

"One-Stop-Shop" opens for business

A new era in high-tech assistance for Oakland County businesses was ushered in on Wednesday, August 30 with the Grand Opening of Development & Planning's new "One-Stop-Shop". More than 200 people turned out for the celebration which included a tour of this first-of-its-kind full-service center.

"This 'One-Stop-Shop' is staffed by highly trained, experienced and friendly personnel from our Development & Planning Division," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, in his opening remarks prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new service center. "They're here to serve you, whether you are looking to expand an existing business, exploring the possibility of Oakland County as a location for a new business, or you just would like to purchase one of the many different kinds of maps we offer."



Pictured left to right, Timothy Morris, chairman of the Business Roundtable Economic subcommittee, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Larry Crake signal the opening of the "One-Stop-Shop" with a cut of the ribbon.

Following Mr. Patterson's brief remarks and the presentation of a video on the services offered by the "One-Stop-Shop", Larry Crake, chairperson of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and Timothy Morris, chair of the Business Roundtable's Economic Development Subcommittee, joined the County Executive in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

During the three-hour Open House, the invited guests were taken on a ten station tour of the "One-Stop-Shop". One of the most popular stops along the way was station number one, the Information Kiosk. Interested onlookers were shown that with just the touch of a finger on the computer screen, a wealth of information could be accessed, everything from median household income in a particular geographic region, to where toxic waste dump sites are located.

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County departmental programs win national honors

Six programs administered by departments under the jurisdiction of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson have been singled out by the National Association of Counties (NACo) to receive 1995 Achievement Awards.

The six winning programs are: Starting A Business Book (**Community & Economic Development**); Pacific Rim Senior Program (**Community & Minority Affairs**); Office Automation Program (**Information Technology**); Advance County of Oakland Regional Network (**Information Technology**); Respon-

sible Pet Ownership (**Animal Control**) and Consolidated Plan 1995-2000 (**Community Development**).

The **Office Automation Program** was initiated in January 1993, as a way to empower Oakland County employees with the tools to perform their jobs in a more productive and efficient manner. That meant switching the emphasis from mainframe computing resources to personal computers. As a result of putting computers in the hands of employees, Oakland County government has realized a 22.4 percent improvement in operations, a 25.4 percent im-

provement in productivity and a 13.4 percent reduction in the budget.

The **Advanced County of Oakland Regional Network (ACORN)** provides an excellent model for counties wishing to migrate from a "mainframe dominant world" to a distributed computing environment. Project ACORN was organized into three distinct phases. The first phase was to establish an integrated high-speed computing network on campus. The second phase involved providing a regional network with the capacity to connect to remote county

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PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

Well, it almost passed unnoticed, Oakland County's 175th Anniversary. That's right it's this year and to commemorate this historic milestone we are planning a big celebration and we would like your suggestions on what should be included. If you have any ideas, just send them over to my office or call my secretary, Delores at 858-0484.

Oakland County has enjoyed a long and rich history. Pontiac was selected as the County Seat in 1820, three years after the first pioneer settlers began putting up log huts on the shores of Paint Creek in what would later be called Rochester. Initially, all of Oakland County was covered by sea water, but gradually the oceans receded and swamps appeared, followed by trees and other forms of plants and new animal life.

Early settlements also sprang up in Pontiac, Birmingham, Waterford and Troy. Many of Oakland's first residents traveled on steamships from New York by way of Lake Erie.

Iron rails began linking parts of the county between Pontiac and Sylvan

Lake, Detroit and Pontiac and various points north and west, including Flint, Orion and Milford.

Disaster struck Pontiac in 1840 when most of the downtown area was gutted by fire. Twenty-five buildings went up in smoke, with damage placed at \$25,000.

In 1861, Oakland, like other parts of the country, was touched by the Civil War. More than 3700 of Oakland's "sons" served in the war, with some 400 paying the ultimate price.

By 1900, carriage making dominated the local economy, employing more than 1000 men in the area, or 75 percent of the city's male work force. Even though the industry died ten years later, replaced by auto production, Pontiac had established itself as the vehicle center of Michigan.

Through the years, Oakland County prospered and grew to a point where today it is recognized nationally and internationally as the high-tech workplace of tomorrow.

I think it is only proper that we salute Oakland County's 175 years of



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

progress with a celebration. No date has been set and I have asked for suggestions on how we should commemorate this great event. Give us your thoughts, either by writing them down and sending them to my office. Or if you prefer, give my secretary Dee Conaway a call at 858-0484.

I've just been in an automobile accident — what do I do?

by **Tomi Hunt**, Risk Management & Safety

The question in this headline is posed by Oakland County employees to Risk Management and Safety several times each week. It may be that the employee was involved in an automobile accident/incident on the way to work, during work hours, during lunch hour, or on the way home from work. Regardless, the concern is the same. What procedure does an employee follow?

If the employee was driving a county-owned vehicle, they should drive the vehicle to Central Garage **immediately** for an inspection. Damage can and does occur to the internal areas of the vehicle which may not be readily apparent. Central Garage is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to inspect your vehicle for damage.

An automobile accident form, avail-

able at Central Garage, must be completed within 24 hours following any and all accidents/incidents involving a county car (whether damage is evident or not). This assists the county in any litigation which may be forthcoming. In addition, the insurance company has the potential to disclaim insurance protection when occurrences are not reported promptly. This makes the county potentially liable for monetary costs and damages. The automobile accident report form can be picked up while the vehicle is being inspected and must be completed, signed by the employee's supervisor, and returned to Central Garage within 24 hours of an accident/incident involving a county car.

What happens if I am operating a non-county owned vehicle on county business. Reporting of accidents/incidents

involving non-county owned vehicles used on county business must follow the same rules as county owned vehicles. While the county does not repair non-county vehicles, the county can be held liable for the actions of county employees who operate vehicles on county business. An accident report form must be obtained from Central Garage, completed and signed by the employee and the supervisor, and returned to Central Garage within 24 hours. In addition, you should report the accident/incident to your insurance company as soon as possible in order for your insurance company to protect your interests.

If you have any further questions or comments in regard to this procedure, please call Risk Management and Safety at 858-5138. We will be happy to help you.

Seven employees share in ESP bounty

Seven Oakland County employees each recently received an interim award of \$50 and a certificate of recognition for their entries in the Employee Suggestion Program. The winners are:

- **Lorraine Shaver**, case assistant, Friend of the Court, who suggested installing voice response systems that are accessible with rotary phones. Her suggestion would improve access and service to an estimated 20 percent of the citizens who don't have touch-tone phones.
- **Patricia Carey**, clerk III, Clerk/Register of Deeds, whose winning idea to discontinue having the County Clerk directory typeset, instead have it produced with available computer software, will save \$10,000 annually.
- **Christine Harrison**, auxiliary health worker, Health Division, who suggested using a computer program to calculate and double check reimbursement claims.
- **Leslie Strang-Martins**, child welfare worker II, Children's Village, whose

suggestion to collect the used jury books daily from people on jury duty at the Circuit Court would save an estimated \$2,000 annually in printing costs.

- **Carol Ewers**, account clerk I, Animal Control, whose idea to send out sterilization reminder postcards rather than letters could save about \$200 per year in postage and supplies.
- **Kim Middleton**, financial analyst, Budget Division, has suggested establishing a voice response employment hotline in the Personnel Department.
- **Candace Frederick**, accountant III, Accounting Division, whose suggestion to increase the petty cash limit in the County Jail will save an estimated \$6,000 annually in check processing costs.

All of the interim ESP winners will be in the running for one of the grand prizes to be awarded at the County Executive's Annual Christmas Party in December, if their suggestions are implemented by the Oct. 31 deadline.

The TELEGRAPH

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Did you know?

Duplications of employee suggestions already submitted are not eligible for awards. A few of the common duplicated topics are:

- ◆ Casual Day every Friday
- ◆ Using fax Post-it™ notes or rubber stamps instead of cover sheets
- ◆ Computerization of county phone directory and conference rooms
- ◆ Improvements to county entrance roads and lights
- ◆ Installing voice response phone systems
- ◆ Recycling corrugated boxes

So far, there are only nine implemented suggestions in the running for thirteen prizes given out at the end of the year, so turn in your idea today! Suggestion forms are available by calling 858-1847.

DOT issues alcohol & controlled substance testing for CDL drivers

The Federal Department of Transportation recently issued a Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing rule for employees who retain a Commercial Driver License (CDL) as part of a requirement for their job. Oakland County government employs close to 150 people who will be affected by this federally mandated program. The regulations require drivers to be tested for controlled substances and alcohol under the following circumstances:

- **Upon employment** (tested for controlled substances only).
- **Random Selection** — 25 percent of all drivers will be tested annually for alcohol and 50 percent of all drivers will be tested annually for controlled substances.
- **Post Accident** — When a ticket is issued to the driver and/or a death has occurred as a result of the accident.

- **Reasonable suspicion** — When a supervisor observes actions of an employee that causes him to believe the employee may be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
- **Return-to-duty** — An employee will be required to take follow-up tests if they return to duty after testing positive at an earlier date.

It is the responsibility of the Risk Management & Safety Department to ensure that Oakland County complies with these regulations. We anticipate that this program will be no more than a minor inconvenience to Oakland County's CDL drivers. Our drivers have a great safety record and we are confident that very few, if any, have problems with alcohol or controlled substances.

This is a brief overview of the regulations. If you want more information, please call the Risk Management and Safety Department at 858-0483.

Prominent businessmen team with Children's Village staff and residents to save lives

Recently, local businessmen teamed up with the staff and youngsters from Residential Treatment Services Cottages B and G to raise funds at a Celebrity Celebration for Heart Dinner, which benefited the American Heart Association.

Russ Schulte of Metro Aircraft Instruments; Paul Felice of Felice Family Food Center; Rudy Lozano of Morgan, Moreno and Milzow Real Estate; and Luke Clyburn of Clyburn Appraisal Services, sponsored guest tables by pre-selling tickets, and providing some auction items for the evening. These north Oakland County businessmen then recruited the staff and youngsters of Children's Village to help the American Heart Association achieve its mission, which is to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Russ Schulte is the president of the American Heart Association, Central Oakland Division; and is vice-president of the Children's Village Foundation.

Prior to the Heart Association benefit, **Melissa Hardenburgh**, Children's Village specialist II, and **Dora Zab**, Children's foster grandmother for B Cottage, helped the youths in making crafts. **Patricia Lahar**, administrator, Children's Residential Treatment

Services, solicited further handmade crafts and original art works for the evening's auction.

On the evening of the actual Heart Association Benefit Dinner, Children's Vil-

lages provided a "Celebrity Waiter" team to raise cash tips from the guests and to encourage bidding on the auction items. This "Celebrity Waiter" Children's Village team was made up of: **Steven Percival**, Children's Village youth specialist supervisor; **Patricia Lahar**, administrator, Children's Village Residential Treatment Services; **Nancy Crow**, Children's Village secretary II; and **Dean Schultz**, public health sanitarian, Oakland County Health Division. The Celebrity Waiters arrived in costume, and energetically "hammed it up" to raise money for the American Heart Association. Percival raised the most cash tips with his very talented singing and impressions. Several of his impressions made guests believe that, indeed, Elvis still lives.

By the close of the American Heart Association Benefit Dinner, the Children's Village Team of Celebrity Waiters had raised \$1,623 to benefit our local American Heart Association. Congratulations kids and staff, you truly made a difference in your community. The Children's Village team received a Certificate of Appreciation "in recognition of an outstanding effort to raise funds for the American Heart Association and stimulate

public support in the fight against heart disease." This certificate now hangs on the wall of G Cottage, where the youngsters worked hard to provide crafts for the event.



Members of the Children's Village "Celebrity Waiter" team for the Heart Association Dinner pictured left to right are Luke Clyburn, Dean Schultz and Pat Lahar (both seated), Nancy Crow and Rudy Lozano. Pictured in the back row, left to right are Russ Schulte and Steve Percival.

Retirees to host finance and travel workshop

The Oakland County Retirees Association will sponsor a workshop for all retirees of Oakland County on Oct. 11. Spouses and friends are also welcome.

The subjects which will be covered are ones that have been requested by members — finance and travel.

The workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Waterford Oaks Activities Center on Watkins Lake Road.

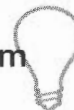
Come and join us for an informative time. The workshop is free and refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please call the OCRA office at (810) 355-8540.

Tabulations & Totals for 1995



Casual Day Contributions
\$13,700

Employee Suggestion Program
106 Suggestions



Direct Deposit
50%

The Brown Bag Lecture Series presents:

October

19 "Dance With Laughing Bear"

Jerry "Laughing Bear" Kuykendall, a member of the Cherokee Nation, joins us again for his enlightening discussion of Native American history and philosophy with examples of artifacts, crafts customs and stories.

November

16 "Is There Gold in Your Attic?"

Robert Gaylor, the Curator of Rare Books at Oakland University, discusses the history of book making from the earliest hand-scribed works. If you have a book that you think may be rare or valuable, bring it along for his assessment.

Lectures are presented in the Information Technology Auditorium from noon to 1 p.m. every third Thursday of the month.

The Brown Bag Lecture series is a partnership project of the Oakland County Cultural Council and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Steve Weikal, Director of Oakland County Cultural Affairs.

The View from Here

Heroes — they are our shining knights on white horses, the men and women whom we seek to emulate and pattern our lives after. They motivate us to be better than we are. We view them as perfect and incapable of doing anything wrong. We think they will live forever, but alas we find they are mortal, just like us.

Recently, two of my heroes passed away. Mickey Mantle and J.P. McCarthy impacted my life in different, but significant ways.

As a young boy growing up in rural Illinois in the 1950s, baseball was a staple of life during the summer months. My friends and I would gather early in the morning at the local ball diamond and choose up sides. Each of us pretended to be our favorite players. Someone was Duke Snider, another Sandy Koufax, and then there was the inevitable battle over who would be Mickey Mantle.

For me, Mantle, wearing number 7 on the back of his pin-striped Yankee's uniform, was the prototypical sport's hero. He had the boyish grin, that all-American look, and the precision like swing which enabled him to hit more than 500 home runs during his illustrious career. It wasn't until later that we found out about Mick's battle with alcohol. Even heroes have feet of clay, but it really doesn't matter because once there was a time long ago and far away when a hot summer afternoon was filled with a boy's dream of being just like Mickey Mantle.

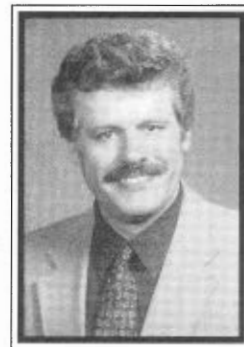
During my college years, when I was still deciding what to do with my life, another hero emerged. He was a voice on the radio. He was J.P. McCarthy.

When I enrolled at Central Michigan University in the fall of 1964, my intention was to study journalism and eventually write for a prestigious newspaper, like the Washington Post, or the New York Times.

But my career course shifted during my sophomore year, when I started awakening every morning in my dorm room to J.P. on JR. He was magnificent! His style was easy, as if he was discussing the day's events over coffee with a friend. J.P.'s expertise covered a wide-range of topics — politics, sports, current events, etc. His show attracted presidents, governors, celebrities, sports heroes and people from all walks of life.

It was J.P.'s impact that led me to the campus radio station and where I uttered my first words over the airwaves, even if the coverage area was somewhat limited. WJR's 50,000 watts covers 20 states, but WCMU's 10 watts didn't even cover 20 blocks. But it was a good start and I enjoyed 25 years as a radio and TV broadcaster.

Thanks J.P. for helping me find my way in this world. Thank you Mickey for leaving me with some wonderful memories of those warm summer baseball filled days when I was young and life was a whole lot simpler. Both of you made a difference in my life. I just thought you should know that.



Bob Dustman
Media and
Communications
Officer

Research Library opens on Saturdays

The Oakland County Research Library is now open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in addition to their regular Monday through Friday hours of operation from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Law Library is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to

8:30 p.m.; Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

County Executive's Golf Outing an overwhelming success

The 1995 Oakland County Executive Golf Outing, held at Indianwood Golf and Country Club in Lake Orion on July 5, was a "slam dunk", or to use a more appropriate metaphor, a "hole-in-one" in terms of being a successful event. The outing was a complete sellout with 288 avid golfers jamming both the "old" 18-hole golf course and the tougher "new" 18-hole course at Indianwood.

This year's outing raised a total of \$35,000, a whopping 40 percent increase over 1994. About \$12,000 will go to fund Brooks' highly successful Employee Suggestion Program (ESP) through 1996, with the remainder being used to kickoff his re-election campaign next year.

A foursome which included Bob Vlastic of Vlastic Pickles shot the low score for the day, an extraordinary 13 under par 59 on the "new" 18 hole course.

During the banquet, which was attended by some 325 people, a 50/50 raffle was held with two \$400 cash prizes being awarded. A trip to the Garland Golf Resort in Lewiston was the highlight of the live auction. The two nights and three days, including golf and lodging, went for \$2,000.

An impressive array of sports

memorabilia was also auctioned off, including an Olympic basketball signed by Larry Bird and Magic Johnson; a Stan "The Man" Musial autographed baseball bat; a Chi Chi Rodriguez golf bag; a football signed by Gayle Sayers and Ray Nitchke; a Tom Selleck autographed baseball; a Grant Hill NBA jersey and a Chris Spielman autographed football jersey.

Each golfer who participated in the outing received a cooler, three golf balls, a golf towel and a framed desk-size picture of his or her foursome, as well as their own individual photo.

"Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many people, this year's golf outing was a huge success," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "I want to personally extend my sincere appreciation to all those who helped organize this tremendous event, as well as those who donated their time and money. The dollars raised will ensure continuation of ESP through 1996, which since its inception has saved the taxpayers of Oakland County more than \$1.5 million. It will also help fund my re-election effort in 1996 so that I may continue the job I was elected to do more than two and a half years ago."



Mr. Patterson presiding over the auction following the ESP Golf Outing at the Indianwood Golf and Country Club. Event Chairman J. David VanderVeen is pictured at the podium.

Photo by Jean Chamberlain

Don't let good health go up in smoke

In honor of the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout, the Oakland County Health Division's Health Education Unit will conduct a five-session smoking cessation class.

Classes will be held at the Health Division's Southfield Office on **Wednesdays, from noon to 1 p.m.**, beginning **Nov. 15**, and ending **Dec. 13**. The program is free and is open to any Oakland County resident, but space is limited.

For more information on smoking cessation or to sign up for a class, call (810) 858-1394.



Deciding when to dump your mutual funds

by Doug Williams, Deputy County Executive

Ever notice that no one talks about when to sell a Mutual Fund or trade the shares in your 401(a) or your 457 account. There's plenty of information out there about buying. But, when it comes to dumping your shares, the silence is deafening. The conventional wisdom is that Mutual Fund investors are in the game for the long haul; that individual positions make up a crucial part of a balanced portfolio; that patience is a virtue.

There are flaws in these arguments. For example, at some point, long term goals become short term goals (you've been saving for retirement and now you're a couple years away from it). Furthermore, no one is comfortable loosing money for very long. When should you cut your losses? Or should you for that matter? At what point does holding on become an excuse for inaction?

Holding can be very costly. A study by the investment newsletter "Mutual Fund Forecaster" found that over the last 15 years diversified funds that under-perform the averages over a full year also under-perform in the following year. The five percent of funds that recorded the worst returns in a given year perform little better than half as well as the average fund in the next year.

There's no magic formula that will tell you when to sell. But, you can establish standards that will help you evaluate your funds and make rational, unemotional sell decisions.

Reasons for selling or "dumping" your funds

1. The fund manager changes. Because you are buying a manager's expertise when you purchase a mutual fund, management changes should be monitored closely. A study conducted by CDA/Wiesenberger of Rockville, Maryland found that management changes spur changes in a funds performance. Poor performing funds improved after a change, while good performing funds usually fell off after a switch at the top. In other words, a new manager is usually a bad sign for a good

fund and a good sign for a bad fund. There are exceptions to be sure. Witness: Fidelity to Magellan which within the past five years has gone from Peter Lynch, to Morris Smith, to Jeffery Vinik, almost without missing a beat. But this is the exception, not the rule.

2. The fund consistently under-performs its peers. Carefully identify your funds peers so you are comparing apples to apples. For example, measure your small cap growth fund against other small cap funds, or mutual fund index of small caps. Your fund should consistently be in the top one-third of its peer group. How long should you hang onto a fund that is under-performing? Opinions range from six months to five years. Many experts give a mutual fund about a year of under-performance before selling, other pros say three is more reasonable.

3. The fund changes its strategy or doesn't stick to its stated mission. If an investment strategy changes radically, the fund has invalidated its prior record. This means you must check the annual or semiannual reports (which present the stock portfolio of the fund) to see that the fund is doing what it says it's doing. Funds call themselves growth mid cap value or what have you, but when you look behind the scenes, the characteristics don't always follow what they say they are doing. If it's a growth fund, determine whether it's holding stocks with high growth. If the stocks have high dividends then it's inappropriate to its investment strategy. Of course, strategic shifts can be beneficial. If a fund has been domestic and it adds global and you are adverse to global investing, it might be a reasonable signal to get out.

4. Your reason for buying the fund no longer exists. Did you buy a fund because it was a long-term superior performer only to have it lag the averages for a year or so? Did you buy it because it was subsidizing expenses and providing net yields and now the subsidy has ended? There are many reasons for buying a fund. A good piece of advice is to write them down at the time of purchase, then every time you

review the fund compare it against your buying check list. If it fails to meet your original criteria there must be persuasive additional reasons for continuing to hold or it is time to consider a sale.

5. Your goals have changed. Long-term goals become short-term goals at some point. For example, you are nearing retirement. It's time to think about moving some money to a conservative fund. Don't wait to sell at the last minute. You could get caught selling in a sudden market down draft.

6. The grass is greener. Bear in mind that your fund can never be the number one fund all the time, given the cyclical nature of the market. However, you should constantly evaluate alternatives. There are many reasons why one fund might be superior to the one you now own. Better relative performance is an obvious one. In addition, new funds are added at various times, many with attractive portfolio strategies and accomplished managers.

Bad reasons to sell funds

1. The worst reason to sell a fund is that it is doing poorly short-term. Why? The market has a large random component. Sector funds are hot, then cold. The market as a whole goes hot and cold too. Individual funds sometimes out perform and sometimes under perform based on how their portfolio selections are doing. If you sell simply because a fund has under-performed for a short period you might miss the ensuing rebound.

2. You're chasing a higher return. A fatal mistake is trying to be in the number one fund all the time. It's an impossibility. Last period's top fund is rarely the next period's biggest winner. Although there is some evidence that a top diversified performer in one year will more often than not at least be above average the next.

3. Your fund has gone up (or down) by some percentage. The fact is, the market doesn't care about your round numbers. Use percentage gains or losses as a benchmark to reevaluate your fund, but not as a reason of itself to sell.

sites and the private sector. The last phase was to install integrated state-of-the-art network services which would provide for substantial increases in end-user computing and productivity.

"This national recognition is confirmation of the professionalism and dedication of county employees," said **Paul Funk**, director of Information Technology.

Responsible Pet Ownership is a program designed to educate Oakland County residents regarding the legal and moral obligations involved in caring for their pets. Animal Control instituted an education/public relations program which included newspaper articles, local TV adoption programs, posters placed in populated areas, radio broadcasts, presentations at local schools, clubs and organizations and tours of the Animal Shelter.

"We were excited to learn our entry had been selected for a 1995 NACO Award," said **Sandy Gay**, Animal Control Division manager. "We knew it was a great program for us and hoped they would feel the same."

The **Pacific Rim Senior Program** was designed to reflect the fact that Asian-Americans are the fastest growing, most diverse and most affluent minority group in the United States today. The 1990 Census indicates that Asian/Pacific seniors comprise 17 percent of Oakland County's minority population. The Pacific Rim Senior Center provides services to Asian-Americans living in Farmington Hills, Novi, Rochester and Waterford.

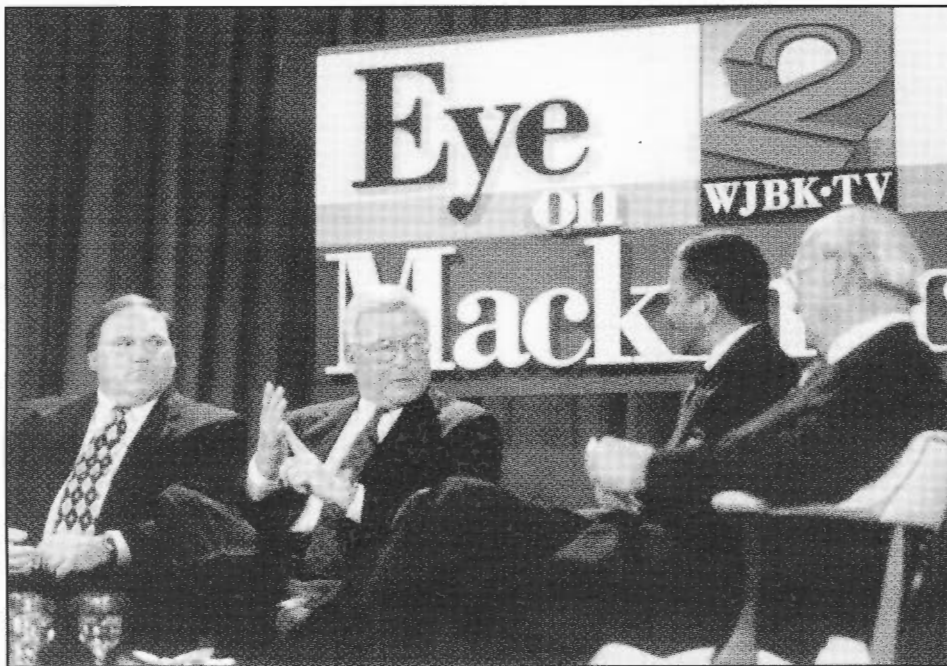
"Starting A Business" is a 65-page book which walks the reader through all of the steps involved in starting a business. The book contains copies of frequently used forms and an extensive list of resources. Multiple copies of the book have been provided to the reference departments of 37 libraries in Oakland County. To date, more than 4,000 copies of the book have been distributed. Chapter titles include the following: Entrepreneur Evaluation, Business Plan, Product Development, Market Research, Site Location, Financial Plans, Making it Legal, Funding, Marketing, Record Keeping, Personnel and Home Based Businesses.

The **"Consolidated Plan"** is a 265-page first ever booklet that describes housing and community development commitments to Oakland County's 5 participating cities, villages and townships.

"Drafting and implementing the Consolidated Plan 1995-2000 is truly a cooperative venture involving the County Executive, the Board of Commissioners, a Citizens Advisory Council, Community Development staff and the Department of Housing and Urban Development," said **Richard Southern**, manager of Community Development.

"I am extremely proud of all those who were involved in putting together and implementing these outstanding award winning programs, said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "This is county government at its very best and the taxpayers are the beneficiaries."

Oakland County government received its awards at NACO's 60th Annual Conference, July 21 through 25, in Fulton County, Ga.



Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson makes a point during WJBK-TV's taping of the Big Four Conference on Mackinac Island. Participants discussed issues concerning the Metro Detroit area. It was later aired on Channel 2. Pictured also are, left to right, Mark Steenburgh, chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, Channel 2 News Anchorman Huel Perkins and Channel 2 Editorial Director Anthony Franco.

Photo by Robert T. Cisko

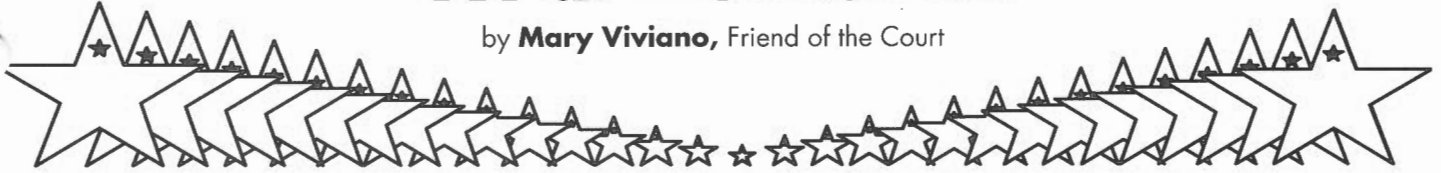
Guests were also treated to a look into the future with a visual demonstration of the Geographic Information System (GIS). Still in its infancy, GIS, when fully operational, will be able to convert 4600 property description maps into an electronic base map on which desired information can be overlaid. When complete, the system will allow 187 layers of information to be overlaid on the map. Future uses for GIS might also enable the Health Division to track the outbreak of flu or measles cases, or the Sheriff's Department to identify high crime areas.

In addition to the Information Kiosk, the "One-Stop-Shop" offers a variety of other services, including capital asset financing, tax and cost comparisons, permit and regulatory assistance, loan application review, expansion incentive assistance, export development help, and employee recruitment, training and retraining, to name just a few.

The "One-Stop-Shop", which is located on the first floor of the Executive Office Building, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Viv at the Movies

by **Mary Viviano**, Friend of the Court



“Nine Months”

For the life of me, I cannot understand why anyone would go to a movie to see Hugh Grant, thinking that they would discover more secrets about the “Divine Brown Incident.” The movie has been in the can for a year! The publicity that the “DBI” has created for this film is incredible and it is unfortunate because “Nine Months” does not deserve the attention.

The principal cast includes the infamous Hugh Grant as Dr. Samuel

Faulkner, his lady love, Rebecca Taylor, portrayed by Julianne Moore and Tom Arnold and Joan Cuzack as Marty and Gail Dwyer. All the performances range from bad, to boring, to silly. Even Robin Williams was a disappointment as “Doctor K”.

It is not entirely the fault of the cast however, since the plot is weaker than a 98-pound weakling! Samuel and Rebecca are a yuppie couple living together in sunny California and they have a wonderful, perfect, sunny life until she tells him she is pregnant. After that announcement, the story became so predictable and boring that my mind wondered back to an article that I

read about Hugh Grant’s bouncy, thick hair and I spent most of the two hours watching his tresses toss in the wind instead of following the movie. Some of the scenes were so inane and poorly written that it was actually laborious to watch. The two “fight scenes” are enough to give anyone morning sickness all day long!

If you are interested in a decent romantic comedy that focuses on young couples and pregnancy, rent “She’s Having a Baby”. It is far superior. Don’t waste your time with Hugh, unless you want to feel like you have spent “Nine Months” with him — hmmm — maybe that isn’t such a bad idea after all.

County Executive stars on statewide Lions broadcast

A new color commentator made his debut on the airwaves during the Detroit Lions preseason game with the Jacksonville Jaguars at the Pontiac Silverdome. On a hot, muggy August night, Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson joined the Lions’ play-by-play announcer Larry Henry and football analyst Jim Brandstatter in the broadcast booth.

Henry introduced Mr. Patterson to the statewide radio audience by saying: “We’ve got a special guest in the booth, the Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. Welcome aboard.”

“Thank you Larry, I’m delighted to be here,” commented the County Exec. “This is my first time up here in this lofty perch called the press box — should be a lot of fun and I’m looking forward to carrying Brandstatter for the whole game.”

“Someone’s got to,” Henry chimed in.

“I knew it was coming,” retorted Brandstatter.

During the three-hour broadcast, which was carried locally on the Lions’ flagship station WWJ in Detroit, Mr. Patterson proved to be very knowledgeable about the game of football. His in-

sights were appropriate and he worked very well with the other two members of the broadcast team.

“Brooks has some background in football,” noted Brandstatter during the pregame show. “His son played at Ferris and he watched a lot of football in Big Rapids.”

“We tailgated and we watched the games,” recalled Brooks. “I was a season ticket holder for the Lions and used to go to Michigan when I was a little boy and watch you play.”

“Boy this hurts,” said Brandstatter. “This is going to be a long three hours. Once we get into politics it’s my turn.”

Numerous times during the broadcast, Mr. Patterson used his keen sense of humor and quick wit.

“Kristofferson’s a load, 5 foot 11 and 237 pounds and playing fullback,” pointed out Brandstatter. “That’s bigger than your son was playing nose guard at Ferris, right?”

“How about a 180-pound nose guard,” Mr. Patterson commented, referring to his son Dayne, who played at Ferris. “We used to have to go out after the game and dig him out of the sod.”

At one point, Brandstatter tried to pin Brooks down on what he would do in a certain game situation.

“Now you’ve got Jacksonville back in a hole,” began Brandstatter as he set the stage for the intended ambush. “From your standpoint, as a politician and a regular fan looking in, is this where you would gamble on defense to make something happen or do you play it soft?”

“I’m going to defer to you on that one,” Brooks shot back. “How about that for a political response.”

“Spoken like a true politician,” chuckled Brandstatter.

Mr. Patterson, looking to catch Brandstatter a little bit off guard, said, “You’re seeing a different defense here tonight. The Jaguars, of course, had a perfect opportunity for the old Statue of Liberty play, but they didn’t call it.”

“Now you are showing your age coach,” said a somewhat befuddled Brandstatter, after realizing Mr. Patterson was pulling his leg just a little bit.

All in all it was quite an evening. Who knows, if his regular job doesn’t work out — Brooks may have found another career. Then again — maybe not.

Veterans' Services receives first-of-a-kind training

For four days, August 21 through 24, the counseling staff at Veterans' Services Division attended the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers accreditation training held at Heart of the Lakes VFW Post #1008 on Airport Road.

This training is the highest level of education offered to county veterans' counselors and is approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs General

Counsel, according to Title 38 U.S. Code.

This is the first time that training was provided for a single county in the U.S. Traditionally, education is offered in June at the annual conference.

Richard Mathew, veterans' counse-

lor III, had a perfect score on the test and becomes the first person nationally to accomplish this feat.

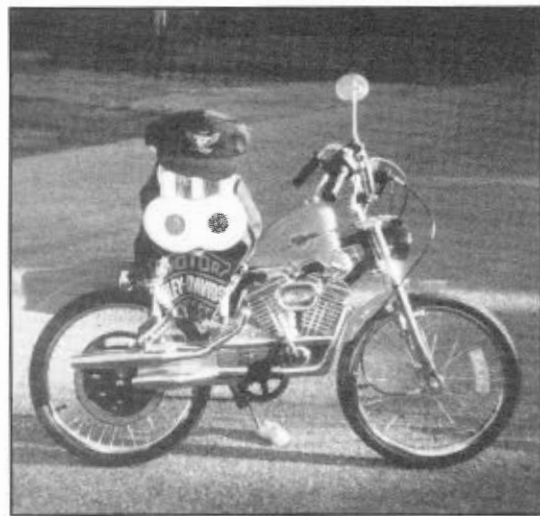
Veterans' Affairs counselors taking a well-deserved break from their recent training sessions. Pictured are: Carol Vail (front), 2nd row, left to right — Belinda Duggan, Carolyn VanBibber, Diana Calvin (stripes) and Tom Holmes. Back row, left to right — Geri McGregor, Pam Barton, Jack Becher, Lynda Crowell, Carl Pardon, Jonathan Putnam and Richard Mathews (shorts).

Photo by Mark Cleveland



Cow caper captivates county campus

For **Gina Bohn**, FM&O office supervisor, August 14 started out pretty much like any other day. But when the mail arrived, things changed rapidly. Gina and her husband, **John**, who also works for FM & O, received a letter notifying them that their wooden cow, which normally sits in the rock garden in front of their home, had gone on a little vacation.



Bessie the cow recently met some "Harley dudes" and their hogs. It seems she got married to a biker named Garr.

Photo by ???

Gina stared at the letter in UTTER disbelief. It included a picture of their cow sitting on a picnic table in Jackson, Tennessee.

"We didn't even notice she (the cow) was gone until we got the first letter," said Gina.

The letter was addressed to Mom and Dad and began: "Don't worry about me, I'm fine just got bored setting (sic) in the ole rock garden — heard tail of...the pig, so thought I would go on an adventure myself..." The letter was signed: Love, Bessie, your rock garden cow."

Needless to say, the whole experience has been a very M-O-Oving one for the Bohn's, but they seem to be taking things in stride.

Gina has no idea who may have committed this Cow-ardly act, but she doesn't think it's anybody they know.

The Bohn's received a second letter a week or so later, this one containing a picture showing Bessie outside the gate at Elvis' Graceland Mansion. The letter, signed again by Bessie, said, in part: "Was hoping to hear the Milk Cow Boogie — but we all know

Dear Mom & Dad,

Don't worry about me, I'm fine just got bored setting in the ole rock garden — heard tail of the adventures of the pig, so thought I would go on an adventure myself. Here I am somewhere in Tenn., Jackson I think. A nice couple picked me up and said I could go anywhere with them. So thought I'd drop you a line to say I'm fine. Next stop — don't know.

Love,
Bessie
Your rock garden cow

Elvis is gone." The letter concluded: "Going somewhere next, but don't know where. Not ready to come home yet."

Once we got over the shock of her being gone, it was like — geez — she having a better vacation than we had," chuckles Gina. "I'm hoping for a souvenir."

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

NEW EMPLOYEES

- Aimee Chamberlain**, Executive Office, started this month as a student from Waterford Kettering High School.
- Kathryn Coleman**, Cultural Affairs, started Sept. 18, as a student intern from Oakland University.
- Allen Craig**, Information Technology, was hired on Aug. 21, as an application analyst programmer.
- Larry Bailey, Jr.**, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance Division/Sewer Maintenance Dept., was hired on July 24, as a maintenance laborer.
- Charlotte Douglas**, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance Division/8-Mile Water Dept., was hired on Aug. 8, as general clerical.
- Dawn Holzhausen**, Information Technology, was hired on Aug. 9, as general clerical.
- Tim Kennedy**, Information Technology, was hired on Aug. 7, as a student engineer.
- Penny Knope**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations/Safety, was hired on June 18, as a general helper.
- Alex Motton**, Information Technology, was hired on July 31, as a data processing equipment operator.
- Elaine Van Dyke**, Drain Commissioner's Office, was hired on Aug. 21, as general clerical.

FOND FAREWELLS

- Lisa Hansen**, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance Division/8-Mile Water Dept., resigned on June 16 as a typist I.
- Laura Kirkwood**, Cultural Affairs, finished her student internship from Oakland University this month. She started a new co-op job with the Michigan Society of Planning Officials.
- Carrie McGowen**, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance Division, resigned on Aug. 11, as an engineering aide I to accept a position at CMI.

CHANGING PLACES/CHANGING FACES

PROMOTIONS

- Margaret "Meg" Danowski**, Law Library, was promoted to library technician II.
- Paul Dove**, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to right-of-way technician on April 1.
- Dianna Holloway**, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance Division, was promoted to secretary II on July 8.
- Michael McMahon**, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to civil engineer III on June 10.
- Edith Smothers**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations/Custodial, was promoted to custodial worker II on May 27.
- Bette Twyman**, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted on July 8, to secretary II.

TRANSFERS

- Sue Roberson**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Division/Administration, transferred from Equalization.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHS

- Charles VanBibber**, Drain Commissioner Operations & Maintenance Division/Drain Inspection Dept., welcomed his new

son Charles Anthony into the world on Fathers Day, June 18.

MARRIAGES

- Kelli Boldin**, Health Division, married Chris Smith on June 17.
- Mary Coulson**, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Division/Custodial Unit, married Edward Snell on May 19.
- Cathy Mowery & Jim Taylor**, Information Technology Department, were married on July 22.
- Teri Romey**, Health Division, became the bride of Jamie Willard on August 18.

KUDOS

- ★ **Lynda R. Crowell**, Veterans' Services, received her bachelor of arts degree from Oakland University on June 21.
- ★ **The 1995 Oakland County Employees Softball League Champions** are the "Habituals" lead by Coach Mike Salhaney, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Congratulations to Mike and the team!
- ★ **Carol Surface** of the Personnel Department, received her doctorate of philosophy in industrial-organizational psychology in August. Congratulations Dr. Carol!

THE SWAP SHOP

- FOR SALE: Nordic Track Pro x-country ski machine:** seldom used; excellent condition; \$450. Call (810) 858-4628 or (810) 673-5980.
- FOR SALE: Five U of M football tickets:** all games except Ohio State; \$25 each; must take all five. Call Barbara, 553-4002 home or (810) 858-1310 work.
- FOR SALE: 1994 Firebird loaded:** leather interior; power windows and doors; cruise; tilt; tinted windows; rear window defrost; automatic; CD player; remote keyless entry; anti-theft device; anti-lock breaks; air; dual air bags; V-6; warranty; 23k miles. Asking \$14,000 firm. Call Jane, (810) 858-1049 or (810) 625-7135 home.
- FOR SALE: 1983 VW Rabbit:** black; 5-speed; runs great; very dependable; new: Kenwood CD player, battery, starter, exhaust, tires; \$950 firm. Call Mark, (810) 299-5414.
- FOR SALE: Pool table:** 7-foot; 1-year-old; gray felt; very nice; hardly used; \$750 or best offer.; complete with sticks, balls and cover. Call 452-2162.
- FOR SALE: Snowmobiles.** 1993 Ski-Doo 670 cc Mach 1; immaculate; cover; 1500 miles; \$4300 or best offer. Ski-Doo Blizzard 7500 Plus; 1100 miles; 1980; very light and fast; cover; great condition; \$1100 or best offer. Call 452-2162.

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the Telegraph the phone number for the **ICMA Retirement Corporation** was incorrect. The correct number is (810) 975-9809

COUNTY INFORMATION HOTLINE! (810)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**

Employee of the Month

by **Dan Lane**, Media & Communications

"I was very surprised and felt greatly honored," remarked **Diana Kras**, Forensic Toxicologist in the Medical Examiner's Office after receiving the Employee of the Month Award. "This is very special and unique for me, especially since I've only been employed at Oakland County for two years," said Kras. "The county has been very generous to me."



Kras graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in criminology, completed her internship with the Illinois State Police and attended Graduate school at the University of Illinois.

She was employed as a toxicologist in the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office in Chicago and later worked for several clinical certified labs in Illinois and Michigan before joining the staff at Oakland County. Kras was appointed in June 1992 and works under the direction of the Chief Forensic Toxicologist Philip Predmore.

"Diana is one of the good people who does all the merit systems requirements," said Predmore. "She is a genuine pleasure to work with and also, she puts up with me."

Spare-time activities for Kras include snow skiing, biking and reading.

"Totally shocked," was **Betty Yancey's** reaction to receiving the Employee of the Month Award. Yancey is the public health program coordinator of the Infant Health Promotion Program for the Oakland County Health Division. She has been employed as a public health nurse since 1968.



In 1974 Yancey was promoted to public health nurse III and in 1983 was promoted to her position as public health program coordinator. She works under the supervision of Rosemarie Rowney, manager of the Health Division. "She has been an outstanding advocate for the promotion of maternal, infant and child health both professionally and personally in her work as a field/school nurse, program coordinator and as a private citizen in the city of Pontiac," said Rowney.

Yancey has served on numerous community organizations, coordinating and collaborating efforts to lower the infant mortality rate, reduce teen and unplanned pregnancies, and improve the health of Oakland County's parents and children. She has been dedicated to reducing disease and promoting the health of minorities in Oakland County.

"Yancey's personal and professional dedication to every project she undertakes is much appreciated and we take great delight in awarding her the Employee of the Month Award," said Rowney.

Nursing Assistant **Rosetta Woods**, is one of the latest recipients of the Employee of the Month Award. "She's a valued employee and genuinely cares about the residents she cares for," said Shirla Kugler, administrator of the Medical Care Facility.



Woods, who works the afternoon shift, has been employed by Oakland County since 1989. She gained valuable experience by working for the Michigan Department of Health for 13 years. "I am real surprised to receive this award," said Woods. "I would like to accept it on behalf of all my co-workers who work with great pride, although many times receive very little recognition." Woods' goal after retiring at the end of this year, is to return to school and complete nursing school. "I'm doing this for myself," said Woods.

Woods is extremely proud of her three children and their accomplishments. They are all college graduates. Her real pride beams when she talks about her four grandchildren. The youngest is three weeks old and the oldest is 15 years old.

Outside of work, Woods enjoys gardening and golf. She is the only female member of the International Sportsman's Club.

"This is one of the most embarrassing moments of my life," remarked **Janet Artes**, employee records specialist for the FM&O Division, after receiving the Employee of the Month Award. Artes maintains personnel, payroll and internal labor accounting records for over 200 full and part-time employees.



Artes began her career at Oakland County as a co-op student in 1972. After more than 23 years with the FM&O Division, she maintains a dedication and pride in her work which is admired by all those who depend on her to keep their records straight and their paychecks coming. "She reminds me of Radar on 'M.A.S.H.' About the time I figure out what I need and decide to call her, she walks in and hands the information she already knew I'd need," said Dick Johnston, manager of FM&O.

"While we have staff working in various facilities who are in contact with other County employees and the public who get immediate recognition for their efforts," added Johnston, "outstanding administrative staff such as Janet, who keep our division running smoothly day after day, deserve equal recognition for their excellent work."

Artes interests outside of work include fishing, improving her already deadly game of golf and supervising the two important men in her life, husband Larry and their son Tim.