

# Patterson talk warmly received

**BY PAT MURPHY**  
STAFF WRITER

Vintage Brooks Patterson. That's what a packed house at the Oakland County auditorium got Thursday when county Executive L. Brooks Patterson delivered his 1997 State of the County Address.

The audience might have been mostly county employees, elected officials or the GOP faithful. And one of Patterson's appointees privately acknowledged orchestrating some of the applause that frequently punctuated the 30-minute address.

But even political adversaries said Patterson was at his oratorical best.

"It was a great speech," said commissioner Lawrence R. Pernick, D-Southfield. "I'd like to have seen more vision on the executive's part, but it was a great speech nonetheless."

Another Democrat thought Patterson's address had gubernatorial overtones. "The road to Lansing might be potholes," said commissioner Jeff Kingzett, D-Pontiac and Auburn Hills.

Asked to elaborate, Kingzett said the major idea in the executive's address — a possible referendum on a hike in the gasoline tax to raise road revenue — might demonstrate the kind of leadership on a statewide issue to catapult Patterson into the governor's mansion.

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, a Democrat, thought Patterson's address was "gubernatorial" without being obviously political. "It was a good report," he said. "It showed a kinder and gentler Brooks Patterson."

While Democrats were laudatory, Republicans were unabashedly proud.

Prosecutor David G. Gorcey, said he is pleased with the executive's pledge to continue providing technology to police agencies. "It shows his strong commitment to law enforcement," he said.

Providing quicker and better mug shots (with the "instant image" photo system) and fingerprints (fingerprint scanning) is a big help to law enforcement, said Gorcey, a Republican.

"Good speech," said county commissioner Sue Ann Douglas, R-Rochester. "He covered a lot of area and touched on a lot of future issues ... the gas tax and day care."

"I do not support his request for retirees. But it was a good speech," she said, referring to Patterson's request for a one-time increase in pension benefits for the county's 1,079 retirees, something that would cost \$1.2 million.

County commissioner Shelley G. Taub, R-Bloomfield Hills, praised Patterson's initiative on providing day care for county employees. "I'm a mother, and I'm an employer," she said. "I know how a benefit like that can help the county attract and keep good talent."

County commissioner David L. Moffitt, R-Farmington Hills, said the executive demonstrated leadership. "I respect his getting out front on the issue of raising the gasoline tax," he said. "But he also made it clear we need to get more money from the federal government (and Lansing) for roads."

## Repaving and widening are high on the list of road projects planned for spring:

- ROAD CONSTRUCTION WATCH**
- ◆ **Beverly Hills** — Two road projects expected to begin after June 1 include the reconstruction of the intersection of 13 Mile and Evergreen and resurfacing Evergreen between 13 Mile and 14 Mile. The intersection project will be shared with Southfield, but the northeast, northwest and southwest quadrants will be completed by Beverly Hills road work. No detours are expected during the intersection work, but detours may be necessary for the resurfacing work.
  - ◆ **Birmingham** — Brown Street, between Chester and Pierce, will be reconstructed due to the addition of new sewers and new pavement. The work is expected to begin in May and continue for two months with a detour for eastbound Brown Street traffic to Maple Road.
  - ◆ **A left through lane** will be added to Maple Road, between Eton and Coolidge, on the border of Troy and Birmingham, sometime this year. No detours are planned.
  - ◆ **Birmingham** — Due to deteriorating roads, all of the five miles of local roadways will be repaved with a layer of chip seal in the spring. Thirteen Mile and 14 Mile will not be repaved since they are not local roads. A more definite time period will be determined once a contract for services is awarded.
  - ◆ **Bloomfield Hills** — Long Lake Road, between Vaughan and Country Club, will be widened to three lanes and resurfaced beginning in spring. The project is expected to be completed in summer; it is unknown if detours will be used.
  - ◆ **Bloomfield Township** — Due to deteriorating roadway, Square Lake Road, between Bloomfield Crossing and Adams, will be resurfaced in spring. The project is expected to be finished by mid-summer. Squirrel Road, between Long Lake Road and Westview, will be resurfaced and about 1,000 feet of the north end will be reconstructed due to deteriorated pavement. The project is planned to begin in spring and be completed by summer. Long Lake Road, between Vaughan and Country Club, will be widened to three lanes and resurfaced beginning in spring. The project is expected to be completed in summer. It is not known if detours will be used.
  - ◆ **Clarkston** — Paving will be completed along the bridges on Baldwin Road, between Lake Angelus Road and Morgan, north of I-75. The 2,000 feet of resurfacing is expected to start in spring and finish up in June.
  - ◆ **Farmington** — Deteriorated concrete in Elizabeth Court, Mary Court, Twin Valley Court and the east intersection of Farmington Road and Shilohswan will be removed and replaced during spring or early summer. The entire project is expected to be completed in two months; no detours are planned. Residents living in the court areas will have access to their homes during road work. The widening project along Eight Mile, between Halsted and Farmington Road, will be restarted in spring. About one mile of paving expanding the roadway to five lanes is expected to be completed by July. It is unknown if detours will be needed.
  - ◆ **Farmington Hills** — Three subdivision paving projects are planned for early May. Rhonswood off of Gill Road and south of Nine Mile is a gravel road which is planned to be paved. A new layer of asphalt is planned for all the streets in Meadowbrook subdivision near Eight Mile and Halsted as well as drainage improvements. The gravel roads of Forestbrook and Grand Duke, off of Inkster Road west of I-695, will also be paved. Detours may be used within the subdivisions.
  - ◆ **Oxford** — The continuation of the 1996 paving project this spring will culminate with the final layer of roadway to be laid on the following residential roads in April or early May: Maple, Dayton, First, Willow, Depot, Church, Powell, Mill, East, Hovey and Louck. No detours are expected and a completion date has not been set.
  - ◆ **Rochester** — The Sheldon Road Extension is under construction and expected to be completed in late summer. The first phase of the three-phase project to create a bypass through the city of Rochester is a half-mile stretch of two-lane roadway from east of Miller and is expected to be open for traffic in July.
  - ◆ **Southfield** — Widening 12 Mile at Telegraph to include a right-turn lane from eastbound 12 Mile to southbound Telegraph is expected to start on April 7 and be completed by May 23. Ten Mile, between Beech and Inkster Road, will be resurfaced due to deterioration. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, between Inkster Road and Telegraph, will be given a new approach. The project is planned for spring and is scheduled to be completed in summer. It is not known whether detours will be needed for these projects.
  - ◆ **Troy** — A left through lane lane will be added to Maple Road, between Eton and Coolidge, on the border of Troy and Birmingham, sometime this year. No detours are planned.
- Source: Local, county, city and village road officials. Compiled by staff writer Jennifer Placinto

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## Book reading honors women

The Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus is celebrating Women's History Month and the 25th anniversary of its Womencenter.

Authors Vivian DeGnin, Nancy Ryan and Margo La Gattuta, all of Rochester will be reading from their book *Variations on the Ordinary* at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in The Studio Cafe of The Orchard Ridge Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

The 25th anniversary is Tuesday, March 18. For information on both events, call the Womencenter at (810) 471-7602.

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