

Double your pleasure at the local watering hole often produces the kind of effect simulated here — but the Oakland County Sheriff's department intends to crack down on drunk drivers with a new program of patrol. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

## Sheriff steps up drunk hunt

The drunk driver is the target of a new sheriff's department program approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week.

The board approved the first phase of a \$1.2 million, four-year federal grant application for an alcohol education enforcement project proposed by the sheriff's department and Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) of Oakland County.

Based on accident and drunk driving arrest records from the past four years, the program will select specific areas in the county for sheriff's deputies, or local police officers, to randomly patrol.

The program offers "a better chance of catching the drunk driver," said TIA's Gerald Feddersen, program director.

Feddersen said the targeted areas are now being determined through information fed through the sheriff department's computer system.

He said most alcohol-related accidents on county roads have occurred between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Wednesday through Saturdays.

LAST YEAR, 53 percent of the 176 traffic fatalities in the county were alcohol related, Feddersen said.

The board of commissioners approved application for \$300,000 with the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning for the program's first year.

Once the state approves the grant, the program's enforcement details will be reviewed by the county board's public service committee. The state administrator federal funds for traffic safety projects. No county money has been requested for the project.

The program provides for the equivalent of six extra officers to selectively enforce alcohol-related driving laws, Feddersen said. Sheriff Johannes Spreen would have the option to hire new officers or have existing deputies spend more time trying to catch drivers under the influence.

The program provides for "alcohol enforcement teams" but the number of teams has not been determined.

The education aspect of the program includes 40-hour training courses for police officers, judges and members of the county prosecutor's staff.

Feddersen said the program would work with all local police departments in the county who want to participate.

THE ORIGINAL grant application provided for a "check lane" where sheriff's deputies would randomly pull drivers suspected of drinking off the road and into a mobile van to take a breathalyzer test.

But the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled check lanes unconstitutional, according to TIA Managing Director Bruce Madsen, unless everyone on the road under patrol is pulled over.

Madsen suggested all references to the check lane be deleted from the grant application, which the board of commissioners approved unanimously. Earlier last week, the board's public service committee had recommended 5-4 that the grant with the check lane be approved.

## Standby gas plan to be aired

Public hearings in five cities this week to get public reaction to two standby gasoline distribution proposals will be held by the Michigan Department of Commerce.

Gov. William Milliken stressed the standby nature of the proposals saying the state has no plans to begin any kind of mandatory gasoline distribution program at this time.

"In Michigan we do not have a critical gasoline supply problem at this time and with wise use of our fuel supply we may avoid severe shortages altogether. If something happens beyond our control, however, like another Arab oil boycott, then state government must be ready with an action plan that the people understand," Milliken said.

The proposals to be discussed at the public hearings are the "minimum purchase" and "odd-even" plans.

Under "minimum purchase," motorists would be prevented from "topping off" their tanks by a requirement that they purchase a specified minimum amount of gasoline—for example, \$5 worth.

Under the "odd-even" plan, now in use in California and 11 other states, motorists would purchase gasoline on alternate days corresponding to the last digit in their vehicle's license plate.

A Detroit hearing is scheduled for July 20, 1 p.m., City-County Building, 13th Floor Auditorium.

The hearings will be chaired by David L. Froh, acting director of the Energy Administration of the Michigan Department of Commerce, and will include officials from the Energy Administration, Travel Bureau and Michigan Department of Commerce.

Following the hearings, a report with recommendations will be sent to Milliken by the Commerce Department. President Carter recently authorized the nation's governors to invoke fuel conservation measures in emergency situations.

Persons wishing to present written testimony may do so at the hearings or send it by July 23, to David L. Froh, Acting Director, Energy Administration, P.O. Box 30228, Lansing, 48999.

## Briefing set on Trifa trial

A briefing session for local Jewish community leaders on the upcoming trial in Detroit of Valerian Trifa will be addressed by David Geller, director of European and Latin American affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

The session will take place at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 18 in United Hebrew Schools, 21550 12 Mile, Southfield.

Trifa is the suspected Rumanian Iron Guard leader accused of inciting and participating in the killing of Rumanian Jews before and during World War II. His trial is scheduled to start Monday, July 30 before federal Judge Cornelia Kennedy.

Titled "U.S. Trials of Nazi Criminals: Status Report," Geller's talk will include background information on Trifa. It will also take up the handling by the U.S. Department of Justice of similar cases involving alleged Nazi war criminals living in the U.S.

Geller has been involved for a number of years in the quest to bring Trifa to justice and has met with officials of the justice department, federal prosecutors and Rumanian officials on this matter.

Trifa is a resident of Grass Lake, Mich.

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