

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

OUPD receives equipment upgrades thanks to OU Parents Fund donation

The Oakland University Police Department received several equipment upgrades this month thanks to a generous donation from the **OU Parents Fund**. The \$12,800 donation funded improvements to the OUPD's community liaison office in Vandenberg Hall, including new signage and new computers, and also enabled the department to purchase a hand-held LIDAR speed gun that will aid traffic safety efforts on campus.

"It's another tool in our toolbox," said Ken Kiley, director of Police Information Technology for OUPD. "With more students on campus this year, there's more cars and more pedestrian traffic, so it's really important for drivers to watch their speed."

According to Kiley, LIDAR is used in most police departments and all officers must complete a certification course through the State of Michigan in order to use the device. While all OUPD officers are currently equipped with radar technology, the department plans to have one officer per shift equipped with LIDAR, Kiley explained.

LIDAR allows for very specific target acquisition when users attempt to determine the speed of a particular vehicle on a more crowded roadway. As traffic increases on campus roadways, an officer can use LIDAR to pick out a specific target and read its speed at further distances without interference from other close-by targets.

"The LIDAR unit was not purchased as a replacement for the current radar systems we have in use," Kiley said. "Instead, we view it as a new option for speed enforcement to enhance our traffic safety efforts."

Project S.A.F.E. Streets dates planned for October

OUPD also partners with the Auburn Hills Police Department on Project S.A.F.E. Streets, a traffic safety enforcement initiative in which officers step up enforcement of traffic safety regulations on "high-crash" roads, including Squirrel Road, Walton Boulevard and University Drive. Upcoming enforcement dates are **Oct. 14 and 21**, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. While all traffic laws will be enforced, special attention will be given to those who speed, text while driving, follow too close or fail to yield the right of way.

The ongoing program, which stands for Stop Accidents From Escalating, emphasizes crash reduction through the use of efficient traffic engineering, driver education and research-based traffic enforcement.

To learn more about OUPD services and initiatives, visit oakland.edu/oupd.



OUPD Lieutenant Nicole Thompson uses the new LIDAR speed gun purchased through a donation from the OU Parents Fund.



The LIDAR device measures a target's speed and distance.