

# TELEGRAPH

VOLUME II ISSUE VII

JUNE 1994

## MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO VETERANS

Under a clear blue May sky, the Oakland County Veterans' Memorial was dedicated on May 28, 1994. Reaching skyward, the 20-foot high brushed stainless steel monument sitting on a four foot black granite base honors all Oakland County veterans who answered their country's call to duty.

A crowd of nearly 2,000 people gathered in a courtyard on the north side of the Oakland County Courthouse to view the ceremony, which included Generals, Medal of Honor recipients, political VIPs and the widow of the artist who designed and sculpted the memorial.

"When I first mustered out of the army 30 years ago this summer, little did I know that I would be standing today amongst some of the bravest and most courageous people who have ever served their country," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson as he opened the dedication ceremony.



Then addressing his comments to the men and women from Oakland County who have served in the armed services, Mr. Patterson said, "I'm proud Oakland County has recog-

nized your contribution and your service to your country and your sense of duty. This monument...is for you."

The featured speaker at the dedi-

SEE MEMORIAL / PAGE 6

## COUNTY EMPLOYEES "WALK THE WALK" FOR HEALTHIER BABIES

WalkAmerica Sunday, April 24, 1994, dawned clear and bright. No sign of storm clouds on the horizon.

Quite a contrast to the year before when cold, wind and rain pelted participants throughout the walk. This year optimism and spirits were high—at least for awhile.

But then Mother Nature, apparently realizing things were going too smoothly, decided to turn the tables. Dark clouds soon rolled in, followed closely by rain and then thunder and lightning. In fact, the light-

ning became so vicious that March of Dimes officials decided to stop the walk and get everyone back in off the

course.

Despite the obstacles, Oakland County government fielded a team of more than 500 walkers who raised more than \$40,000.

"We expect to again be among the top teams in WalkAmerica when the final dollar figures are tabulated," said Paul Funk, WalkAmerica Chairman for Oakland County government. "Oakland County employees and their families accounted for about one-third of the 1,500 walkers who participated at the Auburn Hills site."

The final numbers on WalkAmerica are still not available, but the March of Dimes estimates it will reach its goal of \$1,400,000.



Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson (second from right) cuts the ribbon officially kicking off WalkAmerica 1994 as Paul Funk, WalkAmerica Chairman for Oakland County government (far left) and others look on.

# PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

I want to publicly thank all of you who gave up part of a recent weekend to participate in two very important events.

On Saturday, April 23, Oakland County government employees donated their services to join in the campaign to clean up the streets and alleys of Detroit. As the result of your hard work, the seven square mile area we were assigned was left in much better shape than when we found it.

I would like to especially tip my hat to Dave Ross, Director of Facilities Management, and his team for making Oakland County's participation in the Detroit clean up such a huge success. Without their careful planning, dedication and hard work this awesome undertaking would not have been possible.

The very next day, Sunday, April 24, many of you traded in your rakes

and shovels for tennis shoes and turned out for WalkAmerica.

Each of you who participated in either or both events should feel very good about yourselves because you chose to make a difference.

I feel very fortunate and proud to be working beside such caring individuals. We are lucky to have you on our team.



**L. Brooks Patterson**  
*Oakland County Executive*

## OAKLAND COUNTY SCORES POINTS ON WALL STREET

### *IMPROVED CREDIT RATING WILL SAVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS*

Two of New York's biggest and most prestigious bond rating houses have given Oakland County's financial condition a strong vote of confidence by upgrading the county's bond ratings.

Moody's Investors Service has raised the county's long-term debt rating from "A" to "A-1". The other major credit rating agency, Standard & Poor's Corporation, has increased the county's bond rating from "AA-" to "AA". The improved credit ratings will make it easier and less costly for Oakland County to sell bonds to finance a variety of projects.

"I am pleased with the elevation in Oakland County's bond rating," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "I'm convinced this occurred because of the swift and responsible way in which we dealt with the budget shortfall last year. Over time the better credit rating will save taxpayers millions of dollars."

Moody's said key factors in the rating revision were Oakland County's affluent and diversifying tax base, a proven ability to manage finances in a satisfactory manner and a now clarified debt situation.

Standard & Poor's attributed the upgrade in Oakland County's bond rating to steady economic growth, a strong, sustained financial position and flexibility.

John R. Axe, President of Municipal Financial Consultants Incorporated and serves as the county's financial advisor, said the better credit rating means that when the county borrows money in the future and issues bonds for sewer, water, building and other projects, it will cost them less to do so.

As a result of the upgrade, Oakland County will benefit from a reduction on the interest payments of future bond issues.

For example, had the improved credit rating been in effect on Oak-

land County's \$320 million worth of bonds still outstanding, a savings of \$10 million to \$20 million over 10 years would have been realized.

"The better bond rating rectifies what I think has been a terrible injustice the county has experienced over the years," noted Axe. "I feel the county's credit rating should have been increased a long time ago."

The improved credit rating for Oakland County comes on the heels of a meeting Patterson, Axe, Oakland County Treasurer C. Hugh Dohany and Oakland County Board of Commissioners Finance Chairman John McCulloch had with officials of the two bond rating agencies last January in New York.

Axe, who has been Oakland County's financial advisor for more than 20 years, pointed out that no official county delegation had visited a major bond rating agency since 1986.

# EMPLOYEE SUGGESTION PROGRAM LOOKING FORWARD TO A SECOND GREAT YEAR

The clock is running again on Oakland County's highly successful Employee Suggestion Program. In order for employees to qualify for one of the big prizes at the end of the year, suggestions must be submitted by October 31.

In 1993, the first year for ESP, 245 suggestions were turned in with seven eventually being implemented.

As a result, the taxpayers of Oakland County realized a savings of more than 1 million dollars.

So far, 45 new suggestions have been submitted this year with five recommended for implementation. As of this writing, 16 are still in the running for one of the \$500 cash awards or one of the luxurious trips.

"We received a lot of suggestions during all of 1993, especially in December," said Jennifer Mason, Personnel Department, who coordinates ESP. "But in January of this year the pace slowed down. Suggestions are still coming in, but not quite as fast and furious as before."

Although Mason doesn't know for sure why this is happening, she speculates it could be because people have not heard about the program in a while.

"Some people have called to ask if ESP was just a one year deal," noted Mason. "So when people ask, I tell them ESP is an on-going program to save money and improve efficiency." Mason indicated the ESP committee is planning a major promotional effort to let employees know the Employee Suggestion Program is alive and well.

While ESP is continuing, it is going through some revisions. Briefly outlining some of the major changes:

- \* All suggestions submitted will remain anonymous after awards are announced. Previously, anonymity was left up to the people submitting the suggestions.
- \* Clarification of eligibility requirements to include part-time employees, students, interns and anyone who falls under the county budget.
- \* Although employees may submit suggestions at any time, in order to qualify for one of the prizes, a suggestion must be implemented by the end of October of any given year.

\* Suggestions relating to a change in a union contract are no longer automatically disqualified from consideration. However, if that particular suggestion is recommended for implementation, it does become subject to negotiation by the union.

The procedure for submitting a suggestion is fairly simple. All employees need to do is obtain an official ESP form which is available in their department or from Personnel. They then fill it out and return it.

Suggestions must be related to saving money, improving efficiency or providing better service to the public. Ineligible suggestions include complaints, changes in salaries or benefits, or suggestions already under review.

Here's what happens after a suggestion has been submitted:

- \* It is time stamped and logged in.
- \* The screening committee determines if it's eligible.
- \* If eligible, it's assigned to a committee member to investigate. He/she then makes a recommendation to the full committee.
- \* The committee votes on whether or not to recommend the suggestion.
- \* If recommended for implementation, the employee making the suggestion is awarded \$50.
- \* The suggestion is then returned to the affected department which decides if it should be implemented.

Some of the more interesting suggestions submitted so far include: sharing information between departments so as not to duplicate efforts in compiling material, offering retirement training classes when employees become vested and not waiting until they're ready to retire and a more aggressive approach to collecting landing fees at Oakland County operated airports.

The Employee Suggestion Program is an opportunity for county employees to play a key role in making Oakland County government less costly and more efficient.

Why not give us the benefit of your wisdom and experience? Submit your suggestion today.

## JUDGES LEARN ABOUT OAKLAND COUNTY PROGRAM

The Honorable Edward Sosnick, Chief Judge Pro Tempore of the Oakland Circuit Court, was a guest lecturer recently at the annual Judges' In-State Training Session in Pierre, South Dakota. Judge Sosnick addressed all the Supreme Court Judges, Circuit Court Judges and Law-Trained Magistrates in the state of South Dakota on the SMILE program. This on-going Oakland County program is a court-sponsored seminar for divorcing parents on how divorce affects children, with suggestions for helping children through the process. Judge Sosnick, who was instrumental in the creation of this program, shared

his ideas on creating a more liveable courtroom for domestic cases.

Active in the community as well as professionally, Judge Sosnick now serves as Chairperson of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board; Board of Directors, Cranbrook Schools Horizons - Upward Bound; Ex-officio Board Member, Child Abuse and Neglect Council, County of Oakland, Inc.; Advisory Board, Association for Retarded Citizens, Oakland County, Common Ground and Academy of Sacred Heart; Board of Trustees, Maple Grove; Member,

Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation and the State Bar Standing Committee on Domestic Violence.

For his efforts in the community, Judge Sosnick has received several awards including: Parents of Murdered Children, Inc. Judicial Action Award; Oakland County Republicans 1993 Salute of Justice John N. O'Brien Award; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Award for Meritorious Service to the Children of America; State of Israel Bonds Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award; and Bloomfield Hills Schools Superintendents Vision for Youth Award.

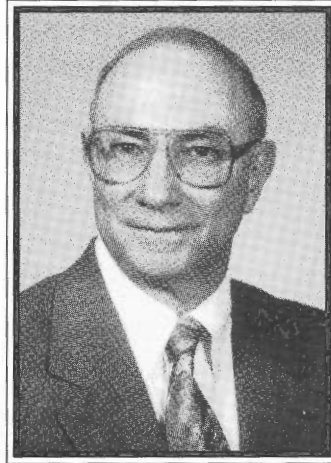
# Stan Fayne Profile

Oakland County government's man in charge of holding liability costs down is Stan Fayne. As the County's Risk Manager, Fayne and his staff handle 400-500 workers' compensation claims annually. Only a small percentage end up in court and those that do, the county usually wins.

"We believe in being tough," said Fayne. "But we also believe in being fair. For example, if there's a legitimate claim and someone needs treatment at the Mayo Clinic or the University of Michigan, we'll be for that."

But one of the important tasks of Risk Management is to get injured workers back on the job as soon as possible. If a person's injury precludes them from returning immediately to their regular jobs, an effort is made to place them in a light-duty job. With the able assistance of the personnel department, Risk Management is in the process of developing a job bank program where employees would fill in for short periods of time in departments that needed temporary help. The idea being if someone can't bend or lift anything at least they can answer a phone.

Prior to joining Oakland County in 1987, Fayne was Director of Risk Management & Safety with Macomb County for eight years. He got his start in the field back in Massachusetts, where he worked in Risk Management for a Fortune 1000 Company. In 1992, Fayne was offered a job as Director of Risk Management & Safety for Wayne County but



Stan Fayne  
Director of Risk Management

turned it down when Brooks Patterson came calling.

"There was no hesitancy in accepting Brooks' offer to join his administration," recalled Fayne. "Although I didn't know Brooks very well personally at the time, everyone I talked with spoke highly of him and I envisioned good things happening here."

Fayne spent his formative years growing up on Long Island in a fairly rural area. His education was interrupted by the Army and a tour of duty in France. After returning to the states, Fayne finished work on his undergraduate degree, then met his future wife, who helped put him through law school. They've been married now 32 years.

Stan Fayne is not the kind of man who likes to waste time. His idea of relaxation is rolling up his sleeves and getting involved in various community service projects. He

currently sits on the Board of Directors and serves as President of his condominium association. Fayne is also a past Vice President of the Public Risk Management Association and currently serves as First Vice President of the Risk & Insurance Managers Society, which represents the private sector.

Fayne is fascinated by the history of ancient Egypt, so it's not surprising that his fantasy would be to sit down with one of the pharaohs to learn more about the culture. He is very impressed with what the ancient Egyptians were able to accomplish with just the wheel and some basic metallurgy.

In running his department, Fayne favors the team approach. He believes very strongly in working together to set goals. His philosophy is evident when he talks about his department and the people in it. "We like working with people," responded Fayne when asked what he considered the most enjoyable part of his job. "We're service orientated. We view ourselves as in-house consultants and whenever we can help the employees we are helping the tax payers and we're saving money." It's pretty clear Stan Fayne enjoys what he does.

"I love to get into the office in the morning because we're not producing 1,000 widgets an hour," said Fayne with a noticeable excitement in his voice. "Every couple of minutes there's something new, something different."

## BOARD CHAIRMAN BOWLS PERFECT GAME

April 14, 1994 is a day Larry Crake won't soon forget. It was a day the pins fell his way and he bowled a perfect 300 game. Crake, Chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, bowled the game of a lifetime at the 300 bowl in Waterford Township. He and his family have owned the 300 Bowl for more than 30 years.

"It was really pretty strange because I had convinced myself I would never bowl a perfect game," said Crake. "I had nine in a row before I even started thinking about having a 300 game."

In the tenth frame, Crake said he was a little bit off

with his first ball, but buried the last ball in the pocket.

"It was a shock," said Crake explaining how he felt upon realizing he had accomplished bowling's equivalent of a no-hitter in baseball. "I had tears in my eyes."

Crake has been bowling for 36 years and during most of that time has averaged over 200. He flirted with a perfect game in 1964 when he bowled a 298. He also registered back-to-back games of 289 in the 1970's.

For his extraordinary achievement, Crake will receive a diamond ring and plaque from the American Bowling Congress. But he says, the "biggest thing is the idea of knowing you did it."

# County Employees Do Their Part to Cleanup Detroit

Armed with rakes, shovels and lots of enthusiasm, Oakland County government employees joined thousands of other volunteers in cleaning up the streets and alleys of Detroit on Saturday, April 23, 1994.

The 300 or so volunteers from Oakland County (not all county employees) worked in a seven square mile area of northwest Detroit. When the dust had settled on this particular sunny Saturday, everyone who participated in the cleanup could feel good about being responsible for collecting more than 2,000 bags of garbage and some 25 dump truck loads of tires.

"I got involved in the cleanup because I wanted to make a difference," said county employee Lee Ann Ciecko who was one of the volunteers. "When I saw everybody in action down there, I was so proud of Oakland County. I thought to myself, this is what it's all about."

Most of the people who participated in the day-long cleanup effort seemed to feel much the same way. There was an esprit de corps, a sense of pride and a sense that they were doing something that was really important.

"It was great when people would come up to hug us, and thank us," said Jane Oswalt, a secretary who works in the Executive Office Building. "That was rewarding in itself."

Much of the credit for pulling off a project of this magnitude must go to Dave Ross, Director of Facilities Management, and the fine people in his department. They were the ones who developed the plan and successfully implemented it.

Sixteen Oakland County communities provided equipment which included 30 dump trucks, six large dumpsters, four rear-end garbage trucks, six front-end loaders, one bulldozer and back-hoe, and eight buses to transport volunteers.

"I'm very proud of everyone who participated in this effort," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "It sends a positive message back and forth across Eight Mile Road that we are all in this region for better or worse. So why not make it for the better?"

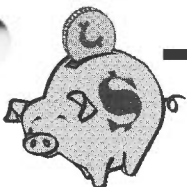
SEE PAGE 9 FOR CLEANUP PHOTOS

## TABULATIONS & TOTALS FOR 1994



Casual Day Contributions  
\$6676.11

Employee Suggestion Program  
47 Suggestions



Direct Deposit  
43%

## THE VIEW FROM HERE

I thought maybe you could use a good chuckle this month—at my expense. Every time I start taking myself or life too seriously, I think about what happened to me just a few years ago.

At the time, I managed an Elvis impersonator (no jokes please) and emceed his shows. One of our appearances was at the Venetian Festival in St. Joseph, Michigan, a small community which is located in the western part of the state.

We were on the same concert bill as Tommy James and the Shondels and had the dubious distinction of following them on stage after three or four rousing encores of their hit record of the 60's, "Mony, Mony".

The venue for the concert was on an old barge on the banks of the St. Joseph River. I was waiting in the wings, dressed smartly in my clean and pressed white tux, ready to go on stage and introduce my group.

I should have taken what was to happen next as an omen. As I was about to walk on to the stage this deranged pigeon flew overhead and dropped a gift on the left shoulder of my clean, neatly pressed white tux. KER-PLOP-SPLAT—just like he was taking aim at me. And this before I was about to step out before 25-30 thousand screaming rock-n-roll fans. Oh well, as they say, the show must go on. I brushed the whole thing off, literally, and did my bit.

But as I was to learn, the highlight of the evening was still to come.

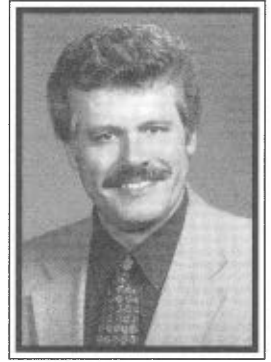
As night fell and the show ended, we made our way off the barge and on to this boat which would transport us across the river and back safely to our motel. I was the last one to get on the boat—or should I say TRY to get on the boat.

You see there was this small gap between the barge and the boat with only the murky waters of the St. Joe separating the two. As luck would have it, I somehow failed to navigate the step between the barge and the boat. The result was an unplanned dip into the St. Joseph River. Actually, it could have been worse. Had it not been for my quick (?) reflexes, I might have ended up at the bottom of the river. But when I realized what was happening, I at least had the presence of mind to grab onto the side of the boat. So there I was, clinging for dear life to the side of this boat with the lower half of my body dangling in the river. My friends, and I use the term loosely, were laughing so hard they almost weren't able to pull me into the boat. Thanks!

After the day's events, what with the pigeon and my deep sea plunge, my clean, white, neatly pressed tux was reduced to a bloody, soiled and torn rag. In addition, I had scraped a six-inch long patch of skin from my shins as they made their way down the side of the boat.

I can laugh about it now. But at the time, I couldn't see a whole lot of humor in what had happened.

So just remember: Whenever you think you are having a bad day, it could be worse.



**Bob Dustman**  
Media and  
Communications  
Officer

cation was former Apollo and Columbia Space Shuttle Astronaut Jack Lousma. In his remarks, Lousma called the Veterans' Memorial a powerful symbol that the price of freedom requires all of us to reflect on how much we owe to all those who—as he put it—“rest in the silence,” but whose memory forces us onward to protect their legacy.

“There is no gift so great as the gift of life,” said Lousma. “Those who carry their rifles wish more for peace than do their critics. Who wants peace more than those who are dodging bullets and bombs on some far-off land to preserve the same freedoms their critics use to trample the sacrifice that protects their freedom of speech and right to protest?”

The honor of officially dedicating the monument was given to retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Donald “Digger” Odell of Pontiac. Who better to unveil the plaque honoring those who served in the armed forces of the United States than the man who epitomized honor, courage and duty to country during five and a half years as a Prisoner of War in the infamous Hanoi Hilton? Odell is also one of Michigan’s most decorated military veterans with 20 citations including the Bronze Star, Silver Star, Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross.

In an emotionally charged speech, Odell said that America’s veterans responded to their nation’s call, not just out of a sense of duty, but as an act of faith in what

they believe.

“Throughout history a nation’s military strength has been measured by the will of its people and the effectiveness of its arms,” said Odell. “This great country has not achieved a position of world leadership because it loves war, but because it loves liberty and freedom.”

Odell praised America’s servicemen and women for their unsurpassed valor and devotion. He said they had demonstrated all over the world that free men and women will defend the principles of a free society and protect it.

“History teaches us that freedom isn’t free,” said Odell. “Keeping it requires payment in vigilance, in courage, in sacrifice and sometimes in the lives of brave men and women.”

After concluding his remarks, Odell unveiled the plaque which will adorn the monument. The inscription on it reads: “Dedicated to the men and women of Oakland County who served honorably in the armed forces of our country.”



County Executive L. Brooks Patterson unveils the plaque dedicating the new memorial to Oakland County’s veterans as Donald “Digger” Odell looks on.

As the star-spangled red, white and blue ceremony came to a close, three Marines punctuated the air with a gun salute, followed by the emergence on the horizon of three Vietnam era helicopters and some 1,000 emotionally drained spectators singing “God Bless America”.

Then came the finale. The mournful, lonely sound of taps in honor of America’s war dead.

It was a day to remember. It was a day to be proud.



*Members of the VFW Chapter 1008 recently donated this VCR and TV to the Medical Care Facility after a volunteer told the veterans about a resident movie buff who had no way to watch his movies. Tenants can use the new equipment at their bedside or in privacy areas with their families.*

**A special thanks to the following individuals who went the extra mile to make the Veterans’ Memorial Dedication a truly extraordinary event:**

**F M & O**

Dick and Ashley Johnston  
Tom Lepping  
Phil Goulding  
Sally Morris  
Tom Garvey  
Chuck Lester  
Bill Olivich  
David Atkins  
Luther Whiting  
Monica Kukuk  
Stephanie Zuzelski  
Lori Catanzirite  
Bob Beitz  
Scott Livingstone  
Dave Roehl  
Jack Wright  
Dan LaBarge  
Jim Foltz  
Keith Carr  
Bob Curtis and Staff  
Bob Larkin  
Bill Wilson  
Mark Conner

**FACILITIES ENGINEERING**

Jim Emerick  
Carmelo Moyet  
Bill Jackson

**JOHN M. OLSON CO.**

**St. Clair Shores, Michigan**  
Mark Fitzpatrick  
Tom Westrick  
Bill Olszewski

**OLSON’S SUBCONTRACTORS**

Elite - Todd Waring  
Nagle - Rod Vogel  
Cortis - Dan Cortis  
Tre-Torri - Geno Zonzini  
G & S Electric - Tom Dygert  
Michigan Sprinkler - Neil Blazofsky

**MINORU YAMASAKI ASSOCIATES**

**Rochester Hills, Michigan**  
Mike Pudist  
Paul Hunter

**SILVERDOME - Operation & Events**

Greg Robert  
Doug Denial

**CENTRAL SERVICES**

Dave Quigley

# YOUTH AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE

by **Michaele K Worrell**  
Manager, Children's Village

When putting a jigsaw puzzle together, the first pieces are the hardest to find. The first piece of the puzzle of recovery is recognizing a problem exists. The Residents of "D" Cottage, Oakland County Children's Village, have recognized youth violence as a problem and have set out on a recovery mission in order to help stop the violence.

Usually, it's enough for these young men to realize their own problems and deal with them effectively. However, they have accepted a challenge from themselves to gather support in curbing youth violence within our community. Since they were not aware of an existing national or state-wide fight against youth violence, the residents initiated their own. These young men of "D" Cottage, some whom have a history of violence, found the first piece of the puzzle of recovery within this statement:

IF IT HAS TO START SOMEWHERE, LET IT  
START WITH US.

Thus, a new campaign/cause was born.

The campaign started with decorating the Cottage's bulletin board. The kids cut out purple ribbons to place on the board, which is now called "The Board of Support". They came up with the slogan, "Don't hit another, love your brother". They also adopted the purple ribbon, well known in the fight against youth violence, as their symbol of support.

The Residents received initial recognition at a Valentine's Day Party hosted by the Oakland County Children's Village Citizens's Advisory Council. By distributing purple ribbons to the members of the council and explaining their cause, the kids gained more support, which led to further efforts.

The Residents were given permission to host a "Youth Against Youth Violence Week" at the Children's Village School. Hundreds of ribbons were cut and pinned. Posters to adorn the school hallways were created. Research on youth violence was conducted. Speeches for the morning announcements were made and newspaper articles were written. The Student Council at Children's Village School became involved. Residents from the other program units, as well as from the Shelter Care Unit, started getting involved. A six-foot purple ribbon was erected and placed on the front of "D" Cottage as a reminder to all those who passed the unit, to show their support.

As the campaign progresses, there seems to be new ideas evolving constantly. The Residents want to reach as many people as possible. They have written a letter to Governor Engler to gain state-level support. Talk of raising money through raffles, to donate to affiliated

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**Oakland County Medical  
Care Facility**  
*Annual  
Rummage Sale*  
**August 11-12, 1994  
10 am to 4 pm**  
**Contact Elizabeth Kellogg at 858-1438  
for information or to donate items.**

## CREATIVE STAFF INVENTIONS WIN TOP HONORS

Old-fashioned ingenuity earned the Independence Oaks staff honors at the Great Lakes Park Training Institute's national conference. (GLPTI's)

Ray Delasko, Dick Eash and Mike Willhite won the top three awards in the Outstanding Gadget competition.

Their first-place invention was an electric boot dryer. Used primarily on soiled cross-country ski shoes, the device features an electric heater contained inside a 3' x 3' wooden box. Heat currents are transferred from the heater through air holes in the box onto the boot, which rests on the box top.

The lifeguard observation towers located at Hidden Beach won second prize for their design and function. Each tower contains a storage area, platform, canopy top and ladder.

Third place recognition was given for a battery-operated pump. It drains excess water from park rental boats.

Entries were judged on originality and value to park operations.

Plaques were presented following the conclusion of the two-day competition. Willhite accepted the awards, which were presented by the GLPTI's Board of Regents. More than 300 parks and recreation employees attended the annual conference, which also featured instructional session presentations, guest speakers and a swap meet.

# Dr. Thomas Gordon Profile

Dr. Thomas Gordon is the newest member of the Patterson Team. He was named by Mr. Patterson to succeed Monty Sharobeem as Director of Institutional & Human Services, the largest county department under the County Executive.

Prior to getting the promotion, Dr. Gordon served as Manager of the Health Division for eight years, from 1986 until January, 1994. His association with Oakland County began in 1973, when he was hired as a Drug Program Coordinator in what was then called the Department of Drug Abuse Control. When his department was reorganized 18 months later and merged with the Health Division's Alcohol Program, Gordon became a Senior Substance Abuse Program Coordinator.

In 1982, Gordon was promoted to the position of Administrative Manager of Services for the Health Division and put in charge of the day-to-day operations, overseeing such things as budget, personnel and facilities. Four years later, in 1986, Gordon moved up the ladder again as Manager of the Health Division.

When Monty Sharobeem left as Director of Institutional & Human Services late in 1993 to return to the Judson Center in Royal Oak, Mr. Patterson didn't have to look far for a replacement. Dr. Gordon got the call. But Dr. Gordon had to do a little soul searching before accepting the offer.

"The only hesitancy on my part was to be certain Brooks really wanted me and to make sure he was comfortable with me," said Gordon. "He assured me of those things, so I took the position with great enthusiasm. It has been a great challenge."

The most challenging aspect of the job so far, noted Gordon, has been getting the paper work done in a timely manner, because until recently he continued to serve as Health Division Manager. But now that Rosemarie Rowney has been promoted to that position, the day-to-day burden of running the Health Division has been taken off his shoulders.

Gordon's educational background is in Psychology. He received his baccalaureate in Psychology, his master's degree in Clinical Psychology and his Ph.D. in Social Psychology.



**Dr. Thomas Gordon**  
Director of Human  
Services

"I've been very fortunate in having a wide variety of work experiences and opportunities that I think has brought a little different flavor to my view of life," said Gordon. "I've worked as a school psychologist, vocational rehabilitation coordinator, police officer and served in various capacities with the Health Division."

Gordon considers problem solving and helping others find ways to provide more services or enhance existing ones as the most enjoyable part of his new job. As he puts it, "I find that fun. Every day is fun."

Speaking of fun, Gordon finds a rather unique way to relax. He plays the bagpipes, which seems fitting since he comes from good Scottish stock.

"I've always liked the sound of bagpipes, ever since I was a little boy," said Gordon. "About six years ago I picked up a Troy Adult Education brochure and noticed they were offering bagpipe lessons at the school near my home. I went over and enrolled in the class and have been taking lessons ever since." Gordon has more than a passing interest in the bagpipes. He is an active participant in events that feature Scottish tradition. For instance, he dons his kilts and bagpipes and plays in the Alma Highland Festival, which is held over Labor Day. He also participates in the St. Andrew Day Scottish Festival in Detroit. Gordon is a member of the Michigan Scottish Pipes and Drums, which performs at various

events throughout the year.

If Gordon could spend the day talking to anyone, living or dead, it would be Abraham Lincoln and Harry Truman. "I admire both of them because they had to make incredibly difficult decisions," said Gordon. "They were both men of high principles who, when it was time to stand up and be counted, did so. I think they were both forthright, direct, honest and had the vision to do what was required, even though it was difficult."

Gordon's guiding philosophy is to treat people fairly and honestly, noting that on occasion he has been accused of being brutally honest.

"I would like to be remembered as someone who was honest, fair and a critical thinker," said Gordon. "I would also like to be remembered as someone who tried to leave things better than he found them."

## RECYCLING



## TREES

by Elaine Glossinger  
F M & O Grounds Unit

Oakland County's environmentally conscious employees have recycled more than 743 tons of office paper over the last five years, which translates into nearly 12,630 trees being saved since the recycling program began.

That's the good news. The bad news is recently there's been a significant increase in the level of contamination in the recycled paper bins, which means people are tossing in newspapers, food waste and the wrong kinds of office paper. This may be happening for a variety of reasons such as people not knowing or caring what kinds of items should be recycled.

Oakland County has been a recognized leader in the area of recycling and we have set an example other units of government seek to emulate.

Contamination in the recycling bins has never been a major problem in the past. It need not be one now if everyone will just be a little more careful about what we recycle.



# DETROIT CLEANUP DAY

*PITCHING IN TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS*



# SECRETARY RELISHES NEW COMPUTER

Mary Alsup, Secretary to Deputy County Executives John Grubba and Doug Williams, has had her new computer now for four months and doesn't know how she ever



Mary Alsup has become more productive since she began using her new computer.

got along without it.

Prior to becoming one of the first beneficiaries of the county's new computerization program, Alsup used the PC-MOS system, a local in-house network. Now she uses a brand new Gateway 2000, which makes it easier for her to handle the daily workload of two very busy men. "This system is much quicker," noted Alsup. "Speed is a big thing, especially when you work for a director who is waiting for something to be printed. With the new system, I only have to wait seconds instead of minutes for something to come off the printer."

Alsup likes the fact that her new computer has so many options such as graphics, desktop publishing and a wide assortment of fonts. She said the PC-MOS system offered a few fonts but the number of fonts the Gateway 2000 has available is just phenomenal.

Aside from being quicker and making her job a little easier, Alsup says the Gateway 2000 turns out better looking documents, adding that the quality of the print is simply excellent.

"This is a great computer program," said Alsup. I hope everyone gets access to it soon."

## SPRING STORMS BRING POWER FAILURES

by **Sylvia Treitman**

Cooperative Extension Home Economist

"When spring power outages occur and there is no other choice but to try to save the contents of your freezer with dry ice, some important safety precautions are essential," says Sylvia Treitman, home economist for the Michigan State University Extension - Oakland County.

Dry ice is actually solid carbon dioxide, which is an extremely cold solid material of about minus 110°F. It will freeze instantly anything that it comes in contact with, including exposed fingers, causing severe frostbite. Also, the fumes in an enclosed area can cause suffocation or respiratory distress.

Use the following safety precautions when handling dry ice:

- \* Wear gloves or protect hands with heavy rags or newspapers—Never touch the dry ice.
- \* Do not breathe in dry ice vapors—they can cause severe breathing problems, even suffocation—do not

stick your head into a freezer that has been full of dry ice for several hours.

\* Never allow children to handle or play with the dry ice.

\* Separate foods from dry ice with heavy cardboard. Dry ice will freeze foods that it touches to such a low temperature that freezer burn may occur—it is best to use dry ice for freezer foods only, not perishables such as milk or dairy products.

For other questions relating to what to do if your freezer fails, call the Food and Nutrition Hotline, 858-0904. Other questions on food safety, food and nutrition, and food preservation will also be answered by our home economist.

For more tips on what to do in case of a power outage, send a legal-size, self-addressed stamped envelope to: Michigan State University Extension, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Dept. 416, Pontiac, MI 48341-0416. Include a note requesting power outage information.

**VIOLENCE**, cont'd

causes, or to support a gun buy back program was heard. Traveling to area junior high and elementary schools to speak to the up-and-coming teens on the hazards of youth violence will be considered, as well as contacting local high schools to encourage them to host their own "Youth Against Youth Violence Week".

All of the above ideas indicate that these kids are willing to go to great lengths to reach as many people as possible. Their willingness to give their own testimonials to other school students shows a deep and special commitment to their cause.

Support, not only by individuals wearing a purple ribbon, but by the community and its leaders is needed. As an adult supervising the campaign these kids have initiated, my concern is the long-term investment and effect. Support is needed from the community in recognizing the efforts of these young men. The underlying message needs

to be harbored within the morals and values of these and all young people. This represents our responsibility, as adults, in their campaign.

Through recognition and support of the efforts of these kids, we help them gain feelings of positive accomplishment and belonging. If we, as adults, want kids off the streets, out of gangs, and living non-violent lives, then we must consider these responsibilities. As one of the posters in the campaign reads, "If it has to start somewhere, then let it start with us". All too often the efforts of young people doing positive acts go unnoticed and unrecognized. If we want the young people of this Village, County, and State to subscribe to productive moral values, then we must support, in any way possible, programs and campaigns that harbor feelings of belonging and positive accomplishment.

Our kids need to feel that they belong to a cause, a group, a club; and, especially, to our society.

# SPECIAL OFFER MADE TO OAKLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Cellnet Cellular is offering Oakland County government employees a special deal on cellular phone service. Employees who qualify will be charged a \$15 per month access fee and 25 cents per minute for airtime during peak times and 14 cents per minute during off-peak times. "I would say this is a substantial savings off retail rates," said Karyn McKeown, Cellular Consultant for Cellnet. "Actual savings would depend on the individual's usage level."

McKeown said Cellnet decided to make this offer available because the company has established such a good working relationship with Oakland County. She noted that Cellnet is the Cellular phone provider for all of the county government owned phones.

"We just wanted to extend a special offer to all county employees, so they could get lower rates as well," explained McKeown.

There is no charge, if you are switching over from your current carrier. If you wish to purchase a new phone, Cellnet is offering special discounts on equipment for all Oakland County employees.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the Cellnet offer should contact Karyn McKeown at (810) 932-9700 or stop by her office, located at 4114 West Maple in Bloomfield Hills.

County identification or the employee's business card and a valid driver's license will be required when making application for this offer.

In addition, a standard credit check will be performed. If an employee's credit rating is good, he or she will be allowed to sign up. Even if there are credit problems, an employee may be able to qualify if a co-signer can be found, or if a small security deposit is put down. There is no time limit on this special offer.

## CHANGING PLACES/CHANGING FACES

### NEW EMPLOYEES

**Jovita Corke**, Drain Commissioner's Office, hired on 03/19/94 as General Clerical.

**Thomas Fockler**, Drain Commissioner's Office, hired on 05/23/94 as Staff Assistant.

**Olden Green**, Drain Commissioner's Office, hired on 05/23/94 as Construction Inspector I.

**Ben Lewis**, Drain Commissioner's Office, hired on 05/16/94 as Civil Engineer III.

**Tia Moody**, Drain Commissioner's Office, hired on 04/04/94, as General Clerical.

### TRANSFERS

**Todd Birkle** transferred from Computer Services to the Budget Division on 03/25/94.

**Georgia Lockett**, FM & O, was transferred from the Court House to the Executive Office Building in April, '94.

### PROMOTIONS

**Don Chevalier**, FM & O, was promoted to Custodial Supervisor in Feb., '94.

**Vickie Eichbrecht**, Children's Village, was reclassified to Technical Assistant.

## ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

### BIRTHS

**Lisa McKay**, Health Division, and her husband Mike, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Lyndsey Ann, born 03/17/94.

**Lisa Remer-Fockler**, Health Division, and her husband Tom, are the proud parents of Carly Mae, born 03/23/94.

**Caroline VanLeuven**, Sheriff's Department, and husband **Jim**, Treasurer's Office, are happy to announce the birth of their son, James, born 04/01/94.

### RETIREMENT

**Robert Forrest**, Cultural Affairs, retired this May after nearly 30 years of service.

### FOND FAREWELLS

**Cathy Applegate**, Computer Services, bid a fond farewell on 04/01/94.

## CELEBRATIONS

### WEDDINGS

**Ed Sager**, Computer Services, and Cathy Rivetto were married on 03/12/94.

## THE SWAP SHOP

**For Sale:** 1988 1,200 sq. ft. doublewide Parkwood. Two large bedrooms, two baths, laundry room, front dining room, three skylights, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer & dryer and central air. White Lake Village. Asking \$29,900. Call 666-3301.

**For Sale:** 77 Suzuki, 550GS, low miles, excellent condition, great fairing. Price \$800. Contact Elliott Ross, CMH - 288-9660.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION HOTLINE !!! 858-1022

The **Information Hotline** gives you your choice of news:

- Press **1** for **Employee Information**
- Press **2** for **late breaking Oakland County news**
- Press **3** for **Arts & Cultural information**
- Press **4** for **Community & Minority Affairs news**

## TELEGRAPH

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# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

by Phil Gové

One of our Employees of the Month for February is **Lila Salomon**, Clerk III, of the Health Division. The award honors Salomon for 21 years of outstanding service to Oakland County.

Salomon has a dual clerical assignment in the Health Division's Southfield office. She provides clerical support to the Chief of Adult Health and Chronic Disease, a role that requires a great deal of initiative and discretion.

According to Lillie Leverett, Chief of Adult Health and Chronic Disease, it was Salomon's positive attitude and dedication to the agency that weighed heavily in the decision to nominate her for the award. "On some days she does double duty in her own work area and also supports other units," said Leverett. "She is always cheerful, caring and diplomatic, whether dealing with clients, fellow employees or the public."

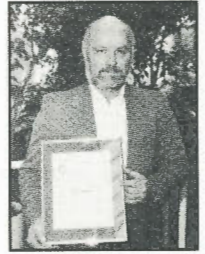
During the past influenza immunization season, Salomon accepted the additional challenge of being the lead clerk for implementing Medicare billing. She traveled throughout the county to outreach clinics to provide clerical assistance to the nurses giving flu shots.

Rosemarie Rowney, Manager of the Health Division, expressed why she nominated Salomon for Employee of the Month. "Lila is very willing and capable of providing clerical help to her colleagues," she said. "She goes beyond the call of duty to support the achievement of our mission."

Salomon and her husband, Bob, are residents of West Bloomfield and parents of three children. They had a recent opportunity to visit Israel—the realization of a lifelong dream.



**Lila Salomon**  
Health Division



**Phil Goulding**  
F,M & O

Facilities Maintenance & Operations selected **Phil Goulding**, Landscape Services Supervisor of the Grounds Unit, as its Employee of the Month. He has worked for Oakland County for 21 years.

Goulding attributes his nomination to the tireless efforts of his staff, especially throughout the winter season. During this time, the Grounds Unit is directly responsible for snow removal on roughly six miles of walkways and over 300 acres of parking lots. "In my mind, I was accepting the award for at least ten other people," he said.

Dick Johnston, Manager of FM&O gives high praise to Goulding and his outstanding work ethic. "Sometimes I almost have to force him to go home," he said. "He sometimes works 20 hours straight to ensure that all the walkways are clean and the employees can get to work safely."

Goulding enjoys the horticultural aspects of his job the most. He is the past president of the Professional Grounds Management Society and of the Michigan Pest Society Applicators Association.

During the summer months, Goulding is busy scheduling projects such as plantings, indoor pest control management, upkeep of all indoor atrium areas, plus lawn cutting and repair for over 300 acres of land.

In his leisure time, Goulding enjoys the outdoors by coaching a Little League squad that includes his youngest son, Kyle, and an in-line speed skating team of which his son, Justin, is a member.

His wife, Cassandra, is the Executive Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Lapeer County and Goulding is active in many of the agency's fundraisers, such as the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament and a bowlathon. The Gouldings are planning a summer tour of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and small out-of-the-way places in other states along the Lake Superior coastline.

**Ed Hanson** received Employee of the Month honors for March. He's the Operations Supervisor for Children's Village, where he has worked since 1970.

Hanson is responsible for all buildivillage-wide. He also handles safety and risk management issues, scheduling for the supervisory staff and budget planning. In addition, he oversees operation of the central kitchen, where food for village staff and residents is prepared.

According to Mike Worrell, Manager of Children's Village, the decision to nominate Hanson focuses on his commitment toward ensuring a safe environment for the residents at the facility. In a recent security upgrade project, Hanson spearheaded the research and implementation process for a state-of-the-art closed circuit TV and audio surveillance network which he also initially proposed.

"The system greatly enhances the staff's ability to work with a difficult population of young offenders," said Worrell.

Over the years, Hanson has seen the mission of Children's Village change from one of merely custodial care to more of a treatment program concept that strives to make a difference by working with both the children and their parents.

Hanson receives much gratification knowing he has made a difference in the lives of some of the children who have come through the village. There's a file drawer in his office where he keeps letters he's received from children thanking him for his help. "It's a good feeling to see that kids recognize when someone is trying to help them," he said. "To me, that means more than all the gold in the world."

In his spare time, Hanson enjoys carpentry and home remodeling. A set of his custom-built bookcases adorns the library at the village.



**Ed Hanson**  
Children's Village

**Lois Koeber**, Supervisor of Human Resources in the Personnel Department, recently received the Employee of the Month Award. She has worked for Oakland County for 15 years.

Koeber supervises the Personnel Analysts who coordinate the personnel portion of the county executive recommended biennial budget. She also manages the preparation of all materials that are given to the Personnel Committee of the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Judy Eaton, Manager of Human Resources, says Koeber was nominated because of her total dedication to the timely and accurate completion of summary materials used by the administration and the personnel committee during the 1994/95 budget process.

"Lois was responsible for pulling together mountains of information into readable formats," said Eaton.

The high point of her career came in the form of a promotion to her current position this past January. Koeber feels most proud of this milestone when she recalls how tough it was to raise three children as a single parent and still pursue her career. "I really admire the young women who are working here and raising their families at the same time," she said. "I think that's a real tough thing to do."

Away from work, Koeber loves the outdoors. Last July, she went hiking on Mount Rainier in the state of Washington with her husband, Scott. She enjoys the pay-off view that seems to suddenly appear after miles of brutal hiking. "It does good for the soul," she said. While on vacation in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Koeber discovered her fascination with wildflowers. She looks forward to identifying different species when she vacations. "Just give me some place to roam and my wildflower book and I'll have fun," she said.



**Lois Koeber**  
Personnel Dept.