



oakland county employees

# Telegraph

autumn 2000

## Employees Honored at Awards Program

by Audrey Venus, Personnel



Dr. Pamela Howitt, Deputy Court Administrator, Probate Court, presenting retirement plaque to Gabriel Martinez.

On June 16, an Oakland County tradition continued as Deer Lake Athletic Club in Clarkston hosted the 2000 Retirement & Service Award Program. Approximately 335 people were welcomed to the program by Tom Eaton, Deputy Director of Personnel.

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson congratulated all award recipients and along with Deputy County Executive Ken Rogers presented gold watches to those employees who had completed

25 years of service with Oakland County. Receiving gold watches were: **Julie Olsen**, Auditing; **Eve Berousek**, Board of Commissioners; **The Honorable Fred Mester**, **The Honorable Gene Schnelz**, **Rebecca Young**, Circuit Court; **Denise Bristow**, **Ann Lloyd**, Clerk/Register of Deeds; **Gregory Pierce**, **Robert Thomas**, Community Mental Health Authority; **Jill Batey**, County Executive Administration; **F. Frances Ariff**, Development and Planning;

**John Barber**, **Miquel Contreras**, **Bruce Ferguson**, **Earl Flick**, **Robert Malek**, **Robert McCants**, **Michael Sturgis**, Drain Commission; **James Foltz**, **Rodney Lafountain**, **Dale Marchant**, **Rodger Mouthaan**, **Richard Navarre**, **Gregory Tarket**, **Sandra Wallace**, **Greg White**, **Lindle White**, **Luther Whiting**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations; **Barbara Eikenberry**, **Linda Pearson**, Fiscal Services; **Robin Riendl**, **Yvonne Rocheleau**, **Sharon Tomaszewski**, Health; **Pamela Hill**, **Mary Lou Stinson**, Medical Examiner; **Phyllis Miskin**, Micrographics & Reproductions; **Sheila Cox**, **Joseph Derousha**, **Kathleen Dougherty**, **Jack Jueckstock**, **Cynthia Neef**, **Kevin Poepppe**, **David Smith**, **William Stokes**, **Allen Wummel**, Parks & Recreation; **Janet Killian**, **Audrey Venus**, Personnel; **Marlys Vickers**, Planning & Economic Development; **Cheryl Boyle**, **Patrick Breen**, **Gregory Prokopp**, Probate Court; **Edward Cibor**, **Pamela Crawford**, Prosecuting Attorney; **Ellen Cooper** Reimbursement; **Gerald Mathews**, Risk Management; **Terry Cashman**, **George Ciofu, Jr.**, **Jerome Clarkson**, **Douglas Eader**, **Michael Elliott**, **Carol Evjen**, **Daniel Fournier**, **Robert Gohl**, **Kerry Krupsky**, **Gary Forester**, **Frederick Hall**, **Dennis Nault**, **Damon Shields**, **Bernadette Tomko**, **Paul White**, **Charles Young**, Sheriff's Department; **Anita Cox**, Support Services; **Karen Dedenbach**, **Mary Ann Rivard**, Veterans' Services; **Vivian Glover**, Workforce Development.

See EMPLOYEES on page 8

**OC Hotline** (248) 858-1022

- press **1** for Employee Information
- press **2** for Latest OC News
- press **3** for Arts & Cultural Events
- press **4** for Community & Minority Affairs News

**INSIDE . . .** OC awards pen pals heirloom employee art show canine writer

# PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

The Michigan Municipal League (MML), with the support of Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, has placed a seriously flawed proposal on the November 7 general election ballot which if approved would have serious financial consequences for Oakland County. This "killer" ballot proposal seeks to amend the Michigan Constitution by requiring a two-thirds vote of the legislature on any matter which "intervenes" in matters of "municipal concerns."

What this basically means is that one-third plus one of the state's legislators could veto any attempt by a majority of legislators to adopt legislation. In effect, passage of this proposal would "lock in" Oakland County's donor status and prevent us from ever getting more money back from the state. The level of road funding and revenue sharing Oakland receives would never change because it would be nearly impossible to muster the required two-thirds vote in the House or Senate necessary to divert funds from other communities. This impossible proposition ultimately could impact 240 pieces of legislation such as deregulation, residency and public notification of sewage discharges.

The MML ballot proposal is an attempt to protect the authority of local home rule that has gone seriously awry, both in its ambiguous language which will result in a spate of costly legislation and in the unintended consequence of disabling the Headlee Amendment's constitutional protection of the Peoples' right to vote on new taxes.

Prop 2, which is how it will appear on the November ballot, also has negative implications for public safety since such things as police/firefighter training standards, 911 emergency telephone systems, sex offender registration, environmental/health standards, land use policies and county commission district reapportionment would be among the issues determined by minority rule under this radical proposal.

All of us as citizens have a vested interest in this issue and an obligation to register our strong opposition to Prop 2 at the polls on November 7. I hope you will join me in sending a clear message that majority rule is a sacred cornerstone of our democratic principles that no one has a right to tamper with.



**L. Brooks Patterson**  
Oakland County Executive

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## Child Health Clinics Celebrate 50 Years of Service

On April 17, 2000, Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics celebrated 50 years of well-child care services and volunteerism to Oakland County's children. The Child Health Clinics provide free, comprehensive well-child care to children 2 months through 5 years of age whose families are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover the cost of well-care and immunizations.

A tea was held at Oakland County's North Health Division to celebrate and recognize the many volunteers who have given their time and talents to the well baby clinics. Currently, 14 volunteers service the clinics that are held in 11 locations throughout the county. The volunteers include: from the Milford area; Clara Calkins (40 years of service), Joan Gofton (30 years), Georgianna Olds (30 years), Margery Feigley (25 years) and Ellen Wert

(15 years), from the Holly area; Audrey Biskner (20 years), from the Clarkston area; Leona Stelmach (28 years), Elaine Peltier (25 years), and Lee Funk (10 years), from the South Lyon area; Ann Page (30 years), Eleanor Donely (20 years), from the Southfield area; Gladys Greig (3 years), from Lake Orion; Jody Herman (9 years), and from Ferndale; Mallory Morris (2 years). These volunteers weigh and measure children as well as greet families and assist with the paper work and clinic flow.

The celebration was held in April, the Month of the Young Child, and culminated National Volunteer Appreciation Week. To learn more about the Child Health Clinic services and volunteer opportunities, please call (248) 858-1311 (Pontiac area), (248) 424-7066 (South Oakland area) or (248) 926-3341 (Walled Lake area).

# County Programs Earn National Honors

Three county-sponsored programs have earned National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards for 2000 and a fourth has earned a prestigious award from the Federal government.

Earning top honors were: Small Business Professional Days, a program designed by Oakland County Planning and Development; Enhanced Access, a product of several county departments, including Information Technology, Equalization, Treasurer's Office and Register of Deeds and the Brain Booklet, a collaborative effort between Oakland County and Oakland Intermediate Schools.

Small Business Professional Days is a program that provides free legal, accounting or technology consultations to small business owners. CPA Day, Tech Day and Legal Day are held each month and one-on-one meetings are arranged between the specialist and the entrepreneur.

Enhanced Access, which is provided under the @ccess Oakland banner, offers economical, immediate access to information that both Oakland County citizens and businesses require to make intelligent and timely decisions. The four major products offered to the public through @ccess Oakland include:

- Mortgage Application Acceleration Program (MAAP) - for people who want to buy, sell or estimate the value of a home utilizing comparable housing sales.
- Residential Property Profile (RPP) - a residential property profile of a specific parcel providing information such as

legal description, year built, square footage and number of rooms.

- Residential Property Analyzer (RPA) - a parcel search and identification mechanism that allows people to search by characteristics such as location, number of bedrooms, lake front and age of house.
- Delinquent Tax Statements (DTS) - identifies outstanding delinquent property tax obligations by specific parcel.

The Oakland County Brain Booklet explains to new parents the importance of early childhood development. The booklet is a by-product of the highly successful Children's Summit.

Oakland County's Community Development Division has received the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Best Practices Award for 2000. The award recognizes the Division's achievement in utilizing the latest technology, strengthening affordable housing, stimulating economic development, creating jobs, expanding homeownership and enabling homeless people to become self-sufficient.

"By earning these national honors, Oakland County has demonstrated once again why it is a recognized and respected leader among county governments nationwide," Patterson said. "I congratulate all of those dedicated and hardworking individuals who played a role in Oakland County gaining this national recognition and acclaim."

## Pardee Raises the Bar of Excellence

Jeff Pardee, director of Management & Budget, has earned an honorable mention in the 2000 Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Awards program in the category of Implementing Best Practices.

In the letter of support for Pardee's nomination, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson wrote:

"His (Pardee) talents and vision as a financial leader are instrumental to Oakland County's financial success, both past and future . . . I depend upon him to insure not only that the county is financially healthy but also to recommend how resources should be allocated so that the county will continue to excel through its innovation and delivery of services to its citizens."

Deputy Management & Budget Director Laurie Van Pelt, who nominated Pardee

for the award, cited his leadership in making significant improvements to the budget process. Van Pelt pointed out that Pardee computerized the budgeting process, first through a batch process system, then to a stand-alone personal computer operation which evolved into a mainframe spreadsheet system with multiple input points. Currently, she noted, the budget is prepared utilizing multiple desktop computers to input individual department requests through a client server network system.

"Oakland County never rests on its laurels and there are always new initiatives being implemented," wrote Van Pelt in her nomination letter. "Many of those initiatives . . . use best practices and excellent financial planning. Under Mr. Pardee's leadership at CFO, that excellence exists in Oakland County."

Pardee began his career with Oakland County in 1976 as manager of the Budget Division and later was appointed deputy director of Management & Budget before succeeding Robert Daddow as director of the department in 1999.



Under Pardee's guidance, Oakland County became the first county in Michigan to receive Government Finance Officers Association awards in all three reporting categories.



**Bob Dustman**  
Media and  
Communications

## The View from Here

For my birthday this year, my lovely wife bought me - well, actually us - five golf lessons. We had talked about something fun we could do together. The operative word here is FUN! The five golf lessons are now over, we've been out practicing at the driving range several times and even ventured out for nine holes with my brother-in-law and his wife. But I'm still looking for the fun. What a frustrating game this is.

It looks so easy on TV when you see Tiger Woods do it. I think to myself (wrongly) - "I can do that." What could be so tough about hitting a little white ball with a club? The answer: plenty.

I slice, dice, hook, top and whiff. And that's just on the first hole. An afternoon on the golf course becomes a marathon event. I can fly to Hawaii and back in the time it takes to finish nine holes. I may have to start bringing along a change of clothes and sleeping bag, in addition to the golf clubs. One thing is for sure, you don't want to be playing

behind me. It's probably not a good idea either to be out in front of me when I step up to the tee. My golf ball has a mind of its own. It still won't obey my command to go straight.

I know I can't expect perfection after only a brief time playing the game. But I will need to get a whole lot better to even be considered mediocre. I am to golf what Pauly Shore is to great acting. - pretty darn bad.

You think if there was anything to genetics, I'd be decent at the game. Both of my parents were better than average golfers and my brother, David, who missed his PGA certification by the slimmest of margins, consistently shoots in the low 70's for eighteen. I'd like to do that well for just nine holes.

Oh well, I'll keep at it because I'm no quitter. Besides my wife really loves the game and what's important to her is important to me.

## Pen Pals Finally Get Together

Imagine writing to someone for 14 years whom you don't have any real recollection of ever meeting. Tracy Eubanks, Support Services, has developed a pen pal relationship with just such an individual. Tracy says when she was 12 years old and vacationing with her parents at Myrtle Beach, she apparently met a girl about her own age with whom she exchanged addresses. Funny thing is, Tracy doesn't remember the trip or meeting the young woman with whom she's become friends.

"Early on we just wrote to each other about the things that were happening in our lives," Tracy recalls. "Then last June, after getting married, I decided it was time to meet my pen pal, Heather Cassidy."

So Tracy and her new husband hopped into the car and made the long journey to Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, which is a tiny Victorian town deep in the heart of the Poconos. This is the same town where the leaders of the underground Irish coal miners union who killed coal mine owners in the 1800's were convicted and hung. The Molly Maguires, a film of that period starring Sean Connery, was filmed there in 1970.

Even though the town is very small, Tracy and her husband got lost and had to call Heather from a gas station for help. When Heather arrived, and after hugs and kisses, they followed her to a hotel where they spent the next two nights.

"The hotel where we stayed was a renovated old Victorian building where the coal miners slept," Tracy said. "It was really kind of creepy because the rooms were only 7' x 10' with a bathroom just large enough to accommodate one person. The hallways were barely wide enough to walk down."

But despite the minor inconveniences and the eeriness of the hotel, Tracy said the visit was everything she had hoped it would be. The couples visited a beautiful waterfall and the girls went horseback riding while the men did some mountain climbing.

"Our two husbands really hit it off too," Tracy said. "My husband works on the line at DaimlerChrysler and Heather's works on the line at Pabst. So all they talked about were beer and cars."

The couples to met at Cedar Point over



Heather Cassidy (left) and Tracy Eubanks the Labor Day holiday weekend to pick up where they left off in Pennsylvania and continue getting better acquainted.

"I feel very fortunate to have experienced something that most people never do which is the gratification of realizing that a lifetime of waiting and patience can result in such a wonderful-new friendship," Tracy said.

# An Heirloom In the Making

by Jill Batey, Office of Media and Communications

Anybody who knows me, knows that I love to craft - and I'll try just about anything. My basement looks like a craft store (and at times, so does my entire house!). I probably have more

years ago for a baby cradle. I dug it out of the closet (I am reasonably organized) and checked it out. I figured I was up to the challenge. My husband and I went shopping. Nothing but the best -- red oak. After cutting out the first piece of the cradle on my scroll saw, off we went for new blades. That trip cost me a new band saw, but it made the job so much easier.

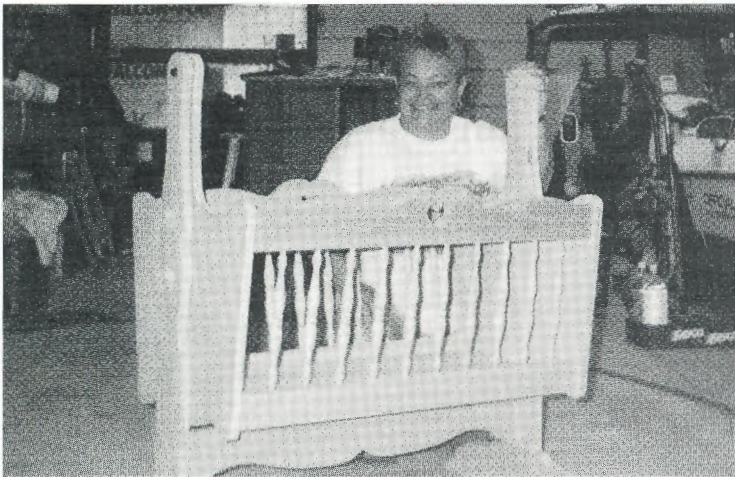
I'll be honest, I was in over my head. Without the help of my husband, Berlin (maintenance mechanic at Oakland County International Airport), I don't think I would have been able to accomplish this. He stood by and encouraged me all the way.

I cut the pieces out, sanded, drilled, etc., while he guided me through the process. There were times I turned it over to him and said, go for it. But he showed me how to do it and I finished. I'm not afraid of saws in general, but the few times we had to use the big table saw, I backed away. I let him do that cutting. By the way, I don't use saws when I'm home by myself.

We started this project on June 3 and completely finished it on July 28, the night before my daughter's baby shower. Not bad for working on it at our leisure and when we were both home. It was supposed to have been a secret, but she saw my calendar with the date I started it, and I had also asked her not to buy a cradle, hoping that she would think I was buying one. Then when one of my friends at church met her, she commented that she must be the daughter I was making the cradle for. Cat out of the bag, but she never saw it until I gave it to her.

I am having a brass plaque made for it which will read: Made with love by Grandma Jill Batey, July 2000. After the baby is born, I will have the name and birth date engraved on another plaque and attach it also. Then hopefully it will become an heirloom and handed down to all my grandchildren, great grand-children and so forth. My husband Berlin said that many kids can say they had a cradle made by their grandfather, but how many can say their grandmother made a cradle?

Would I make another one? Maybe.



Jill in the process of sanding the cradle.

tools of my own than a lot of men. For several consecutive Christmases, I was easy to buy for: router, scroll saw, drill, sander, etc.

When my oldest daughter and her husband (Casey & Mike Lopez) told me she was pregnant with my first grandchild, it opened up a whole new realm of crafts. My first thought was of the pattern I had bought several

## LANCE: Canine Correspondent

*(Editor's note: It's not uncommon for Oakland County to receive letters from satisfied citizens who are appreciative of the way they've been treated by our dedicated employees. But it's not everyday we get a thank-you letter from a pet. In this case, it's an eight-month-old puppy named Lance who took the time to pen a letter to Sandy Gay, manager of the Animal Control Division. Well, at least that's what Sandy tells us.)*

Dear Sandy:

I'll try to bring you up to date on the months since you and I have been together. I'm almost 8 months old now. I know this letter is way overdue but now that I'm a little older and more mature I can bring you up to speed on my new life with my adoptive parents.

It has taken me some time to train my new owners but I think I am making some headway.

First of all, you need only to look at my picture to recognize what a handsome fella I've turned into. I weigh 14 lbs. And stand about 13 inches high, and as you can see, I'm a little on the long side.

My hobbies are racing around the house as fast as I can run to get attention when things get boring. If I really want to get noticed, I take a bite out of one of the plants that sit right in my path as I bolt through the house. I get a really "BIG" response from doing that. (I know, I know) that's not exactly what you would call NICE, but hey, "IT WORKS."

See CANINE on page 9

# Employee Art Show a

by Nancy Hayden, Director of Arts, Culture and Film

For quite some time, Oakland County's Executive Office Building has been the temporary home for exhibits from many of the area's most influential art groups. Drawing visitors from all over Oakland County and the surrounding areas, these shows are filled with creative pieces of the highest quality. The exhibit that has adorned the walls of the EOB throughout this summer is no exception.

The Office of Arts, Culture and Film has been proud to sponsor "Hidden Talents - the Oakland County Employee Art Exhibit." The show was an eclectic mix of mediums. Ranging from painting and drawing to photography and sculpture, it demonstrated not only the diverse creative talents of the Oakland County workforce, but also the professional level of skill achieved by these part time artists.

The idea for the show came directly from the Employee Suggestion Program. Having been considered in the past, it was feared that "not enough people would enter" or that "there would only be a handful of people who could contribute anything of merit." Those fears were proven to be more than a little unfounded, with a

show including r than from over 30 different artists was one of the largest show this year.

Judging this show was quite a challenge. With so many mediums to choose from and with art of such high quality, it was difficult to choose. In the end, however, the decision was made fairly and easily. After hours of deliberation, the winners were chosen.

**FIRST PRIZE:** Sue Quinlan - "Saba Ladies", Pastel

**SECOND PRIZE:** Larry Falardeau - "Spirit", Watercolor

**THIRD PRIZE:** Michelle Miller - "Tomatada's Love", Wax batik

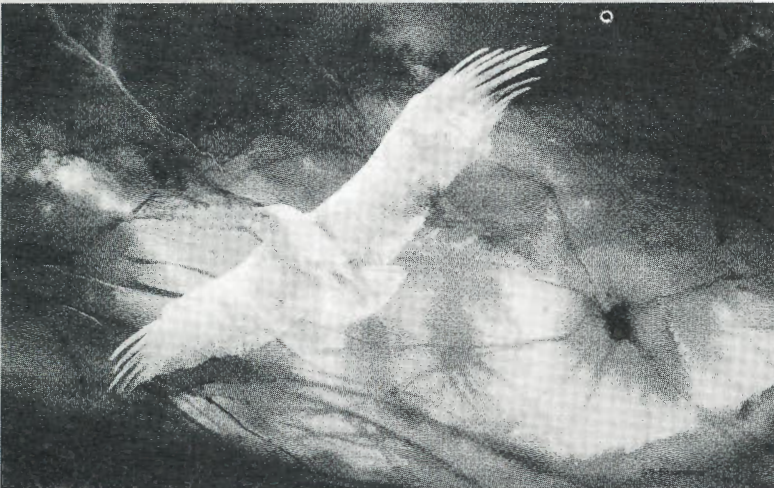
**HONORABLE MENTION:** Kathleen Thompson, Development and Planning - "Not Just Another Face", Photography/Mixed Media

Rob Carver, husband of Diane Carver - "2 Heads, Sam and Mike", Sculpture

We also decided to let the Oakland County employees voice their opinions about a winner through



First Place: "Saba Ladies" Pastel by Sue Quinlan



Second Place: "Spirit" Watercolor by Larry Falardeau



Third Place: "Tomatada's Love" Wax batik by Michelle Miller



Merit Award: "2 Heads, Sam and Mike" Sculpture by Rob Carver

# Rousing Success

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Choice Award." After viewing the exhibit, employees were asked to write down the name of their favorite piece and place it in a ballot box. Larry Falardeau was once again a winner, and the People's Choice Award was given to him for his watercolor piece entitled "Spirit."

We would like to make the employee art show an annual event. We want to provide an opportunity for Oakland County employees to express their talent in as many forms as possible and plan to include poetry, prose, painting, drawing, photography, stained glass, fabric art and sculpture in the 2001 autumn exhibit.

The Office of Arts, Culture and Film would like to thank the very talented members of the Oakland County staff who were kind enough to lend their works of art to the exhibit. We would also like to thank all the employees who took the time to view the exhibit and support their colleagues. You all helped to make the show a great success by displaying the creativity and enthusiasm that Oakland County employees have. You truly are the reason we are one of America's premiere counties.



Merit Award: "Not Just Another Pretty Face"  
 Photography/Mixed Media by Kathleen Thompson

## A Night of Comedy FUNDRAISER

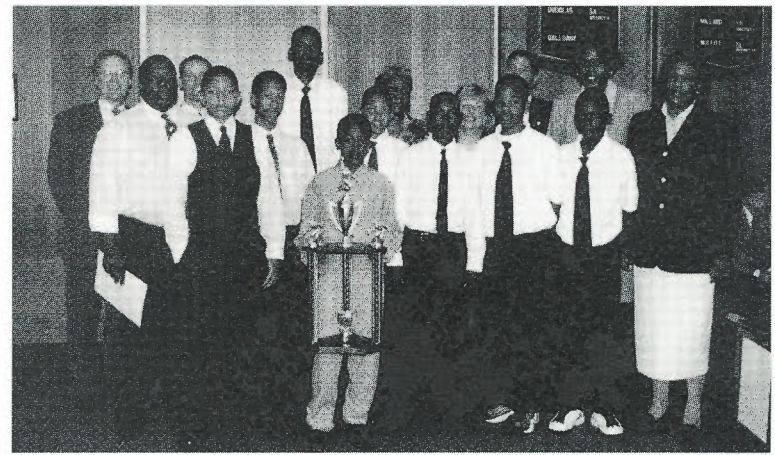
**for Brad "That Puppet Guy" Lowe**  
 Oakland County Parks Puppeteer

To cover medical costs/heart surgery  
**Monday, September 25 at 8 p.m.**  
**Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle**  
 \$20 per ticket Call Kim, 858-4636

Donna Lackie of Oakland Schools is presented with a certificate of recognition for her outstanding work on *The Brain Booklet*, an award winning guide to brain development in early childhood.  
 L to R: John McCulloch, Dr. Redmond, Donna Lackie, Shelley G. Taub



## Commissioners Award Outstanding Achievements



The Tri County Sports Club Cobras Basketball Team is honored for winning a national championship title in the 12 U Boys YBOA National Championships on July 29, 2000.

Department directors and managers presented service award plaques to the following employees: **Michael Worrell**, Children's Village; **David Ross**, Facilities Management; **Alice Griffin**, Health received a plaque for 35 years of service. Employees receiving 30 year service award plaques were: **Howard Leake**, Animal Control; **Edward Hanson**,

**Redman, Margaret Soubly, Karen White, Frank Zuazo, Health; Joe Hickey**, Information Technology; **Betty Ramey**, Library Board; **Janet Pung, Frank Trionfi**, Parks & Recreation; **Sharon Edwards, Lois Koeber, Gary Vaught**, Personnel; **Deborah McAleer, Sherry Miller, Amy Skewes**, Probate Court; **Nancy Crow**, Prosecuting

Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds also were in attendance.

Employees not in attendance but eligible for service award plaques were: **James Fitzpatrick**, Auditing; **Jane Oswalt**, County Executive Administration; **Theodore Meister, Jr., Drain; Sandra Middleton, William Olivich**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations; **Raymond Rice**, Facilities Management; **Catherine Campbell, William Carlson, W. Galen Garst, Ronald Grimes, Richard Vincent**, Health; **Terry Pender**, Parks & Recreation; **Bruce Naile**, Sheriff's Department, for 30 years of service.

Employees with 25 years of service who were not in attendance at the program included: **Allen Fogoros, Albert Jeszke, Joan Waisanen**, Community Mental Health Authority; **John Ross, Jr.**, Corporation Counsel; **Diana Irving**, 52/3 District Court; **George Bondi, Joseph Kozma, Drain; Ralph Branch, Mark Conner, Paul Gulewich**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations; **Robert Kief**, Friend of the Court; **Kathleen Howe, Keith Krinn**, Health; **Carol Howden**, Information Technology; **Lawrence Gee, Jr., Leslie Gidcumb, Clinton Roche**,



Dr. Thomas Gordon, Director of Human Services, and Rosemarie Rowney, Health Division Manager, presenting plaque to Alice Griffin for 35 years of service.

Attorney; **Susan Cullen, Judith Lockhart, Kimberly Slabinski**, Reimbursement; **Paul Bidingar, Jeffrey Crockett, Donna Ling, Barbara Martin, Andrew Sparks**, Sheriff's Department; **David Wallace**, Support Services.

In commemoration of their

Children's Village; **Charles McKinnon, Charles Ward II**, Drain Commissioner; **Robert Long**, Health; **Shirley Bauman, Calvin Engelberg, Charles Ludwig, James Smith**, Probate Court; **Betty Arnold, Beverly Miles**, Sheriff's Department.

Receiving 20 year service award plaques were: **Darwin Spaysky**, Children's Village; **The Honorable Joan Young**, Circuit Court; **Kathleen Huber**, Clerk/Register; **Susan Quinlan**, County Executive Administration; **Richard Wisner**, Development & Planning; **Kathleen Bell, Patricia Crane, Ann Groth**, 52/1 District Court; **Ada Waller**, 52/4 District Court; **Michael Freed, Mary Gaedt, Kelly Scott, Lewis Tiernan, David Webster**, Drain Commission; **James Gibson, Evelyn Humphrey-Shaw**, Equalization; **Sallyanne Morris, George Walker, Donald Wood**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations; **Robert Larkin**, Facilities Management; **Marina Joseph, Dale Polley**, Fiscal Services; **Gwendolyn Dillworth, Virgie Ford**, Friend of the Court; **Jean Egan, Karen Dickerson, Vicki Dickie, Marilyn Miller, Mary**

retirement, **Betty Arnold, Marian Clifton, Ruth Easton, Carol Evjen, Joseph Hansard, A. Sue Hubbard, Mary LaPrarie, Gabriel Martinez, Yvonne Rocheleau, Robert Rossi, Barbra Vanwagoner** were presented with retirement plaques.

**Joseph Buese, William Eckstein, Vivian Glover, Jo Anne Hill-Brookshear, Charles Ludwig, Sandra McKay-Kopp, Dennis Nash, Phyllis O'Connor, Patricia Peck, Gregory Pierce, Yvonne Schuermann, Patricia Trulu** were eligible for retirement but elected to leave county employment under the defined contribution plan and received a service award plaque in recognition of their outstanding service record.

Commissioner **David Galloway**, Sheriff **Michael Bouchard**, **George Kuhn**, Drain Commissioner; and **Patrick Campbell**,



George Kuhn, Drain Commissioner, presenting plaque to Charles McKinnon for 30 years of service.

Parks & Recreation; **Palmer Sesti**, Probate Court; **Donald McLellan, Douglas Molinar, Susan Myszenski, Leonard Nichols, Robert Sahajdack, Michael Saile, Alan Whitefield**, Sheriff's Department; **Cassie Patterson**, Treasurer.

Employees with 20 years of service but not



in attendance at the program included: **William Anderson, Alvin Duncan, John Owens, Jr., Children's Village; The Honorable Alice L. Gilbert, The Honorable John J. McDonald, Circuit Court; G. William Caddell, Clerk/Register;**

**Tunningley, Drain Commissioner; Sheila Cannon, Sandra Higdon, Kristine Huffman, Brian Risdon, Sandra Tillman, Mary Tottingham, James Walker, Sheila White, Facilities Maintenance & Operations; Jeanette Bedard, Joanne**

**D. David Pement, Michele Prunte, Gregory Renzell, Scott Reynolds, Sharon Rosenbush, David Schmidt, David Scott, Dale Woodliff, Sheriff's Department; Patrick Beagle, Sandra Carl, Support Services; Peggy Donovan, Treasurer.**



County Executive L. Brooks Patterson presenting a gold watch to Robert McCants, Drain Commission, for 25 years of service.

**Karry Rieth, Community & Home Improvement; Nancy Bowen, Ilene Cohen, Nancy Hepler, Yarlagadda Prasad, Michael Rothenberg, Community Mental Health Authority; Michael Noder, Ronald**

**Bridson, Irene Bush, Cheryl Clark, Don Slagle, Friend of the Court; Shirley Beam, Elizabeth Crouse, John Larsen, David Mikkola, Greg Smith, Shirley Swartz, Jeanette Zinger, Health; Walter Cooley, Judy Foglio, Debra Thompson, Information Technology; Susan Johnston, MSU Extension; Gary Berschbach, Parks & Recreation; Julie Fabrizio, The Honorable Linda Hallmark, Douglas Quinn, Joseph Racey, Jr., Probate Court; Gary Tunis, Prosecuting Attorney; Anthony Arnold, Martin Bay, Nadine Cason, Mark**

**Darbe, Janie Dudley, James English, Dirk Feneley, Dennis Finney, David Fournier, Stephen Jacobs, John Meiers, Margaret Miller, Matthew Miller, Randy Newlin, Robert Osborne, Curtis Overby,**



Jeffrey Pardee, Director of Management, presenting plaque to Dale Polley, Fiscal Services, for 20 years of service.

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

## CANINE from page 5

I'm a little too short to use the bathroom facilities, (If ya know what I mean) and beside that, what the heck do they expect from me being only 13 inches tall anyway. They started putting me outside regardless of what the weather is (It doesn't seem to matter.) Rain, snow, sleet, I've been through it all, just so I can do my business. I gotta tell ya, some days it gets pretty nasty out there but to save a lot of hollering and shouting and to keep peace in the family unit, you do what ya gotta do. I do have my owners pretty well trained though, when I need to go out. Usually one bark does it and they come running, but sometimes under emergency circumstances I have to bark twice. They have the signal down pat now, but it sure took a while to train em. (They're a little slow, if you catch my drift).

I've managed to train my adoptive parents to give me a treat when I sit up and give em a high five. (Now, let me tell ya, that took a lot of patience and T-I-M-E on my part before they FINALLY got it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

..... Well Sandy, that just about sums it up as far as my progress goes, but one thing I want you to know, is that you will always be in my heart and I'll never ever forget what you did for me. Heck, I thought that you were really my "MOM" until Pat and Lew sat me down for one of them heart to heart talks, (You know the kind) Geez, to think my REAL MOM abandoned me when I was only 2 weeks old leaving me to die in a deserted field like my siblings did, well that's hard to take. I gotta tell ya, I had to choke back all those emotions I started feeling because when you're a guy you just don't show all those feelings and stuff like that.

Anyway, Sandy, thanks for all those times you bottle fed me and nurtured me until I was adopted. Pat and Lew understand the bond you and I will ALWAYS HAVE BETWEEN US, and the only thing they ask me to promise them is that when I get older, I don't look up my biological parents.

I love you Sandy,

Lance

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# kudos celebrations coming & going

## kudos

**Karen Dedenbach** of Veterans' Services-Troy Office passed the VA accreditation exam with flying colors in 6/00 in Cincinnati, OH.

**Robert Bingham** of the Circuit Court-Family Division was honored by the American Correctional Association and the National Institute of Corrections 21st Annual Correctional Video Festival. His video, "Juvenile Court: A Reality Check", tied for best entry in the public interest/public safety category.

Risk Manager **Stan Fayne** has been appointed to the Consumer Advisory Committee of the Board of Directors of Delta Dental.

**Keith J. Lerminiaux** was appointed Deputy Corporation Counsel on 6/5/00

## new hires

**Sidney Lockhart** was hired as a civil engineer I in the Drain Commissioner's Engineering & Construction Division on 6/26/00.

**Eugene Snowden** was hired as a civil engineer I in the Drain Commissioner's Engineering & Construction Division on 6/26/00.

**Sandra Kedmenec** was hired as a summer clerical at Veterans' Services-Pontiac Office on 5/10/00.

**Melissa Reynolds** was hired as a student in the engineering support unit in the Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Division on 5/24/00.

**Heather Zink** was hired as a general helper in the water maintenance unit of the Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Division on 5/30/00.

**Randy Cook** was hired as a mechanic I at Central Garage on 3/25/00.

## promotions

**Glenn Appel** of the Drain Commissioner's Engineering & Construction Division was promoted from civil engineer III to chief engineer on 5/22/00.

**Kimberly Krumm** of Veterans' Services-Walled Lake Office was promoted from clerk III to technical assistant on 6/2/00.

**Vance Sharette** of the Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Division was promoted from general helper to maintenance mechanic on 6/3/00.

**Timothy Bliszack** of the Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Division was promoted from maintenance mechanic I to pump maintenance mechanic I on 4/22/00.

**Ronald R. Maurer** of the Equalization Division was promoted to an appraiser III-certified on 4/22/00.

**Jim Bolton** of Central Garage was promoted to night garage supervisor on 2/12/00.

**Kirt Hunt** of Central Garage was promoted to garage supervisor on 2/12/00.

## fond farewells

**William Eckstein** retired from the Drain Commissioner's Engineering & Construction Division on 5/12/00.

**Lt. Bob Sahajdack** of the Sheriff's Department retired on 7/28/00.

**Wayne Nierman**, county extension director, retired from the MSU Extension on 7/1/00

**Ben Lewis** resigned from the Drain Commissioner's Engineering & Construction Division on 6/5/00.

## weddings

**Tracy Teague** of Support Services married Chuck Eubanks on 6/23/00.

**Vlas Haloostock of Central Garage and Vickie Smith**, mailroom supervisor, were married on 7/22/00 on a private island on Pontiac Lake.

## babies

**Kevin Schultz** of the Drain Commissioner's Operations & Maintenance Division and his wife Tina had a baby boy, Thomas, on 4/23/00.

**Kelly I. Wood** of 52-4 District Court Probation and her husband Brad had their first children, twins Nicholas Gene and Anna Noelle on 12/10/99.

## Taking Steps Against Leukemia

Beverly Foss, Real Property Appraiser III with the Equalization Division, is in training for a November marathon to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Beverly has committed to raising \$3800 for leukemia research. She is participating in "Team in Training" with her daughter, Alisa Hill and two friends. This program, established in 1988, has raised more than \$150 million for research. The foursome's goal is to raise \$15,200 and to complete a 26.2 mile walk after many hours of training.

They all have reasons for taking steps against leukemia and related diseases. Beverly is walking in memory of a family friend, Laura Robinson Kuzniar who died at the age of 30 of acute lymphatic leukemia; and also in honor of Amanda, the 7 year-old daughter of Bonnie Hargraves, personal property appraiser II. Amanda is in remission from leukemia.

If you would like to help her reach this goal, please send a contribution to the Equalization Division at 250 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Suite 1000W, attention Beverly Foss. Checks should be made payable to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. If you have any questions, call Beverly at (248) 858-0084. Thank you for your help.

# Employee of the Month



**Michele Eaton**

Oakland County has become a haven for successful businesses of all sizes. Over the years Michele Eaton, loan coordinator at Planning and Economic Development, has been instrumental in helping small businesses locate or expand in Oakland County. She enjoys having contact with clients and assisting them in

becoming successful. "She's extremely valued at OCBFC and she's grown tremendously in the area of financing. She is highly professional and possesses a marvelous work ethic. "Michele is a true asset," says her supervisor Mary Langhauser.

During her 11 years at Oakland County, Michele has been working on her Bachelors in Finance at Oakland University, which she recently completed. At home in Goodrich, she loves to spend time with her husband, Joel, and their 2 dogs, Illitch and Brendan.

**Patricia Ann Thompson**



"Patricia is a very thorough RN and does a wonderful job with the kids. She interacts well with the population at Children's Village, and is a very respected nurse." That's how Barbara Draper describes the excellent work of Patricia Ann Thompson. She has worked at Oakland County for over 4 years and loves to help kids. She also works with an excellent staff.

Patricia lives in Birmingham with her husband Craig whom she married 30 years ago. The couple has 5 boys. In her spare time, Patricia loves woodworking, camping, hiking and traveling.

see more **EMPLOYEES** on page 12

## Sheriff Salutes Employee's Record of Service

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office took a break on August 1 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of an outstanding employee, Ann Sach.

Ann began her career with the Sheriff's Office in 1940 as a driver's license examiner at the first jail in downtown Pontiac. Ann has served under seven different Sheriffs starting with Sheriff Spence Howarth. Her commitment and diligence was reflected in her advancement to departmental clerk and then to

driver's license examiner Supervisor. Ann continues today to serve the citizens of the county as office leader and head of gun registration for the Sheriff's Records Bureau. Her determination, caring demeanor and attitude warrant the admiration and praise of those around her. May she know of our sincerest appreciation for her hard work and dedication.

"It is a pleasure to join with Ann in celebrating this milestone," Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard said. "Serving under the admin-

istration of six other Sheriffs, Ann brings a history and knowledge of the institution that few others possess. In addition, Ann is a true asset and a treasure to those around her. We treasure her presence here in the Sheriff's Office and wish her every happiness on her 60th anniversary."

The Sheriff's Office celebrated the momentous occasion with cake for all and the warmest wishes to Ann Sach for many more prosperous years at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

### 2000 Totals

\$19,467.02

37

70%

Casual Day Fund

ESP Suggestions

Direct Deposit

# Employee of the Month

## Gary Gould



With a budget as large as Oakland County's, you need a high tech system to keep track of it all, and a hard worker like Gary Gould to make sure everything goes smoothly. Gary, who has worked 10 years for Oakland County, is the system administrator for the HRFIS system. With technology changing so rapidly, he learns something new

everyday. He also likes the interaction with the people with whom he works.

His supervisor Tom Ott explains, "Gary is the focal point of the financial system. He is the liaison with all the departments and does an excellent job of helping, training, and answering questions." He and wife Michelle live in Lake Orion, where they recently built a new in ground pool to relax and play in with their 2 children.

## Jennifer Mason



Jennifer Mason, Personnel, is an expert when it comes to responsibility. As a special project supervisor, she serves as the coordinator for Personnel's budget and the Personnel committee's agenda-item process. "She's an extremely dedicated and talented worker who can handle anything that comes her way," says supervisor Lois Koeber.

Jennifer recently completed her Masters Degree in Human Resources, making her a true expert in her field. She has been with Oakland County for 15 years, and enjoys her fellow employees inside and outside the department. Jennifer is Personnel's representative on the Employee Suggestion Program. At home in Rochester Hills, she and her husband, Gary, enjoy traveling abroad and volunteering at dances and sporting events at the high school where he teaches.

## Mary Hahnefeld



There is rarely a dull moment for Mary Hahnefeld. She is the office leader for Central Support Services at the Health Division. She supervises 4 areas, helps with computer related and word processing training or problems, and interviews students and co-ops. Sandy Briercheck says, "Mary is an

excellent supervisor and knows all the important procedures. She improved the software system. She will also take personal time to correct problems in the system and make things easier; she really boosts morale around here."

Mary loves the variety of work she performs everyday and works hard to become more knowledgeable so she can relate better with her staff. She is a great problem solver. She lives with her dog Sasha, since her two daughters are grown and doing quite well on their own. Aside from being active at work, she's also active in her spare time. Mary enjoys horse-back riding, bicycling, playing tennis and golf. She also spends time attending plays and concerts.

## Tina Stenborg



One of the priorities at Oakland County's Children Village is to help improve the lives of struggling children and their families. That has been Tina Stenborg's specialty for the past 15 years. As a child welfare worker at Children's Village, she counsels and helps children and families gain control of their lives.

She loves to make an impact on the people with whom she interacts. "She is a highly motivated individual with exceptional skills. She is also an excellent trainer, says her Supervisor, Ron Frink". Tina lives in Lake Orion with her dog Bijou. In her spare time, she plays golf and enjoys watching hockey and football.