# Federal grant funds sky-high clocking of speeders

AERO & DRAPERIES

SINCE 1950

People with radar detectors who say they'll get a speeding ticket when pigs fly have met their match.

their match.

The Michigan State Police, in cooperation with police departments in Farmington Hills, Southfield and Troy, are busy clocking speeders from the skyhigh vantage point of a Cessna 172 airplane.

The program, funded by a \$30,000-per-year federal grant, has been in effect since 1988. State police 1st Lt. Don Bracke said that last year officers wrote 3,800 tickets statewide and made

46 criminal arrests as a result of irplane traffic stops. The federal money is sufficient to lease three aircraft for the sum-mer and spend 650 hours in the air, Bracke said. A Cessna opera-ting out of an airport near Howell covers the Detroit area. The air-planes are leased "wet," meaning the fuel is included, for \$50 an hour.

hour.

An officer in the airplane clocks speeders as they drive between big white marks on the freeway. The data is transmitted by radio to officers on the ground who stop the speeders and write tickets.
On 1.696 one day last month state police pilot David Halliday

worked with five Farmington Hills officers on the ground to ticket 23 motorists moving elect 23 motorists moving 1695 in less than two hours.

Halliday, who is paid \$18.06 per hour, is a full-time state troeper who used to work for the Franklin Folice Department, Bracks said. The pilot used his contacts in Oakland County and his knowledge of area departments to bring the three participating cities into this program.

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The key to being able to partici-pate, Bracke said, is that a de-partment should have "strong traffic enforcement activities going on." The departments in

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Southfield, Farmington Hills and Troy all have officers assigned strictly to traffic, Bracke said, meaning they can easily muster the number of cars and officers needed.

Troy, for example, can put four to seven cars and officers on 1-75 to respond to the airplane's call without getting into overtime pay for anyone, said Lt. Rick Hay, in one 3th-hour period June 23, Troy officers stopped 58 motorists clocked by the airplane at at least 55 miles per hour and wrote 52 75 miles per hour and wrote 52

tickets.

The officers assigned to the airplane duty, Hay said, all work in the traffic department and would

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An additional Troy officer in the sircraft acting as timer would also be patrolling if he wasn't in the air, Hay said.

However, "they would be writ-ing far fewer tickets during that period of time." Hay added that "the city of Troy does not do this for the revenue."

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Cities like Troy usually write

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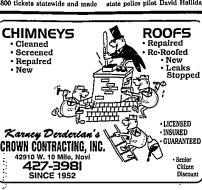
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