



the

oakland county employees newsletter

Telegraph



summer 1999

Oakland County's Own "Wonder Woman"

For years, Lynda Carter starred in the television version of Wonder Woman. But off the screen, Oakland County has its own Wonder Woman in the form of Rosemarie Rowney, manager of the Oakland County Health Division. On May 12, Rowney became the first female health officer in Oakland County to ever be recognized by the Women's Survival Center as one of its Wonder Woman Award recipients.

"Rosemarie is being honored this year because she has advanced the cause of women in numerous ways," said Nancy Kort, director of Development for the Women's Survival Center.

"She has been a leader in women's health issues and under her direction the Health Division has received many program and service awards."

Also honored at the 18th Annual Wonder Woman Celebration held at the Lafayette Grand in Pontiac were Mattie Johnson, parent liaison for the Pontiac School District and Annetta Miller, a member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors.

"I was delighted with the title Wonder Woman, what an extraordinary thing", said Rowney. "I was especially pleased to have been nominated by one of my staff members, Betty Yancey."



The Women's Survival Center's 1999 Wonder Woman Award recipients from left to right: Mattie Johnson, Rosemarie Rowney, and Annetta Miller.

Past Wonder Woman honorees include: Judges Joan Young and Denise Langford Morris, former commissioners Nancy McQuillen and Joanne Holbert and Barbara Miller, a former Health Division employee who now works for the Judson Center.

(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

Mail Room Debuts New Program

The Mail Room recently implemented a program for large mailings which is designed to save county departments a substantial amount of money. Vickie Smith, Mail Room office leader, says that in order to qualify for the new program, a mailing must be more than 200 pieces (flats or envelopes) and all the information contained within must be identical and non-personalized.

Smith asks that if a mailing meets both criteria, a sample should be sent to her with the date the mailing is to go out along with the total number of pieces being sent as well as a contact person and phone number.

"Once that information is received by me at the Mail Room, I will then do research to determine how optimum savings can be obtained," Smith said. "Once that's completed, I'll contact the individual and advise them on what to do next and how much of a savings their department may realize."

Smith estimates the savings per piece could range from \$0.34 to as much as \$0.70, which she says would be a great opportunity for county government to achieve some real cost efficiencies.

PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

Learning is a lifelong pursuit for those who want to enrich themselves. Fortunately for the employees of Oakland County government we have an active and very involved Personnel Department which offers a wide variety of excellent training and development programs.

Many of the in-service training programs offered by the county assist employees in learning new skills or improving old ones. These valuable learning tools are available on a monthly to once or twice a year basis. Monthly courses include cultural diversity, non-violent crisis intervention and Presentation Excellence. Other classes coming up in the fall include reading dynamics, time management and grammar and writing.

Any employee interested in taking a course should fill out a registration form, have their supervisor sign it and then submit their request to the Personnel Training Division which will then notify the applicant by letter if there is an opening. The course registration forms are available on the "O" drive under

Personnel training. Catalogues containing the course information may also be obtained through the Personnel Training Division.

Employees interested in furthering their education in a particular career field can take advantage of the county's Tuition Reimbursement Program which is open to all full time or part time eligible employees. The prospective student pays up front for the class and then is reimbursed for up to \$600 per session or a maximum of \$1,800 per calendar year after submitting grades and proof of payment. However, the employee must be on the county payroll at the time reimbursement is made.

The important thing to remember is that tuition reimbursement makes it easy for employees to pursue career opportunities within county government. So whether you have your sights set on a career in nursing, engineering, counseling or business management, the doorway to a satisfying future is right here in Oakland County government. You need look no



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

further. Our goal is to attract and retain quality employees. One way we can do that is by offering an array of superb training and development programs which provide our dedicated men and women with an opportunity to grow and learn so that they may realize their full potential.

Solid Waste Guru Heads to Greener Pastures . . . Literally

Ten years to the day he became Oakland County's manager of Solid Waste, Roger Smith is retiring to his 4 plus acres which are nestled among the greenery and woodlands of rural Livingston County.

"I promised myself that I would retire by the age of 60 and I'm quickly closing in on that date (July 15)," Smith said.

Prior to coming to his present position in Oakland County government in June of 1989, Smith served as Director of Public Services in the city of Southfield where he had responsibility over planning, building, water/sewer, streets/highways and the motor pool. At the time, he freely admits that he was also the south-end's biggest and most vocal critic of the county's efforts in the area of solid waste planning.

"Early in 1989 I met with the chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners who urged me to come up here and help them out," Smith recalled. "I thought about it and said why not."

One of the more contentious issues faced during his tenure was the proposed \$500 million incinerator project which was

ultimately approved by voters in November 1991. However, the incinerator was never built after convincing arguments were made about the advisability of spending so much money on a project at a time when a substantial amount of landfill capacity had been authorized and approved. Looking back now, Smith feels the incinerator died an appropriate death in 1992. From an economic perspective, Smith thinks it would have been a bad deal for the county.

Among his major accomplishments, Smith listed the 1991 incinerator ballot initiative and changes in the State's Solid Waste Law which he successfully fought for and won. When Smith began his career here in 1989, the county had six landfills, but now there are only four. Of those, one is limited to receiving yard waste, another will close in three to four years, another will shut down in 2003 unless expanded and still another is slated to close in 2005 or 2006. So what happens then?

"That's the debate going on right now," Smith said. "Do we go to 100% export or will the Eagle Valley landfill in Orion Township be expanded?"

Smith confesses that the idea of retirement scares him just a little bit. But Roger shouldn't worry too much, not with all the projects his wife has planned for him. He won't have much time to wonder if he made the right decision.

"I have a 'to do' list with about 50 items on it," Smith said.

When he gets a respite from his chores, Roger hopes to do a little fly fishing, a passion which he hasn't been able to pursue much over the past ten years. He and his wife, Judy, are looking forward to traveling, mostly in the United States where they can explore some places they've never been.

As Mr. Smith goes to Livingston County for some well deserved R&R, he will notice some changes in household duties.

"When we lived in our last home, the yard work was Judy's thing and I didn't touch it," Smith said. "But now that we have 4plus acres, she's decided the law is my responsibility."

Good luck, Roger.

Good Ideas Reap Financial Rewards

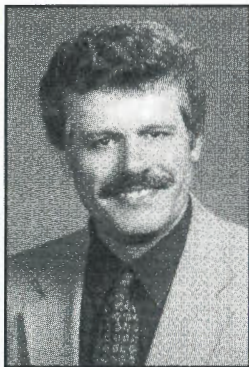
Since the first of the year, seventeen Oakland County employees have each received \$50 checks for coming up with great ideas for saving money, increasing revenues, preventing injury or improving service to the public. The following people are the latest interim winners in the Employee Suggestion Program.

- ◆ **Joanie Toole and Heide Hawley**, Animal Control, suggested making packets of information available at municipalities, veterinarian offices and kennels regarding state laws pertaining to domesticated animals and tips on responsible pet ownership.
- ◆ **Jeannie Kolb**, Clerks Office, suggested sending Board of Commissioners agenda and minutes to recipients via E-mail rather than printing and mailing out the information. Potential savings is estimated at \$1,585.
- ◆ **Barbara Puckett**, Health Division, suggested using the County's mailroom for processing U.S. mail for the South and West Division Health offices at a cost savings of \$1,847.
- ◆ **Judy Fandale**, Personnel Department, suggested changing the rate table for benefits tables to reflect the actual dollar amount the employee and the county owes for the employee's benefits.
- ◆ **Kathy Taylor**, Planning & Economic Development, suggested revising the dog license application so that it can fit into a No. 10 business envelope. Such a change would save staff time and improve service to the public.
- ◆ **Sue Quinlan**, Media & Communications, suggested establishing a computer site for employees to sell and/or swap personal items and donate proceeds to the Casual Day Fund.
- ◆ **Jere Shockey**, Telecommunications, suggested that the County purchase and maintain its own telephone system for inmates rather than contracting with a private vendor. The idea could generate up to \$1 million in new revenues.



Interim winners in the Employee Suggestion Program: Back row, left to right: Employee suggestion program coordinator Jordie Kramer, Vicki Wardell, Judy Fandale, Linda Odneal, Shawn Wilson, Heidi Hawley
Front row, left to right: Mary Alsup, Kathy Taylor, Jeanie Kolb, Judy Foglio, Joanie Toole
Not pictured: Barbara Puckett, Sue Quinlan, Jere Shockey

- ◆ **Judy Foglio**, Information Technology, came up with a way to improve employee morale, suggesting that employees be required to telephone in benefit enrollment information only when they want to make a change in their current benefit package.
- ◆ **Mary Alsup**, County Executive Department, suggested encouraging employees to use the county toll-free telephone number 888-350-0900 when they need to contact their office while traveling out of town. The idea would reduce telephone reimbursement costs.
- ◆ **Linda Odneal**, Support Services/Record Retention, suggested installing reflector mirrors in the hallway outside the swinging doors at Record Retention in order to prevent injury and possible county liability.
- ◆ **Shawn Wilson**, Clerk Registrar, suggested providing space on forms for the public to add their telephone number, in order to save staff time.
- ◆ **Vickie Wardell**, Medical Care Facility, suggested providing employees covered under Bargaining Unit 45 with a uniform voucher for immediate purchase of uniforms thus eliminating the time it takes to order, track and distribute orders to the staff.
- ◆ **Cathy Gaberty**, Treasurers Office, suggested purchasing remanufactured toner cartridges rather than buying new toner cartridges at a potential cost savings of \$200,000.
- ◆ **Mark Broglin**, FM&O, suggested creating educational booklets which contain information about county government for school-age children who tour the courthouse and other county facilities.
- ◆ **Harshika Patel**, Information Technology, suggested improving service to the public by having Probate Court mail forms with notification letters and/or making the forms available on the Internet through the establishment of a Probate Court website.
- ◆ **Randall Smithling**, Support Services, suggested obtaining credit from a local tire company for used, plugged tires on patrol vehicles which are still in good condition but no longer can be used.



Bob Dustman
Media and
Communications

The View from Here

I got a crash course in life recently when a very close friend of mine died at the age of 57. Life lesson #1 is: No matter how bad you think you have it, somebody else always has it worse. Life lesson #2 is: Never put off something you want to do or say until tomorrow, thinking there's always time. There might not be.

Tom Quinn and I were friends for nearly 30 years. He hired me as a young news reporter at WPON radio in Pontiac back in 1972. Tom was one of the most laid back, relaxed, good natured people I've ever known. Nothing rattled him. He took life in stride, which was probably a good thing because life tested him relentlessly for 15 years.

In the mid-1980's, Tom contracted multiple sclerosis. He became more and more debilitated over the years until finally a wheelchair was the only way he could get around. But fate wasn't done with Tom just yet. In 1991, shortly after going on disability from state government, Tom developed throat cancer. The operation was successful, but doctors later discovered some suspicious looking specks on his lungs. Tom didn't volunteer any information on what those specks might have been and I didn't ask. Tom wasn't the type of guy to complain.

A few years later, Tom called to tell me that his stepdaughter Stephanie had committed suicide in the family van. I didn't learn until his funeral that this beautiful, vivacious 21 year old had been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Now you might think I'm making all this up, but unfortunately I'm not. This is the life Tom faced

during his last 15 years on this earth. It sure as hell wasn't fair, but then who said life has to be fair?

Inwardly, it was impossible to know how Tom felt, but outwardly he accepted his fate with unbelievable grace and courage. He never lamented the hand fate had dealt him. Not once did I ever hear him question why all this was happening to him.

After Tom and I left WPON, we kept in touch and a bunch of us from the old days got together occasionally to reminisce about those days gone by. Looking back now, I wish I had made the effort to see or talk to Tom more often. I always thought there would be more time. There wasn't. A lesson learned: Do it today. Tomorrow may be too late.

Considering all the burdens Tom was forced to deal with, I'm a little ashamed at getting upset over some of the mundane, inconsequential things which happen to me during the course of a day. In the final analysis, it's really no big deal.

Another lesson learned: Count your blessings. You ain't got it so bad.

Tom used to call me "The Big Guy." But that moniker should really go to him. In terms of the way he met life head-on, the way he treated his friends and made them smile, his unqualified devotion to his family and the manner in which he enriched all who knew him - Tom Quinn was the ultimate "Big Guy."

He was my friend and I will miss him. Rest in peace - Big Guy.

Library News

The Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped has changed its name. With the approval of the Board of Commissioners, this unit is now the Library for the Visually & Physically Impaired. The Library Board requested the name change to better reflect the range of patrons served by the Library. Additionally, the LVPI is celebrating 25 years of service!

**Beginning June 1,
hours of the Law Library will be:**

September - June

Mon, Wed, Fri	8:30 - 5:00
Tues, Thurs	8:30 - 8:30
Saturday	9:00 - 4:00

July

Mon, Wed, Fri	8:30 - 5:00
Tues, Thurs	8:30 - 8:30

August

Mon-Fri	8:30 - 5:00
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Construction proceeds on the new Oakland County Child Development Center.



Child Care on the Way!!

Earlier this year the Child Care Task Force provided an update to County employees about the emerging Oakland County Child Development Center. Now that the approval process has been completed, the reality of the County's center grows near!! Here is an update on happenings around the Child Development Center.....

Site Development

- Blue prints have been drafted
- Facilities Engineering has received approval from the State of Michigan, Department of Consumer & Industry Services and the Oakland County Health Division
- Renovations are underway
- Projected opening of center - Fall 1999

Program Development

- Parent Handbook - in the process of being personalized for County Employees
- NAEYC accreditation criteria is being used in the developmental phase of the center
- Recruitment of center director and staff

Marketing Development

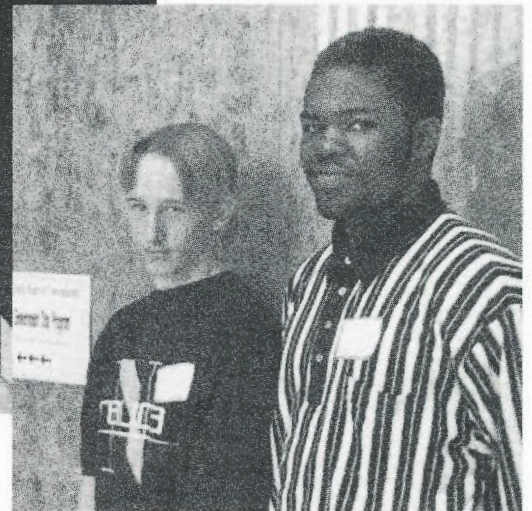
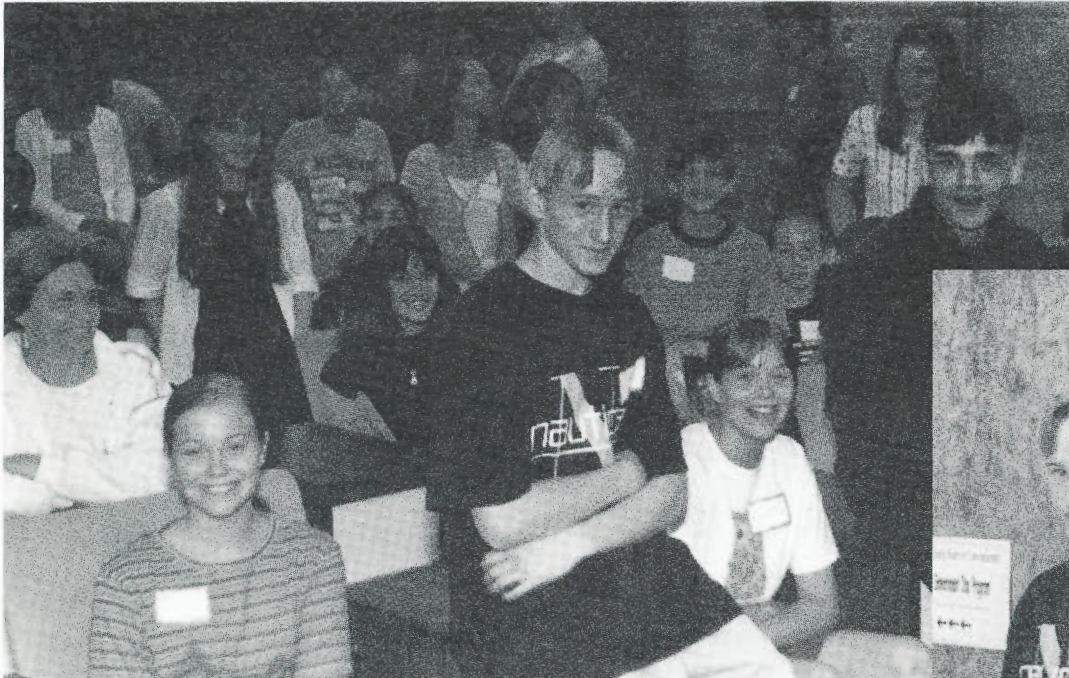
- Informational meetings
Two dates have been selected for parents interested in learning more about the County's onsite Child Development Center and Bright Horizons Family Solutions. Mark your calendar for the date that best fits your schedule; (a selection of times for you to choose from are forthcoming)
 - **Thursday, June 24th**
in the Information Technology Auditorium
 - **Wednesday, June 30th**
in the Board of Commissioners Auditorium
- Pamphlets regarding the center are being developed
- Website for the Child Development Center is currently being constructed

Stay tuned for more information . . .

If you have questions regarding the Child Development Center, contact the Personnel Department's Bill Shriner at 858-1849 or Jordie Kramer at 858-1496.

If you are interested in learning more about Bright Horizons (the selected vendor) you can visit their web site at www.brighthorizons.com

Students Visit County Campus



Students from several local high schools got an up close and personal look at the inner workings of county government during two Student Government Day programs held in April and May.

On April 15, forty students from Pontiac Central, Pontiac Northern, Clarkston, Oakland Christian and McCarroll schools started their day at the Executive Office Building where Community & Minority Affairs Director Richard Williams greeted them on behalf of Mr. Patterson, who wasn't able to be there because of a prior commitment. After hearing brief presentations from several directors and division managers concerning the role their departments play in county government, the students were taken on a tour of the One-Stop-Shop where they got to see the kiosks where a variety of data is now available in computerized format.

Then they boarded the vans provided by Parks & Recreation for tours of the new Medical Examiner's Building, Children's Village and the Road Commission's Fast-Trac operation at Information Technology.

By this time, everyone was ready for a lunch. Upon returning to the EOB, our hungry students feasted on pizza and pop.

As part of the celebration for Michigan Week, the Board of Commissioners hosted a Student Government Day program on May 18 to provide future leaders with "hands-on" experience about county government. Commissioner Nancy Dingeldey welcomed over 70 students from public and private high schools throughout Oakland County who attended this educational and exciting half-day event. Board Chairman John P. McCulloch noted that "thanks to the efforts of Julie Scislowicz with the 4-H Youth Program, this was the first year that home schooled children had an opportunity to participate."

The students were given a tour of the County Campus, including the law enforcement complex, and had an opportunity to sit in on actual Circuit Court proceedings. Sheriff Michael Bouchard and his deputies gave the youngsters an eye-opening view of life behind bars. Judge Edward Sosnick and Judy Cunningham enthralled the students with their stories of real life experiences in the court room, which was followed by an opportunity to witness actual trials.

The students learned about the legislative branch of government from

Commissioners Eric Coleman, Frank Millard, Jr., William R. Patterson and Shelley Taub who participated in a media discussion panel. The discussion was led by Detroit Free Press reporter Hugh McDiarmid, Jr. who moderated this unique forum which allowed the students to play the role of reporters and pose questions to their elected officials.

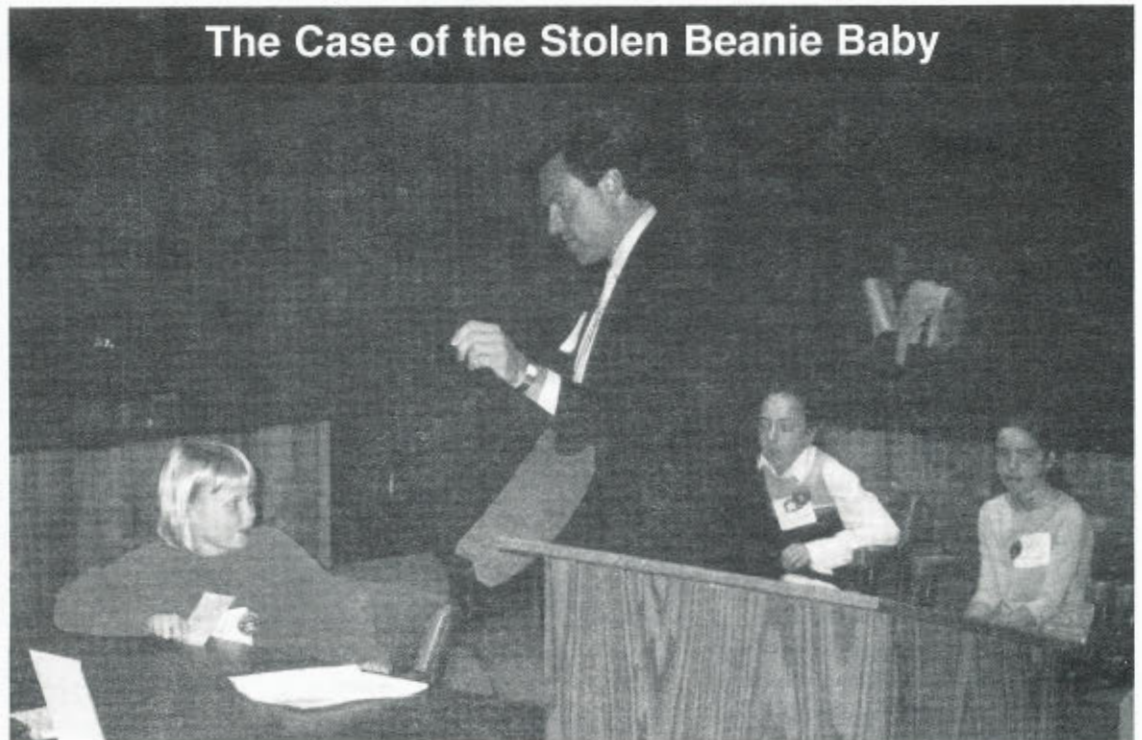
Frank Russell, Personnel recruitment specialist, advised the students on how to apply for summer jobs with Oakland County. The students responded enthusiastically to Commissioner Tim Melton, the youngest county commissioner, who encouraged them to become involved in their communities and to be active citizens.

The Student Government Program concluded with an indoor picnic at the beautiful Waterford Oaks Park -- home of the "Wave"-- Michigan's first wave-action pool. Parks and Recreation provided transportation and escorted the kids on a tour of the park. When asking for comments on how to improve the program for next year, one young person remarked, "Next year we should bring our swim suits!"

Take Your Child to Work, Prosecutor Style

by Mary Larkin, Chief Attorney-Administration

The children actively participated in mock trials, with each child performing the role of either prosecutor, defense attorney or jury member.



Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorcyca helps Gillian Miller introduce the backpack into evidence in the case of "kicks", stolen Bbeanie Baby.

On April 22, 1999 the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office hosted a tremendously successful "Take Your Child To Work Day" event for 50 of its staff members and their children. Prosecutor David Gorcyca is committed to making this both an educational and entertaining day for the children, and this year was no exception. The children actively participated in mock trials, with each child performing the role of either prosecutor, defense attorney or jury under the direction of Oakland County Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys. The younger children tried the case of the stolen Beanie Baby "Kicks" before the Honorable Wendy Potts of the Oakland County Circuit Court. With guidance from lead prosecutor David Gorcyca, the prosecution team brought the Beanie Baby thief to justice with a unanimous guilty verdict. The defendant was taken into custody by detention deputies at the conclusion of the trial.

The older kids conducted a mock trial before the Honorable Edward Sosnick, Chief Judge of the Oakland County

Circuit Court, involving a high school student who was driving drunk and killed his best friend. These participants learned about the legal concepts of circumstantial evidence, conflicting testimony and impeaching a witness on the stand. After some insightful and persuasive closing arguments by both the defense and prosecution teams, the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict and a "hung jury" was declared by Judge Sosnick. Re-trial is scheduled for next year!

In addition to the mock trials, the kids were also exposed to several tools utilized by law enforcement to investigate crimes. Two tracking dogs, Chase and Rocky, were brought in to demonstrate how police officers train dogs to detect scents for search and rescue efforts and narcotics detection. Several "hands-on" experiments with the kids left the audience amazed at the abilities of these incredibly talented dogs.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department also presented information on fingerprinting, and how it can be used to solve crimes where there are no eye

witnesses. Each child was finger-printed and given their print card as a souvenir.

The Alcohol Enforcement Team of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department demonstrated how a breathalyzer measures alcohol content in a person suspected of driving under the influence, and how this information is used in court.

Each child received an Oakland County Prosecutor's Office water bottle as a souvenir gift from Prosecutor Gorcyca, as well as having their pictures taken with their parent and Mr. Gorcyca. The program concluded with a pizza lunch for all participants and their parents.

A very sincere thanks goes out to all the volunteers from the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Judges Wendy Potts and Edward Sosnick, Officer Mifsud of the West Bloomfield Police Department's K-9 unit and Jim Hough, dog handler with the Flushing Township K-9 Team, for making this event so memorable and educational for our guests.

Canadian Officials Get Close-up Look at Circuit Court Probation's New Technology

Three Canadian officials from Toronto took the time to travel to Oakland County in March to check out Circuit Court Probation's new Offender Management Network Information System, called OMNI for short. Oakland County is only one of three counties in Michigan participating in this pilot project to test the system which integrates Circuit Court Probation with all Corrections records throughout the state, as well as provides links to local sheriff's departments.

"In the past, there were isolated data bases in each county," said Kenneth Aud, chief probation officer. "When OMNI is fully operational, all 83 counties in Michigan can share the same information on offenders."

For example, Aud said, if someone commits a crime in Oakland County, then engages in criminal activity in another county, officials will no longer be restricted to searching just that particular database. Since everyone will be on the same database, information can be accessed by simply inputting the offender's own personal ID number.

"They were very impressed with the capabilities of the system," said Aud when asked the reaction of the Canadians to what they had seen. "They're in the



Kenneth Aud, Oakland County Circuit Court's chief probation officer (second from left) reviews some facts and figures on the court's new OMNI system with his visiting guests from Toronto.

process of getting bids now from companies on installing a similar system and they wanted to hear directly from the users if the technology was doing what it was supposed to do, and they saw firsthand that it is."

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, OMNI is the only system of

its kind in the nation in terms of depth and user-friendly aspects. The system is designed to make it easy to use and assist probation and parole agents manage their caseloads more efficiently. Currently, Oakland County Circuit Court Probation is responsible for keeping track of some 6,000 offenders.

Veterans Services win retroactive disability pay for ex-Green Beret

Oakland County's Veterans Services, a division of the Department of Public Services, has once again proven itself to be a champion and chief advocate for ex-vets who often find themselves alone in their battles to win benefits from the Veterans Administration. Recently, Veterans Services, with division manager Diana Calvin leading the charge, won retroactive disability pay for Carl Lualdi of Novi, whose claim had been rejected by the V.A. after the original application was filed in February, 1995.

Lualdi, a former Green Beret who served in Vietnam, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a recognized service-related illness, eight years after he left the military. Calvin became aware of Lualdi's plight in October 1996 while talking to the mother of her daughter's friend at a dance studio. During the course of the

conversation, the woman learned what Calvin did for a living which prompted her to relate Lualdi's story.

Calvin didn't waste any time in trying to win the benefits she felt Lualdi deserved. Over the next two and a half years, Calvin and her dedicated staff began compiling a three inch case file on Lualdi, making dozens of phone calls and sending out more than thirty letters to doctors and hospitals in an effort to obtain information that could be used to justify Lualdi's claim.

"This case is a prime example of how important it is for our counselors to go the extra mile and push hard because the V.A. is so quick to deny claims," Calvin said.

After an exhausting two and a half year struggle, Calvin was able to assemble a highly credible mountain of evidence which proved conclusively Lualdi was

entitled to disability payments for his condition. He has received a retroactive lump sum payment, dating back to October, 1996, and he will be getting regular monthly payments. In addition, he will receive priority treatment at V.A. hospitals and be eligible for grants for adaptive housing, a special adaptive vehicle and clothing.

"You have one year to appeal a case after the V.A. makes its decision," Calvin said. "We were able to submit the final piece of evidence that won the case just two or three days before the final deadline."

Calvin has spent her entire 28 year career with the county in Veterans Services, starting out as a receptionist in Pontiac and working her way up the ladder as a counselor, supervisor and ultimately manager.

Hoping for Historical Help

by Jim Lehtola, Oakland County Sheriff's Department

I have always had an interest and fascination with history and, through my own suggestion, became a self appointed historian of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. My interest had been peaked by the fact that the first Oakland County sheriff was appointed by the Governor of the Michigan Territory seventeen years before Michigan was a state. The jurisdiction of the sheriff and Oakland County in general, was incredible, extending west to Kalamazoo and north to Alpena.

As I started my research, I hoped to eventually publish a book. I was surprised to find that many of the sheriffs were not even recognized for their services as chief executive. Their hard work, the dirty business of law enforcement, was seldom acknowledged. Term limitations, (there's a new idea) also played a role in the constant turnover of administrations and deputies. These law enforcement officers were prominent business owners and served their friends, government and neighbors in many positions. They were

the first township founders, merchants, businessmen, bankers, war veterans, and farmers. They did it without electricity, indoor plumbing, telegraph, telephone, radio or television. Yet their work and family names are still all around us.

In my research and investigations, I have been given the best treasures, some from long distances and some from right next door. I have talked with old friends and met great new ones. I have found that this interest in history is not mine alone and that some of the best stories and photographs have come from people that I talk with or pass everyday.

I found that while the sheriff's department takes thousands of pictures, there aren't many pictures of the people who were the department, the sheriffs and deputies. If you have that special family story or photograph please give me a call and share it with everyone. "A picture is worth a thousand words".

Jim Lehtola can be contacted at the Sheriff's Department at (248) 858-5048.

Pictured in this August 1916 photograph are (left to right): the Oakland County Prosecutor, Justice of the Peace Robinson and Deputy Sheriff Perry Green, who was later elected Sheriff and died from a self inflicted gunshot wound in 1917. (Photo courtesy of Northeast Oakland Historical Society)



The County's Own Poet Laureate

Carmen Talbot, State Government Liaison, won a \$25 cash prize for her poem entitled "Friendship" during the Village of Milford's 7th Annual Poetry Art Night which was held on April 17.

Carmen was one of six prize winners at the event sponsored by the Village Fine Arts Association.

Friendship

by Carmen Talbot

Our lives have taken us far away
From the times we used to share.
I value the time that we can spend
Just letting down our hair.

There's so much to catch up on
Our friendship spans so many years.
It's nice to have a little time
To share our joys and our fears.

When our day is over
And we must say good-bye,
We'll treasure this time we got to spend
And leave with a tear in our eye.

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Fax: (248) 858-5111

Internet: <http://www.co.oakland.mi.us>

We welcome and encourage you to send us your articles, photographs, suggestions and comments. Mail, fax, phone or e-mail them to:

Editor: Robert E. Dustman

Design: Sue Quinlan

Production: Jill Batey

Contributors: Betsy Borgacz
Mary Larkin
Mary Strobe
Jim Lehtola

Photography: David Van de Grift
Printing: Sanders Printing & the Oakland County Print Shop

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kudos

Karen Kannan, Drain Commissioners Office, Engineering & Construction, received from the MDEQ - S-4 classification, waterworks system operator.

Probate Court staff collected over 40 blankets for the blanket drive for the refugees in Kosovo.

The **Oakland Literacy Council** is celebrating its 15th anniversary of service. In May, Executive Director Cathryn Weiss received a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners honoring the Council for its work. 52-4 District Court's three Law Clerks

all passed the Bar Exam recently. **Jennifer Coad**, law clerk for Judge Michael A. Martone passed in November, 1998. **David Chiapelli** - law clerk for Judge William E. Bolle and **Thomas Cavanaugh** - law clerk for Judge Dennis C. Drury, passed in May, 1999.

Lieutenant Don McLellan, recently completed course requirements on a doctorate degree in management from Walden University.

Kelly Stout of the Drain Commissioner's office received her Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism with a minor in advertising on May 1, 1999, from Oakland University.

fond farewells

Shoma Jha, Drain Commissioners Office, Engineering & Construction, resigned from County employment effective March 1, 1999, to accept another position.

Janina Macioszek, Custodial, resigned on 6-1-99 to move to another state.

Ed Robertson, night supervisor, Central Garage, retired on May 14, 1999.

Jan Burpee retired from the Treasurer's Office on April 23, 1999 with 23 years of service for the county.

Betty Schuster retired from the Executive Office on June 4, 1999 after 18 years of service for the county.

Lester Chapman, FM&O, retired with 25 years of service on 5-14-99.

promotions

Kirt Hunt, Central Garage, was promoted from automobile mechanic II to night supervisor, effective May 17, 1999.

Kimberly Hutchison, Operations & Maintenance, was promoted on April 24 from general clerical to typist I.

Noah Larkin, Water Maintenance was promoted on March 15, 1999 from summer laborer-PTNE to general helper-FTE.

Charlie Moore, Drain Commissioners Office, Inspection Dept., was promoted from construction inspector I to construction inspector II effective April 24.

Shawn Gamble, Drain Commissioners Office, Inspection Department, was promoted from construction inspector I to construction inspector II effective April 10.

Karen Lannan, Drain Commissioners Office, Engineering & Construction, was promoted from civil engineer I to civil engineer II on October 10, 1998.

Traci Donnelly, Probate Court Estates, was promoted from clerk III to deputy probate register I.

Peggy Hoffmeyer, Probate Court Estates, was promoted from clerk II to cashier.

Christopher Cook, Probate Court Estates, was promoted from clerk II to clerk III.

Rachel Rogers, Probate Court Estates, was promoted from clerk II to clerk III.

Paula McDonald, Probate Court Estates, was promoted from clerk II to clerk III.

Kathleen Altman, Health Division, was promoted to a public health educator III.

Brett Battishill, Facilities Management, was promoted to maintenance planner I.

Bill Jackson, Facilities Management, was promoted to maintenance planner II on 5-8.

Tamra Willis, Custodial, was promoted to custodial worker II on 5-22-99.

Christopher Winkler, Sewer & Drain Maintenance, was promoted from maintenance laborer to maintenance mechanic I on March 13, 1999.

Lloyd Lewis, Pump Maintenance, was promoted from supervisor I to supervisor II on May 22, 1999.

Robert Whipple, Pump Maintenance, was promoted from pump maintenance mechanic to pump maintenance mechanic II on May 8, 1999.

transfers

Jon Tompkins transferred from Oakland Co. International Airport to Central Garage as an automobile mechanic II effective May 24, 1999.

Scott Guzzy, Drain Commissioners Office, Inspection Dept., transferred to Purchasing on October 24, 1998.

Karen Dedenbach transferred to Veteran's Services from Clerk/Register of Deeds on April 12, 1999.

Sharon Cullen transferred from Probate Court to Corporation Counsel on February 15, 1999.

new hires

The Treasurer's Office welcomes **Mary Gillman**, hired on 3-1-99 and **Karey Richard**, hired 2-16-99.

Douglas Wilmot was hired on March 15 in the Drain & Sewer Maintenance Dept.

Katherine Jeffries has been hired as Veterans' Services summer help

Kelly Gaberty, Library for the Visually & Physically Impaired, was hired in January.

Carol Mason, was hired in May, 1999 the Jail Library.

Bonnie Conway was hired in the Health Department as a public health educator.

ning & going swap shop

Regina Chidester, was hired in the Health Department as a public health educator.

Cheryl White, Maintenance, hired in on 5-19-99 as a general maintenance mechanic.

Robert Studebaker, Maintenance, was hired on 6-7-99 as a general maintenance mechanic.

Michael Rogers was hired on 5-3-99 as maintenance laborer in the Drain & Sewer Maintenance unit.

births

Joanne Stringfellow, Treasurer's Office, welcomed daughter Hunter on March 17.

Colette Scott, Prosecutors Office, and Bill Thatcher are the proud parents of a daughter, Mackenna May Thatcher, born April 17, 1999.

Edward Thick, Drain Commissioners Office, Inspection Department, and his wife Ellen, are the proud parents of a daughter, Samantha, born on March 5, 1999.

Terri Rose, Health Division and her husband, Norm, are the proud parents of a son, Conner Douglas, born April 2, 1999.

marriages

Israel Brown, Drain Commissioners Office, Right-of-Way Department, married Magdalene Boice on September 12, 1998.

Jestina Redmon, Safety, married William Solomon on 5-29-99.

Tammy Lilly-Bitner, FM&O Administration, married Cris Farren on 4-17-99.

open house

The Oakland County International Airport and the Pontiac Air Traffic Control Tower will sponsor their 14th Annual Airport Open House on Sunday, August 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Open House program will include ground static displays of experimental home-built aircraft, antique and classic aircraft, helicopters, hot air balloons, military aircraft and MUCH, MUCH more. Parking is free and so is the admission -- come join us for Oakland County's largest aviation event. See you there! Call 248-666-3900 or 248-886-0057.

CORRECTION: It was incorrectly reported that **John VanCamp**, Maintenance, had resigned on 2-26-99 for an aviation career. Brian King resigned for that career and John VanCamp was promoted to maintenance supervisor II.

4-H Fair & Good Health

Mary Strobe, Oakland County Health Division

Don't miss the 1999 Oakland County 4-H Fair, August 3-8 at the Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg. Fair sponsors this year: St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, T&C Federal Credit Union, Oakland County Health Division. Be sure to take advantage of the following FREE health services provided by these organizations:

Kid's Day - Wednesday, August 4

Kindergarten Vision Screening - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Senior Day - Thursday, August 5

Tests for Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Family Day - Friday August 6

Sports and School Physical Exams and Immunizations - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Family Day - Saturday, August 7

Immunizations & Sports and School Physical Exams - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

The fair features Pugh Shows Ride Attractions, nightly arena events, numerous daily events, farm animals, and 4-H youth competitions and exhibits. Admission is only \$0 per car.

If you have any questions, please call the Oakland County 4-H Fair office at 248-634-8830.

Employee of the Month

Theresa Krolczyk

"She has all of the prerequisites that you could ever hope to find in an employee," commented Susan Farran, clinical casework supervisor, when asked about the kind of employee Theresa Krolczyk is. Theresa has many key roles at the secured boys treatment program at Children's Village. She is a therapist for the north program, a social worker, and the collator for the Adolescent Sexual Offenders Group. "There are people who go into the field because it sounds interesting. Theresa wanted to be where she is. Even with all of the rigors and difficulties that her job entails, she embraces it whole-heartedly."

Theresa, who has been employed by Oakland County for the past 4 years, loves working with young people. She has always liked working with adolescents and gravitates toward those who have special problems.

Theresa is as dedicated to her family as she is to her work, and is able to spend more time with them by running her private practice out of her home. For relaxation she spends time with her family, reads and gardens.

She and her husband, Mike, have been married for 26 years and have 3 children. Kelly, 20, is getting married next August; Kristopher, 19, currently goes to Craft Community College and works; and Kandice, 16, attends Clarenceville High School.



more employees next page

Employee of the Month



Carol Howden

Carol Howden has worked for Oakland County for 25 years. She loves working with customers at the courthouse. "They always keep me on my toes." She is an application analyst programmer III, responsible for circuit court and the clerk's office.

She has a family of Oakland County employees. Her daughter works at the clerk's office and her son works for the Sheriff. Carol lives in the house she had built seven years ago in Waterford. She currently is helping her son raise his 7 year old daughter. For relaxation, Carol enjoys playing on her computer so much that she has earned the title "computer and electronic geek of the family".

Debra Nolen

Debra Nolen has worked for Oakland County for 14 years. She enjoys the creative part of her job. Debra is an application analyst programmer on the court's team. She says in many instances it is like figuring out a puzzle. There is much joy in taking someone's idea and coming out with a good finished product.



Debra and her husband John have been married for 20 years and they have three children. She was born and raised in Waterford. For relaxation, Debra likes golfing, bowling, attending her kids sporting events, and spending time at their cabin on Higgins Lake during the summer.

TEAMWORK: Carol Howden & Debra Nolen

Since Batman and Robin there has never been such a great team as Carol Howden and Debra Nolen. Lynn Spencer, supervisor of systems development and support, submitted them jointly because they are such a good team. "They complement each other so well that between the two of them, they complete the jobs to everyone's satisfaction. I receive nothing but praise from customers they serve. They make my job easy."



Tracy Feneley

Tracy Feneley, an Oakland County employee for the past 14 years, began working as a co-op student in 1985 and has been a full time employee since 1989. Tracy works in the Health Division as a clerk III for Health Nursing and Environmental Health. She loves the people that she works with.

Ruth Wagner, the office leader in the Health Division, enjoys working with Tracy. When asked what she thought of Tracy, Ruth replied, "Tracy is a well-rounded employee who adapts well. She is very conscientious."

Tracy and her husband, Ron, who works for the Public Works Department, have been married for 9 years and they have a 2 year old daughter. Tracy has lived in Clarkston her whole life. She likes to swim and go to the beach for relaxation. She also goes to Florida once a year and loves spending time having fun with her daughter.

Karen Blinkilde

Karen Blinkilde has come a long way in the last ten years since she began employment with Oakland County. She works for the Management and Budget Department in the Equalization Division as a GIS (Geographic Information System) systems specialist in Equalization. Karen thinks the new GIS technology is very exciting to work with. Phil Bertolini, the administrator of Equalization, says, "Through initiative and a strong work ethic, Karen has developed exceptional organizational skills and leadership qualities. This has allowed her to excel professionally and become an integral part of our team."



Outside of work, Karen spends a lot of quality time in the company of her two cats, Kasey and Sierra. She has owned a home in Berkley for nine years, and really enjoys working on her house. Karen also enjoys golfing, playing softball on the county league and going on bicycle tours. She has an up and coming 50 mile, bicycle tour where she'll pedal her way from Boyne Highlands to Mackinac.

1999 Totals

For 1999: \$14,252.63

48

72%

Casual Day Fund

ESP Suggestions

Direct Deposit