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Dedicated to the history and heritage of Oakland County, Michigan

September 2019

THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue Pontiac, Michigan 48342

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Charlotte Cooper

***Who Moved My Cheese?***

is a motivational business fable published in 1998 which describes changes in one's work and life, and four typical reactions to those changes embodied by two mice, Sniff and Scurry, and two "Little People," Hem and Haw, during their hunt for cheese. The author warns that Change Happens, so

Anticipate, Monitor, Adapt, and Enjoy Change.

Change is certainly evident at Pine Grove! I hope you have been reading the emails from Executive Director Mike McGuinness, which describe the increase in activities, opportunities, and members. Like Sniff, Scurry, Hem, and Haw, some folks have wondered, "Who Moved My Cheese?"

I "Enjoy the Changes" created by Mike, the Cheese Mover, who has brought new energy to Pine Grove. I encourage you to visit and meet him, and to attend our expanded programs and events. New or seasoned, it's a great time to be a member of OCPHS! We appreciate each and every one of you, and all of these changes are designed to serve you.

The Society is also an important part of the Oakland County Bicentennial Committee, and the birthday activities will continue throughout 2020. Look for updates in future issues of the *Gazette*. Our county has seen many, many changes in its 200 years, and OCPHS marches along with it as we implement innovative and exciting ways to preserve and convey its history.

Warm regards, Charlotte

OCPHS cordially invites you to our Gala & Auction on Saturday, November 2nd! We are currently seeking sponsorships and donations of quality items for auction. Contact the office for further info and to purchase your tickets!



Preserving & Celebrating Oakland County's History Since 1874:

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48342 (248) 338-6732

Gala & Auction • November 2nd

6:00 to 9:00 pm • Wisner School • Strolling Dinner • Silent Auction • Live Auction

**2019 Gala: "Back to School Again!"**

Tickets: ___ \$40 per person ___ \$70 per couple

Optional: Wear an ensemble that reflects your school days & school spirit!

Sponsorship Levels: ___ \$1,000 ___ \$500

\$1,000 Governor Level: 10 tickets, full page ad, annual recognition, keepsake

\$500 Executive Level: 5 tickets, half page ad, annual recognition, keepsake

Program Book Advertisement Space: (we can design it for you!)

___ \$350 Inside Cover ___ \$200 Full Page ___ \$125 Half Page

___ \$75 Quarter Page ___ \$40 Business Card ___ \$10 Booster Listing

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Saleable Items, Services, Gift Certificates, Gift Baskets, Tickets, & More

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society (OCPHS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and conveying Oakland County's role in the evolution of American history, and to maintaining the Pine Grove Museum, homestead of Michigan's 12th governor, Moses Wisner. Donations are tax deductible in accordance with applicable law. Federal Tax ID #38-1846291. Michigan Charitable Solicitation License #7467.

For purchases & more information: www.ocphs.org (248) 338-6732

Mail Form and Payment to OCPHS: 405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48342

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mike McGuinness



To my fellow members of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, it is an honor to serve as our Executive Director. I want to thank the Board of Directors for having the vision to establish an Executive Director position in order to advance our mission – and for hiring me to fulfill that role.

The significance of supporting and growing an organization that has been in existence for over 145 years is awe-inspiring. Our Historical Society's journey has been greatly impacted by generations of volunteers and advocates who shared their time, talents, and resources to allow us to thrive and – in more challenging times – survive. In my first few weeks here, I've been struck by feelings of reverence and awe for those that came before in various roles to keep the Society moving forward. I do not take this challenge and this opportunity lightly.

Our greatest organizational needs boil down to members, money and momentum. That is my strategic charge and focus of my efforts. Granted, I am also attempting to become acquainted with the nuances and internal processes at the same time – but to be successful one must adapt and multitask!

On Members: I'm pleased to report that in my first two months in this role, I have recruited 142 new dues-paying members. That total surpasses the number of dues-paying members that were on the rolls when I started. For those faithful readers of past *Gazettes*, you would notice that this is a modern record for new members of our Society. With that said, we have much further to go to get to a sustainable level of members to support the organization. A large area for future growth is the retention and renewal of members when their memberships expire. As I work to enhance our processes and outreach, I call upon our veteran members' support by way of renewing your membership dues and recruiting like-minded people in your networks to join as well.

On Money: Our capacity to operate is dependent upon our ability to pay for utilities, insurance, facilities and grounds maintenance, telecommunications, security, and limited staff (me). Those necessities are costly. Our capacity to flourish and excel in advancing our mission calls for further resources. Those ideal functions are presently beyond our reach, but I'm working on it! A substantial opportunity for members to assist on the financial front is our Society Gala and Auction on November 2nd. Please purchase your tickets, encourage your network to purchase tickets, purchase a program book advertisement, sell an advertisement to a local business, identify items we can sell in the auction or consider becoming a

Governor Level Event Sponsor for \$1,000 or an Executive Level Event Sponsor for \$500. If we collaborate, through this single fundraiser we could pay the organization's annual operating expenses in one fell swoop. That would be a very, very big deal and we can do it together.

On Momentum: We've got it, friends! The Society is currently experiencing a massive surge of participation, awareness, programming, engagement, and enthusiasm. You've already seen the membership update. I'm excited to share that, following on the heels of a successful Summer Social, we've had a continuous flow of terrific programs. I've added outdoor summer concerts in our gazebo, outdoor yoga in the Governor's Gardens and Wednesday evening weekly discussions. The recent Mini Lectures with Ron Campbell and Tom Nelson, respectively, were very well received. When I poll the audiences on whether they've been to Pine Grove before, often over half of the hands go up indicating this is their first time here. Our social media presence is ballooning with our Facebook followers doubling, our Facebook posts being seen by tens of thousands, our Twitter account revived and our Instagram account created and going full force. Please join us and participate in as many of this Fall's programs as your schedule allows!

The recent growth in members, money and momentum is a big deal. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in these recent months – and thank you to everyone who has played a role over the years. Today's growth is impossible without the foundation laid and tended by those who were previously active. Let us leverage the present opportunity to make enduring, sustainable advances as an organization, and let us make great strides in the county's bicentennial year of 2020. Thank you again to the Board of Directors for your decision to bring me aboard; it is an honor to be of service to you, my fellow members of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Together, let us have a great time preserving and celebrating our amazing Oakland County history.

OCPHS is excited to announce the hiring of Mike McGuinness as our Executive Director. At their June 2019 meeting, the Board of Directors voted to hire Mike to begin in this capacity the following month.

Most recently, he worked for the federal government on the staff of Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence. Mike served as Campaign Manager and Finance Director in her previous federal campaigns as well. Prior to that, he held multiple roles over six years at Towne Mortgage Company in Troy which included leading the marketing team, the appraisals process and the home renovation loans process.

In addition to fundraising, organizing, and outreach, Mike has a strong record of community involvement. He was elected to the Pontiac School Board in 2016 and currently serves as Board Secretary. From 2015 to 2019, Mike served a four-year term as Pontiac Arts

Commission Chairman. He implemented multiple innovative programs, including the successful Pontiac Arts Crawl in downtown Pontiac in 2018 and 2019. He previously served on the Pontiac Charter Revision Commission as well.

Mike, 35, is a resident of Pontiac, on Union Street across from the historic Central Elementary School, and has been a member of our Society since 2011. He grew up in West Bloomfield and Pontiac, graduating from Walled Lake Central High School and Oakland University. While at Oakland, he was active on campus in multiple organizations, including being twice elected Student Body President, and was an AmeriCorps National Service Member in the Pontiac community to help pay for college and make a difference.

REFLECTING ON THE SUMMER SOCIAL

Barbara Frye, 2019 Planning Committee member

It takes many minds working together to generate new ideas that work well within an existing framework. OCPHS has been hosting an annual Summer Social since about 1968. The Social has always been a way to connect with members and the community, evolving over the years to suit the needs of the Society and its members. One constant has been showing the home of Governor Moses Wisner to visitors. Another constant has been serving ice cream at this summer event. Over the years many elements have been added, making a simple social a bit more complicated.

For 2019, the Planning Committee generated several new ideas that worked very well within the tried & true framework, the first being the temporary title change to "Pioneer Reunion & Social" in honor of the bicentennial of Oakland County in 2020. The second experiment was to offer sponsored free admission. This year's Committee worked well together brainstorming and implementing new concepts, a few of which deserve special mention.

Giving credit where credit is due...Charlotte Cooper suggested a Specific Sponsor Opportunities List. This was a way for sponsors to receive special recognition for covering the cost of specific elements of the Social. Each member and potential business sponsor received a

a copy of this list. It was a super successful idea; the List was fully funded!

Did you enjoy the soft-serve ice cream this year? Rosie Richardson suggested reaching out to Dairy Queen and made it happen. Rosie also came up with the delightful idea of taking chances on winning a basket full of goodies for a dollar per ticket. Nine baskets were donated and went home with very happy guests. Rosie was also responsible for the School House handout. Thank you, Rosie!

The Committee also decided to move the traditional Porch Talks from the side porch of the Mansion to the Gazebo in the Grove. This move freed up more time for tours of the Mansion and afforded our guests a bit more shaded seating. By all accounts this change was well received by guests and speakers alike.

Oakland County will be 200 years old in 2020. OCPHS was founded in 1874 and has been a viable organization from that time. We wish to remember and honor our history and that of the County next year; however, to make that happen with a fresh perspective...we need you. Please consider being a member of the Summer Social Planning Committee for 2020, and your new ideas could become new traditions.



Individual Sponsors:

Bruce & Amy Annett
 Charlotte Cooper
 Tom Duffield
 Charles & Laurie Gahm
 Reida B. Gardiner
 David & Barbara Hendershot
 Margaret Ann Jackson
 Patricia Kaltwasser
 Joan Pate
 Linda Porter
 Claire Pryor
 Rosie Richardson
 Richard B. Sartell
 Suellen K. Tozzi
 Ernest Upcott
 Robert & Kari Vaughan
 Nena E. (Betty) Wright
 Rodger Zeller

Silent Auction Basket Donors:

Mackinaw Basket -
 Ann Johnson/U.P. Treasures & Antiques

Flower Basket - Tim Travis/Goldner Walsh

Bird Basket - Sara Cote

Dinner with OCPHS Executive Director -
 Mike McGuinness

Museum Tour with OCPHS President - Charlotte Cooper

Cemetery Walk (2) - OCPHS

Pontiac Central High School Blanket - Tom Duffield

Coffee Basket - Danny Martinez/Alley Cat Cafe

Special thanks to the following...

Free admission sponsored by:
 Joyce E. Scafe, in memory of Gale & Connie Scafe

Parking sponsored by:
 Joe Lunghamer Chevrolet

Appearance by Abraham Lincoln sponsored by:
 Raymond Lucas

Comfort Stations sponsored by:
 Bill Clink and Turner Sanitation

Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Unit
 sponsored by:
 Catherine Jo Dixon and Gaylor W. Forman

Peace Jubilee Brass Band sponsored by:
 The PLAT and an Anonymous Donor

Printing of programs sponsored by:
 Van & Geraldine Jones and Carroll & Pam DeWeese

Postage costs covered by: Van & Geraldine Jones

We Remember & Honor...

In Memory of Miriam Foxman - by Susan Kay Williams

In Memory of Beatrice & Richard H. Frye -
 by Barbara L. Frye

In Memory of Joseph W. Gallardo -
 by Rosemary Gallardo Clark

In Memory of Rex Lamoreaux - by Fred & Anne Liimatta

In Memory of Janine Saputo - by Colleen Barkham

In Honor of Harold Furlong, M.D. -
 by Bruce T. Henderson, M.D.

In Honor of Charles Martinez - by Richard Stamps, Ph.D.

**L BROOKS PATTERSON, LONGTIME OAKLAND
 COUNTY EXECUTIVE, PASSES AWAY**



Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson passed away on August 3rd at the age of 80 following a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Patterson played a central role in shaping Oakland County's history over the past fifty years, both before and during his elected tenure. He was also a lifetime member of OCPHS, supporting the organization in various meaningful ways over the decades.

During his time as Oakland County Executive, to which he was elected in 1992, Oakland County evolved a great deal and witnessed substantial change. In addition to his 26 years as Executive, Patterson served as Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney. Outside of his official duties, Patterson founded The Rainbow Connection, a Rochester-based nonprofit that grants wishes to seriously ill children.

Patterson's Chief Deputy Executive, Gerald Poisson, succeeded him as Interim County Executive for two weeks. Following a vote by the Oakland County Commission in August, David Coulter became the new Oakland County Executive. Coulter was Mayor of Ferndale at the time of his appointment, and previously served as an Oakland County Commissioner for eight

years and Executive Director of the Michigan AIDS Fund. "I know no one can replace Brooks Patterson, and I'm not going to attempt to. I will just do my best," Coulter said at his swearing-in ceremony.

The Board of Directors extends condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Brooks Patterson, and has voted to make a contribution to The Rainbow Connection in his memory.

(Image courtesy of the Office of L. Brooks Patterson)

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONCLUDES

Mike McGuinness

Well, we tried something new...and it was a hit! Thank you to the hundreds of attendees, many having never visited us before, who came to one of our five outdoor concerts in August. Our gazebo was rocking and our grounds received rave reviews for their appearance. Musical acts featured during the Friday evening performances were The Human State, Paula Michelle, Darcy Moran, Tamara Orza-Ramos, Arnie Thomas, and Terry Herald. Feedback was so positive that we aim to bring the summer concert series back to Pine Grove in 2020.



VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP OAK HILL CEMETERY

Mike McGuinness



On Friday, September 13th, OCPHS organized a volunteer cleanup of the historic Oak Hill Cemetery in Pontiac. Among the volunteers were 17 "Team GM Cares" General Motors employees from their Pontiac facilities. They made a big difference throughout the cemetery grounds, which was of great benefit ahead of our

Oak Hill Cemetery Walk on September 22nd. Thank you to all who participated!
(Above images courtesy of Mike McGuinness)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October 2

Discussion: Council of Labor Union Women
6:00 – 8:00 PM

October 9

Discussion: North Oakland Branch NAACP
6:00 – 8:00 PM

October 16

Discussion: History of Pontiac's Asylum
Crofoot Ballroom, 6:00 PM

October 19

Haunted Mansion Halloween Costume Party
7:00 – 10:00 PM

October 23

Discussion: Ghosts of Wisner Mansion
6:00 – 8:00 PM

October 27

Mini Lecture Series:
Robert Dustman on Book "Slaying of the Innocents"
2:00 PM / Admission \$7

October 30

Discussion: The Witches of Salem
6:00 – 8:00 PM

November 2

Society Gala and Auction at Wisner School
6:00 – 9:00 PM / Admission \$40

November 6

Discussion: Webster School's Future Reuse
6:00 – 8:00 PM

November 10

Mini Lecture Series:
"The History of Oakland County" with Jim Craft
Wisner School, 2:00 PM

November 13

Discussion: Demolished Pontiac Schools
6:00 – 8:00 PM

November 14

Local Oral History Workshop
6:30 – 8:30 PM

November 20

Discussion: History of Roller Derby
6:00 – 8:00 PM

November 30

Popup Holiday Market & Hanging of the Greens
11:00 AM

December 7

OCPHS in the Pontiac Holiday Extravaganza Parade
11:00 AM

December 8

Victorian Open House
1:00 – 4:00 PM / Admission \$7 or \$15 family

December 20

Society Holiday Party & Holiday Market Finale
6:00 – 9:00 PM

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*OCPHS is pleased to welcome the following new members
who have joined since our last publication...*

Mary Singer Albertson – Northville
Joseph & Stacy Allerton – Pleasant Ridge
State Representative Fran Amos – Waterford
Bobby Anderson – Ypsilanti
Bonnie Anderson – Bingham Farms
Cynitra Anderson – Rochester
Sharron Anderson – Pontiac
Bob Apczynski – Southfield
Laurie Arora – Grosse Pointe Park
Emily & Dennis Barberi – Waterford
Sharon Baseman – Huntington Woods
Debra Battani – Romeo
Jason Bauer – Pontiac
State Senator Rosemary Bayer – Beverly Hills
Gregg Bloomfield – Birmingham
Lauralei Byrnes – Pontiac
William Carrington – Pontiac
Charlie Cavell – Ferndale
Hilarie Chambers – Pleasant Ridge
Professor Dan Clark – Ann Arbor
Rachael Clark – Pontiac
Jerry Cleland – Pontiac
Loretta Coleman – Pontiac
Keith Cooley – Detroit
Diana Corsini Rowland – Rochester Hills
Elizabeth Crenshaw – Pontiac
Tracy Crowe – Highland
Norma Darr (Kaminskas) – Farmington Hills
Robert Dawson – Pontiac
LaNette Davis – Ortonville
Evan Deutsch – Oak Park
Don & Hannah Donigan – Commerce
Charlene Dwyer – Bloomfield Hills
Cheryl Eason – Waterford
Judy & Larry Ettinger – Waterford
Elida Flores-Reyes – Pontiac
Jane & Fred Foreman – West Bloomfield
Betsy Fitzgerald – Waterford
Elaine Franklin – West Bloomfield
John Gebhardt – Livonia
Robert Gibbs – Birmingham
Mikal Goodman – Pontiac
Abraham Gurewitz – Detroit
Wanda Hammoud – Northville
Jen Harris – Clarkston
Gloria Harris-Ford – Pontiac
Clarissa Harrison – Clawson
Mayor Brian Hartwell – Madison Heights
J. Dyann Hayes – Bloomfield Hills
Tylene Henry – Beverly Hills
Howard Hertz – Farmington Hills
Carol Hoffman – Waterford
Jason Hoskins – Southfield
Rosana Hull – Auburn Hills
Gail & Jack Hunger – Sylvan Lake
Jeffrey Jenks – Huntington Woods
Rev. Dr. Chris Johnson – Pontiac
Debbie Johnson – Pontiac
Nomi Joyrich – Farmington Hills
Dwight Keith – Waterford
Jane Kelley – Bloomfield Hills
Cecily Kelly – Montgomery, TX
Jamison Knudsen – Oxford
Keith Kuhn – Pontiac
Joette Kunse – Clarkston

Marty Kunz – Pontiac
Lyndsay Lawless – Lake Orion
James Lewis – Birmingham
Amanda MacDermaid – Redford
Donna & Michael Maddin – West Bloomfield
Patrizia Makohon – Pontiac
County Commissioner Gwen Markham – Novi
Danny & Jen Martinez – Detroit
John Maten – Royal Oak
Keith & Mayor Marian McClellan – Oak Park
Blair McGowan – Pontiac
Louis & Sandy McGuinness – Pontiac
Carla Meier, Troy
County Treasurer Andy Meisner – Huntington Woods
Linda Miller – Clarkston
Lisa Milton – Pontiac
Joan Morgan – New Hudson
Sandy Mulqueen – Waterford
Craig Nelson – Pontiac
Janice Newton – Waterford
Brett Nicholson – Pontiac
Dave & Debbie Parker – Pontiac
Debi Parrett – White Lake
Beth Perry – Waterford
Jordan Polhamus – West Bloomfield
County Commissioner Angela Powell – Pontiac
Jim Powers – Waterford
Julia Pulver – West Bloomfield
Derek Queen – Troy
Dr. Barbara Raby – West Bloomfield
Wade Rakes – Detroit
Deb Rakoczy – Waterford
Angela Rakowski – Pontiac
Tameka Ramsey – Pontiac
Maggie Razdar – Clarkston
Cindy & Phil Reid – Clarkston
David & Marijayne Renny – Pontiac
Daryl Reppuhn – Waterford
Steven Reifman – Farmington Hills
KT Robinson – Pontiac
Barbara Russell – Bloomfield Hills
Sarah Sanders – Pontiac
Amanda Schade-Rhodes – Oxford
Herb Schmansky – Pontiac
Patricia Sirbaugh – Waterford
Treasurer Dian & Judge Mark Slavens – Canton
David W. Smith – Pontiac
Scott Stewart – Pontiac
Dr. Randy Ston – West Bloomfield
Michael Tash – Royal Oak
Veronica Taylor – Pontiac
Sandra Terry – Oak Park
Arnie Thomas – Waterford
John Tonner – Novi
Stephanie Travis – Waterford
Marilyn Tuchow – Bloomfield Hills
Jim Walsh – Waterford
Judge Michael Warren – Beverly Hills
Linda Watson – Pontiac
Kelley Williams – Southfield
Sherman Williams – Pontiac
Judy Wilson – White Lake
Judith Wineman – Dearborn
Barbara Winter – Hazel Park
State Representative Robert Wittenberg –
Huntington Woods
Charlene Yarbrough – Lathrup Village

*...and a big thank you to those who have recently renewed
your membership dues!*

WISNER HOUSE REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2019

Kathy Davis, House Committee Chair

Air conditioning was installed before the Summer Social on July 27th, which allowed our docents to talk comfortably with the many visitors. This is part of climate control, which protects our many artifacts, books, and furniture. The Gift Shop bathroom was in use for the event, which greatly helped our volunteers. Funding is still needed for the brick tuck pointing work; the lowest estimate was about \$22,000.

OCPHS Officers and Board of Directors

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Membership and Donation Form

Name:

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Send my *Gazette* via: ☐ U.S. Mail ☐ Email
(Please add \$5 to cover cost of printing and postage if sending via U.S. Mail)

Please Make Me a Member! (indicate level):

- ☐ \$15 Student
- ☐ \$20 Individual
- ☐ \$20 Non-Profit Organization
- ☐ \$35 Family (two adults & minor children)
- ☐ \$100 Patron
- ☐ \$200 Benefactor
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- ☐ \$Gift Membership (provide recipient's name & contact info):

Please Accept My Donation! (indicate preference):

- ☐ \$ Annual Giving (general operating costs)
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- ☐ \$ In Memory of / Honor of (provide name):

What Prompted Your Support? (check all that apply):

- ☐ Interest in Oakland County History
- ☐ Invited/Introduced by Member/Friend
- ☐ Received Copy of *Gazette*
- ☐ Attended Event or Tour
- ☐ Research Library / Archives
- ☐ Newspaper / Magazine Article
- ☐ Volunteer Opportunities
- ☐ Website / Facebook
- ☐ Other (specify):

Mail this form with check payable to OCPHS to:

Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342

For your convenience you may also join or donate online at www.ocphs.org. Thank you for your support!

We are a 501(c)(3) organization
Donations are tax deductible in accordance with
applicable law

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT COMPLETED **AT PINE GROVE** **Mike McGuinness**

Adam Fischer of Birmingham helped out at Pine Grove in a big way this summer, installing a split rail fence on the grounds for his Eagle Scout Project. The fence provides a barrier to the dig area that research librarian Ray Lucas has been overseeing on our western perimeter. Thank you to the entire Fischer family, as Adam is the third Fischer Boy Scout who chose us as the beneficiary of their project!



(Image courtesy of Mike McGuinness)

LIMITED EDITION "PRESERVE HISTORY" **TOTE BAGS FOR SALE!**

Stop by our enhanced Gift Shop, open during many of our events...it's packed with new items, including our limited edition "Pine Grove" baseball caps and "Preserve History" tote bags, plus a vast collection of vintage postcards! Tote bags, pictured below, are available in navy blue or black while supplies last. The cost \$15.00 - discounted OCPHS member rate of \$12.00 - and proceeds help us advance our mission to preserve and convey Oakland County history.



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Royal Oak, MI

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Oakland Gazette is a publication of the Oakland County
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suggestions or comments are welcome.

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Barbara Frye, Mike McGuinness, Kari Vaughan

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