Mover *from page 5A*

ble of bringing together the largest collection of media types I've ever seen."

Zehnder's latest job, which pays $81,000 a year, is to bring together the seven disparate functions under the umbrella of Oakland County's Department of Public Services.

Like an orphanage

This department is sort of an orphanage for any county function that doesn't quite fit anywhere else.

Public Services covers everything from investigating dog bites under the Animal Control Division to workshops on food and fiber production under the Cooperative Extension Service Division to providing probation officers under the District Court Probation Division to spreading out federal job-training dollars under the Employment and Training Division to coordinating the county's disaster control activities under the Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management Division to helping unemployed armed-forces veterans find work under the Veterans' Services Division.

As czar of the preceding amalgamation, Zehnder reigns over 203 "damn good employees" and a $13-million budget for another good friend, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

So gung-ho on Patterson is Zehnder that he wears a lapel pin that says simply, "Brooks," and compares Patterson favorably to another hero, Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

"Him and Brooks have a lot of similar attributes," Zehnder said. "Brooks is like (Stonewall). He's down amongst his troops."

Patterson and Zehnder met through Oakland University, where they were on the Community Relations Board together.

My buddy Brooks

When Patterson decided to run for county executive, Zehnder was there to help with the campaign. "When I got involved in this whole thing I got involved because Brooks is my friend," he said.

But Zehnder is also a Vietnam War veteran, something the ultra-patriotic Patterson values highly and certainly considered when putting Zehnder in charge of veterans affairs.

"I never get too far away from the Marine Corps," Zehnder said. "If you ever go out socializing with me you'll see."

Zehnder was a Marine officer from 1962 to 1968, spending most of the last two years of that hitch as a platoon leader in Southeast Asia.

Even after he left the Corps in 1968 and took night classes at the University of Detroit, Zehnder still got his Marine haircut once a week and worked his shoes with spit and polish until they shone like black suns.

Today Zehnder is a member of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association, polishes the dickens out of his wing tips and joyously proclaims that he'll be buried in a Detroit cemetery between two Civil War generals.

"When Gabriel blows his horn and we all get up, I'll be standing with some neat people," he said.

Famous for his off-the-wall wisecracks and backslapping demeanor, Zehnder is usually the exclamation point of any party he throws.

Who is that guy?

Dave Rozema attended such a fete last year. "One guy was walking around talking real loud, and I go, 'Who's that?' " And the answer came back, "Oh, that's Mike Zehnder."

Adds Rozema, "He reminds me of what I'm going to be like when I get older. He's a ball of energy and a good man."

It's about time for this OU workshop

The Oakland University Continuum Center is offering an evening workshop "Six Steps To Effective Time Management" on Wednesday, Feb. 10, on the Rochester campus.

Participants, led by time management expert Roberta "Jeff" Dailey, will discover how to gain control over their time, their job and their lives. They will look at ways they misuse time, ways they can deal with procrastination, and ways they can "create" time to do the things they really want to do.

The fee is $39; MasterCard/VISA are accepted. Register by Feb. 8; call 370-3033, or outside Oakland County call 1-800-370-3042.

The Continuum Center is part of the Oakland University School of Education and Human Services and specializes in programs of personal enrichment and professional development.

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