

# Dove awards reward help for retarded

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Oakland County has announced its 1993 Dove Awards for people who pursue higher quality-of-life opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Here are the awards and who got them:

- Ken and Ann Calvert Philanthropist: Ken and Ann Calvert of Birmingham.
- Distinguished Service: Richard Heris of Franklin and Kathleen Martin of Troy.
- Lifetime Achievement: Paul MacCormack of the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center.
- Media Service: Elizabeth Applebaum of the Detroit Jewish News.
- Hugh Graham Inspiration: John VanBubler of Meljer Foods of Rochester.
- AI Carter Volunteer: Pat Hamburger.
- Community Home: Mabel Corey Higgs of Pontiac and Rosanna and Marvin Blades of Pontiac.
- Technician: Jessica Flynn of Madison Heights, Cory Darnell of Southfield and Jan Hurst.
- Teacher of the Year: Dennis McElhorne of Visions Unlimited, Farmington.
- Contractor of the Year: Superior Plastics of Rochester.
- Employer of the Year: Meljer Food Stores, Mary Thompson, vice president of the North Detroit District.
- Inclusion Leadership: Oak Park Schools special education department.
- Youth Volunteers: The students of Brother Rice High School, Birmingham.

# Fewer cars to roll in Oakland fleet

**BY RALPH E. ECHTINAW STAFF WRITER**

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson announced Tuesday a plan to reduce the number of county vehicles from 608 to 553.

"I think taxpayers will be impressed by that number," Patterson said. "I think we've gone through the fat to the bone, amputation in some areas."

The reduction still has to be approved by the county commission, but commission chairman Larry Crake said there shouldn't be any trouble there, anticipating an endorsement before April 30.

Patterson said the idea came from an employee suggestion program that has generated 93 submissions since Jan. 1. The car-reduction idea came from budget division financial analyst Claudia Mantello and central services garage chief William Kistler.

The plan is supposed to save the county \$1.6 million in the cur-

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rent fiscal year and \$95,000 a year thereafter.

The gist of the plan is for 20 managers to give up full-time use of county cars in exchange for a \$295 per month "travel allowance." (They would then use their own cars on county business.) An additional 35 cars would be removed from the fleet as well. None of Sheriff John Nichols' 183 patrol cars would be touched.

Also, the county would drive cars longer before replacing them. Compact cars would be driven 75,000 miles instead of 60,000. Sheriff patrol cars would be driven 75,000 miles.

The stable of cars in Patterson's own department, he said, will be reduced from 13 to 11, and none of his main managers will be allowed full-time use of a county car. "Every department head I have will be stripped of his vehicle," Patterson said.

The savings to taxpayers in this deal are important, Patterson said, because the county bankroll is stretched very thin. "We're going to be outspending our revenue by \$9 million (in the current fiscal year), probably more than that," he said, mostly due to poor performing investments. "This county is going to have to be run very tightly."

Oakland is "not in a crisis situation," Patterson said, but "if we don't do something in the next 18

months, we will be."

Asked at a press conference about reports last year of county cars turning up at golf courses in mid-afternoon, Patterson said "it didn't happen on my watch" and used the opportunity to say that reducing the size of the fleet will likewise "reduce the potential for abuse."

Asked if more cuts are planned, Patterson said, "Oh yeah, absolutely, some abandonment of programs." But he wouldn't go into detail.

Some of the cuts being considered come from the employee suggestion program, Patterson said, but many sprang from "the devils mind of Bob Daddow," Patterson's budget director.

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