

# Police task force targets quality of life problems

BY TODD WICKS  
STAFF WRITER

A new police task force in Oakland County will be devoted to fighting suburban problems.

The creation of the force was set into motion by the city of Troy, which applied for and received \$450,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice to form a Community Policing Resource Team. Troy Police Chief Lawrence Carey then asked several nearby communities, including Rochester Hills, Hazel Park,

Troy, Ferndale and Madison Heights, to participate. Each community and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department agreed to cooperate, and received grants equal to Troy's. "The task force is designed to address quality-of-life problems of neighborhoods in that target area," said Captain Charles Craft of the Troy Police. "These cities kind of make up the Quadrangle corridor of Southeast Oakland County. They have a lot of common problems there."

A vandalism spree, for exam-

ple. "That affects the quality of life," said Craft. "People are worried about their homes or businesses. Most cities can't tell citizens, 'We're going to send 5 or 6 officers to work closely with you.' Maybe they can send an extra patrol if they have the time. We hope this new force will be able to spend lots of time in the neighborhood."

Troy police will promote and send a sergeant to the force, and is planning on receiving officers from other communities. This may create hirings in various

police departments.

"We will be sending one deputy, a seasoned investigator, to participate in the consortium," said Captain Mike McCabe of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. "Officers from (the other cities) will be under the Troy sergeant's tutelage."

(The force) will focus on some street-level narcotics, gang activity and neighborhood problems," he explained. "It will be kind of unique. My understanding is that these officers could be in plain clothes one day and uni-

forms the next. They will not be limited. They will do whatever it takes to solve a particular problem."

The funding for the task force comes from the federal C.O.P.S. Ahead program, and will cover \$75,000 of each task force officer's salary and benefits over three years. Each community must pay the remainder in matching funds.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department agreed to participate in the grant program begin-

ning Sept. 1. The force will be based at the Madison Heights Police Department.

Craft hopes the force will have hit the streets by January 1997. "This was actually the idea of Chief Carey," he said. "He's worked very hard on this for two years. It's something he really believes in."

"We're pretty excited about it. I think that smaller communities banding together to face their problems is the future of law enforcement."

## OCC legal assistant program receives recognition from ABA

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

Graduates of the legal assistant program will become more attractive to law offices, now that Oakland County College has won approval from the American Bar Association.

"Approval is akin to accreditation," said Sarah Keidan, who coordinates the two-year program. "The ABA is the best known and most respected national organization for setting standards in the legal profession."

"We're in elite company," said Dr. George Keith, president of the Orchard Ridge Campus

where the program is offered.

A person doesn't need a legal assistant diploma to work in a law office. Many employees of law offices enroll part-time in OCC's program. Those who have the degree bring higher skills and take home bigger salaries — \$20,000 to \$43,000, said Keidan. They make more in Chicago.

Legal assistants are in high demand in Oakland County, where 7,500 attorneys work — fully one-fourth of Michigan's entire supply of lawyers and more than work in Wayne County.

"Paralegal" and "legal assis-

tant" are the same. They assist lawyers doing legal research, helping in discovery proceedings, analyzing evidence and preparing for trials.

Keidan, herself a lawyer, heads the program. Her adjunct faculty include Circuit Judge Fred M. Meester and Stephen Kaplan, Democratic nominee for Oakland County prosecutor.

What makes OCC's program different, she said, is that those who obtain an associate in applied science degree may, under articulation agreements, transfer their credits to University of Michigan-Dearborn or Sienna Heights College in South-

field and earn four-year bachelor degrees in law office management.

"We enroll about 100 each fall and 20 to 30 more in the winter semester," said Keidan. "We've graduated close to 300 since the program began in 1987."

Graduates work in the Oakland County prosecutor's office, the U.S. Defense Department, Chrysler Corp., a new intellectual properties law firm in Bloomfield Hills and hospitals.

"One of our graduates worked in risk management at Providence Hospital and was so good that the Honigman Miller law firm hired her away," Keidan said.

Sometimes, persons with bachelor degrees come to OCC to earn credits and degrees in the legal assistant program. Board chair Judith Wisser of West Bloomfield

graduated from the program after she already had a four-year college degree.

Keidan said the ABA's approval came at its biannual meeting in Florida earlier in August. OCC's program already also was accredited by the American association for Paralegal

Education last December.

For enrollment information, obtain an OCC catalog from the Office of Enrollment Services, 2840 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills 48304-2266. Or contact Sarah Keidan at (810) 471-7643 or her assistant at 471-6339.

## Run aids Leader Dog schools

Imagine life without an automobile, with limited mobility, and much less freedom. The cost of a Leader Dog is about \$16,000, but the dog is worth far more than any Cadillac or Porsche to someone who is blind or visually impaired.

The Oakland Athletic Club and the Birmingham Lions have joined forces to help the visually impaired retain their mobility and independence. The Lions and the OAC are staging The Birmingham Lions 10,000 Meter Run for the Blind at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22. There will also be a 5K run and a 1-mile walk, starting at the Lake Park Mall and continuing over a protected course through Birmingham. The 10K race is about 6.2 miles.

Proceeds from the race, which the Lions began in 1976, will go to Leader Dogs for the Blind, whose 240-dog kennel and school in Rochester is one of the largest guide-dog schools in the world.

"The Birmingham Lions are one of our largest contributors and provide a very valuable service to us," said Bill Hansen, president of the school, which was founded by the Lions in 1939. "Our budget is \$5.2 million, but the majority of contributions are small donations and every one is important. A \$25 donation equals two sacks of dog food and we can feed roughly 70 dogs for one day with that."

"The \$16,000 is really a fund raising number. What it does is show people that the operating cost is much greater than they

think. We will do whatever it takes to train a person. In some cases, it takes more time — and more money — and some people take less time."

Entry fees are \$13 through Sept. 18 and \$14 from Sept. 19-22, which includes a T-shirt and awards in the 5K and 10K races and the first three male and female finishers in each five-year age category.

Entry blanks are available at the Oakland Athletic Club, Total Runner, the Varsity Shop, Foot Locker, Dunham's and the Birmingham Community House. Race site registration is 8-9 a.m. Sept. 22. There is free parking at the parking structure adjacent to the starting point.

For more information call (810) 540-9596.

IN NEED OF  
**A NEW FURNACE**  
**LENNOX**  
FREE ESTIMATES  
(313) 525-1930  
UNITED TEMPERATURE  
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA

**KELLER & AVADENKA, P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
**NEW FEE SCHEDULE**  
All Injury Claims  
25% Contingency Fee  
Most Law Firms Charge 33-5%  
If you want more money  
in your pocket, call:  
(800) LAW USA 1  
810-335-9266

Grand Opening  
Special Introductory  
Rates to Win  
A Museum-Worthy Watch

Enlarged to show detail



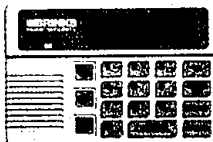
THE  
MOVADO.  
MUSEUM. OLYMPIAN™

Style and performance in legendary stature. The renowned dial set with a bold new sculpted spot link bracelet. Swiss-crafted of solid stainless steel with rich 18 karat gold mine finish accents. Here with 18 karat gold and diamond bezel. Quartz accurate. Sapphire crystal. Water-resistant to 99 feet.

**Rogers & Hollands.**  
Jewelry created for now and forever™  
Somerset Collection North  
Level One, Grand Court  
816-4700

## If It Saves Your Life Once, It's Worth It.

You can help avoid being a victim of crime in your home. Call today and have the Brink's Home Security system installed incredibly, for just \$99. And for just \$23.95 a month, your home will also be protected by Brink's 24-hour monitoring system. It's so effective families protected by systems like Brink's are three times less likely to be burglarized than families who are left unprotected. In addition, fire protection can be included.† The Brink's Home Security system. If it saves someone in your family's life just once, isn't it worth it?



THE BRINK'S  
HOME SECURITY  
SYSTEM.  
REGULARLY \$199.  
INCREDIBLY NOW  
ONLY \$99.

THE BRINK'S  
HOME SECURITY  
SYSTEM.  
Incredibly  
**\$99**

**SAVE \$100**  
WHEN YOU PRESENT  
THIS AD AT TIME OF  
INSTALLATION.

**BRINK'S**  
HOME SECURITY

11916 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48150  
http://www.brinks.com

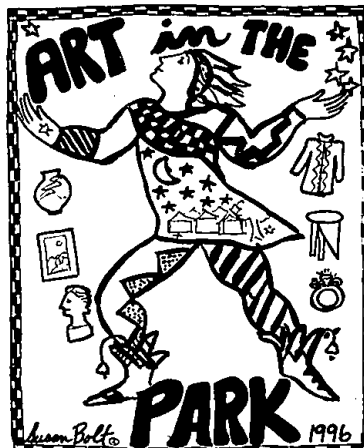
Coupon expires October 31, 1996

**CALL 1-800-874-9150 NOW.**

## SEPTEMBER 7 & 8

SATURDAY 10AM - 6PM, SUNDAY 10AM - 5PM  
SHAIN PARK, BIRMINGHAM

156 JURIED ARTISTS  
FROM ACROSS THE USA & CANADA



TO BENEFIT COMMON GROUND  
24 HOUR CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 810-456-8150

Sponsored in part by Sinai Health Systems, Huntington Bank, Paramed, G. J. Perelli Company, St. Joseph Mercy - Oakland, The Shirley K. Schaller Foundation, TBS Industrial Recycling, Inc.

THE  
**Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS