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OAKLAND COUNTY

## Road race to honor memory of Patterson's son

August 21, 2007

**BY KATHLEEN GRAY**  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

An expanded version of the popular Bobby Crim road race is to be held in Oakland County next year.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson will join with officials from the Crim Fitness Foundation in Flint today to announce a new half-marathon race (13.1 miles) that will be held in Oakland County on Oct. 5, 2008.

### PHOTOS

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(Patterson family photo)

Brooks Stuart Patterson with sons, Luke, 3, and Ryder, 6. Next year, a half-marathon race called the Brooksie Way is to be held in Oakland County.

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The race will be named the Brooksie Way Half Marathon in memory of Patterson's son Brooks Stuart Patterson, who died Feb. 11 after a snowmobile crash in Genesee County. The route for the race is being developed.

Patterson announced in his State of the County address this year that he wanted to attract a world-class running event to the county.

Former state House Speaker Bobby Crim, a Flint Democrat, started a 10-mile road race in 1977 to benefit Special Olympics.

It has since grown to three races -- the 10-mile race, and 8-kilometer and 5-kilometer runs -- that are expected to attract 15,000 people to Flint this Saturday.

"We look forward to building the Brooksie Way into an annual event that runners will highlight on their calendars," Patterson said.

Michigan's only international race, the Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Marathon is to celebrate its 30th anniversary this year on Oct. 21.

Contact **KATHLEEN GRAY** at 313-223-4407 or [gray@freepress.com](mailto:gray@freepress.com).

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