

Child fingerprinting plan wins committee OK; retirees sought

Oakland County youngsters may soon be participating in a fingerprinting program which may help track missing children.

Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen Tuesday won the support of the Board of Commissioners' Public Services Committee for the new program.

"We're not vying for headlines or looking at Big Brotherism," said Lt. Gerald Reeves of the Sheriff's Department. "This will be an incredible tool. We've been deluged with calls from residents requesting this service."

THE PROGRAM already has been launched in Macomb County, Bloomfield and Chesterfield townships.

An undersheriff in Union County, N.J., developed the idea after President Reagan last October signed the Missing Children Act. That act allows the use of the FBI's National Criminal Information Center computer to store information on children who have run away, been kidnapped or snatched by parents who have lost custody in divorce hearings.

"Hundreds of thousands of kids disappear every day," Reeves said. Reeves said he didn't know how many Oakland County children were listed as missing, but added, "Even one is more than enough."

The new program will be relatively inexpensive — Reeves pegged the cost at \$500 — and more effective than some present methods used to track down missing children, he said.

"Police departments spend big bucks trying to find missing kids," Reeves said. "Most of that is overtime expense and can be avoided with a fingerprinting system."

INITIALLY, THE fingerprinting program will be operated out of the Sheriff's Department. No starting date has been set, Reeves said.

"Down the road, we hope to expand the program to reach out in the community," he added.

The Sheriff's Department plans to train retirees from "all walks of life" to conduct the fingerprinting. Local PTAs and service clubs may also be recruited to launch the program in local schools.

Although some local police departments — such as Chesterfield Township — keep duplicates of the fingerprints, Oakland County doesn't plan to keep the prints. "We don't want to get into that hassle," Reeves said.

Parents will be urged to store in fire-proof safety deposit boxes such information as the prints, dental records, pictures and information about identifying marks such as birthmarks.

County disposing of toxic pesticide

Persons who bought a highly toxic pesticide from A & G Pesticide can dispose of the material by bringing it to one of two local sites, according to County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

The sites are the Oakland County Health Division, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture on the State Fairgrounds, Eight Mile and Woodward, Detroit.

Murphy said the county decided to assist the Agriculture Department when it learned some Oakland County residents may have purchased the pesticide.

THE PESTICIDE contains methyl parathion, which is so deadly that it cannot legally be sold to private consumers.

A & G Pesticide personnel responsible for manufacturing and distributing the material have been arrested.

Murphy said the pesticide was sold in gallon and half-gallon, clear glass bottles. It is liquid and usually greenish in color, although it may turn milky white.

The bottles are labeled "A & G Pesticide — Insect Spray."

MURPHY URGED persons who bought the pesticide to take the following steps:

1. Handle the bottles only with plastic or other protective, disposable material. Put the bottles in plastic bags. Wash hands thoroughly with hot, soapy water. Do not open bottles or inhale fumes.
2. Transport the bottles to the Oakland County Health Division or the Department of Agriculture. Do not attempt to dispose of the pesticide in any other way.

If you have questions, call the Health Division, 858-1312, 858-1313 or 858-1314.

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