

# Emergency aid system planned for metro freeway

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"Traffic volume, the number of accidents in a given area, car theft and stripping problems and criminal harassment of stranded motorists are important in reaching our decision."

TWO TYPES of equipment are being evaluated by highway engineers: a wireless telephone unit that provides two-way communication between the motorist in trouble and a police officer, and a coded signal station which would send an appropriate signal directly to police headquarters with the motorist receiving a confirming signal that help was on the way.

According to Orne, either type of equipment would be installed at half-mile intervals. He adds that his department would come up with a final recommendation on the equipment and where it should be installed within six months.

BYKOWSKI SAYS, "I personally favor a wireless phone system because it provides a human response. We've tried television cameras and sensing devices, but if you're in trouble you want the reassurance of talking to someone."

The color-coded button system would be better than nothing, but it's highly vulnerable to pranksters who would be inclined to push the button calling for an ambulance, a police car or other services. When you have two-way communication, you will eliminate much of the temptation for false alarms.

Bykowski also believes the best site for the project would be along the Jeffries Freeway, especially the new section now under construction that will run through

Northwest Detroit, Redford Township and Livonia. According to the commissioner, there is great difficulty in finding telephones or gas stations that stay open after 8 p.m. along that route, and it involves eight lanes of traffic. Also, Bykowski says, it is easier to construct something on a road that's closed to traffic.

WHICHEVER LOCATION and system is chosen must be approved by the State Highway Commission, a four-member board appointed by the governor, the local agencies involved and the Federal Highway Administration, which provides 80 per cent of the funding. State and local governments provide the balance.

According to Bykowski, once a bid is accepted, the state normally gives a contractor 18-24 months to complete the project. The commissioner thinks that is too long. "With that timetable, it will be more than 2 1/2 years before the motoring public has even a limited opportunity to phone for help."

"I'm extremely disappointed that we can't speed things up. We have horrible accidents occurring on our expressways. Police officers are being laid off. And motorists are simply afraid to travel our highways, especially at night," Bykowski says. He emphasizes that the phones were not only for police-related matters, but for emergency problems such as heart attacks, flat tires and empty gas tanks.

He adds, "But at least we're headed in the right direction. Highway officials are more inclined to make major public investments in public security as well as new pavement."

## Algol the Demon appears in August

August evenings will be enlivened by the Perseids, the most conspicuous and dependable of the annual meteor showers.

So says University of Michigan astronomer Hazel Losh, who adds that while the shooting stars will be blazing across the night skies for two or three weeks, peak activity will occur around Aug. 12.

During the peak period as many as one falling star per minute may be observed, she notes. A flashing Perseid meteor appearing as bright as the North Star is probably no bigger than the head of a pin or a grain of sand.

THE LM professor explains that shooting stars are really tiny bits of iron and stone that enter the earth's atmosphere at high speeds. The enormous heat generated by the friction of this contact turns the particles into brilliant flares.

The best time to look for Perseids is after midnight, when we are riding on the forward side of the globe and thus are meeting the particles head on, she says.

Prof. Losh says the Perseids are named that because they appear to emanate from the northeast in the constellation Perseus. The meteors seem to fly in all directions

from this radiant point, she notes.

Because of a greater relative velocity, the meteors encountered in the morning hours are likely to burn brighter and bluer.

"Today it is believed that comets and meteors are related. While the origin of comets is unknown, it is because they exist that we have meteors. The Perseids are thought to be the debris from Comet 1862 III," she says.

SHAPED LIKE a giant letter "K," the constellation Perseus also boasts a most interesting eclipsing binary known as Algol, The Demon.

"Algol is composed of two revolving components, one bright, the other dark," Prof. Losh says. "When the dark one passes in front of the brighter, the demon seems to disappear."

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## St. Mary's plans realty course

Leonard Watchowski, a state-licensed real estate broker for more than 25 years, will teach a 15-week, three-credit real estate course at St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake.

The course, Real Estate Operations, will meet Wednesdays from 7:10 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the college, Orchard Lake and Commerce roads.

Registration by mail or in person should be completed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sept. 7 at the Administration Building.

WATCHOWSKI, a Bloomfield Hills resident, is a community development representative for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

He is vice-president of the United Homeowners Association of Bloomfield Township. He was formerly president of the Oakland County Assessors Association and the Michigan chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment.

Designed for salespersons, real estate brokers, property managers, investors, home buyers and those interested in a career in real estate, the course will prepare applicants to write the state exam for salesperson's and broker's licenses.

THE BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD Board of Realtors has accredited the course and will credit each realtor-associate with 45 class hours toward the 90 hours required upon successful completion of the course.

Veterans with at least 181 days of continuous active duty are eligible for financial assistance for the U.S. Veterans Administration.

## Dinan's vote goes up in O&E

A typographical error in the Aug. 5 edition of the Observer & Eccentric showed the vote Timothy Dinan received in the Democratic primary race for Oakland County prosecuting attorney.

Dinan received 2,782 votes in Southfield, not the 178 reported. This brings his total vote tally in the Observer & Eccentric area to 3,957.

Dinan will face incumbent Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson in the November election.

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