



oakland county employees

Telegraph

summer 2001

YOLKLAND COUNTY

Employees Easter Egg Hunt an "Egg-cellent Adventure"

A little light rain fell as the first annual Yolkland County Executive Employees Easter Egg Hunt got under way on Saturday, April 14, but it sure didn't seem to dampen spirits any. Nearly 1,600 current and retired county employees, including their children and grandchildren, turned out for what all accounts was a highly successful and enjoyable event.

The kids had plenty to see and do in addition to hunting for Easter eggs. There were pony rides, fire truck rides, face painting, scissor art, a magician, a musician, fingerprinting by the Sheriff's Department and, of course, pictures with the Easter Bunny which were put in frames and taken home.



The food tent was also kept busy dispensing hot dogs, popcorn and ice cream pop-ups along with coffee and other liquid refreshments.

"I think everyone generally had a great time and will be looking forward to next year's event with great anticipation," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors and donors, all the volunteers and the committee, headed by Suzy Vogt, which put in the time to make the first annual Yolkland County Executive Employees Easter Egg Hunt such a huge success. Next year's event promises to be even bigger and better."

Pictures on page 6 & 7

(248) 858-1022

OC Hotline

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Employee Information

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Arts & Cultural Events

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Community & Minority
Affairs News



PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

On November 1, 2000, Oakland County, with assistance from National Prescription Administrators Incorporated, launched a new program to provide county residents 60 years of age and older with affordable prescription coverage. The cost-free program was initiated by my administration with funding and support provided by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Many of our employees may have parents or relatives who could benefit from this cost saving program.

The only requirement, other than being an Oakland County resident and over 60, is that the person enrolling in the program has no other prescription coverage. One of the great things about the program is the open network feature which means that any pharmacy may participate, thereby making it a lot easier and more convenient for seniors to get their prescriptions filled. The cost of enrolling in the program is free for the first three years, then there is a nominal charge of 50 cents per month or \$6 annually.

The public's response to the Oakland County Senior Prescription Discount Program has been nothing short of phenomenal. As of April 1, 2001, a total of 10,302 seniors had enrolled in the program. In the month of March, 4,367 prescriptions were filled at an average savings of 20 percent. For instance, the

total cost of all prescriptions filled without the discount would have been \$202,072.27. However, the total cost with the discount was \$160,784.03.

We are currently in the process of mailing out letters to all participants encouraging them to discuss with their doctors the advantage of using generic substitutes. Even greater savings can be achieved, as much as 50 percent, if generic equivalents are used instead of brand name prescription items. In some cases, the brand name drug can cost as much as eight or nine times the generic drug price. For example, one brand name drug which costs \$135.22 is priced at just \$2.10 for the generic equivalent. Be sure of one thing. No one is trading quality for cost savings by switching to a generic drug. The Food and Drug Administration requires generic drugs to meet the same strict standards for purity, strength and safety as the brand name drugs.

It's also interesting to note that, according to the FDA, brand name manufacturers account for almost 75 percent of all generic drug production, actually making duplicate versions of their own or another company's brand name drugs, but selling them without the brand name.

Since the program began last year, National Prescription Administrators, which administers the program for Oak-



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

land County, has sent out approximately 30,000 membership applications to seniors. Another 20,000 applications will be mailed within the next couple of weeks.

This is a great program for seniors, some of whom live on fixed incomes and are often forced to choose between eating and paying for their prescription drugs. I would strongly encourage anyone in Oakland County, 60 years of age or older, who doesn't have current prescription coverage to sign up today. It's easy to do. Just call our toll free number (1-866-731-7213) to receive an enrollment packet or to find out more about the program.

Cultural Diversity Seminar Series

In today's workplace, cross-cultural teamwork and collaboration are essential for organizational success. To learn to function productively, we need to see our differences as assets rather than liabilities. Oakland County Training and Development is proud to offer a Cultural Diversity Seminar Series that will help participants to do just that. This training stems from the belief that we are inherently capable of working together with mutual respect and harmony. At times, lack of familiarity, bias and stereotyping can keep us from interacting successfully with those different from ourselves. This seminar helps participants explore and challenge cultural assumptions that may be keeping them from performing effectively in a diverse setting. It provides information, strategies and skills through activities such as lecture, group discussion, video and role-play that will help develop personal and professional competence to work and live in a multicultural society.

The series is offered to all Oakland County employees at no cost. It consists of three half-day classes, either mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Dorothy J. Brown and Associates, a Human Resource and Management Consulting company that services clients throughout the country, presents the series. The consultants have extensive experience, which has prepared them for the variety of issues organizations face today.

To register, complete the Request to Attend Training form located in Microsoft Word on the O drive under o:\personnel\training and return it to Personnel Training and Development. If you have any questions, please contact Roxanne Hill at 858-1850.

Take Your Child to Work Day

On April 26, Take Your Child To Work Day got off to a start as numerous staff members and children participated in mock trials organized by the Prosecutor's Office. The unique learning forum gave the children first hand experience with courtroom protocol and trial strategies as they actively took part in the trials by playing the roles of defense attorneys, prosecuting attorneys, and members of the jury. The mock trial conducted by the older kids was presided over by the Honorable Judge Rudy Nichols. Lisa Ortlieb coached the prosecuting team, which consisted of Blake Huber, David McKee, and Brooke and Kelly Madzia, while Anica Letica guided the defense counsel of Matt Nickolai, Emily Miller, Lauren Rollison, and Joseph Rios.

After completion of the trials, the children and grown-ups attended an action-packed exhibition on how police dogs are trained to search by using their heightened sense of smell. Several children were invited to participate in "hands-on" demonstrations that showcased the abilities of the dogs to remember and identify specific scents. During the final presentation, the audience sat in wide-eyed wonder as they witnessed how well a dog will respond to commands. Blazer, a German shepherd, was given the command to attack a well-protected department volunteer, and promptly knocked him to the ground and continued to attack until given the command to stop. Daniel and Lexi Scott said they enjoyed that part the best. Tony Coleman admitted he would like to own a dog like that, but wants to be a biologist when he grows up, not a police officer. The morning's festivities were followed by a lunchtime break of gooey pizza.

Later that afternoon, participating children were offered a look at various points of interest in and around the Sheriff's Department.



The mock trial takes place as one of the "prosecuting attorneys" questions a police officer.

The tour began outdoors with a visit to the Mobile Command Center, which is used on swat calls. The tour then moved indoors to the range where three members of the Special Response Team demonstrated an assault. After witnessing the action, Jacob Keeling, age 10, proudly stated he wanted to become a police officer. Other stops on the tour included the Sheriff's command conference room, the weight room, and the garage, which houses the department motorcycles and the big hit of the tour, the Dare Car. The audible "WOW!" that rippled through crowd when its protective cover was removed was proof positive the kids were notably impressed.

A huge "thank you" to all the departments and volunteers whose contributions provided an interesting and informative day for the children as well as a variety of future career choices.

Employment Diversity Council

All too often, programs are initiated that just don't live up to their potential. It's always a pleasure to hear about one that not only lives up to, but surpasses, expectations. When the Oakland County Employment Diversity Council was initiated nearly a year and a half ago, its primary goals were to provide feedback to assist the Personnel Department in becoming more user friendly, and to determine what steps were needed to ensure a pool of job applicants that would reflect the diversity of the county's population. During brainstorming sessions, council members discovered they shared numerous common interests that radiated to other community-based concerns. Subsequently, what started out as a networking opportunity to provide feedback

quickly turned into an enthusiastic group of participants who have continued to come up with creative proposals that address not only diversity employment issues in Oakland County, but other related topics.

The council's monthly meetings have presented speakers addressing various concerns, including expected growth in Oakland County's labor market. Council members have visited an assortment of workforce development agencies throughout Oakland County to become better educated about their services, issues and community concerns. Included among the constantly growing list of participating agencies are the Urban League, the NAACP, Oakland Schools, Goodwill Industries, and the Latino Affairs Office in Pontiac.

The council is particularly excited about another major development, the first annual Centerpoint Diversity Job Expo, which will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 2001, at the Detroit Marriott Pontiac. An estimated 60-100 vendors are anticipated, as well as 500-800 applicants. Onsite assistance in completing and preparing resumes will be available, along with facilities for interviewing candidates. Additional seminars on dressing and preparing for an interview may also be offered.

As the council looks toward future growth, county residents and employees can look forward to additional job opportunities and a more positive working environment.



Bob Dustman
Media and
Communications

The View from Here

This is a short story about "angels of mercy," four individuals who helped ease the emotional pain of a woman and her husband going through the most traumatic moment of their lives. I've gotten to know Ruth Schluchter through the Waterford Foundation for Public Education, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of education in the Waterford School District, which we both belong to as board members.

Last April, Ruth's husband, Ken, who had been in ill health for ten years because of a series of strokes, was admitted to the Oakland County Medical Care Facility. The decision to put Ken in there was not a comfortable one for Ruth to make because as she put it: "After all the horror stories regarding nursing homes shown on television in recent years, I was very apprehensive."

Despite the anguish caused by her husband's illness, Ruth was nonetheless pleasantly relieved to find that her fears were unwarranted. In fact, Ruth has nothing but high praise for the caring, compassion and professionalism of the entire staff at MCF. But there are four special people Ruth singles out for recognition.

Gwendolyn Connor, a social worker, was the first person Ruth met when she brought her husband in. Ruth calls Gwendolyn "an exceptional young woman who softened a very dark time. She was reassuring in a quiet manner and helped to alleviate many of my fears by patiently waiting for me to become calm."

Janice Tyms turned out to be another of Ruth's "angels". Ruth says Janice informed her of every procedure that would be used to make her husband comfortable. "She (Janice) is a jewel to be treasured and appreciated," said Ruth.

Ruth calls Joan Major a "tornado" who often came into the room to make she and her husband laugh. Joan had cared for her own husband until his death, so she fully understood what Ruth was going through. Ruth says Joan's understanding "meant the world to me."

Finally, Linda Sargent provided Ruth with a "sweet calming attitude" that could quickly and efficiently make an unsettling moment better.

Ironically Ken Schluchter was only at MCF for a week, but in that very short period of time four "angels of mercy" were able to make an unbearable situation almost bearable for two people in crisis.

Ken Schluchter died on August 3, 2000, but guess who was there offering a comforting word and gentle hand the morning of his death? It was Janice Tyms who offered Ruth encouragement right up to the very end and praised her for taking such good care of him.

Ruth thought Janis and the others should be recognized for their kindness, caring and compassion. Indeed they should. But I'll bet if you asked them, they would consider what they did all in a day's work. Because after all, it's what "angels of mercy" do. They know no other way.

Raleigh Works Through Retirement

In 1966, only nine months after being hired by Oakland County as a junior accountant, Raleigh Parrott was drafted into the army. He served two years with Uncle Sam before returning to his position, and remained with the county until February of this year. After more than 35 years of dedicated service, the acting chief of Fiscal Services and senior financial analyst, retired.

Raleigh's lengthy career in accounting gave him the opportunity to divide his time between several different county offices over the years, and allowed him to

meet and work with a wide assortment of people, which he says was a bonus. In addition to his position with Fiscal Services, Raleigh worked as accounting supervisor at the Medical Care Facility, tacked on a few years with the Friend of the Court, and totaled up a tidy sum of years with the Drain Commissioner's Office. Raleigh is one of those lucky guys we all envy. You know the type; he not only enjoyed the people he worked with, he enjoyed the work itself.

He enjoyed it so much in fact, that he decided the best way to maintain a proper

balance in his life after retirement would be to continue working, part-time, in Fiscal Services. That move will allow him to spend more time with his family, while still permitting him a portion of the week for the work he finds both satisfying and rewarding. Raleigh, who lives in Waterford with his wife, Bertie, will also continue volunteering his time as treasurer for the First Baptist Church in Clarkston.

Good luck, Raleigh, and we wish you many years of enjoyment!

Automation WHAT????

Automation Alley. You've heard the name mentioned in conversation and you've seen the logo on the back of Oakland County envelopes, but what exactly is Automation Alley? Automation Alley is Oakland County's technology consortium of businesses, educational institutions and Oakland County government.

increased membership. Four member-driven committees (Education, Human Resources, Marketing & Membership) were established and member benefits, including seminars, networking events and a quarterly newsletter were created. A national marketing campaign was also launched to attract high tech workers to the area.

run with the help of three full-time staff members; Beth Utton, Marketing Coordinator; Lisa Tessmer, Project Coordinator; Nancy Nagy, Administrative Assistant; and two part-time Oakland University interns, Courtney Bertrand and Leah Ondejko. Other Oakland County staff who support the organization on a regular basis include Nancy Scarlet, David



Automation Alley staff from left to right: Nancy Nagy, Leah Ondejko, Beth Utton, Angela Ruth, Lisa Tessmer.
Not pictured: Courtney Bertrand

The roots of Automation Alley can be traced back to Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's 1997 State of the County Address. Mr. Patterson unveiled his vision for leveraging the combined strength of Oakland County's high-tech companies into a national marketing strategy that could be used as a tool to attract skilled talent and cutting-edge businesses to the area.

The first phase of development started with a member roster of 44 organizations. In this phase Automation Alley's First Class magazine was created and a basic web site - www.automationalley.com - was developed. The beginning of the second phase turned Automation Alley into a working organization and dramatically

Automation Alley continues to expand its reach and increase member benefits, as evidenced by its 80% membership growth rate. A fifth committee, the eBiz Committee, was recently added to help new and emerging ecommerce and Internet related information technology companies grow within Automation Alley. The web site also underwent its third enhancement in order to increase usability and incorporate new functions. Efforts to brand the County's technology cluster have garnered national recognition, respect and acclaim for Automation Alley as a global center for cutting-edge technology.

Automation Alley is a 501 c6 organization supported by more than 270 dues paying members. The Automation Alley office is

Schrieber, Maureen Krauss, Hayes Jones, Bob Dustman, the Planning & Economic Development Department and many others. Without their support, the goals and accomplishments of the Consortium would not be attainable.

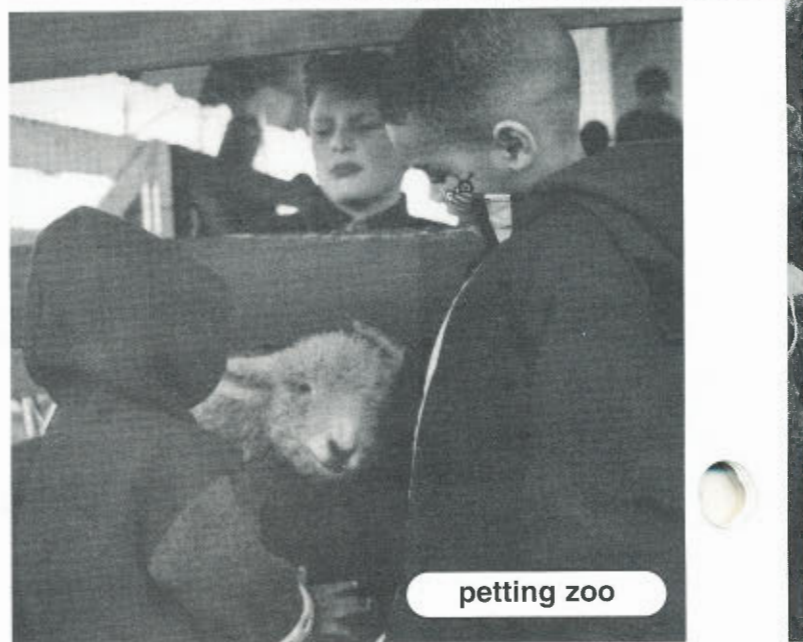
Come visit the Automation Alley office, located in room 205 of the Executive Office Building. You can also check out the next generation web site at www.automationalley.com.



egg hunt



Sheriff's puppet car



petting zoo

Your Host



fire engine rides



face painting



pony rides



puppet show audience

kudos celebrations coming

kudos

Mary Cornell, Equalization Division, received her Level IV from the State Assessor's Board.

Linda Thweny, Equalization Division, received her Level IV from the State Assessors' Board.

Rochelle McNeary, Equalization Division, received her Level III from the State Assessor's Board.

Kimberly Elgrably, Equalization Division, received her Level I from the State Assessor's Board.

Leree Cardona-Telisky, Equalization Division, obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration & Management.

Congratulations to **Evelyn Reinke**, PHN supervisor, who was asked by the CDC to speak at the National Lead Grantees Meeting in New Orleans in early February on lozena as a source of lead poisoning.

James Porter, Drain Commissioner's Office, was appointed special projects engineer on 12/20/00.

births

Ra'Mona Russell, of the Equalization Division, and her husband, Frederick, welcomed their baby girl, Olivia Marie, on 12/06/00. 9lbs 3.2oz / 20 inches.

Al & Nicole Consiglio, of the Equalization Division, welcomed their baby girl, Olivia Morgan, on 2/05/01. 7lbs 10oz / 18 inches.

Leigh Bouchey, of the Equalization Division, and her husband Tom, welcomed their baby boy, Carson Hughes, on 2/06/01. 6lbs 7oz / 19 1/2 inches.

Margaret Hill, of the Equalization Division, welcomed her first grandson, Elton James, on 3/08/01. 10lbs 2oz / 21 inches.

Kristy Bills, clerk in the Family Division-Juvenile Court, gave birth to Dalton Chase on 2/05/01.

Jerri Decker, deputy register in the Family Division-Juvenile Court, gave birth to Dyllon Hunter on 2/24/01.

marriages

Cheri Hansen, of the Equalization Division, married Dave Funk on 1/12/01.

Christy Bryant, of the Equalization Division, married Jeff Groat on 9/02/00.

promotions

David Hieber, was promoted from chief of equalization to administrator of the Equalization Division.

Mary Cornell, was promoted from appraiser II to master appraiser of the Equalization Division.

Linda Thweny, was promoted from appraiser II to appraiser III of the Equalization Division.

Nicole Consiglio, was promoted from an appraiser II to an appraiser III - Personal Property - of the Equalization Division.

Doug Stover, of the SOCSDS, was promoted from pump maintenance mechanic I to pump maintenance mechanic II on 2/24/01.

Earl Flick, of the SOCSDS, was promoted from pump maintenance mechanic I to pump maintenance mechanic II on 2/24/01.

Congratulations to **Marlene Hegland**, PHN, on her promotion to program coordinator for Healthy People Healthy Oakland.

Ed Joss, of FM&O Technical Support Unit, was promoted to maintenance planner I on 2/10/01.

Stephen Yates, of the FM&O Custodial Unit, was promoted to mobile unit custodial worker on 1/27/01.

Don DesNoyers, of the FM&O Maintenance Unit was promoted to maintenance supervisor II on 2/10/01.

Dan LaBarge, of the FM&O Maintenance Unit, was promoted to skilled maintenance mechanic II on 2/24/01.

Pam Rush has been appointed to the biologic clerk position in the North Office Clinic.

Martin Griffiths was promoted on 1/27/01 from a maintenance laborer to maintenance mechanic I in the Sewer/Drain Maintenance unit.

Michael Eastham was promoted on 1/27/01 from a maintenance laborer to maintenance mechanic I in the Sewer/Drain Maintenance unit.

Joe Washburn was promoted on 1/27/01 from a maintenance laborer to maintenance mechanic I in the Sewer/Drain Maintenance unit.

David Schlak was promoted on 1/27/01 from a maintenance mechanic I to maintenance mechanic II in the Sewer/Drain Maintenance unit.

Allen Cooley III was promoted on 11/4/00 from a maintenance mechanic II to sewer maintenance supervisor in the Sewer/Drain Maintenance unit.

Dale Boadway was promoted on 12/2/00 from maintenance mechanic I to maintenance mechanic II in the Sewer/Drain Maintenance unit.

Heather Zink was promoted on 12/2/00 from general helper to maintenance laborer in the Water Maintenance unit.

new hires

Sherry Martin began her full-time employment on March 14, 2001 as a typist I in the Water System Operation Department for the Drain commissioner's Office. Welcome aboard!

OCHD, PPHS welcomes **Rebecca Leach**, PHN FN, Central Division and **Douglas McLellan**, PHN, Immunization Program.

William Wandrie, Treasurer's Office, hired in as personal property collector in October 2000.

Anthony Harris, Treasurer's Office, hired in as personal property collector in November 2000.

Michael Johnson was hired on 2/20/01 as maintenance laborer in the Sewer/Drain Maintenance Unit.

g & going

Gayle Murphy was hired as community liaison in the Drain Commissioner's Office, effective 1/16/01.

Kevin Larsen was appointed chief deputy drain commissioner on 1/1/01.

John P. McCulloch became the Oakland County drain commissioner effective 1/1/01.

fond farewells

Ray Rice, maintenance planner II, retired from FM&O on 1/26/01 after 31 years of service.

Larry Wesson, chief of Fire & Safety at FM&O, retired 2/23/01 after 23 years of service.

Gary Aho of the Drain Commissioner Operation/Maintenance unit resigned on 12/8/00 after 12 years of service. Farewell and good luck!

James Harding resigned on 11/9/00 from the Drain Commissioner Water Maintenance unit.

David Ekelman, Drain Commissioner's Office, Inspection Division, left county employment on 1/16/01 after 22 1/2 years of service.

George W. Kuhn, Oakland County Drain Commissioner, retired on 12/30/00. Mr. Kuhn served as drain commissioner since 1972.

notices

The "Men's Tuesday Night Golf League" has openings for new members and/or teams. We play Tuesday night at Springfield Oaks and have members with 2 to 22 handicaps for 9 holes. Please contact Richard McGraw at 248-683-2712 or e-mail me at qdm99@yahoo.com. Visit our web site at: <http://home.att.net/~qdm>

Get ready!

The employee art/craft/photography show will be held from September 3 to October 31 in the Galleria of the Executive Office Building. All employees and their families are eligible. Stay tuned for more details in the next Telegraph.

ATTENTION Graphics Users!

Are you responsible for preparing your department's flyers, newsletters, brochures, reports? Find the world of graphics and print production confusing? We are forming a graphics users group and would like to help you. A brown bag lunch will be held in the IT auditorium on June 19th from noon to 1:00 p.m. to cover the basics. Terry Sanders of Sanders Printing will be speaking. For information, call Sue Quinlan at 80457 or Sue Dorris at 80734.



Judy Eaton receiving IPMA "Biff Elliott" Achievement Award. From left: Biff Elliott, Valerie Crump (IMPA officer), Judy, Charles Blockett (IMPA officer), Nancy Scarlet

AIRPORT HOSTS 16th OPEN HOUSE - August 19, 2001

The Oakland County International Airport and the Pontiac Air Traffic Control Tower will sponsor their 16th Annual Airport Open House on Sunday, August 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Open House program will include ground static displays of experimental homebuilt aircraft, antique and classic aircraft, helicopters, hot air balloons, military aircraft and MUCH, MUCH more. Parking is free and so is the admission -- come join us for Oakland County's largest aviation event. See you there! For additional information visit the Airport website: www.co.oakland.mi.us/c_serv/airport/ocia.html or call 248/666-3900 or 248/886-0057.

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Porter Gets It in Gear

Picture in your mind the tranquil waters of Lake Tahoe. It's early morning. Birds' sweet songs echo in the trees while rabbits and squirrels rustle the underbrush. The lightly chilled breeze tingles your senses as the sun peeks over the majestic mountaintops and warms your skin. You inhale deeply. The cool air expands your lungs as you stretch your arms up toward the wide-open sky. Exhale, slowly. Now, add several thousand other people, with mountain bikes, waiting to begin a 100-mile bike ride around the lake. On June 3, this is where Jim Porter, of the Drain Commissioner's office, will be.

In late January, Jim registered and began training for what is known as "America's Most Beautiful Ride". Now, why in the world would someone volunteer for such a thing, you might ask. Well, there are several possible reasons: to achieve a personal athletic goal, improve general conditioning, enjoy the spectacular scenery, or maybe just to meet new people with similar interests. For Jim, it means becoming part of a program that supports the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, which raises funds for research, patient services, and education in Michigan.

Although Jim is not an experienced cyclist, he is physically fit from years of running and weight training. However, being physically fit is not the only concern for a ride of this length. Team in Training, the world's largest endurance training program, is directly associated with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and provides participants with comprehensive instruction on the finer points of long distance biking. Strength, endurance, and the proper techniques for pedaling are part of the training as well as advice on avoiding dehydration, fatigue, and injuries. Although completing the 100 miles will be an accomplishment in itself, the athletes will also be tested by the altitude around Lake Tahoe (ranging between 6,300 and 7,100 feet), and two challenging climbs (800 and 1,000 feet).

In preparation for the century ride, Jim committed himself to intensive group training sessions

three times a week, at a variety of locations, during the past four months. Getting his "seat" accustomed to the bike seat and learning the proper techniques for pedaling were the initial focus. The indoor training, known as "spinning", took place at various bike shops in the metro area that donated their space, after business hours, for the group workouts. Spinning gave the athletes the conditioning they needed without braving the elements until milder weather in March allowed further training at Kensington Park in Milford. Cycling around the park helps prepare riders for uphill climbs as well as some of the outdoor conditions they'll be faced with in Nevada.

Finally, proper nutrition and fluid intake is vital for preparing the cyclists systems for the strenuous regimen, and decreasing the possibility of dehydration. In addition to increasing his intake of water and carbohydrates a few days prior to the event, Jim will be attending a pasta party the night before that is intended to provide motivation as well as nourishment. Frequent rest stops offering food and water will be located along the route and a big lunch stop is scheduled during the race. The ride will begin at 6 am on June 3, and Jim, who is 61 years old, is expected to complete the 100-mile ride in approximately 10 hours.

Jim originally intended to participate in the fundraising program by running a marathon. He decided the bike ride would be easier. He promised to let us know if he survives.



Team in Training

Team in Training provides coaching for worldwide marathons, triathlons, bike rides, and in-line skating events that benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This year alone, events will be held in Cozumel, Dublin, Anchorage, Honolulu, Chicago, and Bermuda, among others. Anyone interested in receiving more information about The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Team in Training program can contact them at:

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2001

\$11,990.77

33

76%

Casual Day Fund

ESP Suggestions

Direct Deposit

Employee of the Month



Linda Williams

As a restorative nursing aide in the Medical Care Facility, Linda Williams works with the same individuals day after day in order to help them maintain the level of skills and everyday functions they achieved after weeks or even months of intense physical therapy. Candace Ingram-Otte, chief of nursing services, describes Linda as a woman who has "demonstrated a

consistently high level of excellence by continually working at improving her job skills and taking pride in her work."

Linda, who has been with Oakland County for 24 years, says her job is very rewarding, especially when she sees someone she's worked with regain the ability to feed themselves or walk again. Her persistence, patience, and deep level of commitment have earned her, not only the Employee of the Month Award, but the respect and appreciation of the staff, the residents, and their families.

Linda fills her time away from work with church, family, and hobbies. She is a deaconess at the Messiah Missionary Baptist Church as well as supervisor of their Sunday school. Her hobbies are gardening and picture framing. Linda lives in Pontiac with her husband, Hildrew. She has one son, three stepchildren, two granddaughters and six step-grand-children.



Ronnie Cao

In the DISC division of Information Technology, Ronnie Cao is "my go-to person," says her supervisor, Ed Sager. Dale Kukla, DISC division manager, describes Ronnie as "a hard working conscientious person who gives a tremendous amount of attention to detail, and is always willing to take the time to be helpful and provide the best customer service."

In 1993, Ronnie received her Bachelor's degree in computer science from Oakland University. In 1995, after working as a consultant to the auto industry, she joined the county as a lead analyst/programmer and, in 1999, was promoted to senior systems analyst. Over the years, Ronnie has been a key player on many projects, most recently the highly visible Access Oakland program. Ronnie enjoys her work and considers herself lucky to be a part of such an excellent and supportive team.

Ronnie and her husband live in Birmingham with their two daughters, Sherry and Heather. They enjoy traveling and have been to several countries in Europe, as well as Australia, China is a frequent destination and allows them to combine a vacation with the joy of visiting relatives.



Monica Raisanen

As the public health nursing supervisor in the general clinic at the Southfield office, one of Monica Raisanen's responsibilities is coordination of the yearly in-house flu program. Monica's hard work and initiative combined with her sense of humor during this year's flu vaccine delays earned her the praise of her supervisor, Lynn McDaniels.

Monica's other responsibilities include supervising the public health nursing staff, working as a direct clinician, overseeing day-to-day clinic activities, and monitoring fiscal spending. She enjoys her job and credits the team effort this year and every year for providing services to clients as efficiently as possible. "Accepting the Employee of the Month award is really a recognition of the support of the staff and my co-workers," she said, "I am honored to receive it."

Monica lives in Troy with her husband, Larry, and miniature Schnauzer, Lucie. She enjoys playing the piano and is actively involved in her church. She and Larry spend their free time sailing on a variety of Michigan lakes. She attended the Presbyterian University Hospital School of Nursing, and received her BSN and MSN from West Virginia University and ANA certification in nursing administration.



Mark Conner

As Chief of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations, Mark Conner is usually involved in the Employee of the Month selection process, so he was shocked at receiving the award. "It was a good surprise," he said, "but the award should go out to the guys in the trenches." Those guys are the 45 people who work under Mark maintaining all of Oakland County's facilities on a day-to-day basis. Together they provide a support system that assures a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. According to his supervisor, Dick Johnston, Mark's "supervisory and technical skills make him an indispensable part of the facility management function."

Mark has been employed by the county for 28 years and says what he enjoys most about his work is the people. Just for kicks, he has coached the county co-ed softball team for more than 20 years. In addition to that, he and his wife, Paula, host an annual Au Sable River canoe trip which includes fellow employees who are invited to camp out and cook out at their cabin in Curtisville. Other activities he enjoys are snowmobiling, hunting, and fishing.

Mark and Paula live in Waterford with their two children, Matt and Stephanie.

Employee of the Month



Kay Gallagher

Enthusiastic, energetic, active, and involved. These four words describe Kay Gallagher at work as well as at play. She has been with the Health Department for 25 years, first as a field public health nurse, and for the past nine years, as program coordinator for Services to the Aging. With the senior population steadily increasing, Kay has found

her workload increasing too. She was one of the key people during this year's flu vaccine delay whose patience, dedication, and caring helped calm seniors and keep them informed until the vaccine was delivered and could be administered. "A lot of senior issues in the county find their way to me whether they're health related or not," Kay said. "If someone calls and has a senior issue, it may be tax, housing, whatever, it's my job to help them figure out where to go."

When Kay's not dealing with senior issues, she stays active by working out at the gym, hiking, reading, playing the piano, and cooking. She has two grown daughters, Susan and Tracy. In addition to receiving her bachelor's degree in nursing from Madonna University, Kay earned her master's in education, and a post-graduate certificate in gerontology from Wayne State.



Chuck Lester

Chuck Lester began his career with Oakland County on January 4, 1968 as a student engineer in Facilities Engineering. Today, he thrives on taking care of the never-ending demands he is faced with daily as chief of architectural maintenance at Field Maintenance and Operations.

Chuck oversees extensive remodeling projects that include a wide range of enhancements from carpeting and painting, to complete reconstruction. He has a reputation for being a high-energy guy with the ability to efficiently coordinate people and projects. His supervisor, Dick Johnston, refers to him as "the original model for the Energizer Bunny." Chuck appreciates the efforts of those around him and, while honored at receiving the award for Employee of the Month, he believes "it is something the people working under him should get."

Chuck and his wife, Kathleen, live in Lake Orion and are planning a trip to visit their sons, Charles III, 31, and Gregory, 30, who live in Redding, California. Chuck's leisure time activities read like an ad for a sporting goods store. He skis (downhill and water), snowboards, snowmobiles, mountain bikes, golfs, fishes, hunts, and enjoys a daily six-mile run. Whew! Anybody else tired?



Barbara Draper

Barb Draper, health program coordinator for Children's Village, is many things. She is hard-working and dedicated, and receiving the Employee of the Month award attests to that. She is grateful. "I have always appreciated the opportunity to work for Oakland County, and they've provided me a fantastic benefit package that allowed me to

raise my children at an optimum level," she said. She is grateful, too, for the county's assistance in providing the money that enabled her to further her education. And Barb is proud. She's proud of her three children, her career, and a BSN from Oakland University that was earned while she worked and raised her children as a single parent.

Barb began her career with the county nearly 15 years ago, and considers working with a team of very qualified nurses and other personnel as perks of the job. In her present capacity, Barb supervises the general staff nurses and is a medical authority for Children's Village. "It's a team effort to provide care for those kids," she said, "and very rewarding." Her supervisor, Michael Worrell, praises her as "a woman who is dedicated to improving health services for the youngsters, and not afraid to try something new."



Jo Dunsmore

When Jo Dunsmore began working for Oakland County in 1978, she and her husband, Gerald, had four young children and she was thrilled to have a job that didn't require working nights and weekends. Her children are married now, with families of their own, and Jo is still here because she loves the job and she loves the people.

As chief pharmacist at the Medical Care Facility, Jo's responsibilities are numerous and varied. In addition to being a working pharmacist, she also supervises the operation of the pharmacy and is involved with various committees. Her supervisor, Shirla Kugler, describes Jo as "not only an excellent employee and supervisor, but also a wonderful person, who puts the needs of the county and residents first."

Jo, who lives in White Lake, says her three biggest joys in life are church, family, and travel. Her involvement in church includes being active in the ladies guild and teaching Bible school. She spends a lot of time with her children and grandchildren, and has traveled to exotic locations such as Japan, China, Russia, and Africa. She and Gerald have a trip planned for this year that will take them to Rome, Capri, and Sicily. Jo earned her Bachelor's Degree at Ferris State.