

# THE TELEGRAPH

SPECIAL EDITION

JANUARY 1993

**SPECIAL  
INAUGURAL  
EDITION**

## **A NEW ERA BEGINS!**

### **WINDS OF CHANGE IN OAKLAND COUNTY**

January 1, 1993 dawned like most winter days in Oakland County--cold and crisp. But something was different. For the first time in 20 years, someone new occupied the second floor office of the County Executive.

The new occupant: L. Brooks Patterson. At 12:01 a.m. on New Years Day, Mr. Patterson officially became only the second County Executive in Oakland County's long and distinguished history. But in deference to his predecessor, Daniel T. Murphy, the new man in charge did not take his seat behind the big desk in the Executive Office Building until Monday, January 4.

After a long campaign and a very busy transition period, L. Brooks Patterson was back in county government, following a four-year hiatus.

Mr. Patterson is no stranger to Oakland County government, having served 16 years as Prosecutor during which time he implemented a number of innovative programs and policies. He cracked down on the parole system, put an end to plea bargaining, sought tougher treatment for habitual offenders and served notice on the purveyors of pornography they were not welcome in Oakland County.

Feeling he had accomplished what he wanted to do, Mr. Patterson decided not to seek re-election and returned to private practice in January, 1989. As he put it at the time, "I didn't want to become the oldest Prosecutor in captivity."

Although he was successful as a trial attorney--selected by Lawyer's Weekly as one of the top 20 lawyers in Michigan in 1990--Mr. Patterson missed the public arena. Public service was in his blood. His chance to get back in the game presented itself when Daniel T. Murphy opted to retire instead of seeking another four years as County Executive.



*L. Brooks Patterson receives the oath of office from Circuit Judge Hilda Gage with wife, Kathy, by his side.*

On April 27, 1992, before a packed house at the Pontiac Silverdome's Main Event restaurant, Mr. Patterson announced his candidacy for Oakland County Executive. Then on November 3, the voters of Oakland County gave him their vote of confidence. Mr. Patterson swept into office with an impressive win, despite a Democratic landslide at the national level.

Brooks Patterson and his Team hit the ground running. January 2, during the New Years holiday weekend, Mr. Patterson held his first official staff meeting with his top administrators. He laid out his game plan for the early days of his administration and gave his appointees their "marching orders."

The Patterson Era in county government had begun. The winds of change were blowing over Oakland County.

***"The old order changeth, yielding place to new"***

*-Tennyson.*

# PATTERSON HOLDS FIRST MEETING WITH DIVISION MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

Shortly before 9:30 a.m. on Friday, January 8, 1993, the various division managers and supervisors in Oakland County government filed through the doors of the opulent Computer Services Center and met their new boss.

A packed auditorium heard Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson lay out his game plan for the early days of his administration.

"There are a lot of things I want to accomplish," said Mr. Patterson. "I will make mistakes, but they will be honest mistakes."

He also told the managers he expected them to make mistakes, but would support them as long as the mistakes were of commission and not omission. Mr. Patterson said he would be considerate of their problems and appreciative of the work they do.

The new County Executive said he hoped to set a tone with his management style and encouraged his managers to go back to their employees and adopt a similar approach.

During his talk, Mr. Patterson said he was bothered by the decay of Detroit which he blamed on leadership and image problems. He promised to do everything in his power to avoid the mistakes Wayne County and the City of Detroit have made.

"I will work to keep Oakland County as prosperous as possible, so that it may enjoy a bright future," said Mr. Patterson. "But we will need to create tens of thousands of new jobs to accommodate Oakland County's future growth."

Midway through the approximately hour-long meeting, the first few minutes of a video produced by the Economic Development Division was shown. It highlighted many of the reasons why new businesses



**County Executive L. Brooks Patterson addresses division managers and supervisors at the Computer Center Auditorium.**

should locate here including the fact that Oakland County produces \$73 billion worth of goods and services each year. In addition, Oakland County is home to 2,600 manufacturing companies and leads the state with 127 research and development firms. But the video extolled the quality of life factors that make Oakland County unique. Its 450 lakes, two open air theaters, five downhill ski hills and 50,000 acres of recreation land.

Mr. Patterson also detailed the programs he is already implementing — the "Employee Suggestion Program", "Casual Wear Day", establishment of an Ethics Committee and his six-month tour of all county departments.

In concluding the meeting, Mr. Patterson said, "We will work hard, but no one said we couldn't have a good time doing it."

## Distinguished Citizens Asked To Serve On Ethics Committee

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has announced the formation of an 11 member Ethics Committee comprised of distinguished and highly respected local citizens. The committee, which was scheduled to hold its first meeting January 27 under the direction of Deputy County Executive Doug Williams, will be responsible for drafting a firm and comprehensive standard of ethical conduct for Executive branch employees.

Mr. Patterson said the establishment of the committee was a response to the public's perception that people in government don't have the same ethical standards as those in the private sector. Such a percep-

tion Mr. Patterson calls "nonsense."

To underscore his commitment to a high ethical standard in his administration, Mr. Patterson has resigned from the Oakland University Board of Trustees and the Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital Board of Trustees.

In doing so, Mr. Patterson said, "I cannot expect a high standard of ethical conduct from others if I do not expect it of myself. That is why I feel it was necessary to step down from these two boards. It is imperative I avoid even the slightest appearance of a conflict of interest."

The Ethics Committee is expected to finish its work in two to three months and then disband.

Members of the Ethics Committee are:

**Dean Berndard Dobranski**  
U of D School of Law

**Ed Parks, CPA, Managing Partner**  
Plante & Moran

**Honorable Hilda Gage**  
Judge, Oakland County Circuit Court

**Honorable Fred Harris**  
Judge, 47th District Court

**Dr. Patsy Fulton, PhD, Chancellor**  
Oakland Community College

**David Littman, Chief Economist**  
Comerica Bank

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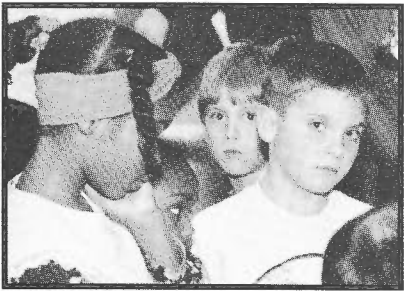
# Employees brave the weather to attend Executive Open House

Nearly 1500 Oakland County employees and their families braved a vicious winter snowstorm to attend County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's Open House at the Executive Office Building on Sunday, January 10, 1993.

Those who did choose to mush through the ice and snow were treated to an afternoon of fun. There were clowns, magicians, three caricaturists and the Red Garter Band. To keep the hunger pains at a minimum, refreshments were available for anyone who needed to soothe the appetite.

As they left the Open House, everyone was given a blue spruce seedling to plant in the spring. The attached card read -- "Watch Oakland County Grow."

The three hour event was so successful, Mr. Patterson has decided to host another Open House next year.



# The Patten

Since 1973, Mr. Grubba has been Managing Director of the Oakland County Road Commission. Prior to that, he served as Oakland County's Legislative Agent in Lansing. Mr. Grubba's past experience also includes stints as Senior Assistant Civil Counsel and Chief Deputy Drain Commissioner for Oakland County.



**John L. Grubba**  
*Deputy County Executive*

Prior to joining the Patterson team, Mr. Williams served as Chief Deputy Treasurer for Oakland County for 19 years. In that capacity, he was in charge of the overall operation of the Treasurer's Office which handles a billion dollars annually in financial transactions. As Secretary of the Oakland County Employees' Retirement System, he was responsible for managing a \$350 million program.



**Douglas J. Williams**  
*Deputy County Executive*

One of Mr. Patterson's top priorities is to gain the Board of Commissioners' approval to establish a new position in county government to coordinate existing programs and develop new programs to aid in the continued development of South Oakland County. Once



**Jean Nash Chamberlain**

approved, Ms. Chamberlain will head this as yet unnamed department. During her six years as Executive Manager of the Greater Royal Oak/Oak Park Chambers of Commerce, Ms. Chamberlain has tripled the membership and quadrupled the budget.

Formerly Vice-President of the Public Sector Group of Gordon and Company, P.C., which



**Robert J. Daddow**  
*Director Of Management & Budget*

specializes in audits and consulting projects directed at governmental and non-profit organizations. Mr. Daddow played a significant role in helping the city of Ecorse emerge from receivership and erase a nearly \$6,000,000 deficit.

Mr. Dustman is a 25-year veteran of radio and television broadcast journalism. He is a former news anchor and political editor for CBS-owned and operated WWJ radio in Detroit. During the 1988 campaign, Mr. Dustman provided the CBS radio network with reports on the Presidential Campaign in Michigan. He has also appeared numerous times as a guest panelist on Channel 7 television's "Spotlight on the News" program.



**Robert E. Dustman**  
*Public Information Officer*

Six years ago, Mr. Fayne was named Director of Risk Management for Oakland County. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Fayne



**Stanley B. Fayne**  
*Risk Manager*

was responsible for initiating a self-funding program for health benefits which saved the county \$850,000 during the first two years. He also instituted Automated Risk Management Systems to increase functional capabilities.

Mr. Funk is the former corporate director for Troy-based G.T.E. Valenite which is a recognized world-class leader in the field of cutting tool manufacturing. During an impressive and distinguished 18-year career, Mr. Funk acquired an excellent working knowledge of engineering, manufacturing and information systems. He has also been involved with computer technology in the defense industry. As a civic leader, Mr. Funk served as vice-president of the Rochester Hills City Council.



**Paul S. Funk**  
*Computer Services Director*

In 1982, Mr. Hays became Director of Oakland County's Department of Corporation Counsel. His wealth of experience includes private law practice, Court Clerk to the Honorable Phillip Pratt, Circuit Court Probation Officer and teacher in the Pontiac School District.



**Jack C. Hays**  
*Corporation Counsel*

Ms. Holowicki has been employed by Oakland County since May of 1977 when she worked in the Auditing Division handling fiscal and compliance audits for federally funded grants. Most recently, she worked in the Employment & Training Division where she assisted the Manager in the planning, budgetary and staffing functions of the Division. Ms. Holowicki has been the recipient of the National Association of Counties Achievement Award for writing and implementing the Employment & Training Division's Subrecipient Audit Review Procedure.



**Rebecca A. Holowicki**  
*Director of Community & Minority Affairs*

# Person Team

Since June of 1987, Mr. Luzi has been Director of Personnel for Oakland County. But his service to the county dates back to 1965 when he served as Personnel Analyst



**C. Vincent Luzi**  
Director of Personnel

II. During his 30 years of public service, Mr. Luzi assisted in the development and passage of the Merit System resolution in 1966. He also guided the first Merit System Rules through the Board of Commissioners in 1970.

Mr. Rogers is the former co-owner of L.H.R. Evans & Associates, Inc., a real estate brokerage firm which has been in business since 1973. He has served as President of the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce and was one of the initiators of the Oakland County Economic Development Corporation.



**Kenneth Rogers**  
Director of Community & Economic Development

Past honors include the Michigan Association of Realtors' "Citizen of the Year" and Oakland County's 1992 Volunteer of the Year, an award bestowed on him by the United Way of Oakland County.

Prior to being appointed as a Director, Mr. Ross served 18 years as Manager of the county's Facilities Maintenance and Operations Division.



**David W. Ross**  
Director of Public Works

In that role, he was responsible for the maintenance and operation of 45 county and contract facilities totalling more than 1.6 million square feet. His energy conservation program resulted in a cost savings of \$1,500,000.

Prior to being selected to head Oakland County's largest department, Mr. Sharobeem was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Oak based Judson Center which



**Mounir "Monty" Sharobeem**  
Director of Institutional & Human Services

treats developmentally disabled young people. The Judson Center was the 1991 winner of Crain's Detroit Business annual best-managed non-profit contest. He was also named Michiganian of the Year by The Detroit News.

As the county's lead solid waste staff person since 1989, Mr. Smith has been responsible



**Roger James Smith**  
Deputy Director of Solid Waste Management

for managing and implementing a proposed county-wide Solid Waste Disposal System. Mr. Smith is recognized for possessing a strong analytical approach to tough problems and good financial/budgeting sense.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Talbot served as L. Brooks Patterson's Transition Team Director where she was responsible for directing



**Carmen V. Talbot**  
Michigan Government Liaison

and coordinating the smooth change of administrations. Ms. Talbot is a former Highland Township Trustee and political advisor to State Representative David Galloway. She also served as Regional Coordinator for President George Bush.

Mr. Vanderveen formerly held the position of Manager of Aviation for Oakland County and served as Manager of the Oakland-



**J. David Vanderveen**  
Director of Central Services

Pontiac Airport. In 1973, he was named Airport Manager of the Year and in 1992, he received the President's Award. Mr. Vanderveen is a past president of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives.

Mr. Weikal has a rich background in the theatre, both on stage and behind the scenes. Early in his career, he traveled as an assistant to magician Harry Blackstone Jr. and also coordinated special projects for the



**Steve Weikal**  
Cultural Affairs Coordinator

Blackstone Company. More recently, Mr. Weikal has been involved in the restoration of the Gem and Capitol Theatres in Detroit. As an acclaimed magician himself, Mr. Weikal has performed throughout the United States and Australia.

Mr. Zehnder is the former Director of Marketing for Thompson-Phelan and he has also served as an Assistant Vice-President for Michigan National Bank. Mr. Zehnder has



**Michael W. Zehnder**  
Director of Public Services

also represented a number of local sports and media personalities in business dealings. In addition, he co-owns a printing business with former Detroit Tiger Jim Price and Michigan War Hero, Colonel Donald "Digger" O'Dell.

# Greetings from the new P.I.O.

Let me, first of all, thank the many great people I have met in my first few weeks on the job for making me feel so welcome and right at home. If this is any indication of the next four years, it's going to be a tremendous journey.

I am no stranger to Oakland County government. As a news reporter for WPON radio in the mid-1970s, I cover the courthouse beat including the Executive's office. My wife was employed by Oakland County in the late 1970s, first in the Prosecutor's office and later in the Sheriff's department where she worked as a booking clerk.

My goal as Public Information Officer is to improve both the internal and external communications of county government. Externally, I want to get the word out that Oakland County is a great place to live and work. Internally, there is much going on that the four thousand plus county employees should know about. Communication should flow not only from the top down, but from the bottom up. That's where you as a county employee come in.

Below is a brief 10 point questionnaire which I hope you take the time to fill out and return to my office. Your answers will help me do a better job, but they will also ensure that you get the kind of information you need and want.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Directions: Please respond to the following questions by checking the appropriate blank. There is also space provided for explanation.

1. Are the internal communications (memos, newsletter, etc.) received by Oakland County employees adequate?  
 YES     NO    EXPLAIN:

2. Would you like to see more employee targeted publications?  
 YES     NO    EXPLAIN:

3. Should there be more regular one-on-one contact between employees and county officials, including the County Executive?  
 YES     NO    EXPLAIN:

4. Do you regularly read "The Telegraph"?  
 YES     NO    EXPLAIN:

5. What do you like about the newsletter? EXPLAIN:

6. What would you change about the newsletter? EXPLAIN:

7. How can the Public Information Officer better address your needs, concerns and desires? EXPLAIN:

8. Would you utilize a special phone number where you can receive updated information on late breaking county news and leave your suggestions, comments or complaints? EXPLAIN:

9. We are in the process of putting together a cable TV show focusing on Oakland County government and its employees. What elements would you like to see in it? EXPLAIN:

10. What ideas can you offer for improving the internal and external communications in Oakland County? EXPLAIN:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the questionnaire. I know it will help all of us do a better job for Oakland County.

If I can ever be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me anytime. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 1993.

Sincerely,  
Bob Dustman



# MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

A few weeks ago there was a changing of the guard in Oakland County leadership. The new Administration is a little more than a month old. I will be the first to confess publicly that as County Executive I don't suggest that I have all the answers to the problems that face Oakland County in the months and years ahead. There are monumental challenges to overcome if we are to keep Oakland County's economy the most robust in this state. Oakland County's environment which truly makes us a "city in the country" -450 lakes, its 87,000 acres of park land, its 60 golf courses - must be protected if not expanded.

Challenges are really opportunities in disguise. Problems are not hurdles to clear but rather stepping stones to an even greater tomorrow.

Why am I so upbeat? Because I have assembled one of the brightest and most innovative team of Directors and Managers to work with. And I have one of the brightest, most dedicated and experienced work forces in the country: 4,000 Oakland County employees! Between the new administration and our seasoned employees, I am truly confident that we have the answers to ensure Oakland County's future.

I see a bright future for Oakland County, not only for its citizens but for its government. The citizens should enjoy a quality of life second to none in the nation's 3,137 counties. Good paying jobs, safe communities, a challenging education system, plenty of recreational opportunities, so much more abounds within our 900 square miles. Here in the County Complex, we have more than 4,000 employees prepared to share their ideas and new programs; employees who have a tradition of being responsive to the public they serve, constantly vigilant to deliver their services in a more cost effective way, creative in their approaches, and supportive and appreciative of their fellow employees.

How can we miss? I am delighted to be back in the County family after a brief hiatus in the private practice of law. I look forward to working with you.



**1st Casual Day Totals**  
**\$1,003.75**  
1st Place - Computer Services  
**\$368.00**

**Employee Suggestion Program**  
**Suggestions: 29**  
(as of 1/29/93)

**ETHICS**, cont'd.

**James Sharp**, Chairman  
Oakland University Board  
of Trustees

**Jack McDonald**, Attorney  
Former Oakland County Commissioner

**Andy Creamer**, President & CEO  
(Retired)  
Pontiac State Bank (now National  
Bank of Detroit)

**James Alexander**, Chairman  
Oakland County Republican  
Committee

**Robert Aranossian**, D.O.  
Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital  
Director of POH Trauma Center

**\*Douglas Williams**, Deputy Oakland  
County Executive  
**\*Will serve as Ethics Committee  
Facilitator**

## A Winner Despite Handicaps

Handicaps haven't stopped Michael Kurkowski of Troy from learning, working and becoming a productive member of society.

On June 15, 1989, Michael entered the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, which is administered by Oakland County's Employment and Training Division. The road was not easy.

Michael has cerebral palsy, a visual impairment and a learning disability. At the time of his enrollment, he also lacked work maturity skills.

But Michael has come a long way. On Tuesday, January 26, he was honored in a special ceremony at the State Capitol for being named Oakland County's 1993 Job Training Partnership Association Alumnus of the Year. It's an award he rightly deserves.

After graduating from the JTPA program in 1991, Michael was hired for a maintenance job at the Birmingham Post Office. A year and a half later he's still there, making more than \$11 an hour, and he's scheduled for a raise.

John Almstadt, manager of the Employment and Training Division, is very proud of Michael's accomplishments. Almstadt said, "Michael has overcome tremendous obstacles to get to where he is today, and his employer is very pleased with his job performance."

Less than four years after entering the JTPA program, Michael Kurkowski has earned a high school diploma, successfully completed his job training and is a working, tax-paying citizen of Oakland County.



**Michael Kurkowski**



# FIRST CASUAL DAY WEARS WELL

There he was "bellying up" to his big desk in the Executive Office Building, riding tall in his chair. It was none other than L. "Garth" Brooks Patterson: the top gun. He was all decked out in his western finery; boots, cowboy shirt and jeans.

He rode into town for the County Executive's First Monthly Casual Day on Friday, January 15, 1993. "Garth" Patterson had a gleam in his eye as he looked upon his trail hands sporting their finest casual wear.

There was Community and Minority Affairs Director Rebecca Holowicki in her cap and jean skirt with a sweater draped around her shoulders. Not far down the trail was Helene Moons from Personnel donning her cowgirl hat and western tie. Up yonder a little farther, secretary Mary Alsup was seen in a Minnesota State sweatshirt (Home of the Screaming Eagles) while Personnel's Cora Vanitvelt was spotted in a sweatshirt, jeans and sneakers.

Even Governor John Engler, who stopped by to say howdy, got into the act. Dressed in a sweater and slacks, the Governor said he might try out Casual Day at his big ranch in the State Capitol. However he lamented, "It would be hard to tell the difference."

All those participating had to put a buck in the "Jean Jar," even the Guv. But it's for a good cause. The money raised during the year will be used to purchase Holiday food for baskets for Oakland County's needy at the end of the year.

The first ever Casual Day, under the new administration, was a huge success bringing in \$935.75, with top honors going to the folds at Computer Services who contributed \$368.00.

It was a good day. Many thanks to everyone who made it so.

## DEPARTMENTAL TOURS REVEAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

A week after taking office, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson began his promised tour of all County Departments. This series of half-day visits, which began with stops at Personnel and Corporation Counsel, will take Mr. Patterson about six months to complete. In at least one case, the tour through the Institutional and Human Services Department is expected to take several days since it is Oakland County's largest department and covers such a wide area.

"The tours are proving to be an invaluable insight into the concerns of Oakland County employees," said Mr. Patterson. "What has surfaced uniformly across the board is the woeful lack of computers and technological support to help employees perform their mission. As a result, I have directed Computer Services Chief Paul Funk to put the county on line and empower employees with all the technical hardware they need to do their jobs within 18 months."

Once the tours are completed, Mr. Patterson plans to recommend certain changes to make each County department more cost efficient.

Accompanying Mr. Patterson on the departmental visits are Management and Budget Director Robert Daddow, Computer Services Director Paul Funk, Facilities and Maintenance Chief Dave Ross, Personnel Director Vince Luzi and the Deputy County Executive in charge of the department, either Doug Williams or John Grubba.

## NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION HOTLINE!!!!!! 858-1022

Call for information about upcoming events or to hear special announcements and late-breaking County news. You can also leave your comments, suggestions or questions. Let us know if there's something you think should be on the "hotline."

## Calling all Central Michigan University graduates!!!!!!

Give Bob Dustman a call at Public Information (858-1048) if you received your diploma from C.M.U. A list is being compiled for a special event in April.

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