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Police warn about scams for charity

By MARY GNIEWEK

Farmington police are warning business owners to beware of a barrage of scams in which persons identifying themselves as local police officers are soliciting funds for phony police functions.

"We're being overrun by solicitations now," said Public Safety Director Bob Seifert. "There's just a ton of them going on."

"None of them are for the benefit of the Farmington police. No one should make a contribution under that premise."

Business owners are asked to buy ads for police association magazines and calendars with the understanding that proceeds will benefit the Farmington police.

While a couple of the scams are quasi-legitimate, the tactics used to solicit the funds are not.

"The tactics they use are not always ethical," Seifert said. "They misrepresent and bend the facts to their advantage."

John Anhut, owner of the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills, paid \$100 for a police magazine ad because he was told proceeds would benefit the Farmington Police Officers Association.

"Frankly I should have checked with the police department or the Chamber of Commerce first," Anhut said. "Next time I will."

Solicitors include the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, The Michigan Sheriffs Association, and Teamsters seeking ads for The Enforcer, a law enforcement journal.

"THEY CONTRACT with ad firms to publish the magazines so how they go

about soliciting funds is outside control of our office," Seifert said.

"Even the MACP apparently allowed someone to believe the local police department would benefit from their contribution."

"That's not the case. We don't participate, support or sanction those solicitations."

There's a number of outright frauds, like a telephone sales pitch for a so-called Farmington Benevolent Association. Farmington Public Safety plans to prosecute anyone caught soliciting funds without a permit.

"They work a boiler room operation," said Edward Lane, executive director of the Farmington area Chamber of Commerce.

"They infer they're part of the local police department and if you give them a contribution, they'll take some kids to the circus."

Lane suggests asking for the organization's financial statement as one way of thwarting the scam.

Olds dealer Bob Saks never buys an ad over the phone.

"If I contributed to everyone who asks, I'd be bankrupt," he said. "I never buy unless they come in and show me a copy of the product."

HE WAS APPROACHED with a magazine ad pitch last week, but declined the \$350 plea.

Another auto dealer in Farmington was badgered with phone calls from someone named "Hunter" who claimed to be "the beat cop who passes by five times a day and waves to you."

Postal worker solicitations were also mentioned frequently by some of the businessmen.



Striving for a record

Mark Schroen (left) and Donnie McIntyre didn't quite break the world's record for building a house of cards, but the duo put up a noble effort. Their card house consisted of more than 2,200 cards (44 decks)

which took them two days to build. The world's record is 3,650 cards. The Farmington Hills boys gathered cards from friends and relatives. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Harrison sale talk is denied

"Ridiculous" and "absurd" were the words Farmington school administrators used to squelch a rumor that Harrison High School would close after the 1980-1981 school year.

"I've heard the same rumors from some Harrison parents," said Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent of Farmington Public Schools.

"It is absolutely untrue. It hasn't been discussed at any level. With the numbers (of students) we have at this time, no one has discussed this."

Another rumor had the school being sold to Oakland Community College for extension courses.

"I can say very categorically I've heard nothing," said Dr. William Stuart an OCC administrator.

"We aren't cramped for space now. To take over a building that size would be unfathomable."

OCC is using Novi High School and Birmingham Seaholm for evening extension courses.

"If it became necessary, we could rent additional space. But we don't need more space," Stuart said.

Farmington School Board Trustee Michael Shpiece, a 1974 Harrison graduate, called the rumor ridiculous.

"With the addition of ninth grade to the high schools in September, we are not going to have empty schools," Shpiece said.



Don Cowan prepares for his new post as an administrator at North Farmington. (Staff photo)

New assistant named at North Farmington

G. Donald Cowan has been named assistant principal at North Farmington High School.

Cowan's appointment was announced by Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent of Farmington Public Schools, last week.

"Mr. Cowan is an exceptional individual," Nutter said. "He has established tremendous rapport with students and parents in every assignment."

Cowan has a bachelor of science degree in education from Wayne State University, a masters in guidance and counseling from the University of Michigan and has completed continued graduate work in the field of administration and curriculum.

He has been with the district since 1962 and has been an elementary principal since 1967. His latest assignment was at Eagle Elementary School.

Cowan and his wife, Nancy, reside in Milford with their two children, Kristen and Michael.

Cameras copped

Some \$865 worth of assorted camera equipment supposedly held in safekeeping for a guest was stolen last week from the manager's office at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn.

The guest told police she was staying at the Holiday Inn before moving into a new home in the city.

what's inside

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LIFE OF PRIVATE EYE

Americans have become used to the stereotyped image of the private detective embellished by television series year after year. To get a good inside look of what they're really like, turn to page 3A.

Emergency unit readied

Emergency medical care is now available 24 hours a day at the Providence Ambulatory Care Center.

Nearly half of the 25,000-square-foot building, located on 10 Mile and Highway 16, is devoted to the emergency unit with two major and two general treatment areas, two suturing rooms, a cast room, and facilities for obstetrical and ear, nose and throat emergencies.

The Novi center is equipped and staffed to treat any type of illness or injury, but because there are no in-patient beds, individuals requiring hospitalization will be stabilized and transported to Providence Hospital in Southfield or to other full-service hospitals.

Also opened are around-the-clock laboratory and radiology services. In addition to serving the emergency patients, these diagnostic facilities will be available to persons referred by area physicians.

The emergency room is easily accessible for residents of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Northville, Novi, Wixom, Milford, Walled Lake and Wolverine Lake.

The Providence department of pediatrics opened the new building on June 16. Pediatrics was followed by the family dentistry program.

The Novi Center also will house an internal medicine unit, scheduled for opening August 18.

Just a media hype? Carter camp: 'No defections'

By TIM RICHARD

Want to hear a "latrine-o-gram"? Just ask a Michigan Carter supporter if he/she will vote for an "open convention" rule when the Democratic National Convention opens today in New York City.

That's what local leaders in President Jimmy Carter's renomination campaign say. Not only that, but they say there just isn't any movement to persuade Carter supporters to help change the rules and allow the nearly 2,000 pledged to Carter to support whomever they wish.

"I haven't heard a word," said Gene Kuthy, a Carter alternate from the 19th Congressional District when asked if he had been called by the "open convention" forces.

"A tempest in a teapot," said attorney Robert F. Netherlander of Birmingham, another Carter delegate. "I talked to Vice President Mondale in Washington yesterday. There is not going to be any defection."

TALK OF AN "open convention" started among supporters of Sen. Edward Kennedy as Carter's ratings in the polls sagged.

There is supposed to be a telephone campaign going on to persuade several hundred of the Carter delegates to support the rule change. Former U.S.

The Democratic National Convention in New York City this week is being covered by Tim Richard, 13-year veteran of the Observer & Eccentric news staff, and Doug Ashley, free-lance photographer from Bloomfield Hills who has been covering national conventions since 1960.

Rep. James O'Hara of Macomb County is supposed to be at work in it. So is nationally prominent attorney Edward Bennett Williams.

"The other team (Kennedy's) is supposed to be checking us," said Kuthy of West Bloomfield Township. They're not.

"I'm the Carter whip for the Oakland and Macomb county delegates," said Kuthy. "I checked our delegates last week and there's a solid phalanx."

"But the Carter camp said to us, 'Check 'em again.' So I checked them again this week. They haven't changed a nickel's worth."

"You'll hear a latrine-o-gram if you ask them to vote for a rules change."

"The rules should stay the way it is. That's the way the rules were established."

MOREOVER, said Kuthy, a lawyer and business management consultant, Carter plans to carry Michigan Nov. 4.

"Michigan will not be written off as it was in '76," Kuthy said. "That was when Jerry Ford, from

Michigan, was running. Then, too, (Rep. Morris) Udall had almost won the (Democratic) primary in '76."

His evidence that Michigan would be a Carter goal is that Curt Wiley is working as Carter's Michigan campaign coordinator. Wiley was instrumental in Carter's strong showing in the 1976 Iowa caucus, which launched the former Georgia governor as a presidential contender.

NEDERLANDER, a University of Michigan regent, said he has received "an occasional telegram or letter" urging him to support an open convention.

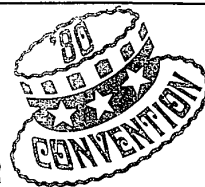
"Since I was Carter's finance chairman, maybe I'm not getting the kind of contact (to switch), he said."

"I do not see a problem."

The open convention question is the key to the entire four-day conclave, said Kennedy alternate Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills.

"If this rule goes through, the convention will just about fold Monday night," said Vagnozzi, an editorial consultant for Cy Aaron Publications, which publishes labor newspapers.

Vagnozzi said Carter leaders would not, as rumored, take away the credentials of any Carter-pledged delegates who vote for a rules change. "If you do not vote the right way, they'll change it to a Carter vote," he said.



EUGENE KUTHY
Defections? Ridiculous!