

The TELEGRAPH

A newsletter dedicated to the hard-working employees of Oakland County Government

Volume IV, Issue XIX

November 1996

County employees fill key administration posts

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has said many times that he considers the employees of Oakland County government to be among the best in America. He has reinforced that statement by dipping into the pool of existing talent to fill four key positions in his administration.

When John Grubba announced last spring that he was planning to retire as Deputy County Executive, Mr. Patterson immediately looked to one of his directors to fill the void. One morning as they were driving down the expressway, Mr. Patterson turned to his Community and Economic Development director, Ken Rogers, to ask him if he would be interested in the job.

"He came right out of left field," Rogers recalled. "I damn near went off the road. Other than that it wasn't much of a surprise."

As Deputy County Executive, Rogers' area of responsibility has greatly expanded. He works with seven of Mr. Patterson's department directors and helps them with the things they need from the administration or the county Board of Commissioners. In his new role, Rogers also works more closely with the Board on specific issues and tries to build bridges between the two levels of government.

In addition, Rogers serves as the county's representative on the SMART Board of Directors and as the county executive's alternate on the Southeast

Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) Executive Committee.

"I think one of the major challenges facing Oakland County is preparing a work force that is able to do the work of this dynamic county and its businesses in the 21st century," Rogers said. "We also need a K-12 educational system that will continue to develop students who have the skills for the jobs of 21st century."

Looking back over his tenure as head of Economic Development, Rogers points with pride to a number of accomplishments, including his role in launching Mr. Patterson's Oakland County Business Roundtable, the opening of the "One-Stop-Shop" and the merger of Development and Planning into a more cohesive, single unit.

Rogers was also instrumental in establishing a county-sponsored videoconferencing capability which allows local businesses to talk face-to-face with potential trading partners in Toronto, Canada and Paris, France via computer link. In addition, Rogers lists the completion of the Woodward Avenue Corridor Study and the numerous initiatives into the area of foreign trade among the highlights of his three and a half years as Director of Community and

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Ken Rogers
New Deputy
County Executive



Jeff Kaczmarek
New Director of
Community & Economic
Development



John Mahoney
New Director of
Information Technology



Dan Hunter
New Manager of
Development & Planning

Nurses receive commendations for saving lives

Two Oakland County Health Division nurses recently received commendations for their quick and decisive action in saving the lives of two people.

Sharon Covalle, Personal and Preventive Health Services, was walking

through the Philadelphia Airport on May 6 when an elderly woman in front of her suddenly collapsed and fell to the floor. Without hesitation, Covalle went to assist the woman whose heart and breathing had stopped. Covalle immediately began CPR and shortly thereaf-

ter, the woman's heart began beating again and she resumed breathing. Just as the paramedics arrived, the woman regained consciousness and she was taken to the hospital.

Lynn Nunn, Personal and Preventive

See NURSES / page 8

PATTERSON / *Person to Person*

7 here are a number of things to cover this time around so let's get started.

First, congratulations are in order for **Ken Rogers, Jeff Kaczmarek, John Mahoney** and **Dan Hunter**. All four were promoted recently to top posts in my administration. Jeff is the new director of Community and Economic Development, succeeding Ken who became Deputy County Executive when **John Grubba** retired. Filling Jeff's shoes as manager of the Development and Planning Division is Dan Hunter, who has served the last few years as supervisor of Business Development. John Mahoney, a 20-year county employee with 30 years experience in the computer field, is the new director of Information Technology. **Bob Daddow**, my Management and Budget chief, has been doing double duty the past few months overseeing the daily operations of IT following **Paul Funk's** resignation this past spring. My special thanks to Bob for doing such an outstanding job of wearing both hats. We are incredibly fortunate to have someone of Bob's ability working for Oakland County government.

As long as we are handing out kudos, let's not forget **Dave Ross** and **Debbie Schutt**. Dave and his folks are responsible for all the road improvements that are going on around the Courthouse campus. Granted, there's been some inconvenience, but when all the work is done accessibility to the complex will be greatly improved. Debbie and her staff at Development and Planning recently completed the Woodward Avenue Corridor Study. Their efforts lay the ground work for improvements to the corridor which will enable the businesses that line Woodward to be competitive into the next century. By the way, the two major statewide planning organizations have selected the Woodward Study to receive the 1996 Outstanding Planning Project Award, a truly prestigious accolade and one that is well deserved.

As you no doubt have noticed, Casual Day is now every Friday. As has been our practice for the past three years, on payday Fridays the funds raised will be set aside and distributed to a variety of needy charities during the holidays. But

on the other Fridays, the dollars employees put into the Jean Jars will be given to a specific charity. One week the funds might go to the Rainbow Connection, the following week to the Special Olympics and so on. If there's a charity you think is deserving of our help, please call my office at (810) 858-0484.

One other thing. I'm told proceeds from Casual Day are down; in fact, there are several departments which have registered "goose eggs" in recent weeks. While contributing a dollar for the privilege of wearing casual attire to work is purely voluntary, it is important to remember that the money raised goes to help those who are truly in need. In addition, the employees of Oakland County government also derive great benefits from Casual Day. Not only for the satisfaction of helping others, but also from the positive public perception their generosity brings. I am asking each division manager to encourage their employees to participate in Casual Day, because the gift of a dollar goes a long way toward making life a little nicer for those less fortunate than ourselves.

It's time once again to put in a plug for the Employee Suggestion Program. Time is running out for this year — the deadline for a suggestion to be implemented in order to be eligible for one of the big prizes at the end of the year is Oct. 31. But the deadline never passes for submitting an idea. Since ESP began more than three years ago, the suggestions submitted by county employees and implemented have saved taxpayers more than \$2 million.

Don't be left out of the sweepstakes, submit your suggestions for saving money and improving efficiency today. Even if you don't win one of the trips or large cash awards given out at the Employees Christmas Party, you could still win \$50, if your idea is recommended for implementation.

One final note before I close. My best wishes are extended to two long serving Oakland County employees who have decided to move on to other challenges. **David Quigley**, head of Support Services, is heading to Lansing to become Director of Support Services for the State of Michigan and **David Hay**, who



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

spent 20 years in Development and Planning, has accepted a position with Kelly Services. Good luck to both men and my thanks to them for their years of faithful service to Oakland County.

Have you overlooked a job benefit?

Fringe benefits are important to you. There may be an additional benefit available to you as an employee of Oakland County that you are unaware of — CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP! Your credit union, Oakland County Employees Credit Union, is ready to provide professional, confidential handling of all your financial business. Call or come in today to find out more about what your Credit Union can do for you. Phone county extension 80010, (810) 332-9171 or from outside the local calling area (800) 815-6237. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drive-through hours are extended to 6 p.m. on Friday.

Don't miss out on ESP sweepstakes

Join co-workers in the money bonanza!

The \$50 checks keep going out as award winning ideas for saving money and improving efficiency keep flowing into the Employee Suggestion Program. Six more lucky Oakland County government workers are each \$50 richer because they chose to put their great ideas down on paper and submit them to ESP.

■ **Chad Reed**, Drain Commissioner's Department, suggested adding more lines to the mileage sheets in order to save staff time and paper.

■ **Lynn McDaniels**, Health Division, came up with the idea of keeping a central on-line list of spare furniture that's in stock, so departments will know what's available before ordering new items.

■ **Helen Andrews**, Personnel Department, suggested realigning the employee name and address section on employee transaction forms, so that win-

dow envelopes can be used, thereby saving staff time in typing out thousands of envelopes each year.

■ **Dan Young**, FM & O, suggested using office name plates that can be attached by Velcro, rather than glued to the wall. It's estimated the idea will save \$5,000 per year in wall repairs.

■ **Carol Compagnoni**, Probate Court, would like to see local police departments required to submit multiple copies of juvenile complaints, which would save about \$4,000 per year in copying costs.

■ **Maureen Code**, Equalization Division, suggested that her division develop a property data base that can be shared with the Treasurer's Office, so that reports from each office can be run from the same data. If implemented, this suggestion could save Oakland County \$39,000 in staff time while improving the accuracy of reports.

Students see court system up close and personal

Some 300 middle school students from all across Oakland County visited Oakland County Circuit Court recently to participate in the 13th Annual Law Day program.

"Law Day is a way of reaching out to students," **Porferia Mellado**, Law Day tour coordinator said. "They're able to see the justice system at work, as well as witness the consequences of breaking the law."

Students were given an opportunity to observe actual trials in Circuit and Probate Courts. They also visited the Clerk's Office, the Law Library, Research Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In addition, **Tom and Jean Rosenthal** and **Carol Dorfman** from the Oakland Mediation Center gave a presentation on Conflict Resolution which provided students with some helpful information on how to resolve their

problems in a peaceful manner. **Robert Bingham**, Probate Court Administrator, also hosted a video presentation for the students.

"I am pleased with the turnout for this year's event," Mellado said. "This year's event was a great success because of the cooperation and help from the Circuit and Probate Courts, Clerk's Office, all three Libraries, Robert Bingham, Oakland Mediation Center, and of course, the tour guides from Friend of the Court and the Court Administrator's Office."

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The Office of Media & Communications

Executive Office Building
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Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0409
Phone: (810) 858-1048
FAX: (810) 858-5111

We welcome and encourage you to send us your articles, photographs, suggestions and comments. Mail, fax or phone them to:

Editor	Robert E. Dustman
Assistant Editor	Mark Cleveland
Secretary	Jane Oswald
Contributing Writers	Jim Evans Ara Kachadourian Mary Viviano
Photography	David Van de Grift unless indicated
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Did you know?

■ Common Employee Suggestion Program submission topics that have already been submitted include:

- Place county forms on the county network.
- Have Mail Room parking spaces.
- Provide a County Day Care Center
- Install hair/hand air dryers in rest rooms.
- Install light timers and/or motion detectors

■ Complete local election results are available on Oakland County's World Wide Web page. The address is <http://www.co.oakland.mi.us>.

Probate Court honors outstanding employees

Most of the 235 employees of Probate Court jammed into the Board of Commissioners Auditorium on Sept. 6 to watch as four of their co-workers were recognized for outstanding achievement.

Receiving the court's top accolade, Employee of the Year, was **Lorie Willing** who serves as a volunteer coordinator for the Court's Youth Assistance Volunteer Plus and Caseaid Programs.

"I'm continually impressed with Lorie's enthusiasm, creativity and comprehensiveness in getting the job done," **Robert Bingham**, Probate Court administrator said.

Among her many accomplishments, Willing is credited with successfully organizing the last three volunteer recognition events for Probate Court



Probate Court Employees of the Year. From left to right; Carol Ripley, Amy Woddruff, Marilyn McAllister and Lori Willing.

volunteers.

This year, for the first time, the court handed out three additional awards. **Amy Woodruff**, clinical services coordinator for the Court Clinical Services Unit, was presented with the Outstand-

ing Team Work Award because of her exceptional ability to coordinate with clinical staff, caseworkers, referees, attorneys, judges and the various human service agencies.

The Outstanding Dedication Award went to **Marilyn McAllister**, child welfare worker with the Court's Adoption Unit, because of her energy, motivation and long hours of work in processing successful adoptions, as well as her expertise in bringing about reunions of long separated siblings.

Carol Ripley, supervisor in the Court's Youth Assistance Program, walked off with the Outstanding Creativity Award. Ripley was cited for her many contributions in streamlining the collection and reporting of Youth Assistance caseload data.

Nick and Laura go to the Olympic Games

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times," is the way **Nick Jankowski**, public health sanitarian for the Oakland County Health Division, sums up his experience working at the Olympic Games in Atlanta this past summer. Jankowski and co-worker **Laura Stasiewicz** volunteered to inspect food booths during the games because the Fulton County Health Department couldn't draw enough help from surrounding counties or the state of Georgia.

"It's not exactly what we had expected, because there weren't as many sanitarians working as planned and the whole thing was a little overwhelming," Jankowski said. "They wanted us to inspect the stands several times a day, but being understaffed we could only do them once per day."

Jankowski said most of the 650 food vendors did what was required of them. They obtained the proper licenses and operated legally. The problem was those vendors who just came in, set up their food stands without going through the process and securing the proper authorization.

There was also a problem with vendors who violated their licenses by moving from one location to another. This happened, says Stasiewicz, after some streets, which were originally opened only to pedestrian traffic were

reopened to regular vehicular traffic. As a result, the number of customers dwindled and vendors decided to seek greener pastures elsewhere. "The Mayor of Atlanta told the vendors it was all right if they moved, but their health permits were for a fixed location so when they moved we had to shut them down," Stasiewicz said. "In some cases we needed law enforcement protection to do our jobs."

Many of the food vendors didn't reap the financial windfall they had been promised. In fact, Jankowski says, some vendors who invested a lot of money in their food stands only made \$200 per day while supporting a payroll of \$400 per day.

"After the first week, many disgruntled vendors packed up and went home," Jankowski said. "As they left, other vendors who were in worse locations moved in, violating their food licenses."

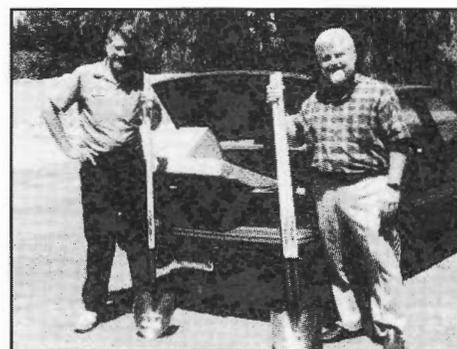
Despite the long hours and pressure, both Jankowski and Stasiewicz say the experience was very rewarding and they would do it again. Even though they worked long hours, just about everyday, both were able to see some of the events. They got to witness some of the baseball games which were played at Fulton County Stadium and a few of the Track and Field events.

"Overall it was a really good experience,"

Jankowski said. "Although it was emotionally very taxing, at the same time it was one of the most wonderful things I've ever witnessed, gathering of a global community that not enough people get a chance to see."

'68 LPHS Grads

Trying to connect with Lincoln Park High School grads for 30-year Class Reunion. Call Dan Horst at (313) 282-1009.



Bill Olivich (left), FM & O, helps "Doc" **Prud'homme**, Youth Community Service specialist, unload tools and other equipment which Consumers Power Company donated to the Probate Court's Youth Community Service Program.

The View from Here

You've no doubt heard the phrase: "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy." To some extent I think that's true. There is still a fondness in my heart for the rural area of Ohio where I grew up. Back then and to this day, for as far as the eye can see, well kept farm houses dot the landscape, situated neatly on the edges of corn fields.

The towns in that part of Ohio are a throw back to an earlier time when life was simpler. On the treelined streets stand old homes with large front porches and summer kitchens. There are no supermarkets or malls, just the corner grocery store with its wooden floor and "just-off-the-truck" fresh produce.

The people in central Ohio are not in much of a hurry to get anywhere. The pace of living is comfortable and slow. The pressure we in the suburbs and cities encounter on a daily basis is nonexistent there. I haven't done any studies, but my guess is people in rural areas live longer and perhaps happier lives because they don't fall victim to the stresses we are subjected to. Where they take the time to smell the flowers, we don't even

notice the flowers exist.

The attitude of the people in rural Ohio is different too. They seem to be friendlier and more at peace with themselves and their world. Occasionally, I return to my home town of Bucyrus, Ohio for a trip down memory lane and to pick up some of that great Bratwurst the town is famous for. It's a pleasure to walk into a store and be greeted by a smile and a person who goes out of his or her way to be helpful. Sometimes around here, I feel like I'm imposing when I walk into a store and ask for help. That's in the event I can even find someone to help me.

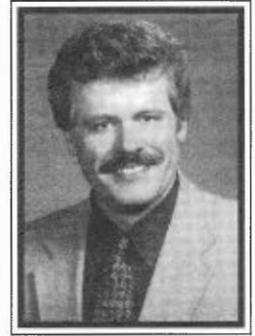
Driving in metro Detroit is also a lot different than meandering down the roads of central Ohio. There isn't much traffic on Route 4, except for the occasional tractor or hay wagon. On I-696, I-94, I-75, Orchard Lake Road, Northwestern Highway, etc. it's bumper-to-bumper. If radiators don't boil over during these daily treks back and forth to work, tempers do and common courtesy takes a back seat to our frenetic zeal to reach our destination in the shortest period of time possible.

It just seems like we as a people are

always angry and in a hurry. Many of us are rude and impatient, myself included, much of the time, when we don't need to be. Maybe we're more mellow in the sanctity and serenity of our own homes as we seek shelter from the storm outside in the comfort of our families. Unfortunately, we can't lock the doors, draw the blinds and stay inside forever. We must venture out and come to terms with this world in which we live.

As our world shrinks and technology compresses both time and distance, it will become increasingly more important for us to deal effectively with the pressures that confront us.

A trip back to Ohio every so often helps put things in perspective for me. It reminds me that life is all too short and that we travel this road but once — so don't sweat the small stuff and enjoy.



Bob Dustman
Media and
Communications
Officer

Viv at the Movies

by Mary Viviano, Friend of the Court

"Escape From L.A."

There is no question that Snake Pliskin is one of the greatest names ever given to a character in the history of film and Kurt Russell more that lives up to the challenge of filling out the dimension of the roll. More on that later. "Escape from L.A." the long anticipated sequel to John Carpenter's cult classic, "Escape from New York."

Set in the year 2013, Los Angeles has been transformed into an island and is

now a penal colony. Snake has finally been arrested and sent to this island prison for an assortment of crimes. By this time he has become a legend and the government once again forces him to use his special skills to save the day. Yes, the plot is almost identical to the first movie, but there is more social comment in this sequel, more special effects and more SNAKE!

Kurt Russell does indeed fill out this character — especially when he dons the leather! I saw this film with my friends, Mindy and Earl. Earl felt that it was boring in some parts, but Kurt managed to hold our attention throughout the entire movie. In fact, Mindy and I were ready to watch Snake escape from Chi-

cago, New Orleans, Boston, London, Paris, Milan or even a paper bag! Yes, he looks that good!

Oops, sorry, back to the review — Some of the action sequences were comical, but the dialogue was lively and the supporting cast was fun, especially Steve Buscemi's, Eddie Maps to the Stars — and, oh yeah — Snake is soooo cool!

This movie is pure entertainment. If you liked "Escape from New York," you will enjoy "Escape from L.A." If you didn't see the original movie, rent it (at night) and see the sequel, because then you can escape with SNAKE, in the dark, for four hours!

Judge Moore honored for contributions to courts

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges has presented its highest award for meritorious service to the Juvenile

Courts of America to Oakland County Probate Judge Eugene A. Moore. Judge Moore personally accepted the award at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Annual Conference on July 15 in Vail, Colorado.

"I am most appreciative of the National Council for this wonderful honor," Judge Moore said. "I accept the award on behalf of our 3,000 family and court judges in this country who are equally deserving and who strive every day to make this a better world for children and families."

Since first being elected to the Probate Court bench in November 1966, Judge Moore has been a leader in speaking out on those controversial and difficult issues which confront the judiciary on a daily basis. He has been at the forefront in urging adult status for chronic juvenile offenders, treatment alterna-

tives for juveniles and protection of abused and neglected children.

During his tenure, Judge Moore has been asked to serve in a variety of leadership roles including chair of the Juvenile Court Rules Committee and the Governor's Task Force of Children's Justice. He has also served on the Governor's Crime Commission and as president of the Children's Charter of the Courts of Michigan.

"I am proud to have known Judge Moore for the past 20 years," the Hon. Joan E. Young, Chief Judge of the Oakland County Probate Court said. "As a young lawyer I appeared in his court and was impressed with his patience, concern for the parties and legal knowledge. Now, as a colleague on the same bench, I am honored to call him my friend."

Judge Moore is married, the father of two sons, and resides in Oxford.



Commissioner Dennis Powers (R-Highland) presents a proclamation to Judge Eugene Moore in recognition of his selection as the recipient of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Highest Award for Meritorious Services to the Juvenile Courts of America.

Employee's daughter achieves sports stardom

Ask Galen Garst, supervisor in Environmental Health Services, about his daughter, Chrissy, and his face beams with pride. And why not. This past year, the Royal Oak Tribune named Chrissy Garst Track and Field Athlete of the Year for 1996. During her career at Troy High School, she was named to the All State Track and Field team all four years. Now she's attending Hillsdale College on a track scholarship.

"Chrissy is just great, a real pleasure to be around," Garst said. "She always does the right thing and I never have to worry about her."

Last spring Chrissy took top honors at the Oakland County High School Track and Field Championships, finishing first in both the mile and two mile runs. In both events, she beat her nearest competitor by 20 seconds.

Garst says his daughter began her athletic career in grade school as a soccer player, but switched to track and field in high school.

"Chrissy led by example in the workouts," her coach, Kevin Spencer said. "The other girls all looked up to her and she has to be one of the best distance runners to ever come out of Troy High School."

When deciding which college to attend, Garst said, Chrissy told him she wanted to go to a small school "where people think like I do." So Hillsdale got the nod and in her first Collegiate Cross Country Meet, Chrissy finished first among the Hillsdale runners and fourth overall.

Garst says his daughter has her sights set on a career in teaching or in politics. Either way, her quickness afoot will be an asset.

Goulding gains golfing glory

It started out to be a pretty normal Sunday for Phil Goulding, grounds supervisor. He and a friend, as they do most Sundays during the summer, hopped into the car and drove off to the Genesee Hills Golf Club in Grand Blanc for 18 holes of golf.

On this particular Sunday, Aug. 17, things went along routinely until the fourth hole. The 199-yard, par-three hole is a blind shot because the tee is elevated and the green is down in a valley. Goulding pulled his four iron out of the bag, teed up the ball and let loose with a shot that headed straight for the flag.

"When I came over the hill, my ball wasn't anywhere in sight," Goulding said. "I thought, oh geez, the darn thing rolled off the backside of the green and into the ankle deep grass."

He and his golfing partner looked everywhere for the ball, but it was no where to be found. Finally, Phil looked in the last place he would ever think of looking — the cup. There it was! A hole-in-one. Phil's reaction, as you might expect, was total shock.

"It was my first hole-in-one, although I have come close a couple of times in the past," Goulding said. "It's the first time in the 12 years I've played golf that I hit something I was shooting at."

To preserve the historic moment for posterity, Phil's wife had a T-shirt made for him that has a golf scene on the front and the words "Genesee Hills, August 17, fourth hole, 199 yards," on the back.

By the way, Goulding, who plays with a 12 handicap, shot a 39 on the front nine and a 42 on the back nine on this very memorable day.

"They say the first hole-in-one is the hardest one," Goulding said. "So we'll see now."

More Employees of the Month



Fiscal Services Division Analyst **Jeff Phelps** is among the recent recipients of the Employee of the Month Award. "It was nice to receive the award, in fact I wanted to go golfing afterward," replied Phelps after being se-

lected.

Phelps began his career in Oakland County in 1987. Since then he has assisted in the development of various projects. Recently, he helped develop the fiscal year 1997/1998 Budget, Combined Quarterly Forecast and Commissioners Report, and Scripting Questions. Phelps has demonstrated an outstanding work ethic by taking time to experiment, develop, and find new applications which are more efficient.

In addition, Jeff currently takes classes at Walsh College and will soon receive his master's of science degree in finance. According to Tom Ott, Fiscal Services manager, "Jeff was especially recognized for using what he learned in the academic setting and applying it to the business environment. Jeff is very instrumental in finding solutions by using his problem solving skills."

During his spare time, Phelps hobbies include woodworking projects, bicycling, softball, and golf. Recently, he has taken an interest in learning to fly-fish. However, Phelps especially enjoys spending time with his wife, Shawn, and their 3-year-old daughter, Lauren.



Mary Lou Stinson, account clerk at the Medical Examiner's Office, is one of the latest people to receive the Employee of the Month Award. "I really appreciate being recognized. It was a wonderful surprise

that I did not expect," said Stinson.

Stinson began her career at Oakland County in 1975 as a typist I under the CETA program. She was later elevated to the rank of account clerk in 1977. Since then she has played an important role in the Medical Examiner's Office by performing various tasks. Stinson's duties include organizing departmental accounts, maintaining records, and typing up autopsy reports.

Oakland County Medical Examiner Administrator William MacDonald commented, "Mary Lou is a very dedicated and conscientious employee who can constantly be relied upon." When asked what qualities make Stinson stand out, MacDonald said, "Mary Lou is always willing to help and do what is needed; she goes far beyond the call of duty."

When not at work, Stinson's hobbies include gardening, reading, and traveling. In addition, Stinson is a very active member of her church and has worked for them as a secretary or treasurer. Stinson currently resides in Oxford and has two daughters and three grandchildren.



"Shocked and surprised," was **Nelson Haynes'** reaction to receiving the Employee of the Month Award. Haynes, a senior public health sanitary worker, has been an integral part of Oakland County's Envi-

ronmental Health Division since 1977. When asked about his recent award, he said, "I am impressed at the planning done to keep the awards ceremony a surprise from me."

Haynes duties include monitoring preliminary plant proposals for land development, soil evaluations, and food service (restaurant) inspections. In addition, Haynes has been responsible for initiating a new indoor air program. Nancy Sawn, public sanitary worker, who works with Haynes says, "Nelson has taught me a lot of what I know." Haynes has been instrumental to the Environmental Health Division and is considered a highly regarded expert in the evaluation of radon and lead detection. Barry Wyatt, Environmental Health supervisor, remarked, "Nelson is dependable and has always been willing to help in solving any problems."

Besides being a dedicated worker, Haynes' outside interests include archeological woodworking, musket-loading long rifles, and gardening. Haynes and his wife Cathy, who works in Information Technology, have a 5-year-old daughter and live on a ten-acre farm.

Support Services' chief accepts new job

Anyone who has ever started a new job knows what a traumatic experience it can be. But just imagine being put into a job no one has ever done before. There is no track record, performance standard or guidelines to follow. You are the first—a pioneer, charting an entirely new course.

Such was the case in January 1994 when **Dave Quigley** became Oakland County government's first ever chief of Support Services. The previous seven years, Quigley was a financial analyst in the Budget Division where he worked on the county's Solid Waste program and developed a budget preparation system on the computer.



It didn't take Quigley long to put his mark on Support Services. During his brief tenure, a dozen improvements were made to the county's vehicle fleet operation which have saved taxpayers about \$3 million. He also developed a new and improved 800 MHz Radio System for the county and took responsibility for updating equipment in the Print Shop.

But when opportunity knocks, you sometimes have to answer. In Quigley's case, opportunity came in the form of the State of Michigan which offered him the position of director of Support Services. He accepted and officially ended his nine-year career with the county on Sept. 13.

"I have really enjoyed the years I've spent

in county government, but look forward to new challenges at the state level," Quigley said. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Jeff Pardee, Nancy Fournier, Roger Smith and David VanderVeen** for playing important roles in my success as a county employee."

As director of Support Services for the State of Michigan, Quigley will have responsibility over three areas: Materials Management, Mail and Delivery Services, and the Reprographic and distribution Printing Centers. These areas provide more than \$45 million in services through the efforts of 225 employees.

"Dave's financial and organizational skills will be sorely missed, but this is a great opportunity for him and I congratulate him on his appointment," VanderVeen said.

Economic Development.

Rogers and his wife, Jane, have four children and live in Springfield Township. Prior to joining Oakland County government in 1993, Rogers was the co-owner of Evans and Associates, an Oakland County Real Estate and Development Company, for 20 years.

After a lengthy search inside and outside of county government, Mr. Patterson chose **John Mahoney**, manager of Technical Systems and Networking, to become the new director of Information Technology. Mahoney, who is celebrating his 20th year with county government, succeeds Paul Funk who resigned last spring to return to the private sector. During the search for Funk's successor, Robert Dad-dow, director of Management and Budget, stepped in to run the day-to-day operations at Information Technology.

Mahoney has 30 years experience in the computer field and has done every job in the business with the exception of data entry operator. Prior to joining Oakland County, Mahoney traveled around the county as a programmer and consultant for Dow Chemical, General Motors and Wayne County.

"There's always the concern of new challenges," Mahoney responded when asked if he had any trepidation about his new job. "Anybody who takes on a new job and says they don't have any concerns about it probably hasn't thought about it for very long."

Mahoney sees upgrading the ACORN Network System to handle increased capacity and implementation of a Project Management System to better track what work is being done at Information Technology as key challenges facing him and his department. Mahoney says his strengths are 30 years experience in the computer business and his ability to work with people.

"We're all in the same boat and hopefully rowing in the same direction," Mahoney said. "I believe in treating people the way I want to be treated and working with them as a team."

As director of Information Technology, Mahoney is in charge of the county's computer operation and has responsibility for 100 employees and an annual budget of \$12.5 million.

Mahoney lives in Clinton Township with, Diane, his wife of 29 years. The

couple has two children, a daughter, Shawn, who is 24 and a son, Jay, who is 22.

For **Jeff Kaczmarek** the climb up the ladder in Oakland County government began in 1971 when he took a job as staff planner with the now defunct Planning Commission. Twenty-five years later, Kaczmarek is the newly appointed director of Community & Economic Development succeeding **Ken Rogers** who moved up to Deputy County Executive when **John Grubba** retired last spring.

"I felt a combination of excitement and trepidation," Kaczmarek said when asked about his reaction to being offered the top job in Community and Economic Development. "It's something you have to think about a little bit, because after 25 years in the merit system, suddenly you're a political appointee without any real job protection. But any uncertainty I had was counterbalanced by the fun of working here and the enjoyment of working for Brooks."

Kaczmarek's management style is to run his department like a business with a focus on getting the highest return on investment for the taxpayers of Oakland County. Kaczmarek likes the fact his new job deals with helping business solve its problems as quickly as possible, and also involves strategic planning for the future.

"Planning tends to be a little longer process and I like that," Kaczmarek said. "This job offers a nice combination of getting problems and issues solved while also allowing for a strategic approach to things."

Coming into his new job, Kaczmarek has a laundry list of projects and priorities which will keep him very busy in the months ahead. High on his list is the Oakland County Business Roundtable which he wants to keep moving forward by working to implement the recommendations it developed for improving the county's business climate. Another key item is the implementation of videoconferencing which will enable local businesses to talk face-to-face with potential trading partners in Paris, France and Toronto, Canada without leaving Oakland County.

Named to fill another key post in county government was **Dan Hunter**, Business Development supervisor, who was promoted to manager of Development and Planning, succeeding

Kaczmarek.

Hunter brings outstanding credentials to his new assignment. He has worked in both planning and economic development in previous jobs and also has experience in the private sector, working in the Hunter family owned manufacturing business back in Reading, Pennsylvania.

"Working the family business gave me a perspective on how America really works," Hunter said. "Small businesses are the foundation upon which this country is built."

Hunter and his wife, Beth, live in Fenton with their three children, two boys and a girl, ages 13, nine and one and a half.

"We are very fortunate to have been able to fill these four key positions from the pool of available talent in county government," Mr. Patterson said. "I think the selection of these fine individuals speaks volumes about the caliber of people we have working in county government."

NURSES cont. from page 1

Health Services, performed her act of heroism at a wedding reception in Troy during the fall of 1995. While eating dinner, Nunn noticed that one of the guests began holding his throat. When the man did not respond when asked if he was all right, Nunn immediately positioned herself behind him and began performing abdominal thrusts. After several attempts, she was successful in dislodging a piece of meat which had gotten stuck in his windpipe.

"Their prompt action and willingness to get involved speaks very highly of these two fine individuals," **Rosemarie Rowney**, manager of the Health Division said in presenting the commendations during a recent managers' meeting. "Their acts of heroism are in the finest tradition of Oakland County public service."



Rosemarie Rowney (left), Health Division manager, presents certificates of commendation to Public Health Nurses Lynn Nunn (center) and Sharon Kovalle for their acts of heroism in using CPR to save the lives of two people.

Long arm of the law

Former Lions' tackle Rich Strenger studies for new career

(Editors Note: The following excerpt is from an article, written by Jim Evans, which appeared in the Lions Report, a weekly newspaper published by the Detroit Lions.)

The unyielding anonymity of an offensive lineman. Robin Leach never calls. Neither does Madonna. Sure there are plenty of guys in professional football whose lives are steeped in flash bulbs and fame. They can not leave their houses without putting on phony glasses, a Gene Shalit counterfeit mustache and a baggy overcoat. People like Barry Sanders or Scott Mitchell. When you are a poster on the bedroom walls in the lives of countless kids, it is tough to blend in.

Offensive linemen like former Detroit Lion **Rich Strenger**, though, do not really have that kind of problem. As an offensive tackle, Strenger was about as recognizable as a guy in a red-and-white striped sweater in one of those Where's Waldo books. Albeit a rather large Waldo. He stands 6-7.

"I don't know how guys like Barry Sanders handle that kind of recognition," says Strenger, who spent the first five years of his National Football League career with the Lions. He was with Buffalo his last season. "It would be hard to be constantly besieged in public like that."

It was during one point in his career with the Lions when Strenger, who had been sidelined by a knee injury, decided to try real estate sales. One afternoon, he took teammate Jeff Chadwick out to look at a

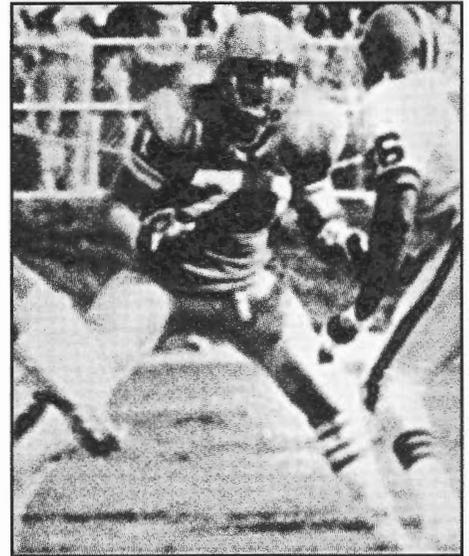
house. They spent more than a few minutes inside. After Chadwick had walked out the door, the homeowner asked Strenger in relative awe, "Isn't that Jeff Chadwick of the Detroit Lions?"

No mention of Rich Strenger's occupation at all. Maybe that is just natural. One guy spent his working days hunkered down playing tackle. The other went flitting down the field to haul in passes. Check out the pose of the Hiesman Trophy. That dude is not exactly in a three-point stance.

Actually, Strenger just laughs about the incident these days. Even offensive linemen in the NFL get heaping doses of fame in comparison to students in their second year of law school. That is exactly what Strenger does with his nights now. He is attending the Detroit College of Law. Last year was his first at DCL. He had classes like torts, contracts, property law, civil procedures and legal research from 6 until 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The decision to attend law school was a natural offshoot of his affiliation with Oakland County Chief Executive L. Brooks Patterson. He began working with Patterson several years ago as an administrative assistant. Now, he is in the marketing and research division of the Development and Planning Office. One of his duties has included helping organize the popular monthly Business Box Lunch with Brooks Patterson program.

Early on, one of Strenger's roles with the county's chief executive was security. Be-



cause of that, he had to attend the Oakland County Police Academy. Included in the curriculum were some law courses.

Strenger was drafted in the second round by the Lions in 1983. He played in all 16 games as a rookie. While playing at Michigan, he was an All Big Ten player in 1982. That same year, he also earned honorable mention All-American status.

Strenger played in all 16 games as a rookie. Maybe offensive linemen do not have lives bathed in champagne and criss-crossing spotlights. They still are special in the eyes of a lot of people including children. In addition to plenty of other appearances, he was a regular fixture at the Blue and Gold Football Camp that took place at Royal Oak Shrine High School in Royal Oak each summer.

1996 TOTALS TICKER

CASUAL DAY FUND \$ 19,665

ESP SUGGESTIONS 167

DIRECT DEPOSIT 56 %

Slammers, Too win softball

The bats and balls have been put away for another season, but not before the OC Slammers, Too walked off with the 1996 Oakland County Employees' Softball League title. Led by coach **Lloyd Lewis**, the Slammers, Too compiled an impressive record of eight wins and two losses.

"Congratulations to every team member — all played a great season," **Jody Stowe**, league commissioner said.

The top four teams were: (coaches in parenthesis)

1. OC Slammers, Too (**Lloyd Lewis**)
2. Habituals (**Michael Salhaney**)
3. Bar Association (**Brad Stout**)
4. Health (**Mike Krecek**)

The league will be looking for more teams for the 1997 season. Anyone interested in fielding a team can contact Stowe at Veterans' Services, 80802, and look for more information about next season in February.

WEB ALERT!

Finding it difficult to stay on top of job opportunities within the county, who's who and what's when? RELAX! Oakland County is now part of the World Wide Web! Three departments are featured as well as the names and descriptions of administrators. You'll also find the current listing of open competitive examinations, career opportunities, along with job descriptions and other information. So tell your friends and families to visit us on the Internet. Our site address is <http://www.co.oakland.mi.us>.

COMING & GOING

NEW EMPLOYEES

- Jill Bond**, Equalization, was hired on May 6 as an appraiser I.
- Al Consiglio**, Equalization, was hired on April 8 as an appraiser trainee.
- Mary Cornell**, Equalization, was hired on May 6 as an appraiser I.
- Pam Cowart**, Probate Court, was hired in the Estates Department on June 24 as a general clerical.
- Joseph Cross**, Clerk/Register of Deeds, was hired on May 30 as court clerk II for Judge Anderson.
- Mike Donnellon**, Parks & Recreation, was hired on April 30 as landscape architect for Design and Development.
- Sue Elssesser**, Health Division, was hired as a public health educator after several years in the Worksite Wellness Program at Chrysler.
- Anne Esposito**, Oakland/Troy Airport, was hired from Avion Management Services as the new contractual airport manager in January.
- Ivy Ferguson**, Probate Court, was hired as a court clerk II and works in Judge Grant's office.
- Bianca Gobba**, Probate Court, was hired in the Estates Department on Sept. 3 as a general clerical.
- Heather Gullon**, Sheriff's Department was hired on Aug. 7 as a classification agent.

Leslie Kettren, Development & Planning, was hired on Aug. 23 as an assistant planner.

Ellen Kidder, Circuit Court, joined Judge Cooper's Court on May 8 as the Judge's secretary.

Dan Lane, Development & Planning, was hired on June 24 as a technical assistant.

Andrew Lusk, Circuit Court, was hired on June 10 as clerk I for Judge Anderson.

Debbie Mausolf, Equalization, was hired as part-time non-eligible on Feb. 12 and on Mar. 30 full-time as general clerical.

Rochelle McNeary, Equalization, was hired on May 6 as an appraiser I.

Thane Namy, Circuit Court Administrator, was hired in April as the new communications' intern.

Scott Oppmann, Information Technology, was hired on Aug. 23 as an assistant planner.

Beth Rayner, Probate Court, was hired in the Juvenile File Room on Aug. 30 as general clerical.

Betty Rose, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Administration, was hired on Aug. 21 as a student.

Airica Savage, Drain Commissioner's Sewer Maintenance Division, was hired on Aug. 21 as a student.

Renee Schafer, Equalization, was hired on Aug. 26 as general clerical.

Tony Shaprio, Clerk/Register of Deeds, was hired on May 31 as clerk II for Judge Andrews.

Linda Sherman, Probate Court Youth Assistance, was hired on Aug. 14 as a child welfare worker and is assigned to Southfield Parent-Youth Guidance.

John Wilson, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Maintenance Unit, was hired on Aug. 7 as a general maintenance mechanic.

FOND FAREWELLS

Curt Chowanic, Equalization, resigned on Aug. 30 and accepted a position in the Property Tax Division of Kmart International.

David Hay, Development and Planning, resigned Sept. 9 after 20 years of service for a new position with Kelly Services.

Dianna Holloway, Drain Commissioner's Office, resigned as a secretary II on July 5.

Jack Olsen, Parks & Recreation Commission, retired in April after nine and a half years. Olsen was a former county commissioner and a member of the drain commission in addition to his time on the parks commission.

Kennedy Pardee, Drain Commissioner's Office, resigned Aug. 28 to return to school full-time.

Thomas Stidham, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Maintenance Unit, retired as a skilled maintenance mechanic II on Aug. 23 after serving eight years.

John Walker, Drain Commissioner's Office, retired as a sewer maintenance supervisor II on July 12 after 28 years of service.

NEW PLACES & FACES

PROMOTIONS

Robert Aubin, Drain Commissioner's Office, Inspection Department, was promoted to construction inspector II on July 20.

Derek Brown, Facilities Maintenance & Operations, Custodial Unit, was promoted to custodial worker II on Aug. 17.

Wendy Conklin, Equalization, was promoted to appraiser trainee on April 13.

Dawn Creamer, Equalization, was promoted to supervisor I on April 27.

Patricia Fisher, Prosecutor's Office, was promoted to clerk III on July 20 retroactive.

Tom Fraser, Probate Court, Judge Grant's Office, was promoted to research attorney on May 20.

Wendy Gardner, Drain Commissioner's Office, was promoted to engineering aide II on July 6.

Ann Grady, Equalization, was promoted to appraiser trainee on Aug. 3.

Jon Munger, Probate Court, Judge Moore's Office, was promoted to research attorney on June 10.

Kim Osterkamp, Probate Court, was promoted to deputy probate register I on Sept. 9.

Mark Schwalm, Facilities Engineering, was promoted to engineer technician on Mar. 16.

Jerry Silagyi, Drain Commissioner's Office, Engineering & Construction Division, was promoted to civil engineer II on July 20.

Charles Ward, Drain Commissioner's Office, Sewer Maintenance, was promoted to sewage maintenance supervisor II on July 13.

Anna Wendt, Probate Court, was promoted to deputy probate register I on Sept. 9.

Nancy Wenzel, Probate Court, was promoted to deputy probate register I on Sept. 9.

TRANSFERS

Sandra Grubbs, Probate Court Word Processing Unit, transferred from the Health Division at the end of May.

Pam Soncrainte, Probate Court Intake Dept., transferred from the Sheriff's Dept. at the end of May.

Melanie Stodgel, Equalization, transferred from Facilities Maintenance & Operations on June 26.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHS

Phillip Bertolini, Equalization, and his wife, Kathy, are the proud parents of their first child, Bradley Phillip, born on May 5.

Kathy Craven, Parks & Recreation, and her husband, Todd are the proud parents of a son, Todd James (TJ), born on May 6, weighing 7 lbs., 14 ozs. and measuring 20 inches long.

Brenda Firestine, Equalization, and her husband, Dwayne, are the proud parents of their first child, Justin Lear, born on Mar. 8.

David Schreiber, Development & Planning, and his wife Susan are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Benjamin Jacob, born on July 16, weighing 7 lbs., one ounce and measuring 20 1/2 inches long.

MARRIAGES

Steven Baldwin, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Unit, married Elaine on July 27.

Timothy Bliszack, Drain Commissioner's Office, Eight Mile Water Division, married Cathy Marrie Szarame on Aug. 17.

erry Cavellier, Circuit Court, former clerk to Judge Cooper, married Jillian Wildner on May 31. Judge Cooper performed the ceremony.

John Chestnut, Drain Commissioner's Office, Eight Mile Water Division, married Patricia Ann Teets on Aug. 17.

Curt Chowanic, Equalization, married Andrea Bowes on Sept. 1.

Tricia Nevison, Equalization, married Greg McRobb on Feb. 14.

Erick Phillips, Development & Planning, married Kelly Kosheba on May 11.

Terri Schultz, Equalization, married Martin Sulecki on June 2.

Sheridan Sparkman, Equalization, married Scott Wood on Mar. 9.

KUDOS

Robert Bingham, Oakland County Probate Court Administrator, has been re-elected to a new three year term as a member of the board of the National Association of Probation Executives.

Jeanine Gibbs, Circuit Court, clerk to Judge Langford-Morris, passed the bar in May.

Timothy Hoskins, Facilities Maintenance & Operations Maintenance Unit, received his associate's degree in environmental systems: HVAC technician from Oakland Community College.

Judge Howard, Circuit Court, received the distinguished service award from the Police Officers Association of Michigan on May 17.

Fred Korzon, Bloomfield Township supervisor, rejoined the parks commission in June upon the resignation of Richard Skarritt. Korzon previously served on the commission from 1989 to 1993.

James Lavender, Circuit Court, clerk to Judge O'Brien, passed the bar in May.

Bob Lissner, Parks & Receptions, recently received his mechanical license for heating and cooling systems.

Rudy Mendoza, Equalization, became a citizen of the United States of America in February.

Sue Quinlan, Health Division, graphic artist, had a painting accepted for the Pastel Society of America's Annual Show. The pastel painting will be exhibited in New York City from Sept. 7 through 29. Pastels are soft chalks of pure pigment sealed with a binding agent.

Judge Schnelz, Circuit Court, was awarded the Oakland County Republican's John N. O'Brien Memo-

rial Award for distinguished community activities on June 6.

Patricia Shull, Aviation & Transportation, received the 1996 President's Award at the Michigan Association of Airport Executives Annual Conference on Sept. 19. She was honored for her contributions to aviation.

Dave Smith, Parks & Receptions's Technical Support, scored 97 percent on the National Swimming Pool Foundation's Certified Pool Operator's Exam. His score ranks Dave in the top one-half of one percent and shows that our guests are in very capable hands.

THE SWAP SHOP

FOR SALE: Nordic Rider. Hardly used/excellent condition; paid \$315, asking \$250; Purchased in January 1996. Call Carol after 6 p.m. (810) 684-1503; work (810) 858-5566.

FOR SALE: Shoei X-8R Helmet. Full-face; black; under 20 hours use; like new; protective bag; asking \$200 (paid \$350). Call Mark at (810) 858-0457 days, or (810) 541-4228 nights.

FOR SALE: Kitchen/Dinette Set. Table with white ceramic tile and oak trim; self-storing leaf. Four white and oak Winsor chairs; like new. Call Theresa at (810) 858-1292.

FOR SALE: 1992 Pontiac Grand Am SE. Two door; 4-cylinder; \$7,295 or best offer. Call Vicki at (810) 858-5352.

FOR SALE: 7-day Vacation Package at Blue Tree Resort in Orlando, Fla (also includes Bahamas cruise). Can be used anytime through December 1997. \$500 total. Call Ken Cooper at (810) 673-8880.

Oakland County Information Hotline: (810) 858-1022

Giving you your choice of news:

Press **1** for Employee Information

Press **2** for late breaking
Oakland County news

Press **3** for Arts & Cultural Events

Press **4** for Community & Minority
Affairs News

Employee of the Month

by Ara Kachadourian, Media & Communications

"I was totally surprised and clueless when I received the award," commented **Larry Falardeau** upon receiving the Employee of the Month Award. Falardeau, an associate planner for the Development & Planning Division, joined Oakland County in 1982. When asked how he felt about being named Employee of the Month, Falardeau said, "I was pleased to be honored."



Falardeau's responsibilities include working with issues concerning the development of recreation areas, open spaces and environmental concerns. Furthermore, Falardeau's duties include working with and assisting local communities and county government in the development of projects. This involves evaluating and assessing the preservation of natural resources.

Development and Planning Supervisor Debbie Schutt remarked, "Larry gives 110 percent to all his work in the office; he goes above and beyond." In addition, Schutt praised Falardeau saying, "I can't say enough about this man; I constantly hear the highest praise from the people in the communities he works with."

During his spare time Falardeau's hobbies include watercolor painting and sketching. In fact, Falardeau has a picture on display in the Information Technology building. Through his sketches Falardeau raises money for charity by donating them to the Pontiac Light House.

"I was surprised and stunned," I was **Barry Waara's** reaction to receiving the Employee of the Month Award. Waara, a records retention specialist, replied "it feels good to be recognized for a job that not too many notice."



Waara joined Oakland County in 1970 and since then has played a key role in expanding the Records Retention department. As a records retention specialist, Waara has been responsible for maintaining an effective, accessible, and efficient records department for Oakland County. In addition, Waara's duties include organizing and cataloging various information such as court documents, historical volumes, and videos.

J. David VanderVeen, Central Services director, said, "Barry is an unsung hero because so much of what he does is not recognized." According to VanderVeen, the reason why Waara was recognized is, "because of Barry's dedication to maintaining a well run and efficient operation."

When not at work, Waara's hobbies include boating and traveling. In fact, Waara has traveled extensively across the United States three times, visiting 40 states. However, Waara enjoys spending spare time with his two younger sons, ages nine and 11, and coaching them in tae kwon do.

Jackie Hooper, personnel analyst, is one of the latest recipients of the Employee of the Month Award. Upon receiving the award Hooper replied, "I am surprised and appreciate being selected for the award, although I have been with the county for a short time."



Hooper began working for the county in 1994. Previously, she worked as a student in the jury office, Auditing Division, and Parks and Recreation. Since Hooper began working in the Personnel Department, she has been a valuable employee. Hooper's responsibilities as personnel analyst involve the process of selection, placement, and recruitment for the Oakland County CMH. When asked what she likes about working for Oakland County, Hooper said, "the supervisors here are nurturing and very encouraging; it is also nice to have such good coworkers." Judy Eaton, manager of the Human Resources Division, said, "I consider Jackie a superstar. She is dedicated, hardworking, and wonderful to work with." Eaton further praised Hooper saying, "Jackie is a special person and has a great future here at Oakland County."

Whenever she is not busy, Hooper's hobbies include golf and racquetball. However, what she enjoys most is spending time with her husband playing golf.

"I was very surprised and felt really good being recognized," said **Jere Shockey**, FM&O telecommunication network specialist, after receiving the Employee of the Month Award. "I consider this award an honor and appreciate it very much; it makes me happy to work at Oakland County," remarked Shockey.



Shockey began his career at Oakland County in 1992. His experience as a network specialist has helped the county to become more efficient in its communication systems. Shockey has been instrumental in various projects, including the management of fiber-optic communications, developing video warning for the Prosecutor's office, enhancing the Sheriff's communication system and international video conferencing. When asked what he likes about working for Oakland County, Shockey replied, "the way Brooks Patterson's leadership has allowed the county to become a leader in technology for the 21st century."

Dick Johnston, manager of FM&O remarked "Jere is able to juggle a multitude of telephone communication and data line projects simultaneously to help push Oakland County to the leading edge in new technology."

Outside work, Shockey's interests include playing basketball and spending time with his family. Shockey currently plays in an amateur basketball league with some former professional players.