

Oakland road toll lowest in 20 years

In 1991 Oakland County recorded the fewest traffic deaths in 20 years, the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) reported.

There were 145 traffic deaths reported last year, 5 percent fewer than in 1980 when 153 lives were lost in traffic accidents. The last year in which fewer were recorded was in 1982 when the traffic toll stood at 115.

"We are comparing last year's traffic toll to that of 1980 which was 10 percent below the 1979 figure," said Bruce Madsen, TIA managing director.

NO ONE factor or prevention activity could be credited with the decline in fatalities during the past two years, Madsen indicated.

"We are convinced that the economic climate has played a significant role for we have been able to chart a definite correlation between the rise and fall in traffic fatalities and economic trends," Madsen said.

"Statistics show that the percentage of alcohol-related fatalities to the total numbers killed has dropped significantly in Oakland County since the special Alcohol Enforcement and Education Project was launched in 1980," Madsen said.

The direct dollar costs of traffic accidents in Oakland County last year will be approximately \$100 million, according to accident cost figures provided by the National Safety Council.

Grant assists Super Bowl travel

Thanks to a state grant, SEMTA trains will transport football fans to and from the Pontiac Silverdome on Super Bowl Sunday.

"The rail tracks near the stadium are normally used for freight operations and will be used to bring fans to the Silverdome for the first time by SEMTA trains on Jan. 24," said Gary Krause, acting general manager of SEMTA.

"This was made possible by a special \$42,700 grant from the State of Michigan which allowed us to build a temporary

platform at the stadium for passengers to disembark a few hundred feet away from the Silverdome's west gate," he added.

As the official transportation coordinating agency, SEMTA will be responsible for getting everyone to the game from players, to the concession stand workers, to the owners of private jets who fly into local airports just for the day.

A few thousand fans will ride the SEMTA Super Bowl Express from Detroit's Renaissance Center. The train will leave downtown Detroit at 1 p.m. and depart from Pontiac 1 1/2 hours after the game. Round trip tickets are available to the public for \$25 per person. Advance reservations are necessary and may be made by calling 258-8857.

In addition, more than 50,000 people will travel to the dome in 1,200 chartered buses.

Planning for Super Bowl transportation has been under way for more than a year.

WSU to tell how to succeed in business

Interested in how to start or run a successful small business?

If so, check out Wayne State University's free introductory small business workshop Jan. 16 at the Troy Somerset Inn.

Participants may also enroll in any three 18-hour classes scheduled to begin the following week at the Michigan Inn. The subjects are: How to start a successful small business, how to run a successful small business and managing for profit.

For reservation information, call Dr. Ed Harris at WSU, 577-4353.

Project Hope holding benefit

The women's division for Project Hope is holding a benefit dance at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Rotunda at the top of the Hyatt Regency Dearborn.

Tickets are \$25. There will be drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

For more information, call the Project Hope office at 649-4773.

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