

# Official keeps watch over county business, growth

BY TODD WICKS  
STAFF WRITER

"Run Oakland County like a business" is Ken Rogers' unofficial motto.

Appointed as a deputy county executive in June, Rogers plans to do just that. The former director of community and economic development says he will follow the lead of County Executive L. Brooks Patterson by always keeping the bottom line in mind.

"I'm a businessman who's come to government, and I like what I've seen of his style," said Rogers recently. "He's been an effective manager of the public trust. I'd like to think I could follow that kind of initiative."

Rogers, of Springfield Township, recalled Patterson's handling of a potentially disastrous economic crisis a few years back. "In 1993, we discovered a \$24 million shortfall that would affect the county the next year. Instead of bonding that debt out, Mr. Patterson balanced the budget. He took numerous steps to

insure that it wouldn't fall on the backs of the public, and in the end, our bond rating went up.

"Fiscal responsibility is what he has set in place and I intend to follow along that path."

But that will be no small responsibility. Oakland County is now officially the nation's fastest-growing county, with more than one million citizens and 40,000 businesses. How does Rogers plan to keep this success going?

"By staying lean and mean," he said. "Oakland County has 4,000 employees, versus the city of Detroit, which has 17,000. I think those numbers show that we're pretty efficient here."

"When I asked him to join the administration, I knew he was a talented guy," said Patterson recently. "But he scored home run after home run on projects. Every time I asked him to do something, it was done superbly. When (former deputy county executive) John Grubba retired, it was a tough call for me to

make, but Ken caught my eye."

Finances and budgets are nothing new to Rogers. Before working for the county, he was the co-owner of Evans and Associates, a successful real estate and development company, for 20 years. He founded Oakland County's Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and currently serves on the board of directors at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac.

"Ken has been a valued member of our Divisional Board since his appointment in 1994," said Thomas Feurig, president of St. Joseph. "His expertise and perspective significantly contributes to our mission of bringing quality health care to the community."

Also the current director of United Way of Oakland County, Rogers volunteered for 16 years there, and was named the county's Volunteer of the Year in 1992.

"He was a major fund-raiser for United Way," said Jim Fisher, associate executive director of United Way of Oakland County. "He raised \$3.8 million for health and human services, an increase of 15 percent over the



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN STORCKLAND

**"Striving for excellence: Recently appointed deputy executive Ken Rogers will keep a business eye on the county."**

previous year. In fact, Ken was responsible for the fifth largest growth in the campaign's 55-year history."

Despite the financial problems it will cause the county, Rogers seemed genuinely disappointed when the Detroit Lions

announced their intention to move out of the Pontiac Silverdome as soon as possible. "There is a tremendous sense of loss. I don't think I'll ever forget the first time I sat down and watched a game there. (But) we can't have a stadium there if we don't have a football team. It's going to have to come down. It sits on a valuable piece of property."

But besides that pothole, he says that the only foreseeable problem to the county's continued growth is simply running out of land. "We also have to recognize that Oakland County enjoys a very high quality of life. We have more golf holes per capita than any other county in America. The number-one indoor entertainment facility in the country is the Palace of Auburn Hills. The number-one outdoor facility is Pine Knob. If you want to fish, sail, ski, take a hike, travel on a river, camp, you name it, you can do it here."

"The quality of life is strong, alive and well. Oakland County is a great place to live, work, educate, and recreate."

**YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU**  
But you're noticed you're not functioning as well as you used to...

It may be DEPRESSION. So call 1-800-682-6663  
FREE 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

**CALL 1-800-682-6663**

Doctors for Health Studies

**Fast Forward To Winter**  
**104th August Fur Sale**  
Every Fur Reduced

Weekly Special:  
**Save One-Third**  
On Natural, American, Female  
Ranch & Mahogany  
Givenchy Mink Coats

Last Week  
Over 100  
Door-Busters  
**60% Off**

**Dittrich**  
Since 1959  
Simply The Best

**Detroit** (313) 873-8300  
7273 Third Avenue

**Bloomfield Hills** (810) 642-3000  
1515 N. Woodward Avenue

**Warren** (586) 948-8800  
1515 N. Woodward Avenue

**SEPT. 11!**

**Shake Rattle & Roll**  
at the  
Observer & Eccentric Classified's  
Personal Scene

**Singles Party!**

Place Your Free Personal Scene ad  
and meet other Metro Detroit Singles  
in a fun and safe environment!

Join Us  
**Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6 - 8 pm**  
at Tremors! Nightclub  
at Laurel Park Drive in Livonia  
Complimentary Refreshments • Prizes

**PERSONAL SCENE**

**TREMORS** THE Observer & Eccentric  
NEWSPAPER

## MEAT YOUR STEAK CLAIM

### On These Great Labor Day Grilling Specials

Prices effective August 26 - September 1, 1996.  
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

603716 GFS  
**GROUND SIRLOIN PATTIES.....\$9.99**  
15 - 1/2 lb. patties individually wrapped.  
5 lb. box. Regular Price \$11.99

478822 GFS  
**FILET OF SIRLOIN STEAKS.....\$13.49**  
U.S.D.A. choice, 16 - 5 oz. steaks.  
5 lb. box. Regular Price \$16.99

478849 GFS  
**FILET OF SIRLOIN STEAKS.....\$14.49**  
U.S.D.A. choice, 14 - 6 oz. steaks.  
5.25 lb. box. Regular Price \$17.99

478857 GFS  
**FILET OF SIRLOIN STEAKS.....\$13.49**  
U.S.D.A. choice, 10 - 8 oz. steaks.  
5 lb. box. Regular Price \$16.79

599077 GFS  
**BONELESS CHICKEN BREASTS...\$10.49**  
5 lb. box. Regular Price \$11.89

599085 GFS  
**BONELESS/SKINLESS CHICKEN BREASTS.....\$11.49**  
5 lb. box. Regular Price \$12.69

160202 ROYAL OAK  
**HARDWOOD CHARCOAL BRIQUETS.....\$3.99**  
Fast lighting, long burning. 20 lb. bag.  
Regular Price \$4.75

**Register to WIN**

**First Prize:**  
a Weber Charcoal Grill,  
Tyson apron and oven mitt  
**Second Prize:**  
Tyson apron and oven mitt

Sign up at your local GFS Marketplace.  
Drawing held Sept. 2, 1996.

Co-sponsored by Royal Oak Foodservice and  
Gordon Food Service Marketplace.

#### 8 Locations to serve you:

Brighton (810) 220-0110  
Farmington Hills (810) 474-1990  
Mt. Clemens (810) 792-7600  
Rochester Hills (810) 656-5000  
Taylor (313) 291-0560  
Troy (810) 588-4700  
Utica (810) 254-5656  
Westland (313) 721-8700  
Hours: Mon. - Sat. 8 - 8:30 PM

**GFS**  
**Marketplace**

Open to the Public  
No Membership Fee