

# Trail deputies could trade their horses for bicycles

In recent years, the riders of the Oakland County Sheriff's mounted division were a common sight on the Paint Creek Trail. But those days appear to be over.

After a falling out last year the division, which is made up of volunteer reserve officers riding their own horses, found there was a lot of demand elsewhere for its services. And now that the Paint Creek Trailways Commission wants the patrols back, they aren't available. A meeting was held April 13 with representatives of all involved, and afterwards William Stark, Trailways Coordinator, said it doesn't look good.

"I asked once again if they'd consider a patrol this summer," he said. "They're pretty filled up as we knew they would be. They're taking it under advisement. They're pretty popular in the community. . . . We'll be disappointed if we can't get them, but we understand."

Meanwhile, a Trailways proposal to put a bicycle patrol on the trail this summer is moving forward. Orion Township has

agreed to pay for a portion of the cost; now it's up to the other municipalities along the trail to jump on board.

The bicycle patrol was originally planned as an addition to the mounted patrols. The Trailways hopes to hire a college student for the summer season. The new patrol will come with authority to write tickets for violations of the trailways ordinance, as well as the responsibility for public relations, education, trail inspection and coordination of volunteers.

In addition to Orion Township, Oakland Township and the cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills have also been asked to help pay for the bicycle patrol. Cost will total just over \$10,000 a year.

In recent years, the mounted division patrolled the trail five hours a day, two days a week from April through October. The commission wants the bicycle patrol to cover an additional 16 hours a week from May 2-22 and Sept. 12-Oct. 25, plus full time for the peak summer months.

"We do have some concerns with loose dogs and that type of

**"We got the impression certain people didn't want us on the trailway so we made commitments to the Oakland County Parks."**

*Sgt. Paul Thomas*  
—mounted division

thing on the trail and you certainly can't blame the mounted division for that," said Stark. "If they're on the trail 10 hours there are a lot of other (uncovered) hours."

Stark said it was a complaint about dogs running loose on the trail that led to hard feelings within the mounted division and the end of patrols.

"We got the impression certain people didn't want us on the trailway so we made commitments to the Oakland County Parks," said Sgt. Paul Thomas, who oversees the mounted division. "I don't know that we're going to be able to make any kind of commitment to the trailway."

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# Pipeline suit heads for county court

True to their word, Addison Township officials filed a suit with the Oakland Circuit Court Monday to assure that the gas pipeline proposed by Lakeville Gas Associates complies with the township's special land use agreement.

"The township believes that Lakeville Gas is in violation of past approval," attorney Robert C. Davis said. "We're suing to enforce the existing conditions of the special land use agreement." John A. DeMarco, the Lake Orion attorney representing the gas associates said he hasn't seen a copy of the suit.

"How can I comment when I haven't heard anything about

the suit," DeMarco said. "Addison Township filed the same kind of suit in 1986 and the courts threw it out."

At issue are the proposed plans for the gas facility located on Rochester Rd., south of Leonard. Originally owned by Consumer's Power, the facility was built around 1983 to accommodate natural gas from nearly a dozen wells in the area.

In 1984, Lakeville Gas bought the facility and continued to extract natural gas from and underground cavern beneath Addison Township, but now that natural gas supply has been exhausted.

Under the terms of the special

land use agreement, the owner is supposed to dismantle the site. However, Lakeville filed application with the Michigan Public Service Commission in November seeking a permit to build a 130-foot pipeline enabling the company to use the site as a storage facility.

Addison officials have expressed concern that the gas storage process may create health hazards and negatively impact property values in and around the township.

"We don't know if that's a good idea or a bad idea. Our suit is about procedure," Davis said. "We want Lakeville Gas to come in with a new plan."

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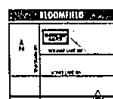
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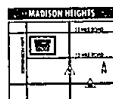
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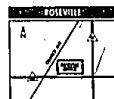
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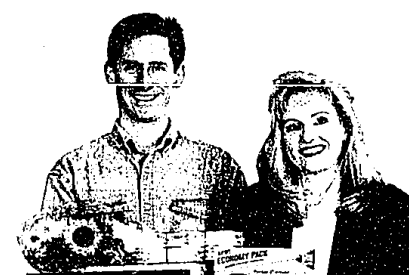
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