with certain perks as well, such as a one year free membership in APCO, a \$250 gift certificate toward overnight accommodations at the Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island and a commemorative plaque which recognizes his achievement as Technician of the Year.

Smith and his wife of 27 years live in Waterford Township. They have three boys and a granddaughter.

Two Sheriff's Department communications agents, Lorrie Manning and Judith Marcos, received honorable mentions in the Telecommunicator of the Year category.

A Raffle for Gus

by Dawn Smith, Personnel Department

Gus Robinson, 34 of Pontiac, was trying to protect a family member when he was stabbed with a knife in the temple approximately 15 years ago. The injuries he suffered in the attack left him paralyzed in his legs and one arm and prohibited him from speaking. He was left with a functional mind, but with use of only his left hand. For 15 years he has been confined to a wheelchair, unable to feed himself, clean himself or do anything else - much less communicate.

Dan Young, an FM&O employee, met Gus at the Easter Seals. After trying to communicate with him, Dan decided something needed to be done to help Gus with his everyday tasks, so a raffle was organized to get Gus a Dynavox Computer. This computer would allow Gus to enter information by typing it out, and the machine would talk for him.

Three autographed Red Wing jerseys were raffled off to benefit Gus. The jerseys were autographed by Joey Kocur, Brendan Shanahan and Darren McCarty. They were also framed in glass display

cases. Tickets were sold for \$10 a piece. Tickets were sold by FM&O, Information Technology, Sheriff's Department, Personnel and the Courthouse.

The raffle was chaired by Undersheriff Henry Buffa who personally raised \$7,500 within a time period of less than 20 minutes. The raffle began with a single major contribution of \$5,000 from Ronald Bray, president of Simplified Employment Services of Auburn Hills. Another donor, who wished to remain anonymous, gave \$3,000. The raffle raised more than the required amount to purchase the Dynavox Computer. The total amount raised was \$13,050 and the remaining money was given to Easter Seals to benefit other people who may need things such as wheelchairs, prothesis, etc. and who are financially unable to purchase these items.

The drawing for the Red Wing jerseys was held on December 11, 1998. Chandra Baalu from Information Technology was



Gus Robinson, a 34 year old Pontiac resident, beams during the holiday raffle where he received a new computer that will allow him to communicate more effectively with other people.

chosen as one of the jersey winners. Baalu donated her jersey to an 11 year old terminally ill child.

When presented with the computer, Gus used his new gift to thank everyone by typing the words "I Love You All."

The county once again demonstrated its giving spirit during the holiday season!

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counseling to women and children who are victims of domestic violence; Child Abuse & Neglect Council of Oakland County (Care House) which offers counseling to families whose children are victims of sexual or physical abuse; Women's Survival Center which offers a variety of services including child care for infants, individual and group counseling, community education programs and legal services; Steppin' Out which raises funds for people living with HIV and AIDS; Blankets for Babies which makes sure that newborns are kept warm with hand-crafted blankets; Community Services of Oakland County which serves the needs of families,

youth and senior citizens in South Oakland County; North Oakland Medical Center - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit which provides special programs for newborns that treat a wide range of birth problems including premature births, high risk pregnancies and birth complications and Santa Elves whose volunteers distribute toys, mittens, hats and other clothing items to needy children.

"I am honored to present these checks to the charities on behalf of the generous men and women of County government who make this gift possible each year through their weekly contributions to the Casual Day Fund," Mr. Patterson said. "Since the Casual Day Program began in 1993, thousands of needy individuals have benefited from the generosity of Oakland County employees."

After all the checks were handed out, the grand prize winners in the Employee Suggestion Program were announced. The first place prize of a trip to Hawaii or the \$4,000 cash equivalent will be shared by Teri Hege, Community Mental Health and Marilyn Nepjuk, Payroll Division. Their

suggestion to have CMH bill Blue Cross/Blue Shield for intake interviews, individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy and psychological testing will generate an additional \$71,000.

Taking home the second place prize of a trip to Cancun or the \$2,000 cash equivalent was James Foltz, Facilities, Maintenance & Operations, whose suggestion to



ESP Winners and friends. *Bottom row, left to right:* Alisa Caniff (\$500), Jacqueline Howes (\$500 & \$250), Linda Isenberg (\$500), Sue Cullen (\$500), Mary Pardee (\$500), Vickie Smith (Toronto) and James Foltz (Cancun). *Back row, left to right:* Frank Russell, ESP Coordinator, Commissioner Shelley Taub, ESP committee chairperson, Mr. Patterson, Marilyn Nepjuk (Hawaii) and Terri Hege (Hawaii).

divide the responsibility for snowplowing and salting the service center between the County and the Road Commission will save more than \$28,000.

Vicki Smith, Support Services, earned her trip to Toronto or the \$750 cash equivalent by suggesting the front of envelopes containing prohibited material be blacked out. By doing this, only the return addresses will be visible which means the sender will be responsible for the postage. This new procedure will save the County about \$20,000.

The \$500 cash award winners were: Linda Isenberg, Management & Budget and Sue Cullen, Reimbursement, whose idea to electronically transfer monies due the Clerk's Office will save more than \$10,000; Kurian Joycham, Drain Commissioners Office, whose idea to have his department produce testing solution rather than purchasing the product from a vendor will save approximately \$6,100; Alisa Caniff, Probate Court, whose suggestion to eliminate paper copies of the runaway list because its available on the main-frame for authorized personnel will save

\$2,200; Jacqueline Howes, Children's Village, will save the County some \$2,200 as a result of her suggestion to print a single two-sided master copy of the court schedule; Mary Pardee, Personnel Dept., who suggested furnishing a list of standard mileage from the county complex to frequent cities of destination, thus taking the guesswork out of tracking mileage and Cynthia Harper, Probate Court, who suggested placing the Probate Court in-house phone list on the "N" drive.

Winners of the \$250 random drawing were: Ellen Halsey, Elections Division who suggested mailing county directories at book rates rather than third class; Mark Brigolin, FM&O, a double winner, for suggesting the creation of a picnic site between

Childrens Village and the Waterford Oaks Activity Center and for the idea to allow tenths of percents on Deferred Comp deductions and Tom Lepping, FM&O, who suggested selling equipment, vehicles and furniture at specialized auctions that offer national advertising.

"I offer my sincere congratulations to all of the winners, as well as everyone who took the time to submit suggestions," Mr. Patterson said. "The tremendous success of ESP proves that those closest to the day-to-day operations of county government are the ones best able to come up with ideas for improving efficiency and cost effectiveness."

In 1998, suggestions submitted to ESP will save or generate more than \$142,000 which brings the six year grand total to more than \$3.5 million.

One of the best features of ESP is that no taxpayer dollars are used to fund the prizes awarded each year. The program is totally funded through the proceeds raised during the County Executive's Annual Golf Outing.

Bar Association Claims Another Title

by Kelly Stout

The Bar Association softball team continued its dominance of the County Employees Softball League this summer by winning their 8th championship of the 1990's. The Bar team, made up mostly of former judicial clerks and their spouses, defeated a team from the Drain Commissioners office 6-5 in the final game. The victory brought the Bar Association's playoff record in the 1990's to an astounding 26 and 1. Members of the Bar Association team are: Player/coach Brad Stout, a former clerk to Judge David Breck and Stout's wife Kelly; Magistrate Bob Badgley and his wife Bobbie, who is a former secretary to Judges Mester and Anderson; Gary LaDue, former Deputy Circuit Court Administrator and his wife Diane; Friend of the Court Referee, David Hoffman; Mike Bryant, former clerk to Judge Gilbert and his wife Julie; and defense attorney Kevin Cleary. Non lawyer members of the team are Mark Alfes and Dean Wade.



1998 Oakland County Employees Softball League Champions

Front row left to right: David Hoffman, Diane LaDue and Julie Walker. The two women standing in the second row are left to right Kelly Stout and Bobbie Badgley. Back row left to right: Bob Badgley, Mike Bryant, Mark Alfes, Dean Wade, Brad Stout, and Kevin Cleary.

Oakland County Employees Softball Standings (Final) 8-5-98

	Win	Loss
1. Bar Association	9	1
2. OC Slammers, Too	9	1
3. Team OCPO	7	3
4. Equalization	6	4
5. Road Commission	6	4
6. OC Slammers	5	5
7. Health	5	5
8. MR Hounds	4	6
9. Circuit Breakers	3	7
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the Telegraph

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JUST PERFECT!!

Like many young people, Sue Johnston, MSU Extension/Oakland County, had her sights set on getting a college education after graduation from high school. By the early seventies, Johnston had racked up eighteen credit hours at Oakland Community College. But then a husband, children and a career entered the picture, sidetracking her educational plans for the next twenty-five years.

However, not one to give up on a goal easily, Johnston resumed her college education at OCC a couple of years ago, taking two courses each semester year around.

Somehow she managed to balance the responsibilities of a family and full-time job and not only graduate, but in the process, register a perfect 4.0 grade point average. This "straight A" accomplishment covered not just a semester's worth of credits, but her entire 65 credit hours at OCC. The classes she took on the way to her associate's degree in business admin-

istration were nothing to sneeze at either. They included accounting, economics, business law and algebra.

Johnston isn't quite finished yet with her education. After receiving her diploma from OCC in May, she'll be attending the Troy branch of Central Michigan University, where she's already been accepted and where she hopes to earn her bachelor's degree.

"That's so embarrassing," said Johnston when told the Telegraph wanted to feature her success story in the next edition. "My husband (Dick Johnston, manager of FM&O) always told me, people hate people like me because I was always the curve-buster in school."

But it's almost impossible not to like Sue Johnston and the fact she attained such a remarkable record should be a source of pride, not embarrassment. She earned what she got. But why after so many years did she decide to crack the books again?

"For advancement with the County," Johnston replied. "I had hit a brick wall as far as going any further without that official stamp. I also wanted my son to see just how important a college education is to succeeding life."

By the time she finishes her bachelor's degree, Johnston said, her husband will be retiring from the County and then maybe she'll use that diploma to pursue a second career.

Johnston, who is a Certified Advanced Master Gardener, has been with Oakland County since 1977, beginning her career in the Personnel Department.

She and her husband live in Waterford Township and when possible, they like to spend their spare time golfing or fishing.

But Johnston said she's looking forward to the day when she can go fishing without a pole in one hand and a school book in the other.

??? Who Knew ???

The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.

The youngest pope was 11 years old.

First novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

"I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds.

In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.

The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, G.P.

No NFL team which plays its home games in a domed stadium has ever won a Superbowl (Guess that explains the Lions)

Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.

The airplane Buddy Holly died in was the "American Pie." Thus the name of the Don McLean song.

Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them would burn their houses down - hence the expression "to get fired."

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. Spades - King David, Clubs - Alexander the Great, Hearts - Charlemagne and Diamonds - Julius Caesar.

kudos celebrations coming & going

kudos

Bruce Karmann and **Tom Hensel**, Auditing Division, along with **Richard McGraw**, retiree, raised \$1,253 during the "1998 MS Longest Day of Golf Champion Foursomes held at Springfield Oaks on May 20, 1998. They golfed 36 holes.

births

Michelle Stover, Aviation, and her husband, Dave, are the proud parents of David Lee who was born on 12-12-98.

Keith Harding, Maintenance, and his wife Kay, welcomed Sarah born on 11-2-98.

Dana Stodgel, Maintenance, and his wife Melanie, welcomed Austin born on 11-19-98.

Dana Scholts of Fiscal Services, Accounts Payable, and her husband James and son Austin, welcome the addition of Sheyenne Ashley on May 21, 1998.

marriages

Congratulations to **Andrea Morettin**, Community Mental Health, on her marriage to Christian Supina on 11-14-98.

Congratulations to **Kimberly Peterson**, Auditing Division, who married Kevin Galin on August 22, 1998.

promotions

Richard Whetstone, Custodial, was promoted to custodial worker II on 11-7-98.

Kent Powers, Maintenance, was promoted to general maintenance mechanic on 11-21-98.

Tom Pecheniuk, Safety, was promoted to building safety attendant on 11-21-98.

Ray Rice, Technical Support, was promoted to maintenance planner II on 10-24-98.

transfers

Joel Casabuena, Custodial, transferred to the Sheriff's Department on 11-21-98.

Timothy Keesling, Custodial, transferred to the Sheriff's Department on 11-7-98.

Lauren C. Hall, formerly of MSU Extensions, has transferred to Veterans' Services as a Veterans Benefits Counselor.

new employees

Tamara Willis, Custodial, hired in as a general helper on 11-9-98.

Harold Grice, Heating, hired in as a boiler operation on 11-23-98.



Jim Emerick

"He is a very dedicated guy; very thorough," said Paul Hunter, manager of Facilities Engineering, when asked to comment on Jim Emerick.

Jim has worked for Oakland County since March 1987 when he left a consulting firm in Taylor to join Facilities Engineering. It's Jim's job to make sure the County's various construction projects run

smoothly. Over the past couple of years, Jim's been involved in the renovation of the new 52/4 District Court Building in Troy, the paving of the south intersection and construction of the Frank Greenan Inmate Housing Facility.

"The best part of my job is the day-to-day variety of the things I do," Jim said. You never know what's really going to happen when you come in; everyday is just a little different."

When he does get a chance to kick back and relax, Jim likes to head for the links. "I golf a little bit, but not as much as I would like to," Jim said. "I'm not a very good golfer, but maybe I could improve if I spent more time at it."

Actually, golf plays a poor second to Jim's real passion - his family. Whenever possible, Jim spends as much time as he can with wife Karen and their two children, eleven year old Jim and nine year old Jenny. The Emericks reside in Macomb Township.

Robert Rhein

Four years ago, Robert Rhein gave up his consulting business to join the Purchasing Division as a buyer. It turned out to be a good move for both Bob and Oakland County. His stellar performance was rewarded recently with his selection as Employee of the Month.

"I was surprised to have been chosen, but glad it happened," said Bob. "The best part of my job is the enjoyment I get from working with such a widely diverse group of people here at Oakland County."

Prior to running his own business, Bob spent 26 years working for Sears.

"We are very fortunate to have found Bob," said Holly Cusatis, chief of Purchasing." He is very dependable, thorough and a real asset to the department. We're lucky to have him.

Bob and his wife live in Waterford and they have four grown children whom he says are "spread out all around the country."

In those quiet moments, Bob likes to fish and read, but according to him there isn't enough time to do much of either.



more employees next page

Employee of the Month



Mary Shelton

As a receptionist in the Administration Building at Children's Village, Mary Shelton, clerk III, mans a front line position at a very busy location. Mary, a nine year veteran of county government, was recently honored as Employee of the Month.

Mary says the best part of her job is meeting all the people who come through the door at Children's Village.

Mary's boss, Fran Margherio, supervisor of Administrative Services at the Village, marvels at Mary's calmness under fire.

"She's in a very busy spot with a lot of people going through the double-lock doors to get back in to the secured area of the building," Margherio said. "But even with parents screaming and attorneys getting upset, Mary never bats an eye. She always remains cool, calm and collected."

"Mary is very helpful and treats everyone nicely," Margherio said. "I wish I had a few more just like her."

Mary is an Auburn Hills resident who has three grown children. In her "spare" time Mary can usually be found at a bowling alley pursuing that elusive 300 game.



Hua Pan

In the ten years since Hua Pan left his native China to seek new opportunities in the United States, he has made an indelible impression on those he has met. For example, his outstanding work the last five years as a network systems specialist at Information Technology, recently earned Hua Employee of the Month honors.

"I was so excited to learn I had received the award," Hua said. "It was a very big surprise."

As a systems specialist, Hua provides support services for financial accounting, human resource management, GIS, data warehousing and delinquent taxes.

Prior to coming to Oakland County, Hua worked in the food retail business in west Michigan. Although his parents have now relocated to Oakland County and live with him, Hua still has a brother and sister who reside in China.

"Hua is very conscientious in his work and self-motivated," said David Veit, chief of Technical Services at I.T. "Hua knows his job well and what he doesn't know he tries to root out."

Hua lives in Waterford with his wife and two sons, ages 4 and 5.

Rosie Jordan



It was the phone call Rosie Jordan never expected. One day while enjoying an off day at home away from the rigors of her job as a registered nurse at the Medical Care Facility, the phone rang and it was her boss, Shirla Kugler, on the other end of the line. Kugler called to inform Rosie she had been selected as Employee of the Month.

"I was really surprised," recalled Rosie. "Nothing like that has ever happened to me during my fifteen years at MCF."

Her duties as an RN include dispensing medication, charting and talking to the residents, which she says is one of her favorite parts of the job.

"She definitely decided on the right profession," said Kugler, who is MCF manager. "Rosie has always been a caring person and her approach to nursing doesn't stop with her daily duties. She always goes above and beyond what is required of her." Kugler adds that Rosie is an exemplary employee who always has the residents well-being first in her mind. Rosie and her husband live in Pontiac. In her spare time, she likes reading and going to the movies.

Dale Polley



"We'd be lost without her," said Joe Matkosky, supervisor of the General Revenue/Grants Unit of Fiscal Services when asked to comment on Dale Polley, an accountant and recipient of the Employee of the Month Award. "Dale is very hardworking and an excellent employee who requires very little supervision."

Dale has worked in Management and Budget for her entire twenty year career with Oakland County. Being selected as Employee of the Month caught her a little bit off guard.

"I was shocked, but honored at the same time to have been selected," Dale said. "There are so many good people in this department with whom it's a pleasure to work."

Dale and her husband, Glen, who is a firefighter, enjoy spending their spare time camping. They try to find a new spot each year. In their travels, the Polley's have seen a good deal of the country, from Myrtle Beach to Yellowstone National Park.

Dale and Glen have a seven year old daughter, Lisa and ten year old son, Mark.

1998 Totals

For 1998: \$33,220.40

24

78%

Casual Day Fund

ESP Suggestions

Direct Deposit