Feds help county in war on drugs

Troy, Rochester Hills and the northeast portions of the county could see more skirmlabes in the war on drugs as a result of additional federal money coming into the area, according to the director of Oakland's NET (Narcottes Enforcement Team).

"That's one possit ility," said NET Commander Dorothy K. McAllen. "We'll probably discuss it today,"

McAllen said NET has been noti-fled it will receive an additional \$301,547 to use in the war on drugs. The money is expected to be used to pay for a new street enforcement team and to assign officers to the major case team. In addition, the Oakland County jail will get \$85,726 to expand its substance abuse educa-tion program for inmates about to be released.

"MOST OF that money will proba-bly go (oward getting more people." McAllen said. The Federal money McAllen said. The Federal money of each officer, with the romainer being paid by the community from which the officer is on loan. McAllen said NET directors (the chiefs of police from the 16 partici-pating communities) will probably begin discussing additional person-nel today at their regular meeting. But NET will probably increase operations in Oakland's northeast corner, McAllen said. "That's one of the most rapidly expanding areas,

and there appears to be an increase in drug activity in that area," she

in drug activity in tinat area, suc-said.

McAllen declined to say how many officers are assigned to NET. She ac-knowledged, however, that some of the additional officers will be as-signed to the major case team that works closely with the Oakland County Citizens Grand Jury.

THE CITIZENS grand jury has incicted more than 60 people, including three for murder, since it was initiated in the fall of 1989. The grand jury was formed to investigate narcolles traffle and onsolved murders.

Announcement of the federal grant came from three Oakland County state senators — Michael

Bouchard, R-Birmingham, Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, and David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield. Honigman pointed out that "the drug problem is not just a big-city problem. It exists in our sleepy bed-room communities, too, and I'm grateful to Congress for recognizing this."

"We need to expand the war against drugs to include our subur-ban areas," said Bouchard. "Drugs are in every area of the country, and we need to address that fact."

Drugs continue to be a problem in all areas of the state," Dunaskiss said, "We need to be equipped to wage this war on all levels. These grants allow us to do that."

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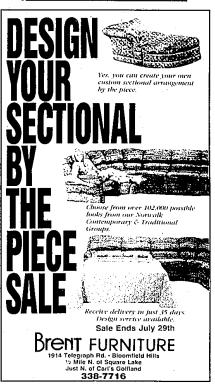
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