

# THE TELEGRAPH

COLUMN III NO. 3

MARCH 1990

## A Message from the County Executive

### Keep up the good work in the 90s

Dear Readers,

We're on the threshold of a new decade and I want to talk about how our hopes and dreams of the 70s became realities of the 80s. We're now at a place where we can reflect on our laurels while planning for the future.

I will outline some of my plans for the 1990s which will prepare us for the opportunities of the 21st century.

Let me begin with solid waste.

We, in Oakland County, never want to be on the brink of a garbage disaster, and we won't be if we act in a responsible way.

We have been working for years developing an efficient way to dispose of the 5,000 tons of waste generated each day. To refresh your memory, that's enough to fill the Silverdome after a few weeks.

I am committed to a comprehensive solid waste management program

incorporating recycling, resource recovery, composting and incineration, and minimizing landfilling.

I'd like to switch gears and give you a short summary of assorted issues which make our County stand apart from the rest.

I am pleased to note that in-car terminals are finally in police cars in more than 40 communities, and we've had great success with the system.

For example, a police officer saw an illegally parked car at a restaurant, ran the license number through his in-car terminal and discovered the man was wanted on a kidnapping charge and the missing child was in his car. Because of this added information the police were able to rescue the boy immediately.

Speaking of computers, the new Computer Center is now underway and we are excited about having a state of the art facility. This will enhance our

Dan Murphy



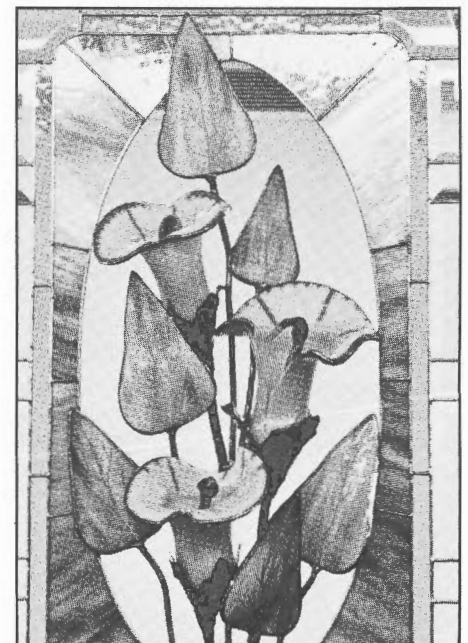
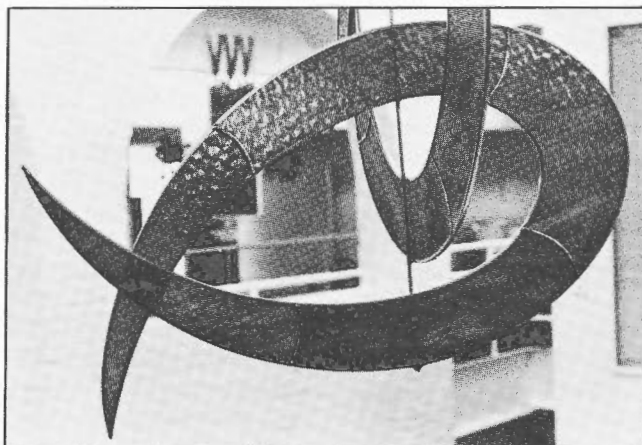
ability to further serve our local communities.

Many departments of county government have been diligently working to solve our space problems. Even though the work is not complete, I'd like to thank all of the people, including the officials, who are involved in the Courthouse project for their endless efforts.

Planning for the future is no easy task. We need to act unselfishly and without a hidden agenda. We must never forget that we work for the best interests of our residents and we must give them responsible government.

Sincerely,  
Dan Murphy

*"Image, Light & Structure '90", a juried exhibit of our most popular show, Stained Glass, will begin March 19, and continue through April 26. The opening reception to meet the artists is March 16, 6-8 p.m. Our stained glass exhibit attracts artists from all over the country and because it is so popular we will be open Saturday March 24, from noon - 4 p.m. The stained glass will be mounted in the arches and on both floors of the County Galleria in the Executive Office Building. The skylight atrium provides a sun enriched environment, making this exhibit very unique and very beautiful. In the County Galleria I, architects from Michigan will display the use of stained glass in buildings. On the walls of Galleria II, photographer Hugh Grannum from the Detroit Free Press will display photographs that feature dance. This stunning exhibit takes place every year during Michigan Stained Glass Month. Don't miss it! (Photos by David Van de Grift.)*



## Editor's Column

Dear Editor,

I am writing this to voice my anger about the people (usually our employees) who like to turn into the Michigan State Police Post in the morning around 8:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. instead of going around the circle like everyone else!

Don't they realize the danger they are causing? I have almost been side swiped many times. I am coming East on West County Drive and have to turn to go into the Children's Village. People are turning into the Michigan State Police and making "U" turns. Can't we have some signs put up like they did on Telegraph when everyone was making "U" turns?

I have spoken to the Michigan State Police and they weren't aware of this problem. So I am encouraging everyone else who is experiencing the same problems to let the Michigan State Police know.

Thanks,  
Carol L. Dault  
Adoption and Foster Care



Dear Readers,

I hope all of you find this issue exciting because so many people are a part of it. We have an article from the Clerk's office on an employee who brightens people's days, an *Unsung Hero* from the Sheriff's Department and we have tips about tornado safety.

In efforts to bring you "news to use" we'd like you to take a few moments and answer this reader survey and return it to us. We need to know what you think and what you want from this publication. It's a new year and we're hoping to try new ideas. Thanks for your participation. We'll report our findings in the next edition.

Sincerely,  
Suzan Singer

## Help us target The Telegraph

### Telegraph Reader Survey

—Do you like *The Telegraph's* format?

—What kind of stories do you like to see?

—Is there anything you would like to see that is not in *The Telegraph* now?

—Do you like hearing about your co-workers in "Employees make news"?

—What do you think of the "Unsung Hero" article?

—Do you find the Calendar of Events and Healthy Safety Tips useful?

—What do you think would make *The Telegraph* more exciting?

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please direct your comments and suggestions to:

Telegraph Readers Survey  
c/o Department of Public Information  
Executive Building

## When does treatment work?

by Ruth Evens

### Oakland County Health Division

Across the parking lot from our office is the Oakland County Jail. The news media has been there recently, reporting on the arrest of hockey-star Peter Kilma following a third drunk driving offense.

Many will ask, "Why didn't he learn from the first time?" I don't have an easy answer, but I do know motivation to change and timeliness of treatment are essential ingredients for successful recovery.

The following article by Rosalie Schwartz of Eastwood Huntington Woods Outpatient Program addresses these issues:

The concept of motivation has frequently been examined in order to assess the extent to which the alcoholic's motivation is crucial to their recovery. Many professionals and lay persons have taken the position that motivation is necessary for the success of treatment—agreeing that the alcoholic must want to be treated in order for treatment to succeed. Many define motivation to recover as including admission of the problem; the desire to do something about it; taking the initiative in treatment; performance

in treatment; and cessation of drinking. Motivation has been viewed as being present within the individual as an all or nothing phenomenon.

However, most alcoholics deny the obvious reality of their drinking behavior and the responsibility for the negative consequences of this behavior. The denial serves to protect the individual's self-esteem and guard against emotional pain. Most often, the alcoholics presents themselves for treatment upon the urging and threat of others and it is unrealistic to expect that they will demonstrate their motivation before treatment has begun.

It is often a crisis which brings the alcoholic into treatment and elicits a change in behavior. The crisis occurs at different stages for different people. For some, it's realizing the children are afraid to invite friends over because they are ashamed. The threat of divorce, loss of the first or tenth job, arrest for drunk driving, or ill health may be the issue which moves the individual to seek help. Research has shown that the two persons most influential in promoting an individual's treatment are their spouse and their

boss.

The Johnson Institute of Minneapolis has used an intervention for many years which has recently become a frequent method of getting the individual into treatment. This involves family members, friends, employer and fellow employees presenting specific documented facts about the drinking behavior and ensuing results to the alcoholic at a group meeting. This group confrontation is not expected by the alcoholic. It can contain firm conditions from those present, and is a powerful and emotional exchange.

The individual seeking treatment against his wishes, upon the urging and demand of others, may feel anxious, coerced, and robbed of his free will by persons and conditions.

The alcoholic's resistance and his anxiety needs to be understood and discussed. However, the anxiety can be useful in keeping the individual involved in seeking change. The alcoholic ought not to be relieved of responsibility or told "not to worry," but rather encouraged to cooperate to resolve the situation.

The discomfort needs to be combined with hope. The individual has to see some merit in sobriety or will not perceive any reason for giving up his drinking.

# "Unsung Hero" and family play Santa to Children's Village

by *Rae Higgins*

Denise Reis' family put an interesting twist on Christmas for Children's Village.

Denise, an Account Clerk II in the Sheriff's Department, decided to give Christmas presents to some of the kids at Children's Village this year in lieu of a family gift exchange.

"It was my husband, Rick's idea," she said. "We've been knocking the idea around for a couple of years."

Denise's family normally draws name for Christmas gift-giving. This year, however, they decided to give presents to 15 of the Children's Village residents. Her step-children, Jamie, 9, and Jordan, 6, gave up one of their gifts as well.

After she told Children's Village officials what they wanted to do, the ball started rolling. Each of the five couples in Denise's family gave \$50 to the village. In addition, Bob Sahajdack and Pam Newsom, who are Sheriff's Department employees, chipped in \$200 on behalf of the department.

Shopping for the young people was indeed an experience. Denise and her sister-in-law brought over-sized college sweatshirts for each of the 15 kids. In addition, they gave the 12 to 14 year olds hand-held computerized Nintendo games. The 15 to 17 years olds each received an Emerson personal stereo.

Denise and her family also made



Denise Reis

goodies for the December 23 Village party.

Denise, a 12-year county employee, said the kids were very receptive and extremely polite.

"One kid said to me, 'I can't believe your family went out and did this,'" she said.

Denise and her family enjoyed giving gifts to Children's Village.

"We wanted to teach our kids how rewarding it is to give at Christmas, rather than to receive," she said.

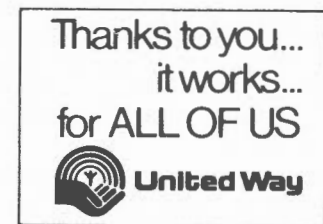
She also explained that coordinating this effort was no trouble at all. She said, "It doesn't cost that much or take up much time. Everything fell into place."

Children's Village means a great deal to the Reis family. Denise encourages others to give to the less fortunate. "There are so many organizations that need help -- it's a very rewarding experience," she said.

## AIDS and Illiteracy are workplace issues

As a result of your contributions, all of these workplace issues - dependent care, AIDS, and illiteracy - are now being addressed by United Way of Oakland County and its agencies through workshops and seminars, and special training and educational classes. United Way's Community Planning and Problem Solving Committee will be looking for other ways to address these issues. However, we have a long way to go before they are put to rest, and in order to guarantee a brighter future for our children, we must all work together.

If you would like to find out more about the changes occurring in the workplace; changes that could significantly affect the way you conduct business in the '90s, contact Pam Phillips or Jan Hubbard at 456-8805 to order a copy of *The Future World of Work: Looking Toward the Year 2000*.



## Library offers great resources



As a member of the National Institute of Business Management the Reference Library receives several publications that might be of interest to you.

The ALERT is a weekly advisory for business decision makers. It is usually about 12 pages in length and offers tips on such varied topics as "How to manage stress," "FAX facts," and "Handling a computer crisis." In short, probably has something that is of interest to everyone.

On a somewhat irregular basis we receive a lengthier publication called the PLANNING REPORT. The entire

issue of a Planning Report addresses one subject. For example the subject of the most recent Planning Report is "Financing Growth in the 1990's."

The best feature of our membership in the National Institute of Business Management is our access to the most current and comprehensive business research available through the SELECTION INDEX. As a Member, the library is entitled to eight free files per year. Each file is an in-depth study of one topic included in the Index. Just to give you an idea of the information available nationally, three of the top

requested files in '89 were "Motivating Employees," "Alcohol and Drug Abuse," and "Employee Communications." Unless we have already requested our allotted eight files, we will be glad to request a file at no cost to you.

This is a very brief sketch of a valuable service that is available to you through the Reference Library. If you want more information, please call us at 858-0738 or stop by. We'd be happy to have you take a closer look at these materials. The Reference Library is located on the first floor of the Executive Office Building.

# Judges chalk up first year

by Rae Higgins

Judges Joan E. Young and Barry Howard recently completed their first year as Probate Judge and Oakland County Circuit Court Judge, respectively.

Probate Judge Young was elected in Nov., 1988 and took office Jan. 1, 1989. Prior to her election, she was the Oakland County Circuit Court Administrator for 6½ years and was the Deputy Circuit Court Administrator for 3 years.

Judge Young said her first year was very interesting and challenging.

She said her judgeship is very different from her previous job. "Being a judge is a much more isolating job," she said, "I don't get out as much any more."

Some of the cases she hears are very troubling, she said. "The most distressing cases involve children...

children that don't have somebody to take care of them."

Judge Young said some people have misconceptions about judges. "People don't really understand the work load of a judge or the kind of pressures we work under on a daily basis," she said.

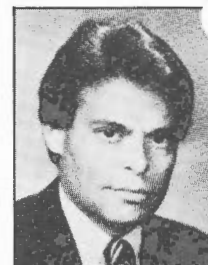
Judge Barry Howard was appointed by the governor early last year to Circuit Court bench. Prior to his appointment, he was in private law practice.

He said his first year was beyond his expectations. "It's just been great," he said.

Judge Howard said his most interesting case was a breach of contract brought against General Motors Corp. by Limited Partnership of Rochester Hills. He was especially impressed with the litigants. "They were outstanding in their case preparations and the handling of the



Joan E. Young



Barry Howard

trial," he said.

Judge Howard said the biggest difference from his previous job is that he is able to "call the shots." "There is a different type of pressure, which I love," he said, "but I don't have to take it home with me."

He said that many people think that judges have lost their idealism, but he has found a deep dedication in his colleagues. "It's wonderful to find such commitment," he said.

## Classes for people with aging parents

The Oakland County Health Division will be offering classes to families with aging parents. The classes will discuss the aging process, safe use of drugs, family counseling, and alternatives in care and housing.

The series will be held on March 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 7-9 p.m. at the Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield.

You must pre-register. There is a fee of \$10 per family. For registration please call 424-7090.

## Employee Career Counseling

Employees are again reminded that career counseling is available in the Department of Personnel. Employees wishing to discuss potential career options and alternatives as well as the required qualifications for their career choices may schedule an appointment by calling the Personnel Office at 81845 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Also, employees who are aware of non-County individuals wishing career information on employment opportunities with the County should advise such individuals to contact the Department of Personnel at the phone number shown above.

## Important Information from the Credit Union

# Credit Unions really are different from banks

by Max Clymer

Just what is it that makes Credit Unions different from other financial institutions? The answer lies in the fact that they are cooperatively owned and operated to provide mutual benefits for their member-owners. They are organized as non-profit financial cooperatives. Decisions are made based on the concept that what is good for the group, will yield results for individuals.

The Credit Union objective is to provide personal financial services such as loans at reasonable interest rates. Loans are funded from liquid savings, called shares, deposited by the member-owners. The interest paid on loans to member-owners provides funds to pay the savings dividends for all shareholders. Loans also generate the income necessary to pay for numerous other financial services members enjoy, as well as operating staff, facilities, and access to convenient Credit Union Family Service Centers locations around the

state.

When you belong to a Credit Union you are a member-owner and have voting rights as well as the right to run for an elective office. A Board of Directors is elected from qualified member candidates to make business decisions. Today, most Credit Unions like Oakland County Employees Credit Union have paid full-time staffs to handle daily operations and to carry out the policies established by the Board.

Profit is not the driving force behind a Credit Union; it is rather the desire to provide services upon the demand of the membership. This cooperative focus allows for reasonable pricing of such services while remaining fiscally responsible.

Although they do generate income, Credit Unions are considered non-profit because all income is allocated to maintain and expand services for the sole benefit of the member-owners.

The principals upon which Credit Unions are based have their roots in the "people helping people" concept.



# Take Tornado Safety Test

Test your knowledge of tornado safety! Mr. Murphy has declared April 1-7 1990 as Oakland County Tornado Safety Week. It is very important to know what to do when a tornado strikes; your life may depend on it. Try to answer these questions. Don't peek!

## QUESTIONS:

1. When is a tornado WATCH issued?
2. What does a tornado WARNING mean?
3. If you are in a building, where is the best place to take shelter?
4. What do you do if you are outside, in your car or in a mobile home and a tornado strikes?

## ANSWERS:

1. A tornado WATCH is issued if conditions are right for a tornado to develop. Be prepared to take shelter and keep informed of the latest weather conditions.
2. A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and confirmed in the area. Take cover immediately.

3. If you are in a building, the basement is the best place to take cover. Seek shelter beneath a workbench, heavy table or stairway. If no basement is available, seek shelter on the ground floor in the center of the building; in a closet or bathroom. Stay away from windows and keep a flashlight and transistor radio with you.

4. If you are in your car or in a mobile home get out immediately. Seek shelter in the nearest permanent structure. If you cannot find one, take cover in a ditch or ravine. Lie flat with your arms covering your head. If possible, wrap yourself with clothing or a blanket to guard against flying objects. If you are in your car, it is important not to try to drive away from the storm.

It is important that everyone takes time to learn about tornado safety. Remember, the key to safety is knowledge. For more information, contact Gail A. Novak of EMS/Emergency Management at 858-5300.

# AUCTION

The Materials Management Division will conduct its semi-annual auction in early May.

Stolen and recovered property from the Sheriff's Department will be auctioned along with old and obsolete equipment from various departments. Vehicles from the county garage will also be auctioned.

"The auction is a way of disposing of a high volume of items quickly instead of piece-by-piece," said Dan Marquis, manager of Materials Management.

The money goes back to the respective departments in an escrow account. Last year \$2 million was raised. It is expected that 1000-1500 people will attend. According to Marquis attendance is growing each year.

"It is an opportunity for the public to receive good merchandise at a good price," he said.

The auction will be announced and is open to everyone.

## American Red Cross Blood Drive

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 22 and 23, 1990 in the Courthouse Lobby, Ground Floor, 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Blood donor pledge cards will be available from attendance clerks. You have the power to make a difference. Give blood...a gift from the heart!

## Parks and Recreation Slide Program

If you are a member of a community organization, service club, or church group and would like to host a slide presentation on the Oakland County Parks, call Jackie McParlane at 858-0906. The 15-minute presentation explains the parks system's plans for the 10-year millage renewal and Orion Oaks, which will be developed as a camp/conference/education center.



Renee Robbins

## Employees share "thoughts"

by Rae Higgins

For about a year now, employees in the Clerk-Register of Deeds Division have had something to look forward to everyday.

They wait with anticipation for the posting of the "Thought of the Day" by Renee Robbins.

Renee, a Clerk III in the Real Estate Division, said the idea of hanging "The Thought of the Day" came to her in a strange way. She bought a box of tea bags that had quotes and sayings on it. She thought posting some of them would break up the monotony of the work day. "It's to make people stop and

think about things other than their job," she said.

Renee gets the quotes for the office from books, magazines and newspapers.

She said her co-workers have responded very well to the "Thought of the Day." "When I don't put it up I get told about it," she said.

Since the Division's employees deal with the public, many other people see Renee's words of wisdom. "They enjoy the fact that its up there. As a matter of fact, someone once asked me to make a copy of it," she said.

# Employees make news...

## Promotions

**Denise Bristow** was promoted from Clerk III to Office Leader, Tract Index Unit, Register of Deeds Division.

**Toni Cooperrider** was promoted to Circuit Court Records Clerk and **Diane Livingston** was promoted to Clerk III - both in the Clerk's Legal Records Unit. Congratulations to you both!

**Mary Gaedt**, Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, was promoted to Sewage Treatment Plant Operator II.

**Don Hockin**, Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, was promoted to Sewage Treatment Plant Operator II.

**Bert Hofman**, Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, was promoted to Sewage Treatment Supervisor I.

**Elaine Kelley** was promoted from Office Leader, Tract Index Unit, Register of Deeds Division, to Office Supervisor II.

**William Mawhinney**, Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, was promoted to Sewage Treatment Supervisor II.

**Allan K. McMorris**, former Director of Operations and Accounting Supervisor of the Oakland County Employees Credit Union, has been promoted to Manager.

**Bonnie Muenchausen** joined the Jury Office as a Deputy Jury Clerk on January 8, 1990. Bonnie is a former ADAPT (Automated Dictation Production Typist) at Friend of the Court.

## Transfers

**Joan Boyle**, Case Assistant, Friend of the Court, has been assigned to Judge Gilbert's caseload, and **Sue Ross**, Case Assistant, is now with Judge Kuhn's caseload.

**Susan Friedl** has transferred from Children's Village to Probate Court and is working as a caseworker.

**Mary Ann Rivard** moved from the Grantor/Grantee Unit to Tract Index, while **Larry Mitchell** moved from Tract Index to Validation.

**Marty Johnson** transferred from the Law Library to the Tract Index Unit of the Register of Deeds Division. Welcome Marty!

**Jennifer Schooley** transferred from the Sheriff's Department to the Legal Records Unit of the County Clerk's

**Michael Noder**, Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, was promoted to Sewage Treatment Supervisor I.

**Margaret Porreca** transferred from the Board of Commissioner's Program Evaluation Office and was promoted to Secretary II of the Solid Waste Division.

**Kathy Taylor** and **Mitzi Schwab**, 52nd District Court Probation, were promoted from Typists II to ADAPTs. Congratulations ladies!

**Ronald Wintland**, Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, was promoted to Sewage Treatment Supervisor I.



Lois Muller

## New Unit

Effective January 1, 1990, the Micrographics Unit became part of the County Clerk/Register of Deeds Offices. Welcome aboard!

**Karen Osterkamp** and **Denise (Cledonia) Thomas** are new employees assigned to the unit. In addition, **Art Spence** was made supervisor, replacing retiring **Marv Bandlow**. Congratulations!

## Married

**Roseann LaForge**, Eight Mile Water Department, was married on December 30, 1989 to **George Andrew Duke**.

**Trudy Cole**, Court Clerk to Judge Ziem, married **Robert Tolen** on January 22, 1990. The ceremony took place on the island of Oahu in Hawaii.

**Sheila Garin Valesano**, Research Attorney for Judge Gilbert, was married to **Robert Valesano** on November 11, 1989.

**Ruth Linegar Richards**, Court Clerk to Judge Gilbert, was married to **Thomas S. Richards** on October 21, 1989.

## In Memoriam

The Circuit Court expresses its sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Robert MacFarlane**. Robert died in December 1989. He retired two years ago from his position as Assistant Chief of the Court Service Officers.

## Births

Judge Gage's clerk, **Richard Lynch**, is the proud parent of a 9 pound, 11 ounce tax deduction, Kevin Patrick, born at 6:14 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

The adoption of Charles "Chalkey" was finalized on January 19 before Judge Sandra Silver. Chalkey is the son of Deputy Court Administrator, **Margaret Horenstein**, and her husband.

**Jeannette Trzos**, of the Clerk's Vital Statistics Unit, and her husband, **James**, are the proud parents of their first child, a boy, James Kelley. He was born on September 6, 1989 and weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

Marie Camille was born on December 19, 1989 to **Lloyd Lewis**, and his wife **Jeanne**. Lloyd works in the Pump Maintenance Unit of Water & Sewage Operations Division.

Tom Eason III, was born on September 15, 1989 to **Tommy Jr.**, and his wife, **Carla**. Tommy works in the Sewer Maintenance Unit of the Water & Sewage Operations Division.

**Michelle Maloff**, of the Health Division, and her husband, **Larry**, are the proud parents of their first child, a girl, Ashley. She was born on December 4, 1989 at 8:23 a.m. and weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces.

**Cindy Potts**, of Cooperative Extension Services, and her husband, **Keith**, are the proud parents of a boy, Jason Thomas, born on January 2, 1990.

**Nancy Hepler**, of Community Mental Health Administration, and her husband, **John**, are proud parents of Kimberly born on August 10, 1989. Baby Kimberly weighed in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

**David Quigley**, of Management and Budget, and his wife, **Lauren**, welcomed their fourth child into the world on January 18, 1990. Lisa Michelle weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces.

# Employees make news...

## New Employees

The Department of Risk Management and Safety (formerly Insurance and Safety) would like to introduce our newest employee, **Dean Schultz**, as the safety coordinator for Oakland County.

**Ken Braun** is the intern in the Court Administrator's Office. Ken is a senior at Michigan State University, and plans to attend law school in the future.

**Cindy Fisher**, **Barb Vondra** and **Rebecca Reyes** are new employees assigned to the Grantor/Grantee Unit of the Register of Deeds Division. Also, welcome aboard **Tom Smith**, Register of Deeds new Plat Engineer.

**Thomas James Gordon II** is a new intern for Pretrial Services. Thomas is a senior at Oakland University, majoring in Public Administration.

**Dee K. Hamilton** joined the Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, on January 3, 1990.

**Deborah Harms** and **Julian Gordon** are new Clinical Psychologists assigned to the Probate Court.

**Franklin Hepola** joined the Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, on May 8, 1989.

**Anne M. Hobart** joined Oakland County Solid Waste on January 2, 1990 as their Community Relations Coordinator. Anne will be the contact person for the local communities and citizens on all the solid waste programs; reduction, recycling, waste-to-energy and landfilling. She is currently visiting every municipality to ensure their recycling programs get started. Anne was a County Commissioner for 13 years for District 4 which includes White Lake Township and part of Waterford Township.

**Donald Hockin** joined the Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, on August 21, 1989.

**Gail Innis** is a caseworker assigned to Probate Court's Youth Assistance Department.

**Steven Jarvis** is a Court Clerk for Judge Moore.

**Lloyd Lewis** joined the Pump Maintenance Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, on September 11, 1989.



Laura Jenko

**Neil McCormack** is part-time Probate Court Service Officer.

**David Mester** is the new Clerk I in Judge Mester's chambers. Dave replaces **Kelley Ott**, who left on November 17 to attend the University of Detroit Law School full time.

**Laura Nelson** is a Court Clerk for Judge Silver.

**Karen Pelowski** is a caseworker assigned to the Probate Court.

**Jim Pistill, P.E.**, joined Water & Sewage Operations Division on October 23, 1989. Jim serves as Water & Sewage Operations Engineer overseeing sewer operations and maintenance. His experience includes work with the Peace Corps in Nepal, Black & Veach in Detroit and Indonesia, the Detroit Water & Sewer Department and most recently with Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick in Mount Clemens.

**David A. Slazinski** is a new intern for Pretrial Services. David is a Public Administration major at Oakland University.

**Samuel Turner** joined the Sewage Maintenance Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, on October 3, 1989.

**Richard Wiley** joined the Sewage Treatment Unit, Water & Sewage Operations Division, on December 11, 1989.

**James Windell** and **Judy Goldner** are part-time Clinical Psychologists assigned to the Probate Court.

## Leaving

**Dave Monroe**, Caseworker with the Probate Court's Early Offender Program, will be leaving on February 2, 1990. Dave has taken on a new endeavor with Camp Oakland working in their new Day Treatment Program.

## Retirements

**Max E. Clymer**, Manager/Assistant Treasurer of Oakland County Employees Credit Union, is retiring March 2, 1990 after 29 years of service to the Credit Union and its members. Mr. Clymer has provided stewardship over the Credit Union since 1961 when the membership was around 2,028 and assets were around \$761,622. Currently, the membership is 11,151, and assets are at \$36,176,188.

**Harry Braga**, Plat Engineer, Register of Deeds Division, retired January 12, 1990 after 10 years of service to the county.

**Dolores Calhoun**, Caseworker, Probate Court, retired September 15, 1989 after 11 years of service to the county.

**Emily Lynchey** retired from the Probate Court after serving 27 years with the county.

**Richard Boike**, Service Officer, Probate Court, retired November 27, 1989 after 10 years of service to the county.

**Ardoth Pretznaw**, Deputy Register, Probate Court, retired in January after 15 years of service to the county.

**Betty Murphy**, Caseworker, Probate Court, retired December 15, 1989 after 30 years of service to the county.



Max Clymer

**Mimi Thompson**, Office Supervisor, Register of Deeds Division, retired January 19, 1990 after 17 years of county service.

**Laura Jenko**, Typist II, Probate Court, retired January 22, 1990 after 37 years of service with the county.

# Kudos...

## Oakland County Parks and Recreation Employee Receives State Award

Oakland County Parks and Recreation employee **John Sowels** of Holly has received a Maintenance Leadership Award from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

The award is given to individuals for outstanding achievements in maintenance, programming, equipment modifications or innovative maintenance design.

Sowels, who began his career at Oakland County Parks and Recreation in 1976, was promoted to Park Maintenance Supervisor in 1986, heading the Technical Support Division.

In addition to his extensive training in technical and management skills, Sowels "goes the extra mile" to make sure Oakland County parks, events and facilities run smoothly, according to Jon Kipke, Assistant Manager.

For example, Sowels, volunteers his services each evening at the week-long Oakland County 4-H Fair at Springfield Oaks County Park, to operate heavy equipment or make emergency repairs.

Sowels also organized a volunteer work crew to assist with construction of the Cohn Amphitheater at Independence Oaks County Park in 1987.

For the past several years, he has developed and instructed in-house workshops for Parks and Recreation staff on topics such as electrical wiring, carpentry, plumbing and equipment operation.

Listen for **Kevin Threatt** of the Probate Court's Volunteer Programs on WJR radio. Kevin recently did a 20-second public service announcement to help recruit volunteers for one-to-one matches. The matched adults work with a child who is at Children's Village or at home. The PSA will be aired intermittently during the winter and spring.

**Ralph Battishill**, Cross Connector Inspector for Water & Sewage Operations Division, completed 25 years of service for Oakland County in September 1989.

**Richard A. Southern**, Systems Coordinator of the Oakland County Economic Development Division, was appointed to a four-member Appraisal Experience Qualifications Task Force. The task force sets standards and guidelines for real estate appraisers'

qualifications. It is one out of the eight appraisal societies that comprise the prestigious Appraisal Foundation in Washington, D.C.



Dick Southern

**John "Jack" Becher**, Supervisor of the Royal Oak Unit of the Veterans' Services Division, has recently completed a year as the Lions International District 11-A2 Governor.

District 11-A2 is comprised of Oakland and Macomb Counties and the roll of Governor is to manage every club in the district.

For his successful tenure, Jack received awards including the Melvin Jones Fellowship (the highest award in the Lions); the 100% District Governors Award from Lions Clubs International; the Outstanding District Governor Award from the Lions of Michigan and the International Presidents Leadership Certificate for Outstanding Leadership in Michigan.

Jack is very active in the Lions hearing and blind programs.

Veterans' Services Division co-workers are very proud of Jack's accomplishments and wish to share his success with the rest of the county.

In November 1989, the **Honorable Hilda R. Gage** was elected Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Judicial College. She has been on the Board of Directors since 1987.

**Proferia Mellado**, Circuit Court Records Clerk, recently received an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Oakland Community College. Porki plans to begin work on a Bachelor's degree in the near future and pursue a career in the criminal law field.

**Carol Friend**, Paralegal Supervisor, Friend of the Court, received a Bachelor's degree in General Studies from Oakland University. Congratulations.

**Barbara Kandarian** and **Terry Oppenheim**, Family Counselors, Friend of the Court, recently received

certification from the Academy of Certified Social Workers, a unit of the National Association of Social Workers. **Elaine Bryant**, Family Counselor, was certified by the Academy in 1988.

**Wayne P. Kristall**, Friend of the Court Referee, has been named to the Executive Board for the Michigan Association of Court Mediators.

**Jack D. Wiegand**, Family Counselor, Friend of the Court, has been elected President of the Michigan Association of Court Mediators.

Congratulations to 52nd District Court Probation Officer, **Patricia Crane**, who completed the Berkley Road Race on May 21, 1989, finishing third in her age group. You're super Pat!

**Ron Frank**, counselor recently appeared as a guest on Amy DeVones K.I.N.D. (Kids In Need of Direction) syndicated cable show. Discussion centered around the relationships of family to those youths who commit violent crimes. The show filmed in Berkley, is cable syndicated throughout the metro Detroit area.

**Jody Overall**, G bldg. counselor recently appeared on Bardeu Cablevision, Detroit on the teenage issues show Hot-Spot. Jody along with residents of G bldg. discussed Children's Village and its treatment efforts in dealing with residents.

Children's Village was highlighted on Channel 4's newscast of "Bad Girls" a three day story dealing with the increased number of crimes committed by women.

## BROWN BAG ART LUNCHEON

The Brown Bag Lunch Series will conclude with two last programs. April 12: "It's A Small World", by miniature figure collectors Mary Lou Prevost and Carolyn White. May 17: "Inexpensive and Fun Art Posters," by Virginia DeBenham Rodgers. All County employees and the public are welcome to attend. The Brown Bag Lunch Program takes place at the Public Works Building-lower level conference room, noon-1 p.m. Bring your lunch and enjoy something new during your lunch hour. Because of the popularity of this new program we will continue it next Fall.



# Around the year we're right here!

## Two Issues For County Parks on August Ballot

**Pontiac**—The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners have approved two parks millage questions to be placed on the August 7, 1990 primary ballot.

The first is a renewal of the 00.25 (¼) mill for 10 years. The Oakland County Parks millage has passed four times since the system was established in 1966.

"Renewal of the one-quarter mill will strengthen the parks commission's ability to acquire additional land for preservation and recreation," according to Lewis E. Wint, parks commission chairman.

In addition, voters will be asked to approve a special, one-time, one year, 00.50 (½) mill for the development of Orion Oaks County Park.

Millage funding is needed over the next decade due to extensive population growth in Oakland County communities, 1.3 million visitors to the parks annually, a desire to preserve open space, aging park facilities as well as rising operation costs, security and maintenance costs, and diminishing federal and state matching grants, according to parks commission manager Ralph Richard.

Renewal of the 00.25 parks millage for 10 years will meet the increasing demand for recreation, continue high quality service and maintenance, preserve land and expand nature programs, refurbish older facilities, add new features to campgrounds and the waterparks, and make possible expanded recreation programming for groups such as senior citizens, young people and the disabled.

Renewal of the ¼ mill will cost the owner of a \$90,000 home \$11.25 per year. The millage rate of 25 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation has not increased for 20 years.

Orion Oaks, a 927-acre park with a 90-acre lake, was acquired in 1980. Research for a master plan and input from dozens of community organizations determined that the most effective and usable concept would be a year-round multipurpose facility for scheduled use with overnight accommodations.

If approved, the Orion Oaks millage will generate \$13 million to open the first phase of the park in the summer of 1992. Phase one will include a lodge,

dining hall, activity center, four cabins, a seasonal village for platform tent camping, a waterfront, roads, trail system, parking and all utilities.

Cost to the owner of a \$90,000 home would be a one-time, one year assessment of \$22.50 designated for Orion Oaks County Park.

The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission operates nine parks and golf courses with facilities including two waterparks, campgrounds, a tennis complex, indoor golf driving range and nature center. Activities and special events range from a hot balloon festival, car show, and programs for senior citizens to a recreation-on-wheels fleet, bus transportation and nature education for school children.

For more information on the Oakland County Parks ballot questions, phone 858-0906.

## Walk for MS

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is asking for participants for their 2nd Annual Super Cities Walk. Last year the event raised \$282,000.

The 15-mile walk is scheduled for April 1, 1990 in Birmingham. Proceeds benefits MS. The event will include lunch. Bandanas and balloons will be given to participants. It is sure to be lots of fun.

The MS Society is hoping Oakland County employees participate. For sign-up information, please contact Michelle Brasseur at 1-800-247-7382. Volunteers also are needed to work in the lunchroom and at rest spots.

Share in the success - join the Super Cities Walk!

## OAKLAND RECYCLES!

### How much do you recycle each month?

This time around we have calculated the average pounds of paper recycled by each participating employee on a building-by-building basis. It's easy to see from these statistics which areas use computer paper! Also shown are the number of trees saved in each building each month.

Building	Employee Pounds/Month	Building Trees/Month
Animal Control	16.0	.7
Administrative Annex II	11.3	13.4
Computer Services	53.1	34.8
Courthouse	17.5	14.9
Children's Village "J"	23.3	8.5
Executive Office Building	21.8	27.8
Friend of the Court Annex	13.0	1.3
Health Annex	7.6	1.4
Health North Office	10.2	3.8
North Office Building	15.2	5.7
Oakland Avenue	8.3	5.6
Public Works Building	10.5	8.5
<b>Average:</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>Total: 126.4</b>

In addition, Oakland Schools recycles 2,500 pounds of computer paper each month and has saved 255 trees in the last year. County wide, we have recycled over 190,000 pounds of paper saving 1,615 trees and 2,090 gallons of gas!

A recycling program is only as good as the paper collected is free of contaminants, so please keep glue, paper clips, carbon paper, rubber bands and plastic out of the recycling bins. Remember, recycle everything you can, but only what you should.

Welcome to Parks & Recreation and all the folks at Community Mental Health, Treasurer's Office, Clerk's Office, and Probate Court who have joined the program. It's never too late to join. Call Steve Stanford at 858-0129 to start saving trees in your office too.

Did you know...some of our paper ends up on your breakfast table? The outside layer of your cereal box from Battle Creek was once the copy paper we recycle and, one final note, yes **The Telegraph** can be recycled right along with regular copy paper...now you know.

# Calendar

## March 17-25

Oakland County Parks Photo Exhibit at Home & Builders Show, Cobo Hall, Detroit.

## March 24

Oakland County Parks Photo Exhibit at "Parenting Day," Birney Middle School, on Evergreen Road near 11 Mile Road in Southfield.

## March 25

Oakland County Talent Extravaganza at Mercy Center in Farmington Hills. County-wide talent show featuring individual and group acts in four age categories. Spectators welcome! Prizes awarded. For details, call 858-0906.

## March 27-April 17

Oakland County Parks Photo Exhibit at Rochester Hills Municipal Building, on Avon Road in Rochester.

## March 31

"Eco-explorers" Investigate Animal Faces and Feet, nature mini-class at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Children aged 6-8 will learn about animal adaptation through activities, crafts and more. Bring sack lunch; beverage provided. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## April 1-December 16

NEW! "Sunday Samplers" at the Independence Oaks Nature Center, 3-4 p.m. First Sunday of the month: Naturalist-guided nature hike; Third Sunday of the month: Free nature film. Drop-in program; call 625-6473 for details.

## April 7

Easter "Spring Fling" at Springfield Oaks County Park, noon-2 p.m. Walks with the Easter Bunny, age group Easter egg hunt, and airplane marshmallow drop. Co-sponsored by Springfield Township Parks and Recreation and Waterford Parents Without Partners. Admission: \$2/parking fee. Call 625-8133 for details.

## April 7

"Easter Egg-stravaganza" nature program at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 1-4 p.m. Learn about nature's egg layers and participate in a unique animal egg hunt. Crafts, surprise holiday visitors, live animals and more. Cost: \$2/person. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## April 17-May 8

Oakland County Parks Photo Exhibit at Madison Heights Public Library, on 13 Mile Road near John R in Madison Heights.

## April 20

"Earth Fair" nature program at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Earth Day and become more environmentally aware at a day full of demonstrations, entertainment and a live WJR broadcast with Jimmy Launce. Pre-registration is required; call 625-6473.

## April 24

"Tuning Your Tot Into Spring" nature program at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 10-11:45 a.m. Stories, songs, a nature hike and craft will tune-in and turn-on your 3-6 year old to the wonders of the season. Cost: \$2/tot. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## April 27

"Protecting the Natural World" Conference at Oakland University, Gold Room, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Conference during "Celebration of Outdoors Week" commemorates the 20th Anniversary of Earth Day and brings together those concerned about saving green spaces. Co-sponsored by Oakland Parks Foundation and Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council. Admission: \$15. Call 335-2771 for details.

## April 28

Doll and Teddy Bear Show at Springfield Oaks Youth Activities Center, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Approximately 60 exhibitors feature antique and collectible dolls and teddy bears. Cost: \$3/adults; \$1/children aged 5-12. For details call: 625-8133.

## April 28

"Amorous Amphibians" nature program at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 7:30-9 p.m. On an evening nature hike, learn about frogs and toads that fill spring nights with a symphony of love songs. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## May 1

Waterford Oaks Bicycle Motocross (BMX) track opens for season. Weekly practices and races. Call 858-0915 for information.

## May 2

Oakland Parks Foundation Annual Dinner at Addison Oaks County Park, 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$25/person. For reservations, call 335-2771.

## May 4-13

Weekend camping at Addison Oaks and Groveland Oaks County Parks. Call Addison Oaks at 693-2432 or Groveland Oaks at 634-9811.

## May 5

Waterford Oaks Court Games Complex opens for summer season. Complex features tennis and volleyball courts, shuffleboard, horseshoes pits, picnic shelter and control station with rental equipment. Located adjacent to Waterford Oaks Wave Pool. Call 858-5433 for more information.

## May 5

"A Bird in Hand..." nature program at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 8-10 a.m. Free-flying birds will be temporarily detained as we use mist nets to capture, band and examine these mobile migrants. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## May 6

Spring Mountain Bike Race at Addison Oaks County Park. Observed trials and cross-country race for all ages. Prize drawings and awards for racers. Spectators welcome. For more information, call 693-2432.

## May 8-June 5

Oakland County Parks Photo Exhibit at Farmington Hills Public Library on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

## May 12

"Parade of Petals" nature program at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 1-2:30 p.m. A guided woodland stroll will feature the spring wildflower display. Cost \$1/person. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## May 13

"Bill B." special presentation at the Cohn Amphitheater, Independence Oaks County Park, 1-2:30 p.m. Nationally known singer and songwriter performs songs and dances. Cost \$2/person; family rate available. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## May 18

"Jesus Christ Superstar" Benefit for Oakland Parks Foundation. 8 p.m. at Birmingham Theatre. Proceeds benefit parks and recreation in Oakland County. Cost: \$35/person. For reservations, call 335-2771.

# Calendar

## May 18

“Senior/Retiree Open” Golf Tournament at Red Oaks Golf Course. Nine-hole tourney with several age categories. Actual scores as well as adjusted Calloway handicap system will be used; plaques awarded. Call 541-5030 for information.

## May 18-September 9

Regular camping season at Addison Oaks and Groveland Oaks County Parks. Primitive and modern sites with electricity and water available. Call Addison Oaks at 693-2432 or Groveland Oaks at 634-9811.

## May 18-20

Michigan Sports Festival at Central Michigan University for the physically disabled. Athletes with cerebral palsy, head injury, spinal cord injury, and other neuro-muscular disabilities eligible. Call 858-0906 for information.

## May 19

Oakland County Kite Flying Festival, noon-5 p.m. at the Oakland County Service Center. Kite flying demos, kite-making seminar, and kite flying for all ages. Co-sponsored by Just Paper Backs and McDonald's. Rain date: May 20. Call 858-0916 for more information.

## May 19

“Defense Department” nature programs at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 1-2:30 p.m. Learn how plants and animals avoid becoming someone's next meal. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## May 20

FAL Flatfooters 10k Run at Independence Oaks County Park, 9 a.m.-noon. Police Championship and Public 10k Run and one-mile Fun Run. For information, call Patty Fortin at 673-1827.

## May 25

Annual fishing contest at Addison Oaks and Independence Oaks County Parks. Prizes awarded at the end of season (Labor Day) for largest fish caught. Valid Michigan fishing license required. Call Addison Oaks at 693-2432 or Independence Oaks at 625-0877.

## May 25

Red Oaks and Waterford Oaks Waterparks seasons begin. Open daily, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Call Red Oaks at 585-6990 or Waterford Oaks at 858-0918.

## May 25-28

Recreational Player Tennis Tournament #1 at Waterford Oaks Court Games Complex. Unsanctioned. Call 858-5433.

## May 25-28

9th Annual Michigan Memorial Open Tennis Tournament at Waterford Oaks Court Games Complex. Sanctioned and unsanctioned play. Call 858-5433.

## June 1-3

9th Annual Junior Open at Waterford Oaks Court Games Complex. Sanctioned. Call 858-5433.

## June 2

“Taxidermy Primer” nature mini-class at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Adults can learn basic techniques of the art of taxidermy and add a specimen to the Nature Center teaching collection. Bring a sack lunch; beverage provided. Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## June 5-26

Oakland County Photo Exhibit at Highland Township Library, on Livingston in Highland Township.

## June 9

“Michigan has ‘Great’ Lakes” nature program at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 7-9 p.m. This naturalist-guided evening canoe program features information about Michigan's great lakes and waterways. Bring own canoe or rent one for \$3. (Lifejackets must be worn.) Pre-registration required; call 625-6473.

## June 15-17

9th Annual Senior Open at Waterford Oaks Court Games Complex. Sanctioned. Call 858-5433.

## June 17

“Michael Deren” special presentation at the Cohn Amphitheater, Independence Oaks County Park, 2-3 p.m. Part of the “Flashback to Summer” event, a living history presentation brings to life the Michigan Lumbering Era as Michael Deren portrays a “shanty boy” character.

## June 17

“Flashback to Summer” at Independence Oaks County Park. From noon-9:30 p.m., enjoy old-time summer games and activities, beginning with the 1800's and progressing through the present day. Fee \$4/vehicle for Oakland County residents (\$6/vehicle non-residents). Call 858-4945.

## June 18

Sports Camp begins at Waterford Oaks County Park. Week-long sessions for youth aged 8-14 includes sports, games, nature activities, swimming, fishing and a cookout. Cost: \$70/child; \$62/additional child. Bus transportation available. Call 858-0916 for details.

## Ongoing Events/Activities

### 1st Sunday of the month

NEW! “Sunday Sampler” at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 3-4 p.m. Stop by and enjoy a naturalist-guided nature hike. Call 625-6473 for details.

### 3rd Sunday of the month

NEW! “Sunday Sampler” at Independence Oaks Nature Center, 3-4 p.m. Stop in and watch a free nature film. Call 625-6473 for details.

### 4th Sunday of the month

Antique Show, Springfield Oaks Activities Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. Call Norma Morris, 548-7207.

### 2nd Tuesday of alternate months

OAKlowns Clown Alley meetings, Oakland County, Mental Retardation Center (cafeteria), Pontiac, 7 p.m. Call 858-4945.

### Monthly

Real People Club, social club for physically impaired age 16 and up. Meet at Oakland County Easter Seals Building, Pontiac, 6 p.m. Call 338-9626 for information.

### 1st Friday

Ballroom Dance at Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 8-11 p.m. Featuring Frank Venice Band. For information, call 858-0913.

### 2nd Friday

Round Dance at Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 8-11 p.m. Marilyn Hicks, cuer. For information, call 858-0913.

### 3rd Friday

Square Dance at Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 8-11 p.m. Doug Rieck, caller. For information, call 858-0913.

### 4th Friday

Round Dance at Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 8-11 p.m. Featuring Marilyn Hicks, cuer. For information, call 858-0913.

### 5th Friday

Clogging workshop at Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 8-11 p.m. For information, call 858-0913.

# Commissioner Olsen looks at year filled with opportunities

Dear Readers,

If challenges are opportunities - we have many opportunities.

Hi, I'm Jack Olsen. As the new Chairperson of the County Commission's Republican Caucus, I'm more aware than ever of the many opportunities facing both our county and, by definition, our county government. That's us folks. All of us: elected, appointed, full-time, part-time, union, non-union and so on.

We are all, and should be, justifiably proud of the contributions, large or small, we have made toward Oakland County development over the years.

As a relative newcomer on the scene (I was first elected in 1980), I am the beneficiary of years of solid effort and good decisions in which many of you participated.

Since 1980, however, we have seen unparalleled growth in population and commercial and residential development, bringing with it an ever changing awareness of the strains such growth puts on the county's resources. The recent shift in policy to encourage developers to look to older communities where infrastructure necessities such as roads, sewers, power lines, police, etc. are already in place, is an attempt to reduce the strain on the county's resources.

Many residents of Oakland County are concerned that the clean air, unimpeded vistas, uncluttered roads, lack of crime, are being eroded by the



Jack Olsen

increasing urbanization of the countryside. Achieving the balance between such compelling interests is one of our most important challenges.

There is the Solid Waste Plan with its incinerators, recycling centers and need for landfills. Fortunately, the absolute need for such a county plan is recognized by everyone. Unfortunately, the design of such a plan seems to be fraught with as much heat as light, more emotion than logic, and particularly when it comes to the placement of facilities, more NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) per ounce than any other topic we've ever tackled. After all, who was the last person in Michigan you talked to who wanted a landfill or incinerator in their backyard. (If you find one, please call. We'll get in touch with them right away.)

On the other hand, designing the county's plan represents a great opportunity to "get it right" since we are starting with a clean slate.

It is an opportunity to show

government at its best - by working together - county, cities, townships - all contributing to making the system one that is fair, comprehensive, and appropriate to the needs of all our citizens.

Roads are always too crowded and continually in need of maintenance and/or repair. Presentations by the Road Commission identify problems requiring nearly a \$1 billion, ten-year solution. At present this is an amount far beyond our funding capacity. It is going to take a lot of creative initiatives, cooperation at every level of government, and just plain hard work to achieve the Road Commission's goal. While their request for \$10 million per year from the county's operating funds flies in the face of legal restrictions on the use of county general funds, rest assured that County Commissioners place a very high priority on ensuring that our roads are safe, conveniently placed and easy to travel.

We could list many more issues whose importance has or will push them to the forefront - the courthouse expansion comes to mind. The 90's will provide a challenge for all. I think Oakland County's record shows that we are equal to the task!

I welcome the challenge. I hope all of you will too.

Sincerely,  
Jack Olsen

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## Happy Birthday, Earth Day!

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Earth Day, a national tribute will occur April 20-29. Across beautiful Oakland County, a "Celebration of the Outdoors" will focus on stimulating action for parks, outdoor recreation, open space and greenways.

On Friday, April 20 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., the Independence Oaks Nature Center will host an "Earth Fair." Participants can learn about the environment today as well as what people and groups are doing to maintain it. More than 20 organizations will be present at this event. Since it occurs during Easter break, parents are

encouraged to bring their children and participate in the special activities and planned entertainment.

On Friday, April 27 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Oakland University, the Oakland Parks Foundation and Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council will co-sponsor a "Protecting the Natural World" Conference. Professional planners, government officials and citizen groups are encouraged to attend. Information on how to save the fewer than 3,000 undeveloped acres remaining in Oakland County will be included. This land has been identified in a county-

wide natural features inventory. The conference will focus on the options available for preserving the land and then serve as a catalyst to form a county-wide land conservation group.

For further information on Earth Day activities, call 335-2771.

