



oakland county employees

# Telegraph

autumn 2001



## the GREAT Pumpkin Auction



Once again, various county departments went all out in their efforts to create the most uniquely decorated pumpkins for the second annual Great Pumpkin Auction, which was organized to generate additional funds for the United Way Campaign. This year's seventeen entries, which were on display on the second floor of the EOB for one week, beginning October 22, sparkled with imagination and originality. Eight of the works of art proudly displayed a strong patriotic flair, while the others took on more traditional Halloween or autumn-inspired themes.



The crowd began to gather early on Friday, October 26 in anticipation of the auction, which was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. sharp. The first item up for bid, a full-length Uncle Sam replete with red and white striped pants, blue jacket, and red bow tie, commanded a high price (\$50), and set the tone for the rest of the afternoon. Bidding became frenzied as participants competed for their favorites. A bid of \$10 was

raised to \$15, and again to \$20, as one eager party, in a quest for that special pumpkin, bid against herself.

Corporation Counsel's All-American entry included a trio of pumpkins that were auctioned off individually and brought in a total of \$90. Community Corrections illuminated their carved pumpkin with miniature orange lights, a safer alternative to the usual candle. Two beautifully decorated, hollowed-out pumpkins, filled with an array of fall colored flowers were submitted by the Library. Medical Care Facility residents took part as well with two traditionally carved jack-o-lanterns. The People's Choice, a patriotic salute entitled "American Pie", was snagged by Suzy Vogt (EOB) after a lively, but friendly battle.

This year's auction was a fun-filled success, raising close to \$600 for the United Way, with an average selling price of \$32 per pumpkin. "Thank you" to all of the participating departments and to the individuals whose friendly competition made the auction entertaining as well as profitable.



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by Margie See

Photos by Lee Ann Ciecko



# PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

As I indicated to all of you who attended the series of county-wide employee meetings which were held on November 6 & 7, I take security issues here in Oakland County very seriously in light of the current environment that now exists in our country.

My priority is to make sure that you, the dedicated men and women of Oakland County government, have a safe and secure place in which to work. Additionally, the benefits of our enhanced emergency preparedness will extend to our 1.2 million residents through our expertise and training capabilities.

To achieve those goals I have reorganized and beefed up our Emergency Management Operations by hiring three individuals who will serve as the nucleus of our security team. Once you have read their credentials, I am sure you will feel reassured about security here in Oakland County.

Now please meet the team that reports directly to Deputy County Executive Bob Daddow:

**Michael Sturm**, who until recently served as the commanding officer of the Dearborn Police Department's Investigative Division, has been hired as Administrator for the newly reorganized Oakland County Emergency Management Program. Sturm, who is a former SWAT team commanding officer and hostage negotiator, has broad-based experience in both law enforcement and the military. He has served as the operations officer for the Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Pact, which involves dozens of police departments, Wayne County Sheriff's Office and the Michigan State Police. In that capacity, he was responsible for developing strategic plans for several mutual aid mobilization efforts including the Detroit newspaper labor strike and various protest marches and demonstrations.

**In 1997, Sturm retired as a colonel in the Military Police Corp after 23 years of service that included training, mobilizing and deploying 1,100 soldiers for Operation Desert Storm and**

**operating a 24-hour emergency operations center during the conflict.**

**Executive Lieutenant Donald McClellan, Ph.D.**, of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department has been assigned to the Emergency Management Operations to work with the new Administrator in updating strategies and tactics for handling critical incidents, including bio-terrorism. McClellan will also design a program to expand the Sheriff's Department's role in responding to weapons of mass destruction. As a member of the Sheriff's Department since 1975, Lt. McClellan has served in a wide variety of capacities including patrol, traffic, corrections, detective, marine, courts and training. His expertise has placed him on the front lines of numerous catastrophic incidents such as the crash of Northwest flight 255 at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, the Royal Oak Post Office shooting and the Ford Wixom Plant shooting.

Lt. McClellan has assisted in the development of an educational program for Oakland County that included the extensive training of more than 1,400 county employees in bomb search and evacuation. In the wake of the anthrax scares nationwide, Lt. McClellan has taken a leadership role in training more than 200 county employees in the proper procedures for handling suspicious mail and packages.

**Lt. McClellan's law enforcement expertise is recognized and respected internationally as evidenced by the fact that on two separate occasions he's been a guest lecturer at Scotland Yard in London and has conducted seminar workshops at the last four International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conferences. He has also taught at the Oakland County Police Academy and several local colleges and universities and served as an adjunct instructor for the Federal Emergency Management Administration where he lectured on such topics as hazardous materials, natural disasters and terrorism. He has also authored articles on such diverse**



**L. Brooks Patterson**  
Oakland County Executive

**topics as "Critical Incident Protocol," "Critical Incident Management" and "Law Enforcement's Role in Combatting and Preparing for Domestic Terrorism."**

Hired to serve as consultant to the new Emergency Management Operation is George E. Durham of Jefferson Wells, a business-consulting firm. Durham has more than 36 years of professional security/intelligence experience in both the military and corporate work place.

**During his 22 years with Army Intelligence, Durham handled counter-terrorism issues involving the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the Red Brigade and other similar organizations. In the corporate world, Durham was in charge of security for Shell Oil Company's chemical and petroleum products both on a domestic and international level. His vast experience also includes covert and undercover operations as well as surveillance.**

I think all of us will feel better about coming to work each morning knowing that these security professionals are on the job enhancing campus security, developing state-of-the-art bio threat protocols, training our employees, and ultimately ensuring our safety.



# Artists Compete in 2nd Annual "Hidden Talents"

by Margie See

Nearly 100 pieces of artwork were showcased during the second annual Employee Art Show, which is sponsored by the Office of Arts, Culture, and Film. The "Hidden Talents" of county employees and their family members covered a wide array of mediums from woodworking to weaving, and acrylics to alabaster, and presented high quality work that made the viewing an absolute pleasure. The judging, however, was another story. While choosing is never easy, this year's amazing display of talent offered quite a challenge. And now, without further ado, I'd like to present the winners of the 2001 Employee Art Show:

**FIRST PLACE:** Deb Hyde, Circuit Court (family division)  
"Female" - fabric

**SECOND PLACE:** Melanie Zwack, sister of Kelly Sleva, EOB -  
"Sun Moon Mirror" - acrylic

**THIRD PLACE:** Evelyn LaLone - "Dream Away" - stained glass

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Heather Shen (age 5), daughter of Ronnie Cao, InfoTech, traditional Chinese painting

**PEOPLES CHOICE:** Sallyanne Morris, horticulturist/grounds division - "Monet's Giverny" - hand-tinted bw photo

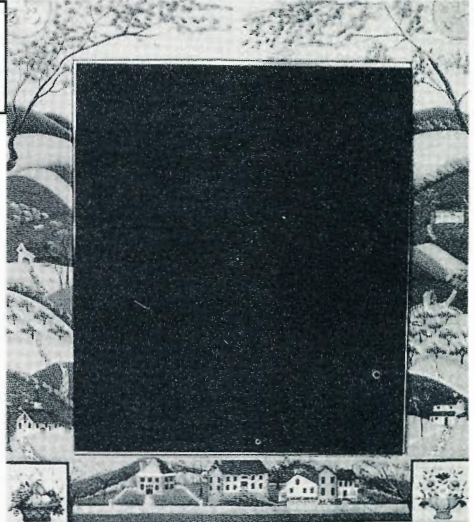
First place winner, Deb Hyde, who has been quilting for years, designed "Female" herself. The piece is made up of thousands of 1" squares, and took Deb more than 100 hours to complete. "This is the first show I have ever entered," she said, "and I almost didn't put my piece in when I saw the high quality of the other work."

Congratulations to Deb, Melanie, Evelyn, Heather, and Sallyanne, and a big "thank you" to all of the talented people whose contributions made this year's Employee Art Show a huge success.



"Female"  
Fabric art  
by Deb Hyde

"Sun Moon Mirror"  
Acrylic  
by Melanie Zwack



"Dream Away"  
Stained glass  
by Evelyn LaLone

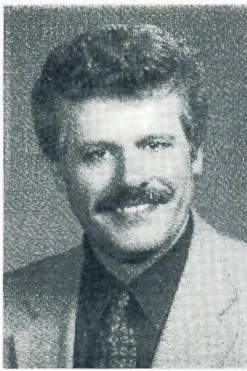
Traditional Chinese Painting  
by Heather Shen



"Monet's Giverny"  
Hand-tinted black & white photo  
by Sallyanne Morris







**Bob Dustman**  
Media and  
Communications

## The View from Here

Over the years, the one thing we've tried to do with the Telegraph is to make it attractive in appearance and interesting in reading. I hope, to some degree, we've accomplished these goals.

The important thing for you to remember is that the Telegraph is your newsletter. The articles are designed with an employee focus. Nine years ago, when I first assumed this job, I included a survey in one of my early editions to determine what kind of articles you wanted to see in the Telegraph. The response was good and helped us to come up with articles we felt might be of interest to a wide range of employees. Well, it's time to do that again.

In this edition of the Telegraph we have included a survey to ascertain your desires, interests and needs with regard to content. This is your opportunity to redesign the Telegraph. We need your input because you better than anyone knows what interests you most.

One suggestion from inside our own shop here is to report more on what kind of activities employees are involved in outside of work. If you think that's a good idea - let us know. If that's something you might enjoy reading about, we'll need your input. Because the only way we're going to know about someone's great volunteer efforts, athletic achievements or anything else, is if you tell us about it. None of us who work on the Telegraph is clairvoyant. We rely on you, in large part, for story ideas.

This has to be a collaborative effort if the Telegraph is to be the kind of employee-focused newsletter we all want it to be. Of course, as always, we retain editorial oversight over content, which on occasion

may mean we pass on a story we feel lacks sufficient interest for the majority or might be delayed until a future edition if space is tight and the story is not dated.

But frankly, I can't think of too many times over the last nine years when an employee story idea has been rejected out of hand. Some may have been lost on the cutting room floor, as they say, because of breaking news, but few, if any, have been totally discarded as not worthy of publication.

Most of the story ideas submitted by our readers are very good and we encourage you to keep the flow of ideas coming on a regular basis.

In the past, I sent out memos indicating deadlines and publication dates for the Telegraph. But that practice was discontinued because, quite frankly, we had difficulty meeting those schedules. We publish quarterly, so keep those story ideas coming to us on a continuing basis - either by e-mail ([dustmanb@co.oakland.mi.us](mailto:dustmanb@co.oakland.mi.us)) or by fax (248) 858-5111.

So please, review the survey in this edition of the Telegraph carefully and let us know what you think. Just fill it out and fax it back to us (85111) as soon as you can, so we can get to work on your new, fresh ideas for the Telegraph.

My promise to you is that we will consider your input very carefully and enact as many of the good ideas as we can.

Thanks for helping us make the Telegraph a publication we can all be proud of.

### Linda Varonich Wins Election

Linda Varonich, public health sanitarian with the Oakland County Health Department, is no stranger to the inner workings of the National Organization for Women (NOW). As a member since 1974, Linda has taken an active part in organizing and promoting nationwide events in the fight for women's rights. She has held numerous positions within the organization over the years, and in June, 2001, was elected as president of the nearly 4,000 member Michigan NOW chapter. Congratulations, Linda!

## Blood Drive a Success

Thanks to the overwhelming response of Oakland County employees, the recent blood drive was a tremendous success. Available time slots filled quickly, and more than 150 names remained on a waiting list, as individuals stepped up to do their part for those injured in New York and Washington D.C. during the September 11 attacks.

According to the Red Cross, 274 people were registered to donate (37 people were deferred for medical reasons), 94 people were first-time donors, and 180 pints of blood were collected. The Red Cross estimated that 540 hospital patients were aided by the efforts of those donors. Congratulations to the Health Division-EOB staff for a job well done, and to the generous donors who participated in this crucial event.



# A Special Thank You from the Bakers

by: Margie See



Kayla Baker

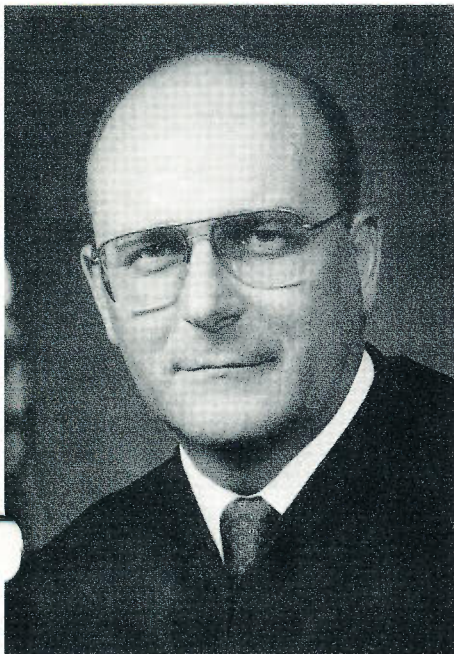
"We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and all who donated to the Kayla Baker Casual Day fund and Mr. Patterson for generously donating \$1000. It's hard to believe when a horrible accident happens to "your child". The first few weeks were a roller coaster not knowing if she would live from day to day. Then we found out that, 2000 miles away, Oakland County was planning a special casual day for Kayla. That was just as unbelievable. Words can't express the gratitude we feel. It is such a comfort not having to worry about hotel bills, car rentals, airfares, etc. while dealing with the health of our daughter. We have been so fortunate working at Parks and Recreation over 25 years and also feel we are very blessed to be a part of the "Oakland County family". We are deeply touched by our coworkers, friends, and complete strangers who have taken a caring interest in our daughter's life."

Brad and Marilyn's 17-year-old daughter, Kayla, was rushed to a Scottsdale, Arizona hospital in critical condition on August 16, after succumbing to heat stroke while hik-

ing Camelback Mountain with her brother, Matt. Kayla was unconscious on arrival, and remained that way for eight days, her life dependent on the hospital staff and machines. According to an article in a local newspaper, "[her] skin was so hot, it melted the ice in trash bag after trash bag placed on the back of her neck, armpits and groin to bring her temperature down."

Since then, Kayla, with the help of her doctors and nurses, and the loving support of her family and friends, has found the strength to battle her way back. Kayla is making terrific progress and, after enduring recent skin grafts on her legs, is back in physical therapy where she is working on her speech, short term memory, fine motor skills, and personal care, in addition to learning to walk again. Kayla could be discharged from the rehabilitation floor in as little as three to four weeks. As soon as all of her doctors agree that she is well enough to be discharged from the hospital, Kayla will return home and continue to improve with the help of outpatient therapy.

## Judge Fred Mester



Throughout his career in Oakland County, the Honorable Fred M. Mester has worked to find ways to encourage and support individuals in their quest for a better life. As a circuit court judge, Mester has witnessed first-hand the long-term effects that result from the cycle of poverty, violence, high school dropouts, teen pregnancies, and single parent families. After hearing an innumerable number of similarly distressing cases, Judge Mester realized that nothing would change unless concerned individuals were willing to change it. To that end, he committed himself to the task.

During his initial contacts, Judge Mester was encouraged by the number of people who, having achieved success in their business and personal lives, were eager to

give something back to the city that gave them so much. So with the help of Oakland County businesses, Pontiac schools and alumni, and concerned county residents, the Pontiac Alumni Foundation was formed. The goal of the foundation is to address problems endemic to the Pontiac community that are obstacles to student achievement and opportunity, and find solutions to those problems. As with any program that is just starting out, they have no answers as of yet. What they do have are the problems they see now, and what they perceive to be possible short term, and long term solutions.

The cycle of poverty can be addressed through education, and the best place to

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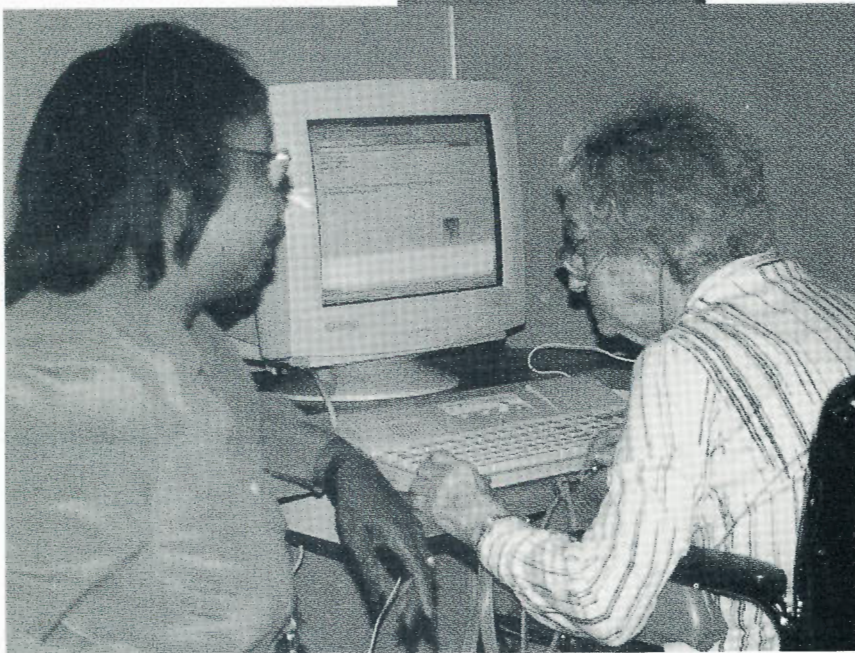


# Experience Senior Power

The words senior and power aren't typically synonymous in our culture. We, as a society, tend to treat people "of a certain age" as if they have outlived their usefulness. The unfortunate result is that many seniors become isolated from the rest of the population and lose contact with family and friends, as well as their joy for life. Do you remember the saying, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste"? It was coined in reference to young people, but that saying holds true no matter what the age of that mind. In an effort to



L. Brooks Patterson kicks off the Senior Power Intergenerational Computer Program at the Medical Care Facility.



A Medical Care Facility resident tries her hand at a computer.

help seniors stimulate their minds and regain a bit of their independence, Oakland County, the Medical Care Facility, and Children's Village, in conjunction with the Maria-Madeline Project, has implemented a program designed to propel residents at the facility from their insulated world, into the vast reaches of cyber space. Experience Senior Power, which began July 26, is a program that links youth volunteers with seniors at nursing homes or senior centers, and assists them in becoming reacquainted with the outside world through the use of computers. The county is promoting Experience

Senior Power by partnering teens from Children's Village, who have computer knowledge, with Medical Care Facility residents, who are capable and eager to learn new things. Experience Senior Power has opened up a whole new world for the residents by giving them the freedom to explore the world outside the walls of the Medical Care Facility through the use of e-mail, chat rooms, and online shopping. "I love it," exclaimed resident, Faith Mechtel. "I spend all of my time doing needlepoint and using the computer. I like being able to get my patterns online because I can't get out to buy them." Resident, Anita Joan

Leopold, is excited at having the ability to communicate daily with relatives residing all over the country.

The program offers a give and take proposition for the residents and the teens. The seniors will have the opportunity to learn new things, set new goals, and find new joy in life, while the teen volunteers will develop a better understanding of life in terms of potential, compassion, and determination.

Three of the present youth volunteers, Teriesa, Sabrina, and Airis, are enjoying the opportunity to pass their knowledge on to such enthusiastic "students". Eventually, officials hope to include volunteers from area high schools as well. The young people teach the seniors basic computer language and skills, such as using the mouse, sending e-mail, and surfing the web. And the daily, one-to-one, intergenerational partnerships provide the perfect opportunities for sharing, comparing, listening, and learning. In a youth-oriented society such as ours, it's encouraging to witness a volunteer program that partners teens who possess the knowledge and are willing to teach, with seniors who possess the desire to learn and are eager to accept the challenge



# Volunteers Spread Comfort for Traumatized Kids

by Margie See

Most, if not all of us, can relate to the magically soothing coziness that a blanket provides. An infant will instinctively snuggle down into it, and a toddler will demonstrate Herculean strength when threatened with a hostile takeover by mom and the washing machine. We understand the significance of a 5-year-old insisting on taking their blanket to kindergarten, and an 18-year-old going off to college with the raggedy patch of what's left of that "blankie" tucked away in a safe place, waiting to be taken out and stroked if needed. The blanket's value lies, not in how it was made or what it was made of, but in what it represents to its owner - security, comfort, and love.



Project Linus volunteers pictured from left to right: Lori Steinlauf, Barb Weberman, Betty Hysell and Sandy Grignon

Project Linus is a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization that is based on that premise. The organization got its start in 1995 because a woman read a magazine article featuring a small child who was receiving intensive chemotherapy. The story touched her so deeply, she felt compelled to make a security blanket for that little girl. Since that momentous day, Project Linus has delivered more than 300,000 blankets to children all over the world. Recipients include any seriously ill or traumatized children, ages 0-18.

The Oakland County chapter of Project Linus was formed in March 2001, after Lori Steinlauf, a rehabilitation consultant, was touched in a similar way. And, when Lori's long-time friend, Barb Weberman, a County Health Department lab supervisor, became involved with the organization, she took it upon herself to incite all county employees to take part as well. Thanks to the efforts of Lori and Barb, our newly formed chapter has generated more than 100 blankets since July. While the blankets usually stay within the local area, the recent disasters in New York, Washington,

and Pennsylvania have prompted Project Linus to distribute blankets in those areas, targeting traumatized children who have been identified in schools and through grief counseling. "We've had a wonderful response from county employees and we would like to see an even greater response," said Barb. "This is a county-wide chapter. It's not just for county employees. The hope is that employees will talk about it, spread the word, and get other people involved."

Although blanket makers are needed, the wonder of this organization is that you don't have to know how to sew, crochet, or knit in order to take part. And, there are many ways for people of all ages to get involved. "Out of the 120 residents at the medical care facility," said Barb, "14 have been designated who have sewing in their past and need something to do that allows them to feel useful and needed again." Blankets for Project Linus are being made by these residents, and other volunteers, using materials donated by individuals who would like to be a part of the effort, but don't have the skills to

make a blanket themselves. A simple donation of yarn, flannel, blanket binding, or thread may be brought to the drop box located in the lab at the medical care facility. The donation of a working sewing machine would also come in handy, as well as postage stamps or a gift certificate from a fabric store. Those who are interested in making a blanket should keep in mind that it doesn't have to be a work of art. "Flannel with binding makes a beautiful blanket," said Laurie. "They're hand made, and that's what it's all about." Anyone interested in learning more about Project Linus can contact Laurie or Barb at:

Laurie Steinlauf  
Project Linus Coordinator for  
Oakland County  
Phone: (248) 618-9523  
E-mail: MsLorinda@aol.com

Barb Weberman  
Medical Care Facility  
Phone: (248) 858-1310  
E-mail: webermanb@co.oakland.mi.us



# Something Old, Something New

by Margie See

If you could go back to any period in time, which would you choose? I'd like to return to the days of my childhood. That's not to say that I'd like to relive my childhood, but regaining a bit of the innocence and charm that has since become outdated, old-fashioned, and obsolete sounds inviting. Those of us over a certain age have a game we sometimes play when driving through the cities and local neighborhoods where we grew up. It's called "I remember when", and it has the power to conjure up pleasant memories of once thriving, close-knit communities. References to neighborhood businesses of the past remind us of the small stores owned and run by people we knew, of personal service in a friendly environment. "I remember when...."

Unfortunately, as impersonal malls and generic shopping centers began popping up, the "mom and pop" shops couldn't compete, and downtown areas began to lose their vitality as, one by one, the neighborhood stores closed their doors. Those thriving, close-knit communities steadily became lifeless remains. Buildings were allowed to become run-down relics; brick and mortar dinosaurs. We call it progress, and it's vital, but in our quest for it, have we given up something equally as important? Wouldn't a balance between the old and new benefit everyone?

Main Street Oakland County and the Downtown Design Studio, working in conjunction with Lawrence Tech's College of Architecture and

Design and local governments, are striving for that balance by utilizing a four-point approach of organization, design, promotion and economic restructuring in an attempt to revitalize these forsaken areas. The goal is to create commercial centers that will attract a variety of new businesses that will, in turn, attract a wide variety of consumers, while preserving and sustaining a town's integrity and historical significance. Quaint shops, unique restaurants, a picturesque bed and breakfast, an inviting park, and a charming period-inspired streetscape design can promote economic growth that will jump start the heart of a town and get the lifeblood flowing once again. In essence, an environment can be developed and maintained that will entice people into downtown areas by offering something for everyone, most importantly, a reason to return.

The Downtown Design Studio is the first in the nation to operate this unique type of joint effort designed specifically to find solutions to real downtown issues. The first three Oakland County communities selected to participate in the program were Walled Lake, Rochester, and Royal Oak. Each year, three more communities will be selected based on their readiness and commitment to the program. Three cheers to the Oakland County communities that are taking the initiative to achieve their potential and regain their integrity. Why settle for a town that people drive through, when, through commitment and hard work, it can become a place that people drive to.

## MESTER from page 4

begin is at the beginning. Parenting workshops will be offered in order to educate parents on proper parenting techniques. The foundation will also partner with area hospitals, local obstetricians, and pediatricians in identifying, counseling, and preparing pregnant teenagers for the assumptions of the role of a parent, and in preparing the newborn for a life of educational opportunity. Pre-school aged children will be provided with a strong foundation in preparation for school, which may help ensure they start school on equal footing with other students. For those already in the school system, the goal is to keep them there. Forming a partnership with the business community will improve the edu-

cational environment by providing tutors in reading, writing, math, and science, and will assist administrators and teachers in providing the best educational opportunities for their students. And, finally, the foundation is setting up a scholarship program for high school students who may not be candidates for academic or athletic scholarships, but are doing something good for their school or their community.

Only time will tell, but the enthusiasm and determination of the Alumni Foundation members is there. "We don't have all the answers," said Judge Mester. "We don't have any answers, I should say. But, we're going to try."

**The Telegraph would like to thank employees Shannon O'Brien, David Van de Grift and Sue Quinlan for their beautiful photos of the patriotic rally held at the Courthouse on September 17. The pictures were used in last month's Special Edition of the Telegraph.**



# Employee of the Month

## Estella Butler



When Estella Butler finds something she likes, she sticks with it. On October 23, Estella and her husband, James, celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, and they have lived in the same house for 35 years. She has been employed by the County since 1989, and, in 1998, received the perfect attendance award. Her supervisor, Don Chevalier, has high praise for Estella.

"She is very dependable, friendly and outgoing, and puts a lot of effort into her job," he said. Estella is very comfortable in her position as a custodian in the EOB executive area. "I like the executives, they're very nice," she said. "And, if you're going to be someplace, that's the place to be."

Estella loves to travel. In 1997, she toured Europe, visiting Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam, and the Netherlands. On the home front, Estella and James bowl in a mixed-doubles league, where she maintains a 150 average. "They carry me for the handicap," she said. Estella also plays golf, and volunteers at the Welcome Baptist Church in Pontiac by managing their food area. Estella and James live in Pontiac, and have three daughters, Cassandra, Karen, and Katina.

## Laurie Blower



Laurie Blower began working for Oakland County 17 years ago, and has spent all but the first six months in the Health Department lab. "Laurie is the most wonderful secretary on earth," said her supervisor, Barb Weberman. "She's an asset to the lab, the Health Division, and to the County." With praise like that, it's easy to see why Laurie was presented with the Employee of the Month Award in October.

Laurie's position in the lab requires her to handle many different tasks at once. While she enjoys all aspects of her job, dealing with the clientele and working with "a great group of people" really make her days special.

Laurie and her husband, Dan, have five children, Sarah, Jennifer, Sharon, Kevin, and Erica. With only Erica still living at home, Laurie has some spare time on her hands, which she fills with bowling, gardening, and camping. She is also a youth group leader at Ascension Lutheran Church in Waterford. When she and her husband retire, they would like to hit the open roads in a deluxe travel trailer and explore the United States.

## John Sibel



As a youth specialist II with Children's Village, John Sibel is a guiding force in the lives of the children in his charge. He offers them support and guidance, and helps them set goals in preparation for their return to the community.

John's 11 1/2 years as a direct child care worker is just one of the ways he has satisfied his dedication to serving others. He was a Marine

stationed in Okinawa during World War II, where he earned two Purple Hearts. He also served 25 years with the Michigan State Police as a detective-sergeant in Cheboygan, Detroit, and Pontiac.

John and his wife, Monie, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 2, have six children. John, who is 75 years old, recently earned the distinction of being the oldest childcare worker in the state of Michigan. His extracurricular activities include fishing and golf. He also stays busy by helping his son with his lawn cutting business.

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## the Telegraph

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## 2001 Totals

\$29,092.21  
Casual Day Fund

77%  
Direct Deposit



# kudos celebrations con

## kudos

Congratulations to **Joy Shumacher**, from Personal & Preventive Health Services, who received the "Member of the Year Award" from the Michigan Women & AIDS Committee.

**Lynn McDaniels, M.S.N., R.N.**, chief of Clinics and Special Programs at the Health Division, has been elected president of the Michigan Public Health Association, an affiliate of the American Public Health Association.

Congratulations to **Alesha Ulasich**, who was named community health planner for Healthy People Healthy Oakland.

Congratulations to **Lori Miller**, auditing division, for completing all four parts of the Certified Public Accountant exam.

**Terri Meiers**, auditing division, has been honored by the Municipal Treasurers' Association of the United States and Canada for her participation in developing the Oakland County Cash Handlers Training Program.

**Linda Munk**, Information Technology, received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Central Michigan University in May, 2001.

**Darrell Kirby**, Information Technology, received his Master of Science degree in MIS from the University of Phoenix in June, 2001.

**Lynn Hensel**, Information Technology, received a bachelor of business leadership from Baker College on June 9, 2001.

**Michael Loper**, Information Technology, successfully completed the training and testing for the Michigan Professional of Emergency Management certification in July 2001.

**Bob Runyon**, Information Technology, was awarded "Technician of the Year" by the Michigan Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials. The award was announced at the Michigan Chapter meeting in Grand Haven on July 26, 2001 and will formally be presented to Bob at the annual business meeting in Frankenthum on October 18, 2001.

**Gail Novak**, Information Technology, was elected as the first Vice President of the Michigan Emergency Management Association on October 4, 2001.

## promotions

**Penny Knope**, of Sewer & Drain Maintenance, was promoted to drain operations clerk on August 11, 2001.

**Eugene Snowden**, of the Drain Commission's Engineering and Construction Division, was promoted from civil engineer I to civil engineer II on August 25, 2001.

**Chris Gianakos**, in the Miss Dig unit of the Engineering and Construction Division of the Drain Commissioner's office, was promoted from engineering aide to engineering technician on August 25, 2001.

**Ted Meister**, Drain Commissioner's Office Right-of-Way unit, was promoted from row tech to GIS/CAD tech II on June 2, 2001.

**Adam Hopper**, of Pump Maintenance, was promoted to pump maintenance mechanic II on July 28, 2001.

**John Stange**, of Pump Maintenance, was promoted to pump maintenance supervisor II on July 14, 2001.

**Jack Stamper**, of Pump Maintenance, was promoted to pump maintenance supervisor I on July 14, 2001.

**Justine Bretzlaff** was promoted on June 16, 2001, from maintenance laborer to maintenance mechanic I for the Water Maintenance Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Valentina Standfield** was promoted from senior equalization clerk to appraiser trainee in the Personal Property section of the Equalization Division.

**Debra Laclair** was promoted from equalization clerk to senior equalization clerk.

**Glenda Welz** was promoted from equalization clerk to senior equalization clerk.

**David Veit**, chief, Technical Systems and Networking, was promoted to manager, Technical Systems and Networking at Information Technology on April 21, 2001.

**Harshika Patel**, systems software specialist, was promoted to chief, Technical Systems and Networking at Information Technology on July 28, 2001.

**Laurie Danowski**, FM&O safety unit, was promoted to safety dispatcher-PTE, 9/8/01.

**Richard Whetstone**, FM&O custodial maintenance unit, was promoted to general maintenance mechanic, 10/20/01.

**Brian Wright**, FM&O custodial maintenance unit, was promoted to general maintenance mechanic, 10/20/01.

**Peg Moulder** was promoted from clerk III to drain operations clerk for the Engineering Support Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Jerry Bannasch** was promoted on 10/6/2001 from engineering systems coordinator to environmental planner II for the Water Maintenance Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Connie Simms** was promoted on 10/6/2001 from engineering systems coordinator to environmental planner II for the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Diana Gardner** was promoted on 10/6/2001 from engineering aide to engineering tech for the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Croinna Whittlesey** was promoted from seasonal laborer to pump maintenance mechanic I for the Southeastern Oakland Sewage Disposal System Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

## fond farewells

**Steve Ainsley**, pump maintenance mechanic II, SOCSDS unit, retired on July 31, 2001, after 25 years of service.

Farewell to **June Henderson**, chemist, Walled Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Ray Sutton**, Aviation & Transportation, re April 23, 2001 after 35 years with the airport.

**James Castellani**, pump maintenance supervisor II, SOCSDS Unit, retired on July 9, 2001, after 27 years of service.

Farewell to **Richard Blain**, maintenance laborer, in the Drain & Sewer Maintenance Unit.

**Sherry Martin**, in the Cross Connections Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office, resigned on June 22, 2001.

**Loretta Davis-Brazil**, in the Water Maintenance Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office, resigned on June 27, 2001.

**Carl Holmyard**, systems software specialist, retired from Information Technology on August 24, 2001 after 29 years of service.

**Susan Williams**, FM&O custodial unit, resigned 6/22/01.

**Connie Geler**, FM&O custodial unit, resigned 10/5/01.

## marriages

**Eugene Snowden**, of the Drain Commission's Engineering and Construction Division, and **Audra Evans** were married on July 21, 2001.

**Barbara Welch**, of the Equalization Division, married **Matt McDermott** on August 18, 2001.



# Coming & going swap shop

**Tracey Burney**, of the Equalization Division, married Scott Jones on July 28, 2001.

**Douglas Stover**, SOCSDS, Drain Commissioner's Office, married Angela Vincent on 8/24/01.

**Vickie Eichbrecht**, Information Technology, and **Mike Worrell**, Children's Village, were married on June 28, 2001.

**Steve Murphy**, Information Technology, married **Pamela Seaman**, Parks & Recreation, on 9/22/01.

## births

**Adam Cameron**, Aviation & Transportation, and his wife, Lorah, are the proud parents of Benaiah David Baird, who was born on August 21. Ben weighed in at 6 lbs. 10.2 oz. and was 19" long.

**Tim Bliszack**, Pump Maintenance, and his wife, Cathie, welcomed a son, Bradley James, on 7/13/01.

**Lori Miller**, auditing division, and husband, Wayne, welcomed their first child, a boy, Devon C. on June 20, 2001. 7lbs. 3 oz. and 20 1/4 "

**Corbett**, Information Technology, and his wife, Holly, are the proud parents of their first child, Joshua Duane, born April 10, 2001.

Congratulations to **Susan Proksch**, Information Technology, and her husband, Dave, on the birth of their son, Jeremy Lyle, born April 27, 2001.

## new hires

**Charles Lawhorn** was hired as a civil engineer I in the Drain Commission's Engineering and Construction Division on August 27, 2001.

Welcome to **Rachel Shymkiw**, program coordinator for Planning and Evaluation in Personal & Preventive Health Services.

Welcome to **Jane Gerich**, public health nurse assigned to Child Health Clinics.

Welcome to **Lori Russell-Bologna** who has accepted a part-time health educator position in IAP, working with the Child Day Care Immunization project.

**Rodney Landrum** was hired on August 6, 2001, as maintenance laborer for the Water Maintenance Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Masters** was hired on July 30, 2001, as maintenance laborer for the Drain & Sewer Maintenance Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

Welcome to **Mary Johnson**, public health nurse assigned to the General Clinic.

**Jacquelyn Fouche** was hired as a typist I in Administration at the Drain Commissioner's Office on 6/4/01.

**Cheryl Ferguson** was hired as a typist I in Administration at the Drain Commissioner's Office on 4/12/01.

**John Basch** was hired as drainage district legal counsel in the Drain Commissioner's Office on 4/23/01.

**Richard Craine III** was hired on July 16, 2001, as general helper for the Water Maintenance Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Adam G. Cameron**, Aviation & Transportation, was hired as an airport maintenance mechanic I on 6/25/01.

**Rebekah Taylor** was hired as a cashier by the Treasurer's Office on 3/20/2000.

**William Wandrie** was hired as a personal property tax collector by the Treasurer's Office on 10/9/00.

**Anthony Harris** was hired as a personal property tax collector by the Treasurer's Office on 11/6/00.

**Candice Smith** was hired as a clerk I by the Treasurer's Office on 6/30/01.

**Michele Jetke** was hired on July 11, 2001, as a typist I for the Cross Connection Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Michael Walsh** was hired on July 17, 2001, as a civil engineer III for the STP Maintenance Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Scott Janeczek** was hired on July 2, 2001, as pump maintenance mechanic I for the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal System of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Lauren Keinath** was hired on June 18, 2001, as a student for the Engineering Support Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

Welcome to **Laney Mills**, dental assistant in the Health Department dental program.

**Cynthia Ford** was hired from part-time employee to a full time clerk I position in the Equalization Division.

Auditing welcomes **Antonio Pisacreta**, who was hired as an auditor I.

**Melissa Shabdue** was hired on October 8, 2001 as typist I for the Water Maintenance Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**L. C. Hayes** was hired on September 19, 2001, as chemist for the Walled Lake Waste Water Treatment Plant Unit of the Drain Commissioner's Office.

**Soloman Pitta**, programmer, was hired August 6, 2001 in the DISC division of Information Technology.

**Richard Kunath**, Radio Communication Technician, was hired September 10, 2001 in the CLEMIS division of Information Technology.

**Norma Miller**, program manager, was hired September 17, 2001 in the Administration division of Information Technology.

## transfers

**Linda Smith** transferred from Probate Court to the Treasurer's Office on 2/10/01.

**Russ Larson** transferred from Support Services to the Treasurer's Office on 6/30/01.

**Shelly Kerchoff** transferred from the Medical Care Facility to the Treasurer's Office on 6/30/01.

**Vickie Eichbrecht**, Children's Village, transferred to Information Technology as a user support specialist on January 28, 2001.

**Karla Early**, Circuit Court Records, transferred to Information Technology as a user support specialist on April 7, 2001.

**Mark Wilson**, FM&O custodial unit, transferred to Parks & Recreation 7/27/01.

## announcements

The Oakland County Executive 2001 Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 14, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets will go on sale the week of November 19 at a cost of \$20 each. NEW LOCATION: This year's event will be held at MARRIOTT AT CENTERPOINT in Auburn Hills instead of the Northfield Hilton in Troy.



# Employee of the Month

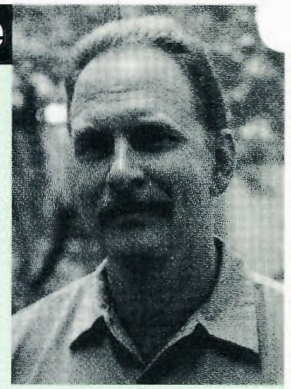


**Pat Chetkovich**

Patricia Chetkovich, pharmacy clerk II, spent two years applying for positions with the county before being hired in 1996 as a part-timer in the Medical Care Facility pharmacy. In 1997, she was hired as a full-time employee. "I'm so happy to be here," she said. "I'm always busy, so the days go by quickly." Some of her duties include filing, answering phones, and handling shipment orders. She also generates

the prescription labels for in-house residents, the jail, Children's Village, and the outlying clinics, which add up to 200 per day, or more. Pharmacy supervisor, Joanne Dunsmore, has a tremendous amount of respect for Pat, her organizational skills, and cheerful manner. "She works under a great deal of pressure to meet deadlines, and remains kind and considerate toward everyone," said Joanne.

Pat's leisure time activities allow her to balance her hectic work pace with much needed relaxation. She is a voracious reader. She also enjoys working in her yard, and exploring antique shops and flea markets. Pat and her husband, Bob, who live in Waterford, celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary on October 14. They have three daughters, Deann, Amy, and Susan.



**Greg White**

Greg White is a life long resident of the Pontiac area, and graduated from Oxford High School. He and his wife, Carole, live in Clarkston with their two sons, Eric, 13, and Lucas, 9, and their bulldog, Ellie. At home, Greg takes pride in being a hands-on dad, and coaches his son's soccer and baseball teams. He is also an avid hunter. Although Greg stalks his wild game mainly in Michigan, since 1991, he has been fortunate enough to be able to take yearly treks to Colorado to go elk hunting with a friend.

As a skilled mechanic II in the Oakland Schools building, Greg is responsible for the heating, cooling, and general operations maintenance for the building. He has been with the county since 1975, and still enjoys what he is doing because the job "is different every day. It isn't repetitive and it's not boring."

"Greg is an outstanding guy," said Mark Conner, FM&O chief. "He's here every day, always smiling, and does a terrific job." Greg appreciated having his achievements recognized. "It was an honor to be selected as employee of the month," he said.



**Bonnie Eason**

Bonnie Eason handles an amazing 250-300 home improvement loan closings per year, plus all of the paperwork that goes along with them, as a loan-closing officer for Community and Home Improvement. "The best part of my job," she said, "is helping people who appreciate the assistance." She also has the joy of working with a group of people that she considers to be

just one, big family. Bonnie is dedicated to her work and well respected by her co-workers. "She's an asset to our division and a pleasure to work with," says supervisor, Kris Hoffman.

Bonnie is a graduate of Pontiac Northern High School, and has been with Oakland County for 13 years. She is a lifelong resident of the Pontiac area, and resides in Waterford with her husband, Gary. They have two sons, Eric, 27, and Jeff, 24.

As much as Bonnie enjoys her work, she gets equal pleasure from all of her leisure time activities. Her bowling average hovers around the 150 mark, she enjoys reading, and plays the piano. In addition, Bonnie sings in her car to and from work every day as she practices for her position as soloist for Grace Missionary Church in Waterford.



**Diana Schell**

After Diana Schell received her Bachelor's degree in criminalistics from Michigan State University, she relocated to Illinois and received her initial training in forensic toxicology in Chicago's Cook County, which holds the distinction of being the third busiest medical examiner's office in the country. Diana remained there for over two years before becoming homesick and returning to Michigan. It was our good fortune when, in 1992, she was hired into the Oakland County Medical Examiner's office as a forensic toxicologist. Phil Predmore, chief toxicologist, has high praise for Diana's professional achievements and abilities. "Hiring her is the best decision I've made in 28 years," he said. "She's been nominated for the award twice, and that says it all."

Diana sees herself as the lucky one. "I look forward to coming to work every day," she said. "The work is interesting and challenging, and I work with some terrific people."

Diana and her husband, Patrick, live on a canal in West Bloomfield. They enjoy boating, and plan an annual trip to Torch Lake every summer. Diana also likes to spend time reading, skiing, and walking her dog, Barley.