Grant to help police keep in touch

sioners' Unity Day program in the auditorium of the Court House complex, 1200 N. Tele-graph Road, Pontiac. BY PAT MURPHY STAFY WRITER pmurphyGoe.home

When it comes to palice agen-cies communicating with each other, Oakland County is about to become a national trend set-ter, according to a hest of public afficials who held a press confer-ence to announce receipt of a \$17 million grant.

ence to announce receipt of a \$17 million grant. That federal money — matched with \$6 million from the county — will enable Oak-land police agencies to imple-ment a high-tech communica-tions network that will enable officers to be more efficient, according to county Executive L. Brooks Patterson. This is bad news for the bad

guys," said Capt. Mike McCabe, representing the Oakland Com-ty Sheriff's Department. On the basis of a single finger print or a mug shot, officers on the street will be able to get instant identi-ficient, said to get instant identi-ficient, said Farmington Police Chief Gary Goss. Instead of being bogged down with impor-tont, but routine duties such as writing reports, more officers "Instead of processing prison-ron officers will be answering calls or warking with neighbor-hood organizations," anid Goss, whe estimated that 600 officers throughout the county will spend more time on the streets.

The grant of is the largest ever given by the U.S. Justice Department — under the COPS MORE '89 program — to a con-sortium of communities, said U.S. Rep. Sander Lovin, who with other law makers helped get the grant. "Individual cities have had larger grants." Levin grant ever awarded to a conser-tium of communities." The significance, he said, is that smaller communities.— will be able to afford the high tech equipment to have immedi-bering departments, Levin aid. "Oakland County has always been innovative," said U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg. And grants like

this one — obtained with bipar-tisan cooperation — enable the county to more effectively fight

The communication system will enable individual communi-ties to install small employed with their own department on which are to enable officers to with their own department on well as others throughout the county, said Jackie Nyovich, newly retired project manager-for CLEMIS, the Court and Law Enforcement Management Infor-ment on System. While Oakland is the first econty in the nation to imple-ment the high-tech system, other communities are expected to link up to the system, she said.



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The new system will also enable officers to write incident reports on the computer and file them electronically, said Dwyer. The reports will be on standardized forms with electronic access, he said. Southfield Police Chief Joseph E. Thomas said another important part of the new sys-tem is a common radio frequency that will enable police departments to directly com-unnicate with each other. "That's something wo've been trying to do for years," said Thomas. "And it will be very useful in times of emergencies or situationa' chasing a unspect, for example) that involve several police agencies."

A10(F) Choir highlights commission's Unity Day

The choir from West Bloom-

field's Abbott Middle School will perform at 9:35 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Oak-land County Board of Commis-

Christopher Smude

We are pleased to announce that

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