

County 'Casual Day' may make it to state level



Different styles: New County Executive L. Brooks Patterson (feet on desk) displays that country western look while John Grubba, deputy county executive, goes preppy.

He showed up in a suit, loosened his tie and threw it back over his shoulder. She wore ankle work boots and socks, blue jean skirt and a baseball cap. Yes, everyone had his or her own interpretation of Oakland County's first "Casual Day."

"It went so nicely," Rebecca Holowicki, director of community and minority affairs said, from under her baseball cap. "At least 80 to 90 percent of executive office building staff participated."

The brainchild of new Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, it has a dual purpose: to pick up employee morale and to raise money for the needy. Employees who choose to come to work in casual (not sloppy) clothes each middle Friday of the month, also stuff \$1 for the privilege into a "Jeans Jar." The money will be saved up and used to provide holiday baskets for Oakland County's needy.

And casual day may wend its way from Oakland County to Lansing. It happened that Gov. John Engler was in town (to speak at the Michigan Road Builders 65th annual conference held in Troy) and stopped by to meet with Patterson.

The governor showed up in slacks and a sweater — and no tie, Holowicki reported. "He had heard about it and said he might put it in at the state level."



'Casual, not sloppy': That's what the employee memo from Rebecca Holowicki (left), said. Holowicki, who is director of community and minority affairs, and Helene Moons from personnel used the day as an opportunity to don hats.

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