



oakland county employees

# Telegraph

winter 2001

## ESP Winners Announced

Kathleen Lane, accountant III, Fiscal Services Division, is the Grand Prize winner in this year's Employee Suggestion Program. Kathy was awarded a trip to Hawaii at the December 8 Holiday Party at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. Kathy's suggestion to collect on outstanding payments due Oakland County from residential providers within the Family Independence Agency will result in projected cost savings of \$75,000 annually.

Coming home the second place prize of a trip to Cancun was Caryn Thompson, secretary II, Children's Village. The suggestion offered by Caryn and implemented for staff at Children's Village to administer and read TB skin tests on site, rather than going to the Health Division will save about \$11,800.

A trip to Toronto was won by Michelle Foppes, office leader, Health Division, for recommending the development of an authentic immunization card to verify the



Left to right: Grand Prize winner Kathy Lane, third place winner Michelle Foppes and Vickie Smith, \$500 prize winner. Second place winner Caryn Thompson is not pictured.

authenticity of the plain card currently in use. Estimated cost savings as a result of greater efficiency has been estimated at \$10,800.

The \$500 prize winners were Vickie Smith (double winner), office supervisor, Support Services and Kathleen Gaberty, administrative assistant, Treasurer's Office.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson also distributed checks totaling \$29,000 to 22 worthy charities.

In the February edition of the Telegraph, we will have the names of the winners of the \$250 random drawing in ESP and pictures from the Holiday Party.

(248) 858-1022

OC Hotline

press **1** for Employee Information

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## Fiscal Management Earns National Honors

The Oakland County Fiscal Services Division, Department of Management & Budget, has received three national awards from the Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada.

Oakland County is the only county in Michigan to receive all three prestigious awards -- Distinguished Budget Presentation, Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Popular Annual Financial Report.

"These three national awards, which few counties ever receive, exemplify the high

quality of fiscal management practiced in Oakland County under the able leadership of Management & Budget Director Jeff Pardee and Fiscal Services Division Manager Tom Ott," Patterson said.

Patterson added that Oakland County's sound fiscal management practices are one of the key reasons cited by Wall Street for awarding Oakland County a AAA bond rating, which is the highest rating achievable and an honor bestowed upon less than one percent of the nation's counties.

# PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

Ponder, if you will, this scenario for a moment. You're tired of the kids tying up the family phone with calls to their friends, so you install a new phone just for them. Under a proposal now being considered by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), it's entirely conceivable - probable even - that your children will have a different area code for their phone than the one currently assigned to the existing family phone.

Although it appears Flint will become the first community in the state to experience an "overlay" (two separate area codes layered on top of one another 586 and 810), southeast Michigan is not far behind. The Federal Communications Commission is preparing a 947 area code on new phone lines in Oakland County on top of the present 248 area code, citing a scarcity of available phone numbers.

Historically, new area codes have been issued on the basis of what is called a "geographic split." Oakland County was split geographically a few years ago when homes and businesses in the south end were given the 313 area code while those in the north end got the 810 area code. Fortunately, both of these were eventually eliminated and now the entire county falls under the current 248 area code.

But what the MPSC is moving toward is a new mutation called an "area code overlay". It is exactly what the name implies: placing one area code on top of another one in the same geographic area.

So in the case of the family I cited above, there would be two different area codes in the same household - the new 947 area code for the children upstairs and the old 248 area code for mom and dad downstairs. Or what about a company that adds 20 new employees? They would be forced to use the 947 area code as the result of new phone lines added, while their colleagues just across the hall would go on using the existing 248 area code.

Can you imagine the chaos and confusion this will cause with stationery, business cards and fax machines? Then there's the enormous cost involved in accommodating two separate area codes.

The Federal Communications Commission by its own estimates says that if the so-called "overlay" of area codes continues, it will require the addition of one or more

numbers to the existing ten-digit dialing format. This in turn, according to the FCC analysis, will result in phone dialing restructuring that could cost the U.S. economy \$150 billion or more for new switches, new software and even new alarm systems.

There is a better way to accommodate the growing demand for more cell phones, pagers, computers and fax machines. Michigan's nine area codes currently provide a total of 64 million numbers for a population of 10 million. So what happened to the other 54 million numbers? They have been locked away, totally unused by our phone providers.

Here's how it works. Our phone providers are given phone numbers in blocks of 10,000, regardless of the number of potential customers to be serviced. So if Ameritech, for example, has only four thousand customers requiring numbers in a particular geographic location, the remaining six thousand numbers simply aren't used. They are, to use industry jargon, "stranded." **My proposal is very simple: RECLAIM THE UNUSED, UNASSIGNED PHONE NUMBERS AND PUT THEM INTO CIRCULATION!**

Under the restructured Telecommunications Act, the Michigan Public Service Commission has the authority to combine prefixes within an area code to free up stranded numbers, thereby eliminating the need for a new area code.

By freeing up the existing 54 million phone numbers that are currently available in Michigan, the Michigan Public Service Commission can avoid saddling our citizens and businesses with unnecessary costs that could stretch into the millions of dollars and will do nothing but create chaos and confusion.

The proponents of this ill-conceived and ill-advised plan have definitely dialed the wrong number.

Express your concerns on this important issue by contacting the MPSC at: 6545 Mercantile Way, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909.

For a more detailed explanation of the area code overlay plan, see County Executive Patterson's testimony before the MPSC which is on the Oakland County website at [www.co.oakland.mi.us](http://www.co.oakland.mi.us)



**L. Brooks Patterson**  
Oakland County Executive

2000 - 2050

# Time Capsule Preserves Historical Heritage



George Kuhn and great-niece Anna place items in the capsule.



Sheriff Michael Bouchard and son Jake place items in the capsule.

On a sunny October morning, a crowd of interested spectators gathered outside the north entrance of the main courthouse building to observe the county's top elected officials place memorabilia into a Time Capsule that will provide a historical record of Oakland County for a future generation. They were all there - Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Board of Commissioners Chairman John McCulloch, Drain Commissioner George Kuhn, Clerk Dr. William Caddell, Sheriff Michael Bouchard, Prosecutor David Goryca, Chief Circuit Judge Barry Howard and Chief Probate Judge Linda Hallmark.

Each official was accompanied by a child or grandchild who assisted them in placing items in the Time Capsule. It is hoped that when the Time Capsule is eventually opened in 50 years, these young men and women will be invited back to participate in the ceremony.

Items placed in the Time Capsule included Mr. Patterson's State of the County Addresses, an Arts, Beats & Eats poster, Automation Alley CD Rom, Oakland County Directory 2000, a Sheriff's uniform, a miniature shovel with George Kuhn Drain inscribed on it, the Prosecu-

tor's Drug Awareness Calendar, a 1970 Oakland County Sesquicentennial coin set designed by Marshall Fredericks that was submitted by the Treasurer's Office, a group photo of the Oakland County Circuit Court Bench and profiles on the Board of Commissioners.

After the Time Capsule was filled, it was then placed in a concrete vault across from the Veterans Memorial. Mr. Patterson and Chairman McCulloch made their handprints in wet cement and then signed their names.

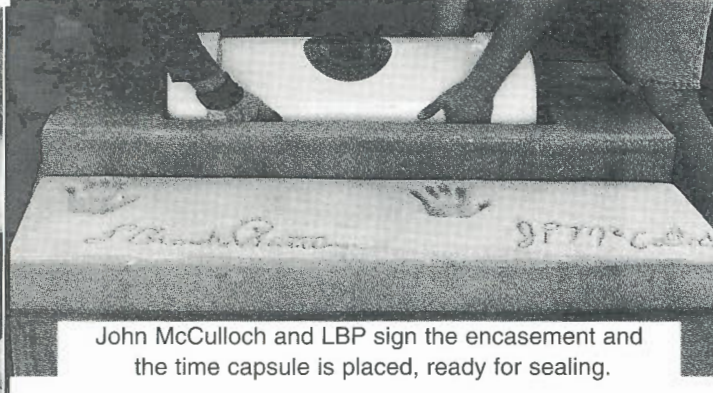
A plaque that adorns the cement encasement housing the historical cylinder reads:

"The Year 2000 Time Capsule, encased beneath, was formally dedicated in October, 2000 during the administration of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. It is hoped that the heirs of the county officials who participated in burying the Time Capsule will be invited back 50 years hence to assist in opening the contents. Their names are on file at the Clerk/Register of Deeds Office. The suggestion to establish a Time Capsule for Oakland County was submitted by Linda Odneal, an Oakland County employee."

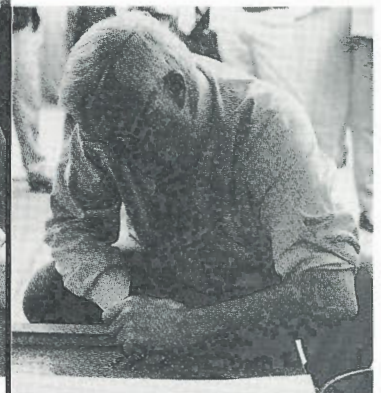
Odneal, a 15-year county employee who works in Record Retention, contributed a few personal items to the Time Capsule. Actually, the Time Capsule suggestion was just one of 20 Odneal has made over the course of the Employee Suggestion Program.

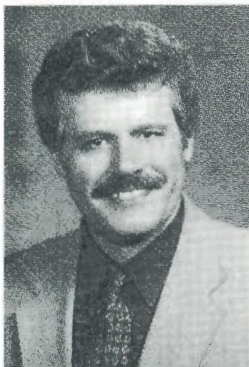
The festive nature of the ceremony was greatly enhanced by the group Singsation which performed several rousing musical numbers from the past 100 years. Donuts and cider were also available for the guests.

The success of this event was made possible by the hard work and dedication of a special committee comprised of Shelley Taub, Oakland County Commissioner; Carmen Talbot, State Government Liaison; Nancy Hayden, Director of Arts, Culture & Film; Sheryl Mitchell, Board of Commissioners senior analyst; Suzanne Kocyan, Acting Board of Commissioners Liaison; James Dunleavy, Parks and Recreation; Bob Larkin, Facilities Management; Sue Quinlan, Graphic Artist and Bob Dustman, Media & Communications Officer. A special thanks also goes to Sgt. Steve Jacobs of the Sheriff's Department who arranged traffic control.



John McCulloch and LBP sign the encasement and the time capsule is placed, ready for sealing.





**Bob Dustman**  
Media and  
Communications

## The View from Here

In the immortal words of that renowned country western singer Roger Miller - "England swings like a pendulum do . . ." I can attest to that fact because my wife and I just returned from a 9-day visit to jolly old London, England. The city is crowded with people, packed with traffic, but bursting with fun, excitement and tons of things to do and see.

Our friends from San Francisco, Dick and Pat Golomb, joined us in London, which really made the trip even more enjoyable. Everyday the four of us set out early to cram as much as we could into each minute of each day. Although we didn't get to see everything, there wasn't much we missed.

For instance, we saw the Tower of London, the Crown Jewels, Big Ben, Parliament, the British Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Sherlock Holmes Museum, Churchill's War Cabinet Room, Buckingham Palace and the changing of the guard, Stratford-on-Avon, Cotswold, Windsor Castle, Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum, the London Planetarium, West Minister Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral.

By the way, an unexpected treat greeted us when we walked into St. Paul's. The London Philharmonic and choir were rehearsing for a special performance that evening, so we sat down and listened for a while. Because of the high ceiling, the music filled the cathedral and resonated throughout with a sound that gave you chills.

Of course, no trip to London would be complete without a trip to Harrud's (at least that's what the wives told us). Harrud's is a department store without equal. You name it - they got it. From the finest crystal and china to refrigerators and stoves and just about everything else in-between.

Somehow we also managed to find time to take in three plays. When I was told we were going to see the Lion King, I had my doubts. But I'm here to tell you it was one of the best productions I've ever seen. The music was fabulous, the performances were wonderful and the costumes were extraordinary.

Mama Mia, a musical based on the music of the Swedish group Abba, was also enjoyable and you could tell the performers were really having a good time. At the end of the play, they came back out on stage and performed encores of several

songs including Dancing Queen which got the entire audience on its feet and dancing in the aisles.

The third play, called Art, focused on the relationship between three British male friends. It was okay, but not nearly as entertaining as the other two plays.

We stayed at the venerable old Goring Hotel in central London which dates back more than one hundred years. In fact, every British prime minister since Churchill has stayed there at one time or another and even the Queen has held receptions there. The Goring is London. You can almost envision Charles Dickens walking through the lobby.

The first night there, I thought I saw Sir Laurence Olivier standing by the reception desk. I convinced my wife and our traveling companions it was actually him. Imagine my surprise the next day when our guide while taking us on a tour of West Minster Abbey pointed out Sir. Laurence's grave which we just happened to be standing on. My wife and friends looked at me and started to crack up. In my own defense, I told them he must have died suddenly last night. Okay, so it wasn't Sir Laurence. But it was someone famous. As it turned out the gentleman I mistakenly took for Olivier was in truth Christopher Plummer, the noted British actor, who plays F. Lee Bailey in the new made-for-TV movie about the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

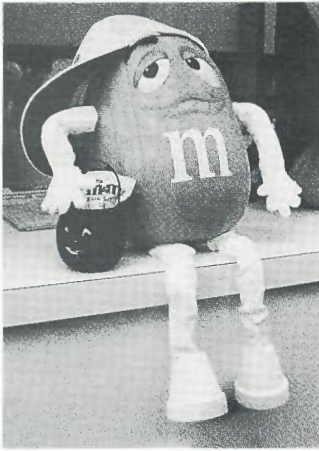
On the Saturday we left, I happened to catch a weather report that predicted heavy rains and high winds for a good portion of England and Wales. As it happened, we got out of town just in time. The next day, Sunday, London was pummeled with 80 mile per hour winds, torrential rainfall and even a tornado which claimed three lives. The Underground, which is the train system for London, was flooded, as were the streets. Timing is everything. If our vacation had been a week later, we might not have made it out of our hotel.

Although it was overcast and drizzled just about everyday we were there, it wasn't bad enough to hinder our ability to get out and experience the wonder that is London. Try it some time.

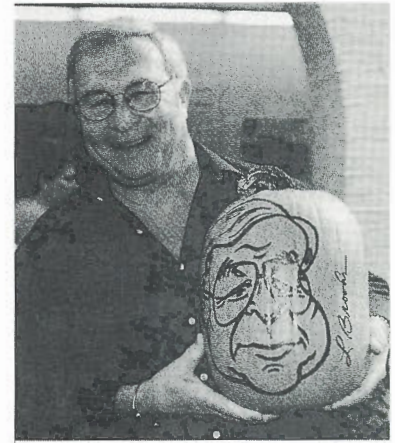
You'll love it.

That's all for now. Pip, pip and cheerio until next time.

# The Great Pumpkin Auction



Voted favorite pumpkin

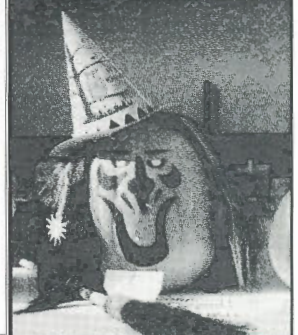
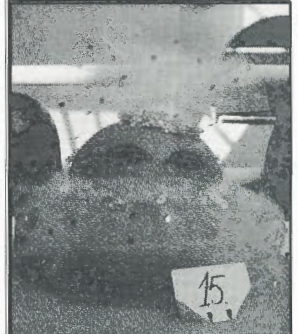
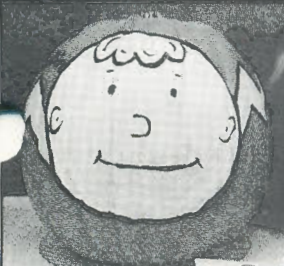


LBP and the \$180 pumpkin

As part of the 2000 United Way Campaign several county departments participated in a pumpkin decorating challenge. Each Team Captain was asked to have their department decorate a pumpkin. The pumpkins could be decorated in whatever manner they chose, either painted, carved, or in any other medium. The pumpkins were on display the week of October 23-27 culminating in an auction of the pumpkins, hosted by none other than our very own Mr. L. Brooks Patterson. The key to decorating the pumpkins was creativity and those who came to the EOB to see the display were not disappointed. Some chose the function their department performs as the theme for their pumpkin. For example, Emergency Management's pumpkin came complete with a gas mask and disaster control hard hat, while Park and Rec's pumpkin sported a painted 3-D snake in jewel tones. There were traditional Halloween themes like witches and pirates and some not so traditional themes like Stan from South Park and the M & M guy. There was also a whimsical fall scene from the Medical Examiner's

office and a boy and his pumpkin from Reimbursement. For a dollar, the employees could cast a ballot for their favorite pumpkin. The overwhelming winner was the M&M guy created by the Executive Office team with the artwork done by Sue Quinlan.

The highlight of the week was the auction itself. The turnout was quite good, since just about every department sent representatives to ensure that someone would bid on their pumpkin. The bidding got off to an enthusiastic start netting \$35 for the first pumpkin. All the pumpkins did very well, selling for an average price of \$25-\$30. However there was one dark horse, a late entry that sold way above the average price at \$180. What, you ask, can draw in that kind of cold hard cash? How about a signed caricature of the County Executive himself submitted by FM & O? I can see it already - next year there will be 50 pumpkin caricatures of Mr. Patterson. All in all the auction was a great success raising over \$700 for the United Way. I have a feeling this may become a fall tradition around here as I heard several people saying "next year we're going to..."



# Don't Invite Unwanted Guests to Your Holiday Party

by Sylvia Treitman, MSU Extension

The busiest time of year is right around the corner. There are more parties to attend, and more parties to host, right? Eating out and eating on the run seems to become the norm at this time of year for many folks who are trying to save time while shopping and running errands. Just because it is such a busy time, food preparation often becomes rushed and this can cause problems if food safety practices are ignored. No one wants to invite food poisoning to their next holiday party.

The Michigan State University Extension Food and Nutrition Hotline, Oakland County is busy this time of year answering consumer questions on proper food handling. The hotline is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 4:00 to answer consumer inquiries.

Keeping party food either "hot" or "cold" and not out for more than two hours is an important rule that party givers tend to forget. Holiday office parties are notably lax in keeping dips and other foods out all day while the staff grazes whenever they feel like it. If food is left out at temperatures in the danger zone of between 40 degrees and 140 degrees for more than a couple of hours, dangerous bacteria can grow and cause some miserable food poisoning symptoms. Chafing dishes which use Sterno to keep the dish hot work well, as do electric warming trays, crock pots and elec-

tric fry pans. Two bowls nested, one inside of the other lined with ice cubes makes a good ice source for keeping foods cold.

Old holiday recipes using raw eggs are no longer recommended. If you want to make eggnog use pasteurized egg products, or use recipes that bring the egg mixture up to 160 degrees for safety. Hollandaise sauce, mousse recipes and others using raw eggs can cause Salmonella food poisoning. It is definitely not a good risk!

Think twice before using your back porch or car to hold extra food items that don't fit into a full refrigerator at party time. Don't forget that outdoor temperatures fluctuate with the sun and time of day.

Keep everything that comes in contact with your party food clean, including equipment, preparation surfaces and the preparer's hands.

When preparing raw meat and chicken keep other food preparation items separate to avoid cross contamination. It is best to have two separate chopping boards, one for raw meats, and another for salad preparation and fruits and breads. Make sure that any knives used for raw meat or poultry are washed with hot soapy water and rinsed well before reusing.

A meat thermometer is an excellent tool for holiday cooking. It is easier to check the temperature of the turkey with a ther-

mometer than guessing if it is cooked sufficiently. Poultry must be thoroughly cooked to prevent food poisoning. A whole turkey should register 180 degrees to be thoroughly cooked. All dishes containing raw hamburger need to be cooked thoroughly also to a temperature of 160 degrees. You cannot judge doneness of hamburger or steak by its color, as was the practice in the past. Experts now warn us that it is essential to check the doneness with a meat thermometer.

Holiday gifts that are sent through the mail need special care also. If the item is perishable it should arrive frozen, packed in an insulated container with either dry ice or blue ice and sent overnight delivery. If you are sending the gift, make sure to label it "keep refrigerated", along with an accurate address. The recipient should also be notified that a gift is on the way.

If you receive a holiday turkey at work, make sure it is refrigerated or frozen immediately. It is not safe to let it sit out at room temperature all day!

Holiday time should be fun time so make every effort to keep it that way. Don't take chances with your family's health by allowing food poisoning to pay an unwelcome visit. It is definitely an "uninvited guest". Feel free to call the Food and Nutrition Hotline for help with any food safety concerns at (248) 858-0904.

## Oakland County Employees Battle Breast Cancer

The Oakland County Health Division's Health Education Unit teamed up with the American Cancer Society to kick-off National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October by sponsoring the Third Annual Tell-A-Friend Tuesday Employee Contest on October 3.

Oakland County employees were asked to participate in the American Cancer Society's Tell-A-Friend Tuesday by calling five women they knew, over the age of 40, to remind them of the importance of regular mammography.

The Health Education Unit enlisted team leaders to promote the event and the Health Spot Board employee contacts were asked to notify co-workers in their department.

Sixty-one employees participated and a

total of 312 women were called during the day long event. Of that number, 228 said they had a mammogram in the last year. Prizes were awarded to all employees who participated in the event with Pat White, coordinator of the Health Division's Immunization Program, winning the grand prize, a gift certificate to Borders Books.

This year's event was a success thanks to all Health Spot Board employee contacts and participants. The number of women called doubled this year compared to last year. A special thanks goes out to Stephanie Schroeder of the Oakland County Courthouse's Clerk's Legal Office, who recruited 11 co-workers to participate in the event. Great job, Stephanie!

The Oakland County Health Education Unit would like to thank all Oakland

County employees who participated in Tell-A-Friend Tuesday. Congratulations for doing your part in the battle against breast cancer. We hope you will be involved again next year.

**Remember** - you are at risk for breast cancer if:

- ◆ You have a family history
- ◆ You have no family history
- ◆ You had children
- ◆ You had no children
- ◆ You are thin
- ◆ You are not so thin
- ◆ You are past menopause
- ◆ You are pre-menopausal
- ◆ You live in the country
- ◆ You live in the city

In other words -- you're at risk if you were born female.

# to your benefit



## Retirement Income Planning

by Doug Williams, Deputy County Executive

### Determining Your Income Needs

To get anywhere, you first must have a "destination." When it comes to retirement income planning, your destination is the amount of money you will need to retire. In order to determine this amount, you must figure out how much you're spending now. From there, add expenses that will be unique to retirement (vacations, winter homes, hobbies) and subtract those expenses which will be reduced or eliminated (dry cleaning, cost of transportation to work). Then come up with a reasonable percentage of your current income. A quick and easy way to do this is to take last year's gross income and subtract taxes and savings (don't forget to subtract your FICA). The balance is the amount you spent during the year. To be as accurate as possible, it is well worth your while to take the time to develop an itemized budget. This will allow you to precisely determine where your expenses will increase or decrease during retirement. Most experts agree that the result will be 70-90% of your current gross income. You may then take this annual amount needed and project how much it will be in the future by applying a reasonable inflation factor to it (3-5% for a number of years until retirement).

Once you know how much you'll need, the next step is to investigate how much you will have at retirement. What are some of the typical sources? For those of you who are in the Defined Benefit Plan, commonly referred to as the "old plan," it is relatively easy to project what that amount will be. If you are not sure how to

"guesstimate" your retirement benefit, you can visit the Personnel Department, Retirement Benefits Group, and ask for an estimate. The closer retirement is, the more accurate your projection will be.

Those who are in the Defined Contribution Plan, the 401A Money Purchase Plan (better known as the "new plan"), may use the tools that are available through ICMA at their website which is [www.icmarc.org](http://www.icmarc.org). Available on this website are many financial tools which will enable you to make various projections.

The Defined Contribution Plan also offers the opportunity (of which not many people are taking advantage) to add to your Defined Contribution account an amount up to 10% of pay on a post-tax (meaning after-tax) basis. This amount will grow tax-free until time of withdrawal. In the meantime, if an emergency arises, those post-tax dollars - not the earnings - may be withdrawn from the plan without a tax consequence.

### Deferred Compensation

Oakland County offers a Defined Contribution Plan, known as an IRS 457 Plan, through Fidelity. This is also sometimes referred to as a supplemental retirement plan. Oakland County will match up to \$300 of your yearly contribution to the Defined Contribution Plan.

### Social Security

You can obtain a Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement (PEBES) from Social Security by dialing their toll-free number (1-800-772-1213). You'll get your PEBES in about a month. It is important to remember that Social Security is a supplement and is not intended to fully fund retirement.

### Personal Investments

Your personal investments also need to be considered. These include a regular IRA, a Roth IRA, annuities, life insurance, equity in your house and other savings or investments.

### How Long Will the Money Last?

If you had \$100,000 in your various retirement accounts other than a Defined Benefit Plan, the chart below shows how long it would last given different rates of return and amounts of monthly withdrawal.

ANNUALIZED RATE OF RETURN	YEARS OF MONTHLY WITHDRAWALS			
	5	10	15	20
3.50%	1814	986	713	578
4.00%	1836	1009	737	604
4.50%	1857	1033	762	630
5.00%	1879	1056	788	657
5.50%	1901	1080	813	685
6.00%	1924	1105	840	713
6.50%	1946	1129	866	742
7.00%	1969	1154	894	771
7.50%	1991	1180	921	801
8.00%	2014	1205	949	831
8.50%	2037	1231	978	862
9.00%	2060	1257	1007	893
9.50%	2084	1284	1036	925
10.00%	2107	1311	1066	957

### Filling the Income Gap

If there is a retirement income gap after you have estimated what you will need and what you'll have, there are still some remedies - work longer which increases pension benefits in most cases, increase contributions to a tax deferred savings plan, and/or increase your personal investment program.

I hope you can use some of these ideas. At the very least, perhaps it has provided a starting point for you to begin to examine these issues. The next issue will focus on how to increase your savings in your 457 or 401A programs, should you use a Roth IRA, and other topics that may help you in your personal retirement planning.

# Debt of Honor

*(Editor's Note: The following poem was written by a Marine stationed in Okinawa, Japan)*

*Tw'as the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,  
And to see just who in this home did live.  
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, Not even a tree.  
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,  
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,  
A sober thought came through my mind.  
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,  
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.  
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.  
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,  
Not how I pictured a United States Soldier.  
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?  
I realized the families that I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.  
Soon round the world, The children would play  
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.  
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,  
Because of the soldiers like the one lying here.  
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.  
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice.  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
My life is my God, my country, my corps."  
The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,  
And we both shivered from the cold night's chill.  
I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,  
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,  
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."  
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.  
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."*

## HOSTS - Help One Student to Succeed

*HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) is a nationally recognized structured mentoring program using volunteers as mentors. The goals of HOSTS is to assist students who need additional help to be successful. HOSTS gets results in schools nationwide.*

**WHAT IS THE HOSTS PROGRAM?** - HOSTS is a nationally recognized academic structured mentoring program that pairs a student who needs help in reading or math with a volunteer who wants to make a difference in a student's life.

### **WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?**

Any person who wants to help a student succeed in school is qualified to be a HOSTS mentor. Businesses and organizations are participating in the HOSTS Program by releasing employees to mentor students during their workday. Individuals, such as retirees, business persons and other students can also give the gift of time by mentoring in the HOSTS Program.

### **HOW WILL VOLUNTEERS KNOW WHAT TO DO?**

All volunteers attend an orientation session for information and training. Volunteers follow mentor-friendly students lesson plans prepared by the teacher to ensure a successful experience for them and students.

### **HOW MUCH TIME DO VOLUNTEERS SPEND MENTORING DURING THE WEEK?**

Most volunteers work one hour a week. Schedules are arranged to accommodate volunteers and to establish continuing relationships with students.

### **WHY VOLUNTEER?**

The success of our community depends on the education that young people receive today. Your commitment as a HOSTS volunteer will play a vital role in increasing student achievement and self-esteem. The benefits for students are immense. The lessons they learn from you will motivate them to be more productive students and citizens in the future.

For more information or to become a mentor, call (248) 373-4296 or (248) 451-7700.



# Judge Receives Judicial Service Award



The North Oakland County Branch of the NAACP has selected Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore, presiding Judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court - Family Division, as this year's recipient of the 2000 Judicial Service Award. Judge Moore accepted the award at the 80th Freedom

Fund Dinner, held Friday, October 13, 2000 at the Pontiac Silverdome.

"We feel that Judge Moore is a most worthy person to be given this award," said attorney Harrison Munson, awards chairperson for the event. "He was nominated by three members of the branch's executive committee, and the decision to select him was unanimous."

Criteria for nomination included involvement with decisions that have impacted the community "in a way consistent with the principles of the NAACP," according to Attorney Munson. "The committee was particularly and overwhelmingly impressed with the fair way Judge Moore handled the Nathaniel Abraham trial and sentencing."

In honoring Judge Moore, the organization called attention to his 34 years on the bench, his persistent efforts

to improve court services for youth, as well as his "kindness, spirit and wisdom."

Judge Moore graduated from the University of Michigan School of Law in 1960, and was elected to Oakland County's Probate bench in 1966. During his tenure he has held key leadership positions in many state and national justice organizations, including the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, where he served as president from 1980-1991 and the Michigan Probate Judges Association. Judge Moore has received awards from both organizations, for Meritorious Service to Juvenile Courts in America (1966) and for his work as chair of the Juvenile Rules Committee on the state level. He has also played leadership roles in the Boys Club of Pontiac, and the Oakland County Youth Assistance Advisory Council.

# Village's Sibel Chosen State's Best

Throughout his entire life John Sibel has excelled at confronting and defeating whatever challenges faced him. As a Marine stationed in Okinawa during World War II, Sibel earned two Purple Hearts for being wounded in two separate battles where he displayed bravery under fire. During his 25-year stint with the Michigan State Police, Sibel solved complex and difficult crimes as a detective-sergeant at the Cheboygan, Pontiac and Detroit posts.

And for the last eleven years, Sibel has made his vast experience, knowledge and strong work ethic available to the boys under his charge at Children's Village. His many contributions as a youth specialist II - direct child care worker have not gone unnoticed. The Michigan Juvenile Detention Association (MJDA) recently selected Sibel as its state award winner in the staff secure facility category for 2000.

"He really excels in his communication skills with the residents," said Lynn Hoopfer, program supervisor. "John has unparalleled patience and the boys seek him out when trouble looms."



Hoopfer also says Sibel listens, encourages and assists residents in arriving at solutions to their problems. She says his support is never more evident than when he works with residents who have substance abuse problems because he spends a great deal of time helping them learn how to live without drugs.

Sibel is very active in his church and community. He and his wife, Monie, have been married for 49 years and they have six children and eleven grandchildren.

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# kudos celebrations com

## kudos

**Garth Wootten**, Veterans' Services supervisor at the Walled Lake Office was appointed Judge Advocate of the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors in the summer of 2000.

**Veterans' Services** was recently presented with two awards. In 7/00, the Oakland County Veterans' Services counseling staff was awarded the Veterans of Foreign War's Norman Bielak Award for 1999-2000 for being the Most Outstanding County Counselors of the Year. The Veterans' Services Division was also presented the American Legion Leggett Award for 1999 in recognition of Distinguished Service as a champion in the cause and condition of Michigan Veterans and their families.

**Joe Murphy** of Facilities Management received his Master of Liberal Studies: Concentration Technology Management from Eastern Michigan University with a 3.9 GPA.

## transfers

**Stephen Weiter** of Facilities Management's Custodial Unit was transferred to Support Services on 5/19/00.

**Thomas Pecheniuk** of Facilities Management's Safety Unit was transferred to the Sheriff's Department on 7/28/00.

**Joanne Allen** was transferred from the Medical Care Facility to FM&O on 6/3/00.

## promotions

**Charlotte Sabins** of the water maintenance unit in the Drain Commissioner's Operations and Maintenance Division was promoted from general helper to maintenance labor on 8/26/00.

**Ron Hamilton** of the engineering support unit in the Drain Commissioner's Operations and Maintenance Division was promoted from engineering aid I to engineering aid II.

**Karen Dedenbach** of Veterans' Services-Troy Office was promoted from veterans' benefits counselor I to veterans' benefit counselor II on 11/18/00.

**Robert Archambeau** at the heating unit of FM&O was promoted to boiler mechanic on 8/11/00.

**Marsha Reid** at the custodial unit of FM&O was promoted to custodial worker II on 6/17/00.

**Jeff Elliott** of the custodial unit of FM&O was promoted to custodial work supervisor I on 6/17/00.

**Steve Baldwin** of the custodial unit of FM&O was promoted to mobile unit custodial worker on 7/15/00.

**Israel Brown** was promoted from construction inspector I to engineering aide II at the Drain Commissioner's O&M Division on 7/29/00.

## new hires

**Kelly McCoy** was hired as a student intern at the Administration Unit of Facilities Management.

**Thurman Randolph** was hired as a general helper at the custodial unit of FM&O on 7/10/00.

**John Ragatz** was hired as grounds equipment mechanic at the grounds unit of FM&O on 5/22/00.

**Susan Williams** was hired as a general helper at the custodial unit of FM&O on 5/22/00.

**Mark Wilson** was hired as a general helper at the custodial unit of FM&O on 7/3/00.

**Tim Prince** was hired as assistant chief engineer for the Water Systems Operations of the Drain Commissioner's Office on 7/10/00.

## retirements

**Larry McCullough** of FM&O retired after 34 years of service on 6/16/00.

## fond farewells

**Cynthia Jefferson** resigned from the custodial unit of FM&O on 6/30/00.

**Thomas Lamphere** of the Drain Commissioners O&M Division metering unit resigned on 7/7/00 after 12 years at the Drain Commissioner's Office.

## births

**Jeremy Hunt** of the Drain Commissioner's Operations and Maintenance Division and his wife had their newborn baby girl Sophie on 8/10/00.

**Bonnie Conway**, a health educator in the Health Division gave birth to a baby girl, Abbey Lynn, on 10/22/00.

**Regina Chidester** of the Health Division and her husband Joe had their first child, Morgan Marie, in 9/00.

**Jordie Kramer** of Personnel and her husband Ken had a baby girl, Caroline Grace, on 9/6/00.

**Carmelo Moyet** of Facilities Management and his wife Margie had a baby boy, Carlos Carmelo on 7/18/00.

**Tammy Lilly-Farren** of FM&O and her husband Chris had a baby girl, Jaelyn, on 8/5/00.

**Jack Willis** of FM&O and his wife Karen had a baby girl, Carley Paige, on 9/4/00.

**Susan Dorris** of Planning & Economic Development and her husband had a baby girl, Kara, on 9/29/00.

## marriages

**Sherrie Williams** of the Substance Abuse Pace Unit at the Health Division was married at a Caribbean ceremony to her new husband John Kilpatrick in 8/00.

## swap shop

Wanted: a large cedar chest - prefer one with seat on top but will settle for just the chest. Call Dorothy at 8-0495 or (248) 332-9207.

# ning & going swap shop

## holiday celebrations

### HALLOWEEN <sup>z</sup>



Fiscal Services employees show their scary side.



The overwhelming beauty of Paulette Nadeau of Fiscal Services.

### THANKSGIVING



Medical Care Facility residents celebrate Thanksgiving at a dinner which featured live entertainment by volunteer Paul Manners.

### 2000 Totals

\$29,184.28

139

76%

Casual Day Fund

ESP Suggestions

Direct Deposit

# Employee of the Month

## Jeff Arjay



While many people may find the job of an autopsy assistant to be eerie and a little disturbing at times, it is also a very necessary part to understanding human health. Jeff Arjay works at the Medical

Examiner's office and assists the doctor in performing autopsies. Jeff believes that by understanding

the cause of death, we can learn many things - unhealthy habits to avoid, accident prevention, and even help solve crimes.

"Jeff works well with the staff, and he knows what to do, and when to do it," says his supervisor, Charlie Smith. Jeff lives in Pontiac, where he enjoys making improvements on his home. He also is an avid sports enthusiast, and enjoys cheering on our Hockeytown heroes, the Red Wings.

While Jeff and his co-workers may pursue an unusual lifestyle, they retain a sense of humor alive. When you ask Jeff the favorite part about his job, he'll gladly tell you "I don't get any complaints."

## Kimberly Krumm



Kimberly Krumm refers to herself as a computer addict. "If there is a button, I have to push it," she says. Kimberly is a technical assistant who has worked on creating the new high tech database for Veterans' Services. Her manager, Diana Calvin says, "She is one of our most dedicated and talented employees. Kimberly created a new database that Veteran's Services has needed for over 50 years."

Kimberly has been with Oakland County for 9 years, and now that the database is complete, she works on maintaining and updating it regularly. Kimberly, her husband Jeff, and their 4 children live in White Lake. When she can pull herself away from a computer, she enjoys reading, gardening, and swimming.

## Lisa Corpus



An intregal part of Oakland County government is our high tech Information Technology division. Lisa Corpus is a customer support specialist at Info Tech where she oversees all the transactions and accounts payable. She also is the editor of the quarterly Info Tech newsletter as well as the coordinator of the training program.

Lisa has been an Oakland County employee for 13 years and she enjoys the interaction with customers and vendors, the variety of work, and the ongoing effort to keep up with rapidly advancing technology. Her knowledge is especially useful to the employees she trains.

"Lisa is an excellent employee, dedicated to helping co-workers and customers get the job done. We continually receive compliments on how helpful Lisa is," says her supervisor Janette McKenna. Lisa lives with her family in Keego Harbor. In her free time she enjoys reading, playing outdoors, and travelling around the country.

## Nancy Peter



Oakland County is a premiere place for entrepreneurs to start up their small businesses. "Nancy Peter is a tremendous asset to our small business program", says her supervisor, Dave Schreiber. "Her ability to counsel would-be entrepreneurs has aided in the start up of many small businesses."

As a business consultant assistant for Oakland County's Planning and Economic Development division, Nancy helps counsel and assist those who would like to start new businesses in Oakland County. She has been with Oakland County for 22 years and relishes the opportunity to help people and have contact with county residents.

In her spare time, Nancy likes to curl up with a nice mystery book. Her current favorite is the popular Harry Potter books, which she says are for people of all ages, not just children. She lives with her sister, Mary Margaret, in Clarkston.