

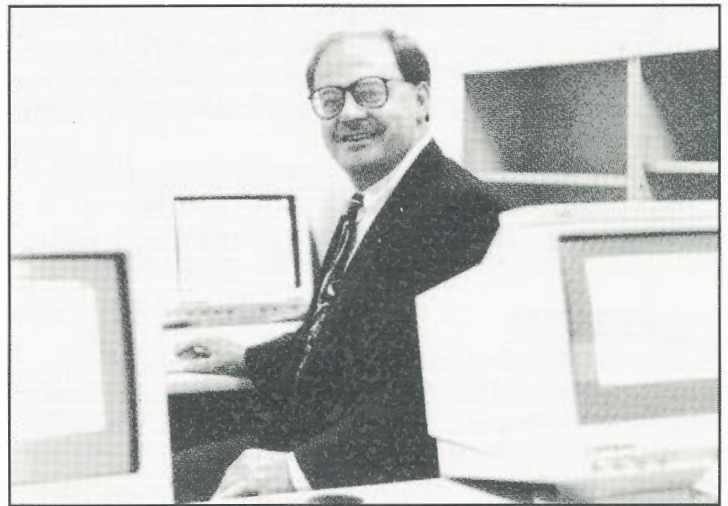
## County leadership updated on computerization progress

Armed with a strong mandate from Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, the Department of Information Technology, formerly Computer Services, has been moving at a breakneck pace to empower county government's 4,000 employees with the computer technology needed to improve efficiency and make their jobs easier.

During a Sept. 8 meeting with elected officials, department heads and division managers, Paul Funk, Director of Information Technology, provided an update on efforts to put personal computers (PCs) in the hands of employees.

"When Brooks Patterson took office he defined two key directives: to empower employees with the technology to do their jobs and to use technology as one of the flagships for quality economic growth in Oakland County," said Funk in his opening remarks.

On Jan. 1, 1993—the first day of the new Patterson Administration—there were only 235 PCs in use throughout county government, representing just 17 percent of the total number of "end user devices" in operation. As of Oct. 25, 1994 there were 1,236 PCs assigned to employees, representing 50 percent of the "end user devices" in operation. Of all the types of computer equipment in use in county government—mainframe terminals, image work stations and PCs—a majority have



Paul Funk, Director of Information Technology, checks-out one of the many new computers in Oakland County.

been plugged into a network.

"To date, 14 buildings on the county campus have been wired with the fiber optic, distributed computing network," noted Funk.

See PCs / page 7

## "LIGHTS...ACTION...CAMERA"—A STAR IS BORN

**Karla Richey**, Aerial Photographic Map Tech in the Development and Planning Division, is a full-time county employee and part-time "stage mother".

Her soon to be 5-year-old son, Austin, is fast becoming a child star.

He's featured in a national TV commercial for Chevrolet, which started running across the country a few Saturday's ago on ABC. Karla says the spot will air during the college football season. A friend and co-worker, **Val Yezbick**, said that her sister has seen the commercial in Kansas.

The commercial opens with Austin sitting on his "pretend" grandpa's lap in a Chevy truck. It



AYE, AYE MATEY—4-year-old Austin Thomas Richey displays the acting form that is propelling him into national prominence as an actor in TV commercials

closes with Austin walking up to the front of the truck and crossing his arms and legs, like "Grandpa" is doing.

"In the spring of 1993, one of Austin's day care providers told me there was something special about Austin, which I already knew, and that I should try to get him into modeling," said a very proud Richey. "So I called the Talent Shop and the people there told me to send them some pictures of Austin and they'd get back to me."

As they say, the rest is history. The people at the Talent Shop liked what they saw and asked Karla to bring Austin in for a firsthand look.

See STAR / page 9

# PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

## BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

After nearly two years of intensive work, the Oakland County Business Roundtable, which I formed during my first few months in office, is nearing the completion of its task. In January, each of the 12 subcommittees will submit five proposals for improving Oakland County's business climate.

In essence, the 125 educators, businessmen and businesswomen and government officials who comprise the Business Roundtable are helping to chart Oakland County's economic course into the 21st century. Their work is vital, because in order for Oakland County to succeed in the international arena of the future, it must be prepared to meet the tough competitive challenges of tomorrow.

If we are successful in putting together an effective economic blueprint for the year 2000 and beyond, it will mean continued growth and development for Oakland County and good paying jobs for its citizens.

## NEW SIGNAGE

If you've traveled around the complex recently, no doubt you have noticed some new signs here and there. More than 100 signs are going up, which will make it easier for visitors to find their way. It's long overdue. Some of the signs are 25-years-old and none have been replaced in five or six years.

The new signs are color coded which should assist people, such as the 4,000 Friend of the Court visitors who annually end up at the wrong building, find the proper destination.

## ESP

If you've been thinking about submitting an idea to the Employees Suggestion Program, but haven't as yet, now is the time to do it. Suggestions submitted by the

## ESP SPELLS \$\$\$ FOR LUCKY 7

Seven Oakland County employees are each \$50 richer after being awarded interim prizes in the ongoing Employee Suggestion Program. The "Lucky 7" are:

- **Ethel Sealy**, Clerk III, Personnel Department. Her suggestion is to keep the employee I.D. badges for summer students that return to the county year after year, so that new badges don't have to be made. The suggestion will save staff time and materials.
- **Tiffany Allen**, Account Clerk II, Accounting Division. Her suggestion is for employees to be able to appraise the performance of their supervisors. This may help to improve the overall performance of county services.
- **Candace Frederick**, Accountant III, Accounting Division. Her suggestion is for a county employee to become certified as a travel agent so that the county can receive discounts on travel arrangements.

end of October will be eligible for one of the fabulous prizes to be awarded at the County Executive's Christmas party in December. Just imagine how a trip to Hawaii or Cancun will warm your spirits this winter. Of course, one of the eight \$500 cash awards might come in handy too.

So far in 1994-95, 109 suggestions have been submitted, with nine still in the running for one of the grand prizes.

## UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

One more thing—our fund-raising goal for this year's United Way campaign was \$81,000. In the past, Oakland County employees have generously opened their hearts and their wallets to support the 54 agencies which benefit from United Way contributions. We asked you to lend a hand again this year so such programs as job training for the unemployed, counseling and rehabilitation for substance abusers and prenatal care can continue.

Thanks for supporting this worthy cause.



**L. Brooks Patterson**  
Oakland County Executive



- **Penny Savage**, Collection Clerk I, Reimbursement Division. Her suggestion is for the Circuit Court to provide the Reimbursement Division with defendant financial information related to repayment of court appointed attorney fees. This suggestion should save staff time and possibly increase the collection rate.
- **Patti Reedy**, Personnel Analyst III, Personnel Department. Her suggestion is to supply monthly updates, which can be included in the new county telephone directory. This suggestion will save everyone's time when looking up phone numbers.
- **Jimmy Bolton**, Auto Mechanic, Central Garage. His suggestion is to flatten used oil filters so that more will fit in the disposal containers. This will reduce the amount the county is charged for disposal.

# County's Dietetic Interns win case study contest

by Ellen Jaeger, Dietetic Intern

Congratulations are in order for two of the Oakland County Health Division's Approved Professional Program (AP4) dietetic interns. **Chris Carlson** and **Ann MacLean** are two of the three winners of the Detroit Dietetic Association (DDA) annual case study award. The competition included twenty other Michigan interns. The winning interns received a cash award and presented their case studies at the DDA's September meeting.

The purpose of a case study is to research a disease and its treatment via dietary recommendations and/or therapies. Chris Carlson focused on chronic liver failure while completing her clinical rotation at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital. Ann MacLean investigated the nutritional considerations of a Parkinson's Disease patient at Oakland General Hospital in Madison Heights. Each presented a complete

study of the disease state fulfilling the criteria established by the American Dietetic Association.

The AP4 has been in existence for six years and has a history of producing registered dietitians that help disadvantaged, medically underserved populations. It is specifically designed by the American Dietetic Association to prepare postgraduate students for the registration exam for dietitians. The AP4 exposes the dietetic student to the applications of nutrition, including public health, clinical dietetics and food service management. Upon graduation from the program the dietitians can fill administrative or clinical positions in hospitals, schools and nursing homes. They also have the option of working for public programs, such as Head Start and WIC, or they may enter any number of private organizations.



Pictured left to right are interns Chris Carlson and Ann MacLean receiving their awards from Pam Savage-Marr of the Detroit Dietetic Association.

## Sheriff's boot camp program rated tops

The American Heart Association of Michigan has singled out the Oakland County Sheriff's Department for top honors for a program designed to save lives and promote healthier life-styles. The Association selected the department's boot camp CPR program as the best among 270 CPR Community Training Centers in Michigan.

The boot camp's CPR program, under the leadership of **Deputy Keith Overby**, was rated number one for providing "an outstanding way to promote CPR and positive life-style changes." As a result of the honor, the Sheriff's Department was awarded a plaque for "Outstanding BLS Community Training Center 1994" and a \$150 gift certificate to be used for the purchase of basic life support training materials and equipment.

Deputy Overby, who is starting his 19th year as a county employee, has been with the boot camp program since it started in September 1990 and has been in charge of the CPR unit.

## Oakland Budget Manager elected to post with state-wide organization

**Jeff Pardee**, Manager of the Budget Division, has been elected vice-president of the Michigan Municipal Finance Officers Association (MMFOA). Pardee, an 18-year employee of Oakland County government, will automatically become the association's president for the 1995-96 term.

Ironically, Pardee was turned down for a position on the group's board of directors a few years ago because he wasn't involved with any of the MMFOA's committees. Pardee took the hint and became involved by joining the professional development committee and organizing a series of seminars.

"I'm pleased and proud to be part of such an active group," said Pardee. "What makes it work is getting its members so involved."

The MMFOA has 504 members who are financial officers for counties, villages, cities and townships across Michigan. The association works to improve the methods and practices of local government in the areas of accounting, budgeting and financial reporting.

Pardee is a graduate of Birmingham Seaholm High School and attended Eastern Michigan University, where he earned his bachelor's degree, majoring in business management and English. He then received his master's degree in business administration from the University of Detroit.

## Governor appoints Keith Krinn to state board

Gov. Engler has appointed **Keith Krinn**, Environmental Health Administrative Assistant for the Oakland County Health Division, to a position on the Michigan Board of Sanitarians.

Krinn, whose term expires on Dec. 31, 1995, succeeds Jon Parsons of Port Huron, whose term has ended.

Krinn, a resident of Royal Oak, received his bachelor's of science degree from Indiana State University and earned his master's degree from Central Michigan University.

He is a member of both the National and Michigan Environmental Health Association and the International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians.

# Barbara A. Consilio Music Scholarship Fund

The Oakland County Youth Assistance Coordinating Council is proud to announce the establishment of the Barbara A. Consilio Music Scholarship Fund. This fund is being established to honor **Barbara Consilio** in recognition of her many years of service to youth, including the past 11 years as the Oakland County Probate Court's first Court Administrator.

Young people in need, with an interest in music, be it voice, instrument or dance, will be referred to local Youth Assistance programs. Financial assistance will be provided for lessons or equipment necessary to pursue their interest in music.

Youth Assistance is a unit of the Oakland County Probate Court. For 41 years, Youth Assistance has developed and implemented award-winning, innovative community-based approaches to prevent delinquency, abuse and neglect. A key element of the program's success has been the extensive involvement of local citizen volunteers in every facet of program planning and

implementation. The program includes 41 staff assigned to 26 local programs and a central office, as well as 1,000 volunteers county-wide. It is sponsored by the local school districts, the municipalities and the Oakland County Probate Court. Local Youth Assistance programs will consider these requests as an expansion of their ongoing skill building efforts.

The Oakland County Youth Assistance Coordinating Council consists primarily of one representative from each of the 26 local Youth Assistance programs. The council will send out requests for proposals to all the local Youth Assistance programs on an annual basis, or

more frequently if funds allow, to provide scholarships.

In establishing this new skill building initiative, Youth Assistance can continue to honor our commitment and Ms. Consilio's direction to meet the ever changing needs of our young people, and at the same time, support her love of music for years to come.

## Park's staff receive national recognition of excellence

Oakland County Parks and Recreation is proving why our parks system is among the best in the nation. Parks and Rec. is the recipient of two prestigious national awards.

Lifeguards at the Oakland County Parks were recently singled out for the Silver Elite Award from the National Pool and Water Park Lifeguard System.

"Our staff ranks in the top six percent of lifeguards in the United States," said **Sue Wells**, Chief of Recreation. "They earned a score of 94 percent on unannounced audits throughout the summer."

Parks and Rec.'s communication staff has also walked away with national honors—capturing the Best Overall Communicator, Second Place Award in the National Recreation and Parks Associations Marketing and Communications Kudos Award Program.

"Our success is a direct result of a well trained, professional and very creative staff, exceptional administrative and park's support and the necessary financial investment for marketing programs," said **Jan Pung**, Communications Officer.

**Anyone interested in contributing to the Barbara A. Consilio Music Scholarship Fund may send their contributions to:**

**Oakland County  
Youth Assistance  
Coordinating Council  
1200 N. Telegraph Road  
Pontiac, MI 48341-0452**

**Please indicate that the contribution is for the Barbara A. Consilio Music Scholarship Fund.**

## Colored pencils and van Gogh

The Oakland County Galleria features works by the Colored Pencil Society of America for the November exhibit. These exceptional works will be on display Nov. 3-27.

Also on Nov. 17, Vincent van Gogh descendant B.J. Blackford will present, for our noon Brown Bag Lecture, "Van Gogh—the Autumn of His Years," at the Information Technology Auditorium.

The Dec. 15, Brown Bag Lecture showcases Oakland County artist Lorraine Chambers-McCarty, as she presents "95 Things You Don't Know About Artists." Be prepared what Lorraine has to say may shock you!

For more information, call the Office of Cultural Affairs at (810) 858-0415 or Artsline at (810) 858-1022: The fastest way to discover art in Oakland County.

## MIS employees speak at state-wide conference

**Lori Jansen**, Management Information Systems Supervisor and **Alex Braitman** made a presentation at the Fifth Annual Conference of the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services (IAPSRs) in Flint on Oct. 13. They were excited and proud to represent Oakland County at this state-wide conference. The presentation, entitled "Integrating Outcome Measures Using a Management Information System", is about their activities to define and measure meaningful performance outcomes for directly operated and contractual mental health programs. The measurement of these outcomes helps to assure the quality and accountability of services delivered to the public and can also assist in defining areas of improvement in those services. Feedback from other counties, both in and out of Michigan, indicate Oakland County Community Mental Health's MIS is at the forefront of this process.

This is the second year in a row that Oakland County staff have been selected as IAPSRs conference presenters. At last year's conference, **Peggy Counts**, **Richard Davenport**, **Barbara Zurlinden**, and **Alex Braitman** presented a paper entitled "Comparison of Barriers to Employment for Unemployed and Employed Clients in a Case Management Program: An Exploratory Study." Audience evaluations gave their presentation a very favorable review.

## Hilda Gage judged to be one of nations best jurists

The **Honorable Hilda R. Gage**, Chief Judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court, has received the first Award of Judicial Excellence from the National Conference of State Trial Judges. Judge Gage received her award at the Annual Convention of the American Bar Association, which was held recently in New Orleans.

Judge Gage was honored because, in the words of the President of the Michigan Judges Association, "she, more than any other single individual, has helped reshape the image of the Michigan Judiciary. Her excellence on the bench is an inspiration to all her colleagues. Her moral character is above reproach. She has set the standards by which other judges are measured."

Judge Gage received her Jurist Doctor Degree from Wayne State University in 1971, where she graduated magna cum laude. After more than seven years as a successful trial attorney, specializing in litigation cases, Judge Gage was elected to a 6-year term as Circuit Judge in 1978 and twice reelected, in 1986 and 1992. She is currently serving as the Court's Chief Judge.

## The View from Here

Let's see—the last edition I was in a nostalgic mood. What should I be this time? How about—depressed, which according to Webster's means: "gloomy, dejected." That is exactly the feeling that courses through my veins whenever I think about the onset of W-I-N-T-E-R, which as you know follows fall...which I see by the calendar we are in right now.

As a kid growing up in Ohio, winter meant things like sledding, playing football in the snow, snowball fights and occasional days off school when a snow storm hit. Now, at 48, it means scraping the ice off the car windshield, higher heating bills, getting stuck in the snow and idiots who drive on ice and snow as though it were sunny, dry and 75 degrees.

Yeah, there's nothing like jumping into a cold car, as the brisk winter wind freezes your nostrils shut and you slide into work sideways on roads, which are better suited for the Redwings, not cars.

Then of course, there's always the thrill of coming out to start your car and hearing only that clicking sound as you turn the key. It tells you that your battery has called it quits on the same morning thousands of other car batteries have decided to do the same thing. The guy at the corner gas station tells you it will be at least two hours before anyone can come out to help you. I could be frozen solid by then.

Normally, this would not be a big deal except today is the day you have ten million things to do—all of them important. This couldn't have happened yesterday when you had nothing scheduled. No—that would have been too convenient!

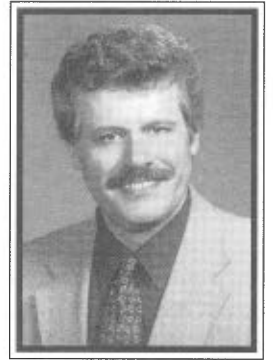
Snow is nice on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day—but the rest of the winter it's a pain in the neck—or lower, if you know what I mean.

Oh well, like they say—everyone talks about the weather, but no one ever does anything about it.

The only sensible thing to do is move to Arizona. But wait a minute—it's 110 degrees there most of the time. Complain...complain...complain. Some people are never happy!

I bet you can't wait to see what kind of mood I'll be in next time. By then it will be December—the snow will have been piling up for a couple of months—the tow truck should have paid me a visit a couple of times by now and depression will be one of my better moods.

See you in the spring. Just kidding...we'll talk again in December.



**Bob Dustman**  
Media and  
Communications  
Officer

# World Breast-feeding Week celebrated

## Breast-feeding means healthy babies

World Breast-feeding Week was celebrated during the first week of August. The Oakland County Health Division has joined in the effort to promote and support breast-feeding. The large public display case in the South Office of the Health Division recognized breast-feeding as the "best gift of all!" The WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program has actively joined in the nationwide effort to promote breast-feeding by providing all pregnant clients with information regarding the benefits of breast-feeding and tips on how to do so successfully. Public Health Nurses frequently provide teaching and support to breast-feeding mothers throughout the county, both during home visits and in the Health Division's Expectant Parent Classes.

Why is breast-feeding being recognized by the international medical, public health, and scientific communities as the way of providing the ideal food for the healthy growth and development of infants? The reasons are numerous. Among the most important is that human milk provides infants with an extensive defense system against infection and illness. Some recent research findings include:

- ◇ Ear infections (otitis media) are reduced by half among babies who are exclusively breast-fed for the first four months of life.
- ◇ Breast-fed infants have a markedly lower incidence of respiratory and gastrointestinal infections.
- ◇ Breast-feeding reduces hospitalization during the first year of life from eight percent to two percent.
- ◇ Breast-feeding reduces the incidence of allergies.
- ◇ Breast-feeding appears to re-

duce the risk of SIDs (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome).

- ◇ Breast-fed infants appear to have a lower risk of lymphoma and childhood diabetes.

As a result of these health benefits, the U.S. Surgeon General has set a goal that 50 percent of infants will be nursed for at least six months by the year 2000.

In addition to these significant benefits for the baby, new mothers also benefit from breast-feeding. Breast-feeding facilitates the mother's postpartum recovery and may lessen her risk for breast cancer. Many breast-feeding mothers find it easier to lose the weight they gained during pregnancy. There are no bottles to prepare or formula to buy. Breast-feeding can save families up to \$1,000 a year on the cost of formula.

There are many women who wish to continue nursing their babies after they return to work, and Oakland County employees are no exception. **Lisa Remer-Fockler**, Health Educator, who gave birth to baby Carly on March 23, exclusively breast-fed her daughter for ten weeks. She then decided to supplement Carly with formula during the two feedings per day that Carly spends with her caregiver while Remer-Fockler is at work. Lisa continues to nurse Carly every morning and several times every evening. They have both adjusted well to this routine. **Lisa McKay** is another Health Educator who gave birth to daughter Lyndsey on March 17, and she breast-feeds her baby. Lyndsey has a gastroesophageal reflux and her physicians have recommended that McKay give her daughter

only breast milk—no formula. McKay returned to work on June 9 and has rented an electric breast pump, which she states is "still cheaper than formula!" She pumps several times a day during her breaks. Her husband, who has been caring for Lyndsey while McKay works, gives Lyndsey the breast milk at later feedings. McKay states she is very dedicated to giving her daughter breast milk. She says it has been a "challenge" trying to find a vacant room in which to "pump", but she has had a lot of support from her fellow employees, which has been a tremendous help. Her husband, her physician, and her lactation consultant (a certified health professional who specializes in breast-feeding and lactation) have also been very supportive. **Barbara Feldman** is a nutritionist with the Health Division who has been preparing to return to work following the birth of son Ean. She has totally breast-fed Ean and wishes to continue to do so. Barbara is also working with a lactation consultant in order to ease the adjustment of her return to work while breast-feeding.

These women join millions of other women throughout the world who continue working while giving their babies the benefits breast-feeding provides. We all benefit from lower health care costs associated with healthy babies and healthy mothers.



**Artsline**  
**(810) 858-1022**  
**The Fastest Way  
to Art in  
Oakland County**

# VIV AT THE MOVIES

by Mary Viviano

## "True Lies"

starring **Arnold Schwarzenegger**

Heee's Baaaack!!! After the debacle of "The Last Action Hero", Arnold Schwarzenegger returns double barreled with the action romantic-comedy, "True Lies." Arnold is Harry Tasker, computer salesman by day and super spy by night. He maintains his dull day life with his teenage daughter and his clueless wife Helen, portrayed wonderfully and playfully by Jamie Lee Curtis. Then, hiding his other life from his family, he kicks into spy overdrive with partner Albert Gibson, played by Tom Arnold.

This movie is action packed as the good guys chase the bad terrorists, but half of it centers on the romance and comedy between Harry and Helen. These are the best scenes of the movie, especially the "Dance Scene" in the hotel room. The plot is pretty weak and times ridiculous, but isn't that what action movies are all about, kids? Curtis and Arnold's grand sense of humor are worth the price of admission and this film is a must see on the big screen, as there are many bigger than life explosion scenes and unbelievable aerial shots. Look for Tia Carrara as bad girl, Juno Skinner, Bill Paxton as Simon (what a weasel) and Charlton

Heston as spy boss man, Spencer Tilby.

I enjoyed this film because it is an easy no-brainer to watch. This flick is fun to view. Its TRUE—I wouldn't tell any LIES to you!!!

## "Natural Born Killers"

starring **Woody Harrelson**

Remember "Clockwork Orange?" Well, that was tame compared to "Natural Born Killers". This movie is violent, bloody, nightmarish and surreal. Oliver Stone's latest effort has lived up to all the hype, but you have to be in the right frame of mind to watch this film. The story focuses on the very sick life and times of serial killers/media darlings, Mickey and Mallory Knox, portrayed brilliantly by Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis. Together the Knoxes brutally slaughter over 50 people within a few short weeks. Stone's employment of choppy, rapidly moving psychedelic images and his use of inane sit-com dialogue is extreme and very effective.

There are certain decisions you must make before buying your ticket. If you are intrigued by the bizarre and can appreciate the use of violence to parody our sick culture as we glorify violence and accept murder without

conscience, then lay down your \$6.50. If you can't get past the violence, and this is by far the most violent film this reviewer has ever seen, save your cash but keep in mind, Harrelson will blow you away (pun intended). His icy, blood curdling, bone chilling, hair-raising portrayal of the demon is outstanding.

This was quite an uncharacteristic role for Woody, as was Robert Downey Jr.'s portrayal of the sleaze master host of "American Maniacs", Mr. Wayne Gayle. He was hysterically funny and way, way out there. Completing the cast is the ever present Tommy Lee Jones as Warden Dwight McCluskey and Tom Sizemore as the slightly off center Detective Jack Scagnetti.

In addition to the fine cast, this movie is very well written. It has sparked the debate between the "it will just breed more violence group" and the "it illustrates how ridiculous and absurd society's view of violence has become group".

So pick your group, make your decision and get your mind set before you see this film. In my humble opinion, it is worth riding shotgun with Mickey and Mallory and meeting these "Natural Born Killers"

PCs / from page 1

"This will enable greater numbers of users and larger volumes of data to be handled across several levels of computer technology. In addition, many of the off-campus locations are being configured to benefit from the new network."

Funk also noted that a number of important network based features, such as CD-ROM Libraries, fax out and fax back servers, bulletin board servers, voice response systems and electronic mail, are in the final stages of testing.

"We've gone from the 16th century to the 21st century in a two-year Herculean effort to modernize Oakland County's computer technology," said Patterson.

"Paul Funk and his talented team of professionals at Information Technology are to be congratulated for doing such a terrific job."

Funk was also quick to hand out praise, complimenting Jere Shockey-Facilities-Network Project Leader and Dave [Name obscured], Director of Facilities Management and their employees for the assistance they provided to the project.

"I have never seen more focus or greater cooperation in any multi-department endeavor during my 20 years in industry," said Funk. "It has been a significant privilege to be

part of such a dedicated and professional team."

With regard to the office automation initiative, Funk noted that significant increases in PCs, employee training and end user productivity are being seen in all areas of county government. He added that there is also an effort underway to capitalize on employee empowerment by establishing user groups, where employees can get together to share their PC experience and work on enhancing their skills.

Not content to rest on its laurels, the Department of Information Technology has begun a Geographic Information System (GIS) pilot project and is also researching the concept of "enhanced access" to government information. Both of these initiatives would strengthen the county's ability to offer both businesses and individuals improved services.

Funk concluded his presentation by showing a cartoon that portrayed a startled Oakland County employee who notices a man's face appearing on her computer screen. The man says, "Excuse me, I'm lost. Can you direct me to the information superhighway?"

Sir, I think you are just about there.

## Dave Ross Profile

No one will ever be able to accuse Dave Ross of cutting corners in his ascent up the ladder in Oakland County government. The ex-Marine started with the county in the early 1960s as a maintenance laborer, where he hauled trash, swung a sledge hammer and did some painting.

After starting night school at Lawrence Institute of Technology (now Lawrence Technological University), Ross transferred to engineering, where he got involved in drafting and layouts for renovations. He attended night school for 15 years while working full-time and has two degrees—one in management and the other in construction engineering technology—to show for it. Ross has also acquired most of the credits for a master's degree, but got sidetracked when he became involved in forming the Brandon Athletic Boosters. The group has raised more than \$350,000 over a three-year period to fund all the athletic programs in the district.

He left the county payroll for awhile when he went to work for a commercial-industrial sheet metal contractor in Detroit. Ironically, Ross started work there the day after the Detroit riots erupted. Timing is everything. Eventually, he made his way back to county government when he was offered a job in engineering. When an opening came up in what was then Facilities & Operations, he took it. In 1975, after five or six years in the department, Ross made it into the ranks of management. Then in 1992, Brooks Patterson asked Ross to head up what was to become the Department of Facilities Management.

"There was no real hesitation on my part to accept the offer," recalled Ross. "But I didn't expect it and wanted to run it by my wife first, since I would be going from a merit system to an appointed position."



**Dave Ross**  
Director,  
Department of Facilities  
Management

Ross says the best thing about his job is the diversity. His department handles anything and everything dealing with the facilities—from cutting the grass to planning and constructing major new buildings—and everything in between.

What Ross doesn't like about the job is the time it takes to get some things done. When it comes to facilities, Ross says you can be assured of two things: it will be very expensive, no matter what you do, and it will take awhile to get it done.

One of his department's major accomplishments is the completion of the new West Wing extension of the Courthouse. Ross says while there is always room for improvement, he feels the project came off very well.

"The job was very well done from concept through design and construction," said Ross. "It was on schedule and under budget, which the people involved in the day-to-day administration of the project can take credit for."

Currently, Ross is working on the 1994 capital improvement program, which includes major renovation work on Probate Court, new housing for Friend of the Court, Equalization and some other departments which need more space.

Plans also call for expansion of Work Release, the Trustee Camp and the courthouse lobby.

Over the years, running a department like Facilities Management has become more complex, mainly because of all the new mandated state and federal regulations.

"Thirty years ago no one was concerned about hazardous materials," noted Ross. "There weren't such things as the Indoor Clean Air Act, recycling, energy conservation and the Americans with Disability Act."

But Ross is proud of his staff for meeting the tough demands of the job.

"I can't say enough good things about the people in Facilities Management," said Ross beaming like a proud father. "Our staff works hard to provide a good working environment for county employees. They shouldn't have to worry about the grass being too tall or the phones not working. We're here to support other departments."

In his spare time, Ross likes to play softball or golf and head up north for an occasional weekend away from the demands of a demanding job.

Ross admits that being a Marine helped to shape his approach to life. He believes strongly in teamwork and the team approach to solving problems. Despite his "Semper Paratus" background, Ross is not a "hard nose".

"We all have to follow certain rules and regulations," said Ross. "You need to be a 'hard nose' in certain situations, but that's not a part of my management style. I try to be proactive and work with people to solve facility related problems."

As far as how he would like to be remembered—Ross paused for a moment and then chuckled:

"I never really thought about that. I'm not planning on going anywhere for awhile."



# Operators have connections

by Andrea Sokalski

There are certain questions which have puzzled humanity over the ages: who am I? where am I going? Five days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., the two operators of Oakland County's central switchboard/Centrex console are called upon to answer more basic questions: who am I trying to reach? can you transfer me? The duties of **Crystal Robertson**, main console operator, include receiving and connecting calls to the desired office or individual, providing information to the public regarding services, facilities and locations in the county, and forwarding information about telephone malfunctions or problems to telephone technicians.



Crystal Robertson takes a well-deserved break from the rigors of her job as telephone switchboard operator.

Receiving and routing approximately 500 calls daily, Robertson's task is no small one. She is relieved for breaks and lunch by **Debby Washburn**, who is also responsible for assisting the Telephone Communications Unit with various reports and projects. **Gina Bohn**, Office Supervisor of Facilities Maintenance & Operations, acknowledges the importance of the switchboard as a means for the public to reach whomever they need. The majority of calls are transferred to the Clerk's Office, the Women, Infants and Children Program, Friend of the Court, the Circuit Court and Probate Court Information. It is jobs such as these performed by Robertson and Washburn that make all other county jobs run that much smoother.

STAR / from page 1

As a result, Austin got his first modeling job last October for Kmart, but nobody around here was able to see it, because it was only published in Puerto Rico. Austin has also been used as a "backup" on a commercial for the United Way.

After each audition, Karla lets Austin pick out a small toy, book or other treasure. When the "shoot" is over, mom and son make a beeline for the nearest Toys R Us, where Austin gets to choose whatever he wants.

As one of the younger wage earners around, Austin has his own bank account and all of his paychecks are set aside for his college education.

Karla and her husband, Thomas, whom she's been married to for 12 years, are, needless to say, very proud of their budding TV star. The Richey's live in Sylvan Lake today, but the way things are going, their future address may be Hollywood, USA.

# Oakland County Jail looking for translators

by Andrea Sokalski

One of the key elements in the operation of any system is communication. Given the diverse nature of the U.S. population, communication is not always as easy as it may seem, a fact which the Oakland County Sheriff's Department is forced to face a half dozen times a year. When an inmate cannot speak English, a burden is immediately placed upon the correctional staff in their effort to obtain pertinent information regarding the physical and mental status of that inmate. While interpreters are available through the Oakland County Circuit Court, they charge \$75 per hour with a minimum of two hours, a rate which the department cannot, at this point, afford.

One county deputy fluent in sign and a student intern fluent in Albanian have both been called upon to help in these situations; however, the department is looking for other bi- or multilingual county employees to volunteer their services. "We cannot, at this time, offer any reimbursement," admits Corrections Intake Supervisor, **Mark Metalski**. "Perhaps in the interest of interdepartmental cooperation, the respective supervisors of these volunteers could allow them to come over to the jail while on county time." Metalski, supervisor since July 1, has worked as a counselor/psychologist for five years. Communication in the inmate's own language serves several important functions at the County Jail, from determining a security rating, appropriate housing and posting bond, to helping the inmate adjust and providing counseling. Anyone who is able to and interested in helping to address these basic needs is asked to contact **Pam Newsom** at (810) 858-5026.

## TABULATIONS & TOTALS FOR 1994



Casual Day Contributions  
\$15,801.07

Employee Suggestion Program  
109 Suggestions



Direct Deposit  
47.5%

LUCKY / from page 2

> **Deborah Hool**, Junior Accountant, Reimbursement Division. Her suggestion involved streamlining the check recording process in the Child Support Unit of the Reimbursement Division. This will speed up the alimony and child support processing time and save staff time.

All seven interim ESP winners are now eligible for one of the grand prizes which will be awarded at the County Executive's Christmas Party in December.

## ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

### NEW EMPLOYEES

**Janina Brozowski**, Facilities & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired on 09-06-94 as a General Helper.

**Robert Carroll**, Information Technology, hired on 09-12-94 as a Customer Service Technician.

**Vilisa Carson**, Facilities & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired on 08-15-94 as Custodial Worker II.

**Gregory Charland**, Information Technology, hired on 09-06-94 as a Customer Service Technician.

**Marie Chastain**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, joined the Register of Deeds section on 08-22-94 as a Clerical Trainee.

**Leslie Chrysler**, Drain Operations & Maintenance, was hired on 09-19-94 as an Engineering Aide I.

**Thomas Craig**, Facilities & Operations Custodial Unit, hired on 08-22-94 as a General Helper.

**Karen Deaver**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, also a Clerical Trainee hired in the Register of Deeds section on 08-24-94.

**Lisa Dombrowski**, Clerk Register of Deeds, hired in Register of Deeds section on 07-11-94 as a Clerical Trainee.

**Daniel Dopierala**, Information Technology, hired on 09-06-94 as a Programmer Analyst Trainee.

**Connie Gelen**, Facilities & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired on 08-22-94 as a General Helper.

**Greg Givens**, Budget, was hired on 09-12-94 to the newly created position of Grants Writer. He will provide support to county departments in relation to federal, state and local private financial assistance and grant programs. Greg was the capital program grants writer with the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority and a grants writer for Oakland Family Services.

**Thomas Hensel**, Auditing Division, was hired on 07-06-94 as a Financial Analyst.

**Carrie Hicks**, Facilities & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired on 08-15-94 as a General Helper.

**Mary Jane Lambertz**, Aviation & Transportation, Oakland/Pontiac Airport, hired on 10-04-94 as a Typist I.

**Diana Meador**, Information Technology, hired on 08-22-94 as General Clerical.

**Carrie McGowan**, Drain Operations & Maintenance, was hired on 09-19-94 as an Engineering Aide I.

**Radhakrishnan Nair**, Drain Operations & Maintenance, was hired on 09/21/94 as an Electronics Technician.

**Glenn Nasrey**, Facilities & Operations Administration, was hired on 09-26-94 as a Student Engineer.

**Hua Pan**, Information Technology, hired on 09-12-94 as a Programmer Analyst Trainee.

**Jennifer Perry**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, joined the Legal Records section on 08-15-94 as General Clerical.

**Jeanine Guisenberry**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, hired in Legal Records on 04-24-93 as Typist I.

**Steve Rix**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, hired in the Register of Deeds section on 06-20-94 as a Engineering Aide I.

**Jackie Ruffner**, Personnel, hired on 08-01-94 as a Technical Assistant.

**Margery Sagamang**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, joined the Vital Statistics Unit on 03-14-94 as General Clerical.

**Susan Scarbrough**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, joined Legal Records on 04-11-94 as General Clerical.

**Anita Self**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, hired in the section

of Register of Deeds on 08-01-94 as a Clerical Trainee. **Sheri Stanley**, Drain Operations & Maintenance, was hired on 09-15-94 as a student.

**Tanao' Stephens**, Children's Village, hired on 08-08-94 as General Clerical (Clerk I).

### FOND FAREWELLS

**Jessie Bieke**, a parks helper at White Lake Oaks, has retired after 13 years of service.

**Jenny Decovich**, Typist I, Risk Management bid a fond farewell on 07-23-94.

**Brian K Leigh**, Aviation & Transportation, Oakland/Pontiac Airport accepted a position with the Livonia Police Department.

**Mollie Mobley**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Vital Statistics Unit, bid a fond farewell on 09-16-94 to join a computer marketing firm in Birmingham. Best of luck!

## CHANGING PLACES/CHANGING FACES

### PROMOTIONS

**Pam Agelink**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Administration, was promoted to Secretary II. She also transferred from Clerk/Register of Deeds Legal Records to Administration.

**Brian Bennett**, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to Civil Engineer II on 09-17-94.

**John Burnell**, Drain Operations & Maintenance, was promoted to Sewer Maintenance Supervisor I on 09-17-94.

**Estella Butler**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was promoted to Custodial Worker II on 08-06-94.

**Lisa Corpus**, Information Technology, was promoted to Project Support Specialist on 06-11-94.

**Ron Crank**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Register of Deeds Unit, was promoted from Student Engineer to Engineering Aide I on 05-25-94.

**Shawn Dawson**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Register of Deeds Unit, was promoted from Typist I to Typist II on 09-03-94.

**Cheryl Delcamp**, Children's Village was promoted from Clerk I to Typist I on 08-08-94.

**Carolyn Hammac**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was promoted to Custodial Worker II on 08-06-94.

**Richelle Hollingsworth**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Register of Deeds Unit, was promoted from Clerical Trainee to Typist I on 07-09-94.

**Dan Kelly**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Maintenance Unit, was promoted to General Maintenance Mechanic on 10-01-94.

**William Klockow**, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to Deputy and Manager - Engineering & Construction Division on 10-01-94.

**Joseph P. Kozma**, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to Chief Engineer on 10-01-94.

**Karen LaForge**, Personnel Human Resources, has been promoted from Technical Assistant to Personnel Analyst I on 07-07-94.

**Carol Lee**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Legal Records, was promoted from Typist II to Clerk III on 01-08-94.

**Brian Leigh**, Aviation & Transportation, was promoted from a Maintenance Laborer to a Airport Maintenance Mechanic I on 05-28-94.

**Robert Malek**, Drain Operations & Maintenance, was promoted to a Water Maintenance Supervisor I on 10-01-94.  
**Donna Putman**, Information Technology, was promoted to Account Clerk I on 05-28-94.

**Jere Shockey**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Telephone Communications Unit, was promoted to Telecommunications Network Specialist on 07-23-94.

**Kurt Taylor**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Maintenance Unit, was promoted to Maintenance Supervisor II on 07-23-94.

**Janette Wager**, Information Technology, was promoted to User Support Specialist on 05-28-94.

**Alan Wilson**, Drain Operations & Maintenance, was promoted to Sewer Maintenance Supervisor I on 10-15-94.

**Stephen Yates**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was promoted to Custodial Worker II on 09-03-94.

**Glen Yrjanainen**, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to Chief Deputy Drain Commissioner on 10-01-94.

## **TRANSFERS**

**Brad Baker**, Parks & Rec, transferred from Independence Oaks to Waterford Oaks on 06-01-94.

**Jennifer Bisogni**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Administration, transferred to Legal Records as a Typist II on 01-08-94.

**Tom Garvey**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Grounds, transferred to Parks & Recreation Glen Oaks Golf Course on 08-19-94.

**Sara Greene**, Drain Operations & Maintenance, transferred from Personnel Human Resources as a student on 09-06-94.

**Tracy Howden**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Legal Records, transferred from the Health Division as a Typist II on 07-23-94.

**Jennifer Rowden**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Legal Records, transferred from Central Services as a Clerk II on 12-30-93.

**Tracy Sealy**, formerly of the Prosecutor's Office, transferred to Risk Management on 08-06-94.

**Jennifer VerPloeg**, Clerk/Register of Deeds Vital Statistics Unit, transferred from Legal Records as a Typist II on 12-30-93.

**Jan West**, Information Technology, transferred from the Treasurer's Office as a Secretary to Paul Funk on 09-26-94.

## **THANK YOU**

**Sue Ball** is the proud wife of Henry who had some "body work" at University Hospital, Ann Arbor. On Aug. 16, he received a kidney and pancreas transplant. Thanks to everyone's prayers, well wishes and some extremely skilled doctors, Henry is doing well and will be coming home in the next few weeks.

## **MEMORIAL**

**Roosevelt "Bud" Walker, Jr.**, 56, of Pontiac, died Aug. 14, a massive stroke. He worked 30 years for Water and Sewer as a Supervisor. He was loved by many and never met a stranger. He will be greatly missed at Oakland County.

## **CELEBRATIONS**

**Brian K. Leigh**, Aviation & Transportation, Oakland/Pontiac Airport, and Teresa Tarbet tied the knot on 10-08-94.

**Maryann Rivard**, Veterans' Services-Royal Oak Office, married Stephen Pappas in a civil ceremony on 12-13-93 and also had a formal church wedding on 06-13-94.

**Susan Wells**, Parks & Rec Chief of Recreation, married Chris Delridge on 04-16-94.

## **KUDOS**

**Margaret Crowley**, Nursing Supervisor-North Office-Health Division has received the Community Health Nursing Leadership of the Year award from the Michigan Public Health Association. Margaret received her award on June 24, at the MPHA Annual Awards Luncheon in Lansing. Margaret has been at Oakland County Health Division for 23 years and has been a Supervisor since 1977. She received her R.N. from Providence Hospital, her bachelor's of science from Wayne State University and her master's in nursing from the University of Michigan.

**Marcia Graham, B.S.N., R.N.**, Health Department Services to Aging, was the recipient of the Michigan Nurses Association 1994 Outstanding Gerontological Nurse of the Year.

**Tim Nowicki**, Parks & Rec. Naturalist, has published a book entitled "Awake to Wildlife—Great Lakes Wildlife Almanac". Copies are available from Tim or local bookstores.

The **Oakland County Auditing Division** received a 1994 Certificate of Appreciation from the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics because of their continued support for the last four years.

**Carl Pardon**, Veterans' Services, was reelected for the fourth time to the position of Secretary for the National Association of County Veterans' Service Officers.

## **COUNTY INFORMATION HOTLINE!!! 858-1022**

The Information Hotline you get 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**

VOLUME II ISSUE IX

OCTOBER 1994

**Published Bi-Monthly by:**

The Office of Media & Communications  
Executive Office Building  
1200 North Telegraph Road, Dept. 409  
Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0409

**Articles of interest should be sent to:**

Robert E. Dustman  
Editor and Media & Communications Officer  
Phone: (810) 858-1048 FAX: (810) 858-5111

Photography by David VandeGrift

# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

by Phil Gové

**Tim Soave**, Senior Financial Analyst for the Management & Budget Division recently received the Employee of the Month Award. He has worked for Oakland County for 15 years.

Normally, Tim coordinates the Board of Commissioners Finance Committee, and supervises a team of financial analysts. Recently, he worked for three months at the Community Mental Health Department providing guidance to the financial staff during their recent transition to full management.

Tim helped to build a solid base for the future by implementing a financial reporting system equipped to handle the Community Mental Health department's \$100 million budget.

Tim says working with his staff to bring projects to completion and implementation is what he enjoys most about his work. "We have a tendency to get things done and it's nice to see things through to accomplishment," he said.

Jeff Pardee, Budget Manager, cited the leadership qualities Tim provides to his staff as a key ingredient in his decision to nominate him for the award. "His daily contribution to the success of the Budget Division comes not only from his quality work product but, more importantly, from the work product of other analysts who recognize him as a resource person and constantly seek out his knowledge and experience," said Pardee.

Tim enjoys spending most of his free time with his family. He also enjoys officiating high school football games throughout southeast Michigan.



The Community Mental Health Division selected **Glenn Jackson**, Residential Development Coordinator/Recipient Rights Officer, as Employee of the Month for September.

"I was very happy and very surprised when I found out I was selected as Employee of the Month," said Jackson.

Glenn began his career with Oakland County in 1984 when he became the first case management coordinator hired by Community Mental Health.

Today, he works as a liaison between Community Mental Health and the Michigan Department of Mental Health to develop and coordinate licensed group homes, supported apartment programs and similar living opportunities for citizens with disabilities.

Pete Bickelmann, manager of Community Mental Health, gives Glenn high praise for his outstanding work in reorganizing and operating the Recipient Rights Program. "Glenn has conducted investigations of complaints judiciously and with due respect for the rights and dignity of consumers", said Bickelmann.

Glenn recently earned his master's of science degree in public administration from Central Michigan University.

In his spare time, Glenn collects music memorabilia from the 1950s and 60s and has a record collection that includes several thousand albums and compact discs.



Our congratulations are extended to **Bob Forrest**, Cultural Affairs, for being selected as Employee of the Month for September.

After nearly 30 years as an employee of Oakland County government, Bob retired a few months ago due to illness. He began his career with the county on Nov. 16, 1964, as an engineering aide in Planning. In 1987, he was reclassified as a Graphic Artist and transferred to Cultural Affairs in 1989.

"Bob was an outstanding employee, a true professional, who often went beyond what was required of him to do his job," said Steve Weikal, Director of Cultural Affairs.

Bob and his wife, Lorraine, live in Lapeer County, where they provide a warm and comfortable home in a beautiful wooded surrounding for their many pets.

Incidentally, if you like the appearance of the Telegraph, you have Bob to thank for that. He was responsible for the layout and design of the newsletter, just one of the many things he did so well during his tenure with the county.



**Debbie Schutt**, Development and Planning, has been selected as one of our Employees of the Month for July.

Debbie, an Oakland County employee for 18 years, supervises the Community Assistance Planning group that works with local communities to develop improvement plans.

In this role, Debbie is currently serving as project manager for the Woodward Corridor Study. She has been instrumental in providing guidance to the team gathering and analyzing data for the project, which is aimed at transforming the overall visual, economical and functional character of the historic corridor.

Her work also includes supervising the most extensive mapping program in the state. The program is responsible for the creation of property description maps, and earned a record high \$200,000 in map sales in 1992.

Jeff Kaczmarek, manager of Development and Planning, says Debbie deserves kudos for successfully pulling together the former Planning and Economic Development divisions during a merger last year. "Debbie's done a terrific job of merging the two divisions and putting into place a lot of management practices that have empowered the staff and increased their productivity," said Kaczmarek.

Away from work, Debbie is a self-proclaimed vacation junky and in recent years has traveled to the Panama Canal, the Grand Canyon, and the island of Grenada.

