

OAKLAND JOURNAL

Oakland Journal is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Please write: Oakland Journal, c/o Oakland County editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (248) 644-1314.

MAIL CALL

The Oakland County mail room, which handles a whopping 9,000 pieces of mail every day, is trying out a new automated system for presorting mail. It's estimated the new system will save Oakland County about \$40,000 a year.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners has unanimously approved a recommendation submitted by the county administration to expand the highly successful Weekend Alternatives for Misdemeanant (WAM) program. A pretrial services investigator will be added, with the cost of the new position partially paid for from special fees assessed to participants in the program. Along with freeing up jail space, the WAM program has saved taxpayers almost \$42,000, said County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's staff. The program is geared toward nonviolent offenders who spend their weekends involved in maintenance and cleanup projects in county parks, court offices and law enforcement departments.

GLEANERS BOOST

Gleaners Community Food Bank's newly initiated \$3 million drive for endowment has been given a significant boost with a grant of \$150,000 from the Detroit-based Matilda Wilson

Fund. The Gleaners Endowment was established to allow the food bank to meet the growing challenge of hunger in southeastern Michigan in the years to come. Gleaners and its member agencies currently provide more than 300,000 meals a week to poor and hungry people. More than 41 percent of those served are children. The Matilda Wilson Fund, which has broad purposes, was established in 1944 by Matilda and Alfred Wilson, who built Meadow Brook Hall in the 1920s in Rochester Hills.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Oakland County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program seeks volunteers 65 and older to become involved with community agencies that need assistance. Varied opportunities are available at schools, hospitals, libraries, human service organizations and cultural institutions throughout Oakland County. Benefits include supplemental accident and liability insurance, mileage reimbursement and the chance to make a difference. For further information and assistance in finding the right volunteer spot, call Edna Thoms at (248) 559-1147.

Volunteers are needed by St. Joseph Mercy - Oakland, with openings in the gift shop, surgical lounge among other areas. Call the hospital at (248) 858-3035 to set up an appointment for a November orientation. The hospital is located at 900 Woodward Avenue, just north of Square Lake Road, in Pontiac.

PENNIES-A-POINT

Grant Hill and the Detroit Pistons will again team up with Oakland County Special Olympics for the "Pennies-A-Point" program for the 1997-98

season. The program entails pledging pennies (one cent, five cents or 10 cents) for every point that Grant Hill scores for regular season games. Pledge proceeds go to Oakland County Special Olympics for training, competition, uniforms, equipment and other costs throughout the year. Pledge cards are available at the Special Olympics office by calling (248) 674-4924. Oakland County Special Olympics offers 18 year-round sports for children and adults with mental retardation.

AMI RAFFLE

The Alliance for the Mentally III of Oakland County will hold its ninth annual limited ticket raffle. Grand prize is a 1998 Corvette or \$30,000 cash. Other prizes include a TV, VCR and camcorder. Tickets are \$100 and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at the Jack Cawley Dealership in West Bloomfield. Proceeds from the sale help support research, education, support groups, housing and advocacy for the needs of individuals with mental illness and the needs of their families. For ticket information, call (248) 657-6440.

PERSONAL COUNSELING

Counseling services are available free of charge at the Practicum Counseling Center on the Rochester Hills campus of Oakland University. The center is open most weekdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (248) 370-4187 or (248) 370-4176.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE

Youth Assistance Volunteer Programs of Oakland County Probate Court need positive adult

role models for children ages 5 to 16 in need of one-to-one mentors. To become a mentor, join us for training from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 15. For more information about Oakland County Youth Assistance, call (248) 858-0041.

The court also needs a few good volunteers to periodically check on elderly and very young individuals who are in the care of guardians appointed by the court. Guardianship Volunteer Training sessions will be conducted Nov. 15 and 19.

For more information about this volunteer opportunity, call (248) 858-0288. All training programs will take place at the Oakland County Courthouse at 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

OU SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate students at Oakland University in Rochester Hills who are physically challenged and use wheelchairs are eligible for financial assistance through the Steven R. and Leah P. Vartanian Endowment Scholarship Fund. Scholarship applications can be filed with the Office of Graduate Study at Oakland University. The application deadline is Dec. 1. For more information, call (248) 370-2194.

ADD SPEAKER

Family and Classroom Training & Resources reports that John F. Taylor, a prominent authority on Attention Deficit Disorder, will present a day-long seminar for parents and professionals entitled: "Beyond Ritalin: Mega-Answers to ADHD" at 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the DoubleTree Guest Suites in Southfield. For registration information, call (248) 988-0532. CEUs and university credit are available.

Purpose of the public service/community outreach

Jubilee to aid victims of Alzheimer's

effort is to strengthen families, decrease juvenile delinquency and reduce school dropout rates.

WAR TOY PROTEST

Women's Action for New Directions and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom are cosponsoring the 12th annual peaceful demonstration to stop war toys at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 28, at the Toys R Us store at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield. The organizations are providing leaflets, petitions, pins, clowns, and balloons. Demonstrators are encouraged to bring their children, musical instruments, signs and posters. Theme for the demonstration is "Toys are tools for learning."

ALEXIS SUPPORT GROUP

The Alexis Foundation for Premature Infants and Children will be having bi-weekly support groups for parents and caregivers of premature infants at the Women's Survival Center of Oakland County, 167 W. Pike Street in Pontiac. The support group will begin from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, and continue to meet on alternate Saturdays.

Area residents are invited to share their premie's story and speak with other parents who have experienced the difficulties which come with having a premature baby.

RESCUE MISSION BREAKFAST

The Pontiac Rescue Mission is hosting a "Give thanks for kids" breakfast from 7:30-9 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, at the Troy Marriott, on Big Beaver east of I-76. Cost is \$25 per adult and \$10 per child. Keynote speaker will be Frank Reich of the Detroit Lions. Association's programs and services for disease victims and their families. To make an event reservation or obtain additional information, call (248) 334-2187.

The Alzheimer's Association invites everyone to help sweeten the world of Alzheimer's patients and their families, as they celebrate with the stars during the Chocolate Jubilee, Nov. 23 at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn.

Speaking at the event is 13-year-old Lindsay Smalley, of Commerce Township, who will share how her family has been impacted since her father, 53, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Lindsay's personal revelations reflect the poignant and bitter-sweet reality of the affliction.

Currently, more than four million Americans have the disease with 65,000 of its victims residing in the Detroit area.

The annual Chocolate Jubilee event begins at noon with a patron lunch sponsored by William Beaumont Hospital. Tickets for the luncheon start at \$125 and include lunch and patron entrance to the Jubilee, which runs 2:30 to 4 p.m. and features culinary treats from over 30 chocolatiers and restaurateurs. Admission to the Jubilee is \$30.

Also, more than 25 local media celebrities, including WKBD news anchor Amy Makupson - chair of the Chocolate Jubilee - plan to make an appearance at the event to show their support for the Alzheimer's Association and its mission.

More than 85 percent of the monies raised through the Chocolate Jubilee event will directly support the Alzheimer's Association's programs and services for disease victims and their families.

To make an event reservation or obtain additional information, call (248) 657-8277.

County celebrates community education

"Education is a community affair" is the theme of the 16th annual National Community Education Day to be observed in Oakland County on Tuesday.

In Oakland County, all community schools are working to build and maintain support systems, social, economic and health, that make it a nurturing, caring and vital place, according to a press

release.

Sponsored by the National Community Education Association, this day was established in 1982 to recognize and promote strong working relationships between schools and communities.

It now is co-sponsored nationally by more than 35 organizations.

DAILY SLOT TOURNAMENTS
NOVEMBER 10 THROUGH NOVEMBER 21, 1997
(Saturday and Sunday Excluded)

MILLIONS
\$2000* DAILY
IN CASH PRIZES

Championship Round First Prize **\$500***
First Round Tournament Session Prize **\$30***
Entry Fee: **\$22 U.S.**

- Entrants will receive a commemorative T-shirt and a coupon worth 50% off selected entrée items at the Galley Food Court.
- Sessions start every hour on the hour from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Championship Round begins at 7 p.m. each evening.
- Register at the Players Prestige™ Booth on the third deck of the Northern Belle Casino™.

For more information see a Marketing Representative at the Players Prestige™ Booth or call Casino Marketing at 1-800-991-7777.

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