

TELEGRAPH

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DECEMBER 1994

Good friends...good food and good cheer ring in season at County Exec's holiday party

Nearly 400 Oakland County employees filled the banquet room at the Silverdome's Main Event to celebrate the holiday season at the County Executive's annual holiday party on Dec. 9.

Guests were treated to a beautiful buffet which included prime rib, chicken and an assortment of other tantalizing mouth-watering goodies. A deejay provided music which many of the partygoers took advantage of to strut their stuff.

But the highlight of the party came around one o'clock in the afternoon when Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson handed out the top prizes in the Employees Suggestion Program.

Richard Kolehmainen, Accountant IV (retired), Accounting



A few of the happy top-award winners in the 1994 Employee Suggestion Program. Shown left to right are Patti Reedy (\$500), Phyllis Jose (trip to Toronto), Ethyl Sealy (\$500), Richard Kolehmainen (trip to Hawaii), Dan Cavanaugh (trip to Cancun) and Eileen Hemmi (\$500).

Division, won the first place prize of a trip to Hawaii or a \$4,000 cash equivalent. Richard's award winning suggestion to accelerate the transfer of funds from the general fund to the retirees Health Care Trust Fund will earn more interest

equivalent. Phyllis' suggestion was for the county to create a grant writer position that would be responsible for seeking out and obtaining grant funds for all county departments. After taking out the

before its disbursed—in the process increasing revenues annually by \$332,000.

The trip to Cancun or the \$2,000 cash equivalent was awarded to **Dan Cavanaugh**, Materials Management Clerk, Materials Management, for his suggestion that the county switch to a different type of trash bag, which is estimated to save \$53,000 per year.

Phyllis Jose, Director of Library Services, walked away with a trip to Toronto or the \$750 cash

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County employees give from the heart to those less fortunate

Once again this year, the generosity of Oakland County employees will make this a brighter Christmas for some of the less fortunate members of our community. Throughout 1994, county employees tossed a \$1 in the Casual Day jars each payday for the privilege of dressing down twice a month. The money raised was set aside for selected charities and distributed during the holiday season.

At the Oakland County Executive's Annual Holiday Party on Dec. 9, Mr. Patterson handed out checks totaling \$16,000 to five local charities.

Lighthouse-North of Oakland County received \$5,000 to help supply the needy with a wide-range of services; **Koats for Kids**, which provides new winter coats for needy children in Waterford and White Lake Townships, received a donation of \$1,000; **Open Door**

of Union Lake, which provides food, clothing, toys and home heating assistance for low income families in Waterford, West Bloomfield, Commerce and White Lake Townships, was given \$1,000; **Give-A-Christmas Fund**, which distributes donations to numerous charitable organizations in Oakland County, received a check for \$5,000 and the **Old News Boys-Goodfellows**, which provides Christmas clothing packages for children, ages 8-13, as well as emergency dental care and emergency shoe replacement, received a \$4,000 donation.

"I'm so impressed by the continued support of the employees for the Casual Day Program," said Rebecca Holowicki, Director of Community & Minority Affairs, whose department administers the Casual Day Program. "I would like to thank them for making this venture a total success."

PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

Folks, if you never read another one of my columns, please take time to read this one. There is a new law in Michigan which dramatically impacts anyone under 21 years of age.

A new law in Michigan, which just took effect Nov. 1, severely penalizes any person under the age of 21 for drinking even as much as one beer.

In the past, state law prohibited anyone under the age of 21 from possessing alcohol, but there was nothing on the books which said they could not have a beer as long as they had not consumed enough to be considered a drunk driver. No longer.

Public Act 211 has changed all that. And I mean changed it dramatically. The new law says that anyone under the age of 21 will face stiff criminal penalties if they are found to have **ANY**—and I repeat **ANY**—alcohol in their system while operating a motor vehicle. Please understand: while it is perfectly legal for adults (those 21 and over) to have a couple of drinks and drive with a blood alcohol content (BAC) in their system all the way up to 0.06 percent, it now constitutes a criminal offense for anyone under the age of 21 to be caught driving with a BAC level that exceeds 0.02 percent! In most cases 0.02 amounts to a couple of beers.

Note the difference. As an adult, you and I can drive around with 0.03, 0.04, 0.05 or 0.06 percent BAC in our system based on some drinks we may have had at a holiday party. We are committing no criminal act. We reach the point of "impaired driving," a criminal charge, when we reach 0.07. We are considered a drunk driver when we reach a BAC of 0.10. But young adults below the age of 21 face a much different and tougher law: if their BAC exceeds 0.02 percent they are facing a new drunk driving offense.

It is a harsh law, brought about by public pressure, and while I understand its purpose, I take issue with the fact that it has not been properly publicized. Who can argue with statistics that show that drunk driving is the leading single cause of death for Americans ages 15-24? In addition, the National Commission on Drunk Driving says that a person under the legal drinking age is nearly twice as likely to die in an alcohol related crash as an adult over the age of 21.

The Michigan State Police also report that 42 percent of the Michigan crashes in which teenagers were killed in 1991 involved alcohol.

These figures are stark reminders of what can happen when people drink and drive. Every adult should stress to their children, nieces and nephews that what is all right for a person 21 and over to do is absolutely prohibited and constitutes a new criminal act for those under 21.

Please read: under the new law, a driver under the age of 21 caught with any alcohol in his system will pay a punishment of up to 45 days community service and a fine of not more than \$250. A second or subsequent offense within seven years carries a penalty of up to 60 days of community service and a fine of not more than \$500. Failure by a young adult to take a preliminary breath test when asked by a police officer results in two points on a driving record. Driving privileges will also be affected by the new law: license sanctions and four points on a driving record will be imposed for violators. On top of all this, add the cost of court proceedings, high risk pool insurance rates, and you can see severe consequences for any young adult under the age of 21 from drinking and driving in Michigan.

Make this new year a joyous one. Tell those you know, who are under 21 years of age, to think twice before they have even that first beer and jump behind a wheel of a car.



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Brooks Patterson".

Judge thanks county employees for support following fire

On Oct. 31, Halloween night, a fire destroyed the 52-2 District Court building in Clarkston. As a result, the court was forced to setup temporary facilities at 230 Elizabeth Lake Road in Pontiac, the former location of the Oakland County Prosecutors Office.

In the wake of this tragic fire, Oakland County employees responded quickly to assist the court in resuming its normal functions.

52-2 District Court Judge Gerald McNally specifically singled out the men and women in **Facilities**

Management, Information Technology, Purchasing, Accounting and the **Sheriff's Department** for their able assistance in responding to the crisis. McNally would like to thank each and every person who helped put the court back in business.

Facilities Management...caring, compassionate dedication to the needs of employees

The Oakland County Department of Facilities Management operates with 230 full-time employees with an annual budget of over \$26 million and is responsible for over 40 facilities and 1.8 million-square feet of area. The department has five major service divisions: Facilities Engineering; Facilities Maintenance and Operations; Solid Waste Management; Emergency Management Services (E.M.S.); and the Real Estate Section.

Functions of Facilities Management are many and varied. Among other things, the department is primarily responsible for the short and long term facility planning, design and construction. Responsibilities also include space planning and allocation, energy management, maintenance and operations, departmental support services, renovations, hazardous material disposal, recycling, code compliance, telecommunications, grounds and custodial maintenance services. The department is also responsible for the development and coordination of the county-wide Solid Waste Management Plan, leased office space, and assists other municipalities in preparation of Emergency Preparedness Plans for disaster recovery, etc. Basically, the department is responsible for anything and everything that has to do with the majority of the county facilities.

The structure of the department has evolved over the years. Until the early 1970s, the department's functions were splintered, creating a lack of coordination on projects. There were separate maintenance, grounds and engineering departments. Each department operated independently and performed its own particular mission. The end result was usually not very good.

"We've got some examples where architectural or engineering firms would hear the county's needs and construct a building. The county would receive a functional building as far as the users were concerned; however, the facility would be a maintenance and operational nightmare," said Dave Ross, Director of Facilities Management. "No one listened to the maintenance people who had to live with these facilities forever." Better coordination of projects has occurred in recent years.

In January 1993, another transformation occurred when the new County Executive, Brooks Patterson, decided the department should have a name that more accurately reflected its responsibilities. Thus, Facilities Management was



Some of the hard working and dedicated employees of Facilities Management taking a well-deserved break. Pictured left to right (standing) are Phil Goulding, Jack Wright, Roger Mouthaan, Mark Brigolin, Steve Schell and Tom Lepping. Pictured left to right (on the loader) are Tim Ray, Jim Tillman, Dan LaBarge, Sallyanne Morris, Evelyn Glossinger and Jim Foltz.

born with a new emphasis on long-term planning and the overall scope of projects with greater attention to life cycle costs. "We knew with this approach some of the up-front decisions could be a little more costly, but in the long term it would be cost effective to do it this way," noted Ross. The cost of maintaining and operating a new facility will exceed construction costs in less than 10 years. Nominal increases in construction costs can have significant impact on long-term maintenance and operating expenses.

Some of the major projects undertaken and completed in the past few years include the Computer Center, west wing extension of the courthouse, jail expansion, additional circuit court rooms, major renovation of the courthouse west wing—tied in with the new addition—and increases in the jury assembly and Reimbursement areas, as well as more space for Circuit Court Administration and the Treasurer's office. The Engineering Division has done excellent work on these projects.

Future plans include alternative housing for Friend of the Court and Equalization, plus expansion of the Work Release Program, the Trustee Camp, and updates in the master plans for jail

housing, the Courthouse Complex, and Service Center.

Facilities Management operates two maintenance shifts, seven-days a week, 24-hours a day. The 24-hour phone line was established to handle problems quickly and effectively. The department has two-way radios, beepers, and call rosters for staff in case of emergencies.

Speaking of emergencies, the most recent one occurred a few weeks ago when the Clarkston District Courthouse burned to the ground. They were back in operation in less than a week in temporary facilities. One of the worst crisis for Facilities Management in recent memory happened about five years ago when the underground primary electrical distribution systems started to fail during construction of the new jail. A single loose wire inside an electrical power panel blew all the primary electrical circuits on the service center. But thanks to the expertise of the Facilities Management staff, power was restored in about an hour and a half. It is the only time in the last 30 years or so the county complex has experienced a total power failure.

Dave Ross cannot say enough about the people who work in Facilities Management. He says they are very dedicated

Hollywood Star Visits Children's Village

Danny Glover is probably best known to millions of moviegoers as Mel Gibson's nervous partner in the hilarious Lethal Weapon movie series. But at least for one month each year, Glover puts aside his Hollywood persona to travel the country and speak with youngsters, especially those who have special problems.

One of his recent stops brought him to Oakland County's Children Village, where he was met by County

Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Children's Village manager Michael Worrell and escorted to a waiting audience at the Children's Village School.

After a few well chosen introductory remarks by Mr. Patterson, Glover stepped front and center to address the crowd of anxious youngsters. He told them what a privilege it was for him to be able to speak to them.

"I came here to show that I care about the work the staff here at the Village is doing," said Glover. "I really care, and if you're in trouble, I'm in trouble."

Glover pulled very few punches in telling the audience what his early childhood was like growing up in a tough neighborhood which was plagued by gang violence. He admitted to getting into trouble on more than one occasion, but said he saw the light when he realized his father really cared about him.

"At some point you realize somebody really cares about you and it helps you care more about yourself," said Glover. "That's the beginning of straightening out your life."

During his two hour appearance at Children's Village, Glover also talked about growing up with dyslexia and how he got into the movies. He also took the time to field questions from the audience and shake the hand of everyone who attended the session.



Rubbing elbows with a "star"—pictured left to right are Michael Worrell, manager of Children's Village; Nancy Crow, secretary, Danny Glover and County Executive Brooks Patterson.

Parks and Recreation recycling holiday trees

Christmas trees can be recycled at ten Oakland County parks. Drop-off dates are Dec. 31, Jan. 7 and 8, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Recycling is offered the entire month of January only at Independence Oaks County Park, 8 a.m.-dusk.

County employees are encouraged to deposit trees at Waterford Oaks at 2800 Watkins Lake Road before or after work or during a lunch hour (no drop off at the Waterpark). There is no charge to participate.

Roping and wreaths made of natural materials will also be accepted. Plastic and metal must be removed from all items.

Recyclers who register their trees may enter a drawing to win an Oakland County Parks annual vehicle permit (\$22 value) or a Summer Fun Passbook (\$60). They also receive a coupon good for free entry to the annual Earth Fair at Independence Oaks Nature Center. The fair date is Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free tree seedlings will be distributed to coupon holders on that day only.

Recycling sites include Addison Oaks near Oxford; Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills; Groveland Oaks near Holly; Independence Oaks near Clarkston; Lyon Oaks in Lyon Township; Orion Oaks in Orion Township; Red Oaks Golf Course in Madison Heights; Springfield Oaks Activity Center in Davisburg; Water-

ford Oaks in Waterford; and White Lake Oaks Golf Course near Pontiac.

After March of 1995, landfills will no longer accept yard waste, including Christmas trees.

Chipped trees are used on nature trails at the ten Oakland County Parks and for mulch and compost. The parks system has recycled nearly 15,000 trees since the program began three years ago.

For more information or exact park locations, call (810) 858-0906 or TDD: 858-1684.

TABULATIONS & TOTALS FOR 1994



Casual Day Contributions
\$17,301.33

Employee Suggestion Program
128 Suggestions



Direct Deposit
49%

The holidays have come and gone and it's a brand new year. There's something about this time of year which brings out the best in people. Maybe it's the spirit of the season, a sense that we are all in this thing together and that we are our brother's keeper.

Whatever it is, it feels good. There is a warmth that exists at this time of the year which doesn't seem to be there the rest of the year—or maybe I just don't notice it. The spirit of giving and friendship—one's allegiance to his fellow man—is something that should exist year round. Perhaps we should bottle up all the goodwill that exists around the holidays and portion it out in small doses throughout the year.

The holidays also rekindle in me an appreciation of the many blessings which I possess. I have good health, a wonderful and loving family and a great job, which challenges me every day of my life. Sometimes I forget these things and bemoan my problems, which often seem larger than they are—especially when compared to what some of my closest friends have gone through.

For example, I'm reminded of a man I've known for more than 20 years who is confined to a wheelchair with multiple sclerosis and who, several years ago, underwent surgery for throat cancer. As if this weren't

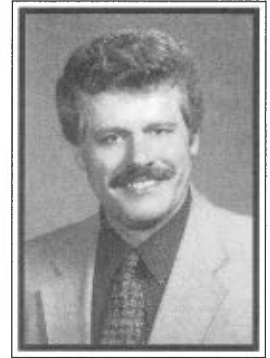
enough, just a few months ago his oldest daughter committed suicide in the family van.

Another close friend of mine nearly died a year ago, after undergoing a kidney transplant. Still another friend is battling cancer, which threatens his life. All of these people have faced their individual crisis with a kind of courage which makes me proud to know them and which makes me a bit ashamed for feeling my problems are in the same league with theirs.

My dad was fond of an old saying which went: "I was sad because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet." Or said another way—there but for the grace of God, go I.

The point is, most of us, no matter how tough we think we have it, really don't have it so bad.

This is a good time of the year to remember that—and be thankful.



Bob Dustman
Media and
Communications
Officer

New technology aids Circuit Court in fight against crime

The Oakland County Circuit Court has been awarded more than \$94,000 in federal grant money from the Office of Drug Control Policy to design and implement a computerized link among all the courts and criminal justice agencies in Oakland County. The "Integrated Justice Data System" will improve timeliness and accuracy for reporting dispositions from the district and probate courts and improve data exchange mechanisms for all of the various courts and other criminal justice agencies throughout the county.

The idea for this project came from **Judith K. Cunningham**, the Circuit Court Administrator. She invited participation from representatives of the Oakland Circuit and Probate Courts, all of Oakland County's District Courts, and two sources for technical assistance in those district courts: the Office of Systems Management and Quad-Tran, Inc. In addition, Cunningham brought the following Oakland

County agencies into the project: the Sheriff's Department, the Oakland County Clerk's Office, the Prosecutor's Office, Pretrial Services, Circuit Court Probation Department, Department of Management and Budget and the Department of Information Technology.

Currently, each court or criminal justice agency operates independently in keeping criminal history records. This grant will unify record keeping, eliminate duplication and set up electronic links among all the courts and criminal justice agencies in Oakland County with the State Criminal History System via the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN). While the Circuit Court already interfaces the LEIN via computer, thanks to a previous grant from the Michigan State Police, the other participants in this project do not.

The Oakland County Department of Information Technology

will provide the technical expertise necessary to implement this project. **Carol Howden** of Information Technology provided the technical assistance and worked closely with the Circuit Court in writing the grant application. Once the system is up and running, Information Technology will be the data repository. All information will be coded to identify where it should be sent with additional coding to identify origin, destination, and return destination, if applicable. Currently, people transmit this information by telephone or on paper sent through the mail. In the future, it will be electronically transmitted to the participants in the Integrated Justice Data System.

The Integrated Justice Data System will be fully operational within the next year. It will place Oakland County at the leading edge of technology in the criminal justice field.



Baby New Year

With a new year upon us, it's time once again to push aside those unwholesome habits and innocent indiscretions to make an honest attempt at perfection—at least for a couple of weeks.

To get the ball rolling, some Oakland County employees did a little soul searching and revealed their 1995 New Year's Resolutions.

"I resolve to engage in a program of self-improvement during 1995. Therefore, in keeping with this resolution I am cancelling my subscription to the Oakland Press and starting a subscription to the National Enquirer."

L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

Jill Batey, Secretary—Cultural Affairs

"To finish all craft projects before I start new ones."

Deborah Lloyd, Accountant Clerk—Children's Village

"Take more time for my family and friends."

Sharon Laajala, Accountant Clerk—Treasurer's Office

"To meet a rich man."

Carl Pardon, Manager—Veteran's Services

"To try to get computer literate and keep up with Paul Funk."

Carole Boyd, Family Counselor—Friend of the Court

"I want to have a court wing named after me."

Rich Strenger, Field Claim Investigator—Risk Management

"I resolve to spend less time in front of the TV, and in return, devote more time to constructive activities."

Martha McDermott, Library Tech—Research Library

"To maintain my sanity while doing government depository documents."

Pete Balzerini, Administrative Intake Treatment Services—Children's Village

"To continue to work very hard in order to provide a quality program for the children and families of Oakland County."

Renae Keeler, Library Tech—Research Library

"I'm going to be more organized and get more sleep."

Ron Foon, Referee Supervisor—Friend of the Court

"To run my next marathon in less than three hours and fifteen minutes and to break a 40-minute 10K. In addition, have Friend of the Court operation relocated from Annex II within the next calendar year for the benefit of the staff and general public."

Jim Cole, Clerk—Mail Room

"Devote more time to religious matters, be more helpful to others and have as much fun as time will allow."

Yvonne Dennis, Administrative Support Coordinator—OLHSA

"To lose weight and get a new house."

Don Bliss, Library Tech—Law Library

"Start walking on my lunch hour for exercise."

"To not make resolutions anymore!"

Betty Ramey, Librarian—Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

Oakland County Employees

Desiree Marcks, Public Communication Officer—Parks & Recreation

“Better money management and be more positive.”

“To get my priorities in order;
life’s too short to put off family,
friends, yourself.”

Joyce Harbison, Clerk—Personnel

Rob Coffey,

Parks Supervisor—Parks & Recreation

“Improve my diet and incorporate more exercise into my lifestyle.”

Col Lee, Deputy Clerk—Register of Deeds Office

“To quit smoking and attain a social balance.”

Kathy Wencel, Typist—Research Library

“Try a new recipe for dinner at least once a month.”

Marilyn Miller, Clerk—Health Division

“To be more proficient in the things I do.”

Pam Keesling, Clerk—Records Retention

“Exercise more.”

Pat Hammer, Librarian—Library for the

Blind & Physically Handicapped

“I resolve to read a book a week.”

Stacy Boucher, Librarian—Library for the

Blind & Physically Handicapped

“To stop spending so much money on clothes and save money to get married.”

Mapping Department

“To generate \$300,000 of revenue for the county and to be the best mapping unit in the region.”

Sandy Gay, Division Manager—Animal Control

“To double the adoption rate at the animal care shelter, and to lead a healthier life.”

Anonymous

“Stop eating food from vending machines!”

Helen McCredie, Public Health Nurse—Services to the Aging Unit

“To increase fun time: more boating, more sunning, more biking, and age slowly!”

Lisa Hobart, Department Manager—Equalization

“To never be late for work.”

Nancy Wilk, Secretary—Equalization

Beg vending machine service to include more twinkies and other Hostess products.”

George Kuhn, Drain Commissioner

“Hit the ground running with the completed merger of the Oakland County Drain Office and the Department of Public Works; and work to have Senate Bill 85 passed through legislation. The bill calls for regionalization of the Detroit Water Sewer Department, which will allow the 120 plus communities affected to have a voice in the operations.”

Gail Naramor, Secretary—Equalization

“To learn to use the voice mail system.”

Sandy Zipser, Typist—Probate Court

“To be more consistent walking during my lunch hour by increasing my time spent walking around the complex.”

Linda Halicek,

Typist—Probate Court

“Lower stress anxiety and enjoy life!”

Anonymous

“To stop using the Oakland Press as a wrapper for fish. From now on I will only use it for the bottom of my bird cage!”

“Get back into a regular fitness routine, and get started on my master’s degree program.”

Todd Birkle

Financial Analyst
Management & Budget

Information Technology employee saves man's life

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

—anonymous

Heroic acts are not planned, they simply happen. Such was the case on the morning of Nov. 23, when **Greg Charland**, customer service technician for Information Technology, set out on what he thought would be a routine assignment.

Charland arrived at the Woodward Corridor Studio in Royal Oak about 8:30 a.m. to install a personal computer that would be used to gather data and other information related to the Development and Planning Division's Woodward Corridor Study project. Since the office wasn't opened yet,

Charland decided to walk back to his car.

"It smelled like my car was burning, which I thought was peculiar," recalled Charland. "Then I noticed steam coming from next to the building, which seemed strange because I didn't think there would be a vent there."

When he walked over to the building, Charland saw a man who was on fire sitting in the bushes. Charland pulled the man out, rolled him around on the ground, finally managing to smother the flames. But the flames were still smoldering, so Charland started ripping the man's clothes off. Another man, who saw what was happening, came out to help and called 9-1-1. The fire department and ambulance came and took the victim away.

"The guy was conscious, but didn't know if he was in shock or under the influence of alcohol," said Charland, who indicated the man appeared to be a "street person." "His eyes were opened, but he couldn't speak. He was really incoherent and very badly burned."

The victim is very lucky Charland came along when he did; otherwise, he might have died. Charland said it looked as though the fire might have been started by a cigarette. When Charland pulled the guy out of the bushes, his jacket ripped open and cigarettes and lighters fell out. Charland wasn't hurt during the ordeal and there was no damage done to the building.

"I'm glad I was able to help him," said Charland, who lives in Berkley with his wife and 19-year-old step son.

PARTY, Cont.

cost of the position, it's estimated that her suggestion will generate at least \$45,000 per year.

The \$500 cash awards went to the following people:

- ★ **Eileen Hemmi**, Animal Control Division, whose suggestion to advertise at local veterinarian offices that dog licenses may be purchased there will increase revenues by \$7,000 annually.
- ★ **Ethyl Sealy**, Clerk III, Personnel Department, whose suggestion to keep employees ID badges for summer students who return to the county year after year will save \$750 in staff time and materials.
- ★ **Patti Reedy**, Personnel Analyst III, Personnel Department, whose suggestion to update the new county telephone directory monthly will save time when looking up phone numbers of people who have moved.
- ★ **Jimmy Bolton**, Auto Mechanic, Central Garage, whose suggestion to flatten used oil filters so that

more will fit into disposal containers will save the county \$900 a year in disposal fees.

- ★ **Deborah Hool**, Junior Accountant, Reimbursement Division, whose suggestion to streamline the check recording process in the Child Support Unit of Reimbursement Division, will save an estimated \$8,523 in staff time.
- ★ **Donna Nabozny**, retired Clerk III, Health Division, whose suggestion to reuse old jail health clinic folders will save around \$500 annually.
- ★ **Mary Ann Altenberg**, Public Health Nurse, Health Division, who suggested that the county provide window identification signs for employee owned cars that are used in the field, so that the public knows they are on official county business.
- ★ **Mary Ann Henderson**, Supervisor-Administrative Services, FM&O (retired), who suggested the county offer valet service at the courthouse.

Total savings, as a result of all the employee suggestions implemented in 1994, amount to \$494,270.

FACILITIES, Cont.

and hard working. "We have as fine a team as anywhere," he said proudly. "Our facility responsibilities are diverse and complex. Our managers, supervisors and staff are all key people who have earned their spurs through the years by their proven ability to lead and perform in an effective manner. They have consistently demonstrated their leadership skills and ability to perform under pressure."

He takes pride in the fact the department has been able to downsize over the past 12 years without laying off a single person. At one time, Facilities Manage-

ment had well over 300 people on the payroll. Today staff has been reduced by over 100 positions even though responsibilities continue to increase. The staff reductions were the result of a team effort and a sincere effort to be more efficient. Ross is also proud of the fact his department has been able to reduce energy costs through conservation efforts by \$1 million to \$1.5 million a year for many years. These and other major achievements earned the department international recognition for outstanding achievement from the prestigious International Facilities Management Association.

In the future, Mr. Ross does not foresee significant downsizing of his department, but he would like to make it more efficient through better scheduling and more proactive management planning. He says simply, "there's always room for improvement."

"Our goal is to provide an efficient work environment for all employees which supports their ability to perform their primary tasks," said Ross. "Departments shouldn't have to worry about their workplace. Our people work very hard at minimizing the problems with the facility side of the equation."

VIV At The Movies

by Mary Viviano

"The River Wild"

starring Meryl Streep

"Quiz Show"

starring Ralph Fiennes

"The Shawshank Redemption"

starring Tim Robbins

For the first month after this movie was released I could not remember if it was called "The River Wild" or "The Wild River". After seeing it, this dilemma proved to be far more exciting than the film.

The story swirls (yes—pun intended) around Tom and Gail who take their son, Roark, white water rafting when they are raft jacked by Wade and his thug buddy. Does it sound boring—well, it is? Does it sound ridiculous—well, it is? Does it sound predictable—well, it is! The only reason I wanted to see this movie was to watch Meryl Streep's performance. She did not have a great opportunity to act in this film, but she did the most she could. In fact, the buzz from the location shoot was that she rained so hard and diligently that she could easily make a living as a river guide. She looked great—almost good enough to kick Linda Hamilton's butt in "Terminator 2".

However, the real star of this film was the River. The cinematography was breathtaking, but unfortunately even the beauty of God's creation was not enough of a distraction to make this movie interesting.

David Strathairn's portrayal of Tom, the misunderstood, dweeby, workaholic husband, is horribly painful and the child who plays Roark is your typical Hollywood brat, whom you hate instantly. Kevin Bacon rounds out the cast as big, bad Wade, the raft jacker. If you can remember my review of "In the Line of Fire", you know how important a "good" bad guy is to any film. Well, Mr. Bacon is a complete breakfast in himself in this movie, because he is as "bad" as milquetoast and as exciting as oatmeal!

There are no twists in this film. There are no psychological battles of wit and intrigue and there are no surprises. There is nothing wild about "The Wild River" or "The River Wild" or whatever! It's really not important that you remember the name of this film, because you should save your cash and rent "Deliverance" to see a good white water thriller!

I was very excited about this film because Ralph Fiennes (pronounced Rafe Fines) has the starring role and frankly, I think he is quite sexy. But I was also attracted to the story.

"Quiz Show" focuses on the nation's loss of innocence in 1957 as a result of the quiz show scandals. The game was "Twenty One" and the fallen hero was Charles Van Doren, wonderfully portrayed by Fiennes. The men who orchestrated the deception were Jack Berry, played by Christopher McDonald and Dan Enright, portrayed to perfection by David Paymer.

The world of television was brand new in the 50s and the networks were scrambling for ratings. The men affiliated with "Twenty One" figured out that the ratings were based on the contestant's likability and charm and not the show itself. So they fed the popular players with all the correct answers. Enter Charles Van Doren, the very handsome and intelligent professor of literature at Columbia University. He was an instant success with viewers and NBC decided to bump the current champ, Herbert Stempel, who was brought to life by the very talented John Turturro. Herbie is not too excited about giving up his crown. He feels betrayed and decides to make NBC pay. The only ear he catches is that of federal investigator, Richard Goodman, played by "Northern Exposure's" Rob Morrow, who exposes the scam and leaves a bewildered nation to recover and mourn their loss of innocence.

This is the primary story line in the movie, but I really enjoyed the secondary plot which was Charlie's relationship with his father, Professor Mark Van Doren, portrayed by the multi-talented Paul Scofield. Charlie was motivated to become the "Twenty One" champ so he could step out of his father's shadow. Director/writer Robert Redford gently and brilliantly presents this subtle father-son relationship, which is the true back bone of the film. Mr. Scofield almost steals the show and would have if Mr. Fiennes wasn't so Fine!

This film is a keeper and will be dripping with gold in March when the Academy Awards are handed out. You should definitely become a part of the studio audience for "Quiz Show".

This film was based on Stephen King's story, "Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption". As soon as I saw that credit flash I knew I was in trouble.

"The Shawshank Redemption" focuses on twenty years in the life of Andy DuFrane, played by Tim Robbins, who is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover. The story primarily takes place in the prison where Andy meets Ellis "Red" Redding, portrayed by Morgan Freeman. Red is the teller of the tale. A good part of the film is narrated by this character and this technique helps the movie flow, but I was disappointed in the message of this movie. The filmmakers started out on the right foot, but ended up on the wrong foot as they tried to convey the message of never giving up hope. Andy's hope was internal for three quarters of the film and it was wonderful and very powerful. However, thanks to Mr. King and America's quintessential lust for the all mighty "happy ending", the message of keeping hope alive in your mind, heart and soul was obliterated. I won't tell you how, but I will tell you it was a huge disappointment for me.

While this could have been an outstanding film, it falls short in a number of areas, although some of the performances were superb. Robbins created a very moving and unique character. The audience is drawn to him immediately and Freeman's work as the "dealing convict" was very powerful. The supporting cast, including Bob Gunton as Warden Samuel Norton and Clancy Brown as Captain Byron Hadley, is also excellent.

The performances are worth the matinee price, but as my mother said: "You know it is a French film when the hero gets the woman. But you know it is an American film when he gets the woman, the money and the "Happy Ending". My mother is a very smart gal because in this case the "happy ending" ruins the movie and Stephen King should be asking for redemption as the "Shawshank Redemption" needs to be delivered from the sin of being an "American film"!

ATTENTION ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES:

The County Galleria invites you and your immediate family to exhibit your artwork, Jan. 9-31. The show is limited to the first 200 entries. Sculptures, paintings, photographs and drawings are eligible.

- ◆ Bring ready-to-hang artwork to the Cultural Affairs office, Jan. 5 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- ◆ Artists must sign a "hold harmless agreement"

For more information, call Cultural Affairs at 80415

A String of Strikes

Gary Janicki, Central Garage, will never forget where he was or what he did on Dec. 18, 1994. It started out pretty much like any other day, but it sure didn't end that way. Before the day was over, Janicki experienced what may be a once in a lifetime thrill. He bowled a perfect 300 game.

The historic event took place at Royal Lanes in Warren. Gary's great performance occurred as part of his 871 score for the series.


"I thought it would be great to let my fellow employees know of this accomplishment, said Janicki. "It shows that nothing is impossible if you keep at it long enough."

Congratulations Gary!!! Be sure to let us know when you bowl the next 300.



YOUTH ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are few things more rewarding than helping a child in need. Be a positive role model for a child with Oakland County Youth Assistance Volunteer Programs

 **858-0041**

Organ Donor Awareness Day

Jan. 31

hosted at Somerset Collection

sponsored by

Oakland County Bar Association

Interested—call 1-800-482-4881

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

NEW EMPLOYEES

Myrleen Conner, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired on 10-03-94 as a General Helper.

Brian Crandall, Drain Commissioner, was hired on 10-10-94 as a Right-of-Way Agent.

Mary Foriest, Sheriff's Inmate Services Unit, was hired on 10-24-94 as a Counselor.

Wendeline McNeary, Information Technology, was hired on 11-21-94 as a Data Processing Equipment Operator Trainee.

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

Amy Nankervis, Information Technology, was hired on 11-02-94 as a Student Engineer.

Russell Palmer, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance Division, was hired on 11-14-94 as a Maintenance Laborer at the Eight Mile Water Plant.

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

Judy Poole, Sheriff's Inmate Services Unit, was hired on 10-25-94 as a Counselor.

Carol Pote, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired on 10-10-94 as a General Helper.

Chad Reed, Drain Commissioner, was hired on 10-17-94 as a Construction Inspector I.

Roberta Rice, Sheriff's Inmate Services Unit, was hired on 09-10-94 as a Counselor.

Charlton Rocheleau, Sheriff's Classification Unit, was hired on 10-24-94 as a Classification Agent.

Edith Smothers, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was hired on 11-14-94 as a General Helper.

Aaron Sutherland, Drain Commissioner, was hired on 10-17-94 as Engineering Aide I.

Sophia Triplett, Sheriff's Central Intake & Assessment Unit, was hired on 10-24-94 as a Counselor.

Chih-Fang Tsai, Information Technology, was hired on 11-14-94 as a Application Analyst Programmer II.

Thomas Wardell, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance (Sewer Maintenance Unit), was hired on 09-28-94 as a Maintenance Laborer.

FOND FAREWELLS

Pam Armstrong, Information Technology, bid a fond farewell on 10-29-94.

Jeanette Coad, Executive Office Student, will begin attending Michigan State University in January.

Phil Gové, Media & Communications Intern, is graduating from Oakland University. Congratulations!

Leroy Lewis, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance—Eight Mile Water Unit, bid a fond farewell on 10-01-94 for a new job, Con-Way Central Express in Warren.

Grover Watkins, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, resigned on 10-28-94 after 23 years of service.

CHANGING PLACES/CHANGING FACES

PROMOTIONS

Andrew Case, Drain Commissioner, was promoted to Construction Inspector II on 11-12-94.

Jack Cooksey, Drain Commissioner Pump Maintenance Unit, was promoted to Pump Maintenance Supervisor II on 03-01-94.

Loretta Hall, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, was promoted to Custodial Worker III on 11-12-94.

Kathleen Hawks, Facilities Engineering Administration, was promoted to Secretary II on 10-01-94.

Mike Krecek, Health Division, was promoted to Supervisor of the Health Division's Planning & Evaluation Unit.

Lloyd Lewis, Drain Commissioner Pump Maintenance Unit, was promoted to Pump Maintenance Supervisor I on 03-01-94.

Nicole Perris, Drain Commissioner Pump Maintenance Unit, was promoted to General Clerical (Typist II) on 11-07-94. She also transferred from a student position.

John Pino, Sheriff's Central Intake & Assessment Unit, was promoted to Counselor.

Edward Thick, Drain Commissioner, was promoted to Construction Inspector III on 11-12-94.

Bette Twyman, Drain Commissioner, was promoted to Secretary I. She also transferred from the Sheriff's Department on 11-14-94.

Diana VanDoran, Sheriff's Central Intake & Assessment Unit, was promoted to Substance Abuse Technician.

TRANSFERS

Jodi Barrigar, Sheriff's Inmate Services Unit, transferred from Community Mental Health as a Counselor.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHS

Tom Garvey, Parks & Rec., and his wife, June, welcomed their second child, a daughter, Tiffany Marie, born on 10-17-94, weighing 7 lbs., 3 ozs.

Bruce Karmann, Auditing Division, and his wife, Margo, have a new daughter, Tess Elizabeth, born 06-12-94, weighing 8 lbs., 5 ozs., 20 1/2" long.

Edmond McConney, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance (Sewer Maintenance Unit), and his wife had a daughter, Elandra Renee, born on 10-18-94.

Edward Thick, Drain Commissioner, and his wife had a son, Joseph Patrick, born on 10-14-94.

Mike Winterbottom, Central Services-Mailing, and wife, Cherrie, are the proud parents of Emily Marie, 8lb 12 oz., brown hair, blue eyes, born on 11-22-94.

MARRIAGES

Rick Navarre, Facilities Maintenance & Operations, married Megan Bishop on 11-05-94.

Donna Putman, Information Technology, married Jerry Menyhar on 10-29-94.

MEMORIAL

Robert A. Forrest, Graphic artist, Cultural Affairs, died Dec. 21 at the age of 54. He worked at Oakland County for nearly 30 years. We will miss him dearly.

KUDOS

- ★ Congratulations to **Commissioner Jeff Kingzett** who has received his master's of public administration degree from Oakland University.
- ★ **Honorable Gerald E. McNally**, District Judge of the 52-2 District Court, has received a Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Alcohol and Addiction Association for, "his continuing record of high achievement in the field of substance abuse prevention and treatment."
- ★ **Groveland Oak's staff** captured first place in this year's lifeguard training competition at the Oakland County Parks. Groveland's 1994 lifeguards were; **Noel Jonesque, Alisha Bentley, Joe Bentley, Tonya Strong, Brian Perkins, Allison Vallad & Mike Candy.**
- ★ Veterans' Services Royal Oak Supervisor, **Jack Becher**, is now a lifetime member of the Warren Lions Club.

THE SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Pfaltzcraft Heritage (white) 4 piece canister set \$40; 12 5-piece place settings \$10 ea.; 12 mugs \$5 ea. Call 360-9821 after 6 p.m.

COUNTY 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

The Medical Examiner's Office has selected **Tom Hoyes**, autopsy attendant, as their Employee of the Month. Tom has been with Oakland County for 21 years.

Tom is responsible for assisting the medical doctors during autopsies, as they try to determine the cause of a person's death.

Tom says he enjoys the challenge involved in helping in this discovery process. "It's very fulfilling when you help to find out something inside a body that wasn't known," he said. "The more you know about how people die, the more it helps you to stay alive."

Bill McDonald, administrator of the Medical Examiner's Office, gives Tom and his work ethic high praise. "Tom's a very dedicated, efficient employee you can always count on," said McDonald.

Away from work, Tom has an extensive background in public access TV production. He currently produces comedy and entertainment on his own show, called "Something Video", that cablecasts in Independence Township and parts of Lake Orion.

When asked how people react toward his occupation, Tom gave us a sample of his witty sense of humor. "I just ask them if they know what the medical examiner's office is and they say 'oh yeah,' and that's all. What they say after I leave, I don't know," he said.



Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations recently nominated **Gina Bohn**, office supervisor, as their Employee of the Month. Gina has been with Oakland County for 15 years.

Gina supervises the unit responsible for providing the overall clerical support for both FM&O and Facilities Engineering. In this role, Gina oversees the purchasing of all supplies for seven separate units within the two divisions, monitors all of their personnel functions, and somehow finds time to prepare the biannual budget for FM&O.

Dick Johnston, Manager of FM&O, cited Gina's willingness to step in in the absence of others as a key component of her being nominated. "Gina's come in at three in the morning to fill in as a dispatcher when another employee was sick," said Johnston. "She can use a computer one day and a front-end loader the next."

Gina's spouse, John Bohn, is a maintenance supervisor for FM&O, and Gina says she has greatly benefited from the close work-related camaraderie they have developed. "It's great to come home and have someone to talk to who can relate exactly to your circumstances," she said. "John's really helped me mature into the position I'm in now."

In her spare time, Gina enjoys sharing in the outdoor activities of her two daughters, Brandi, 5, and Shannon, 11. Most recently, she has volunteered as a Girl Scout troop leader and assisted in coaching a cheerleading squad.



Roy Lake, supervisor of governmental accounting for the Accounting Division, was nominated Employee of the Month for August. He has worked for Oakland County for over 28 years.

Roy is responsible for coordinating the various accounting elements of Oakland County's \$200 million General Fund. Lately, he's been deeply involved in a department-wide effort to compile and publish this year's Combined Annual Financial Report.

According to Fred Poinsett, manager of the Accounting Division, the decision to nominate Roy focuses on his commitment to the people around him. "Roy's greatest contribution is to fellow employees in his care and concern regarding their personal and professional well being and, in that, he becomes a true role model and support individual to all who have the fortune to be associated with him," said Poinsett.

Apparently, winning the Employee of the Month Award runs in the Lake family. Roy's spouse, Debbie, secretary for the Employment and Training Division, was selected for the award this past June.

Roy attended Oxford High School and later graduated from Pontiac Business Institute. Some of Roy's hobbies include bowling and playing in the Oakland County Golf League.



One of our Employees of the Month for November is **Margaret Schooley**, nursing supervisor for the Health Division's jail clinic. She has worked for Oakland County since 1981.

Health care operations at the jail clinic go on 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week. Margaret helps to supervise the complete health care function of the clinic, which serves over 1,500 inmates at the jail. She also orchestrates work schedules for the 13 staff nurses who administer health care under her supervision.

Denise Madigan, jail health coordinator, explains why the decision to nominate Margaret for the award comes with her blessing. "The jail clinic has been through many changes and Margaret has been a stabilizing force here throughout," she said. "She's worked whenever and wherever to make sure the patients didn't suffer because the clinic was shorthanded."

Some of Margaret's favorite hobbies include bowling, camping, crocheting, and reading. She also enjoys spending time with her three-year-old grandson, Josef.

Margaret graduated from the Providence School of Nursing in 1968.

