



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HOPKINS

**New leader: Karl Kling, new executive director of the Oakland County Republicans, sits at his desk.**

## New county GOP head: 'We're here'

50th anniversary celebration tonight

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

Peanut butter goes with jelly. But for Karl Kling, Oakland County Republican's newly-appointed executive director, peanut butter goes with politics.

"At age 9 or 10, I was a real big fan of peanut butter," said Kling, now 28.

More importantly, former peanut farmer Jimmy Carter was president at the time.

"And I thought, well, 'if I'm a big fan of peanut butter and here's a peanut farmer whose president,'" said Kling, recalling his childhood dream of becoming president.

Other than following his parents in becoming a republican in the 80s under president Ronald Reagan, the rest is history, he said.

Kling, a resident of Madison Heights, ran in 1994 for a seat on the Oakland County Commission and served as deputy political director for John Pappa George, who was running for a Michigan seat on the U.S. House of Representatives.

Discovering that he was extremely opinionated in high school only solidified his future commitment to working in politics. "It just kind of spurred itself," he recalled.

Kling served as director of communications for the local Republican Party chapter and had assumed many of the executive director's responsibilities in 1997.

His appointment also arrives as the organization prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Members will commemorate the milestone this evening at the Northfield Hilton in Troy.

United States Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Missouri, U.S. Rep. Joseph Knollenberg, R-Blomfield Hills, and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson will address the group.

"The Republican Party has basically been the driving force in Oakland County for years. ... But you cannot sit back as a party and assume that people know what we're doing," said Kling, revealing one of his main objectives as executive director.

The new executive director also hopes to better organize the group's volunteers and make the results of grass-roots efforts more apparent to those donating their time.

"We're going to give everybody a game plan and show them that they're part of a team, that their contribution is appreciated and a useful tool in getting Republicans elected," he said.

Also high on his priority list is increasing membership, particularly in the county's "pockets of Democrats," he said.

Most important to Kling, however, is increasing county Republicans' awareness of the local group. "We want people to know that we're here, rather than just assuming that we're here."

Cognizance will bring additional members and increased grass-roots activity, Kling said. Also, more and more individuals will use Oakland County Republicans as a community resource through which to obtain information about local legislators, party platforms and issues of concern.

"We would like to get into people's psyche a little bit more," said Kling. "We just like people to know that we're here."

## State fights rulings on gun records, DNR case

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

State lawyers are continuing to fight two major losses in the Court of Appeals.

Fred Mager, Redford Township resident who won a gun records case against Michigan State Police, said last week the state has applied for re-hearing before the Court of Appeals.

That court, in a 3-0 decision Dec. 15, said he is entitled, under the Freedom of Information Act, to the state's list of people whose pistols have passed local police safety checks.

"I haven't got my hands on it yet. By the time I get it, it's too late for the election," said Mager, who is unhappy about the delay.

Mager wants the list in order to build up political support for a less restrictive pistol licensing bill sponsored by Rep. Alan Cropey, R-DeWitt. State police

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**Fred Mager**  
— Redford Township resident

argued that giving up the list was "an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

In another case, state Attorney General Frank Kelley announced his office will go to the state Supreme Court to seek reversal of a boat launch decision against the Department of Natural Resources.

"It's likely an appeal will be filed. We have until Tuesday," said Kelley's spokesman, Chris DeWitt.

A Court of Appeals panel ruled late in December that DNR's plan to develop a public

boat launch on Burt Lake had to pass muster on Burt Township's zoning ordinance. The appellate court upheld a Cheboygan Circuit Court's injunction blocking further development of the launch site.

The appellate court ruled 2-1 that some agencies — such as Corrections and public universities — are immune from local zoning laws while others — such as State Police and DNR — must meet local requirements.

DNR contends its constitutional mandate to guard natural resources and provide public recreation takes precedence over township and city regulations. The property is zoned R-1 residential.

If the Supreme Court takes the case, it will be under pressure to rule before Sept. 30, when DNR's funding for the launch runs out. Burt Lake, at 16,700 acres, is one of Michigan's largest. Located west of I-76 and south of the

Mackinac Bridge, Burt has one state launch at the state park at the southeast end of the lake. DNR has options on two lots at the northwest end, about 10 miles away.

Meanwhile, developers and environmentalists are awaiting a Supreme Court decision in a major wetlands case stemming from Waterford Township.

The DNR blocked K & K Construction from developing 28 acres of a 65-acre parcel on M-69. A Court of Appeals panel upheld a lower court's award of \$5.9 million in lost property value and interest to K & K.

Siding with K & K is the Michigan Association of Home Builders.

Supporting DNR were the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the Michigan Municipal League; Michigan Townships Association and many nongovernmental environmental groups.

## Free OCC seminar offers strategies for personal success

Oakland Community College's "Transitions" is a free seminar series designed to offer support, direction and effective strategies to becoming self-empowered. The series meets once a week for six weeks.

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- Balancing family, school,

work and other responsibilities;

- Time management;
- Assertiveness training;
- Goal setting and lifelong planning;
- Resources to examine career, personal, vocational/occupational and educational options.

Campus locations and starting dates are as follow: Auburn

Hills, 2900 Featherstone Road, 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10;

Highland Lakes, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford, 9:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 10;

Orchard Ridge, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, 12:30-2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9;

Southfield, 2322 Rutland Drive, Southfield, 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11.

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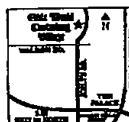
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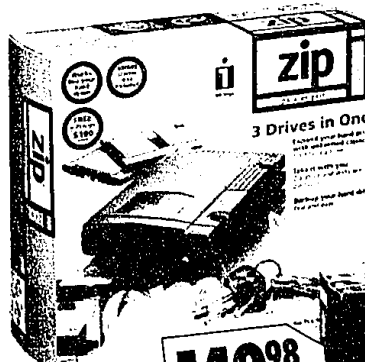
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