

Drain issues 'aren't very sexy. . .': Kuhn

Oakland County has three Aug. 4 primary races. Profiles on candidates for county executive and sheriff will run in subsequent issues.

By WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

For 20 years, George Kuhn has supervised Oakland County storm water projects — and battled Detroit over water and sewer rates.

Kuhn, 67, who wants to make it 24 years, is seeking a sixth straight term as county drain commissioner.

Trash issue holds water for him

By WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

Rick Patterson is running for drain commissioner because he believes the incumbent isn't doing enough to protect Oakland County's waterways.

"I feel very strongly about protecting our lakes and rivers," he said.

But the Rochester Hills resident admits the money isn't bad, either. "It's appealing," Patterson said of the \$80,341 annual salary. "I'd

To do so, the West Bloomfield resident must top GOP challenger Rick Patterson (See story below) in the Aug. 4 primary, as well as Democratic nominee M. Key Brady in the fall.

But Kuhn seems less concerned with his election rivals than with two long-running battles: merging the drain commission and county department of public works and forcing the state Legislature to create a regional water and sewer board, boosting suburban power in settling always-contentious service rates.

"That's my campaign right there — along with eliminating combined sewer overflows," Kuhn said, referring to outmoded sewers being re-

placed as part of a multimillion dollar project to clean up the Rouge River.

"We do big work," Kuhn said. And the numbers bear him out.

The two-county CSO replacement program is tabbed at \$1.5 billion dollars, with Oakland's own share estimated at \$100 million.

Court rulings

A series of favorable court rulings over the past 15 years has, in Kuhn's estimate, saved Oakland residents nearly \$22 million in Detroit Water and Sewer system charges.

See KUHN, 7A



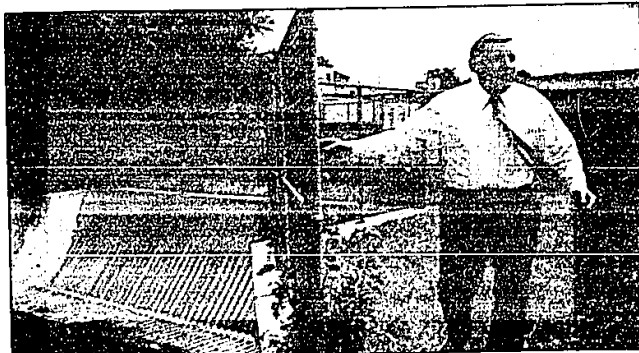
■ 'The way I see it, the drain commissioner has more direct impact on people's lives than almost any other county official.'

Rick Patterson

Imagine that's why (incumbent George) Kuhn is running too. Patterson is a builder. He also

sells wood products to other build-

ers. See PATTERSON, 7A



JOHN STORMAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On the job: County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn points to nationally recognized projects like the Price Dam, near downtown Pontiac, as examples of his success during 20 years in office.

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Wed: 12 Noon-6 p.m.
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THE VILLAGE COMMONS
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Mon: 6 p.m.
Tue: 10 a.m., 12 Noon-7 p.m.
Wed: 6 p.m.
Thur: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m.

FARMINGTON HILLS
WEIGHT WATCHERS CENTER
28555 Orchard Lake Rd.
Sun: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Mon: 7:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Tue: 5:30 p.m.
Wed: 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Thur: 5:30 p.m.
Fri: 4:30 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m.

ROCHESTER
WEIGHT WATCHERS CENTER
HAMLIN SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER
1906 S. Rochester Rd.
Mon: 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Tue: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.
Wed: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Thur: 10 a.m., 12 Noon-5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Fri: 9 a.m.
Sat: 10 a.m.

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Northwood Shopping Center
(Woodward & 13 Mile Road)
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Wed: 7:15 a.m., 6 p.m.
Thur: 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m.

SOUTHFIELD
WEIGHT WATCHERS CENTER
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11 Mile & Evergreen
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Wed: 9:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Thur: 10 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6 p.m.
Sat: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

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- Wednesday, July 22nd: Ron Caden, an entertainer and comic puts on a kids concert that will leave you and your children laughing long after the show is over.
- Wednesday, July 29th: "The Mipps" live action puppetry featuring Fred "The Smooch."
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