

'Silent Observer'

County program gives rewards for crime tips

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

People with information leading to the arrest and conviction of Oakland County criminals may be eligible for a cash reward.

Anonymity is required in this program called Silent Observer, which is sponsored by the Oakland County Chamber of Commerce.

So far this year, \$3,050 was paid to individuals who provided key information to police in Oakland County. The rewards range from \$50-\$1,000.

"We need every bit of help we can get solving crimes," said Earl Kreps, president of the Oakland Chamber.

"We think offering rewards gets more persons interested in helping out and is a deterrent to crimes. If people are watching out for suspicious incidents it helps," he added.

TO BE ELIGIBLE for a Silent Observer reward, informants must tell their local police officers that they want to participate in the program when they phone in leads. Once they do, Kreps said they should give the officer any four-digit number they want to use as identification instead of their name.

When the case is solved, a Chamber of Commerce committee determines how large the reward should be. They tell the presiding police officer of the reward who notifies the informant by telephone. Newspaper ads may also be used to reach the informant.

"People who are seeking rewards usually follow the cases and notify us when they're solved," Kreps said.

"A lead to an armed robbery conviction could result in a \$500 reward. The payoff depends on the seriousness of the crime," he added.

"We will pay up to a \$1,000 for a murder (lead)," he said.

VICTIMS, police officers, security guards and employees of any establishment victimized are excluded from the program.

The Silent Observer program pays for tips leading to the arrest and conviction of crimes such as murder, armed robbery, breaking and entering, larceny from a building, sale of dangerous drugs, and arson.

Since it began in 1971, the Silent Observer has paid \$5,050 in rewards for 156 cases, including 21 murders. About 400 cases were reported to the Silent Observer.

Money from the program comes mainly from proceeds of the chamber's annual Auto Bonanza. This year's bonanza is July 22 when six cars will be raffled.

The chamber purchased more than \$95,000 worth of cars including a Lincoln Continental, Corvette, Cadillac Cimarron, Trans Am, a J-car and K-car. It sold 500 tickets for \$300 each.

The Silent Observer has no budget. "Whatever its needs are, we take from the surplus budget. We'd like to see it grow," Kreps said.

**'We think offering rewards gets more persons interested in helping out and is a deterrent to crimes. If people are watching out for suspicious incidents it helps.'**

If you have facts which could help solve one of these crimes, you might earn a reward. Call the police in the community where the crime occurred and say you want to be a

**"Silent Observer"**  
... You Need Not Give Your Name

**SIZZLIN' SUMMER SALE**

State research fund becomes law

Gov. William G. Milliken has signed into law a piece of his economic development package: HB 4934, which creates a technology-oriented "state research fund" in the Michigan Department of Commerce.

The bill is the 10th to be signed as part of Milliken's economic development and high technology efforts. Others already enacted include bills to create an Economic Development Authority and fund, to revise and reform workers' compensation, provide sales tax credits to business and create an urban land assembly fund.

High technology research is a major key to Michigan's economic future, Milliken said, adding:

"THE POSSIBILITIES for future growth are limitless, given Michigan's large population of inventors and product designers, its large number of scientists and engineers, and the long tradition of our higher education system in pioneering research.

"This bill responds to an immediate need to create new, diversified employment opportunities by capitalizing on innovation research in conjunction with Michigan colleges, universities and private entities."

The bill repeals a section of a 1981 act that established the technology-based innovation and development fund in the Department of Management and Budget (DMB), replacing it with the state research fund.

Under the bill, \$990,000 already appropriated to the DMB for 1981-82 will be transferred to the Department of Commerce.

GRANTS WILL be made for projects proposed by state colleges or universities in cooperation with business or some other private entity, or by a business or private entity alone. The private concern can be profit-making or nonprofit, but must of business in Michigan.

A project will be evaluated accord-

ing to the following criteria:

- Does it apply technological discoveries to new applications?
- Does it provide a tangible, direct for the economy of the state?
- Does it hold interest for the college or university or for the business or private entity?

- Is it of general interest to an entire industrial field?
- Does it contribute directly or indirectly to the development of additional products or processes?
- Does the applicant demonstrate the capability to implement the proposed project?
- Does it meet any other criteria prescribed by the commerce director?

NO MORE THAN 35 percent of the fund would be allocated to any one college or other institution. Priority will be given to proposals submitted by a school in cooperation with a business or private entity and which would not require additional money in the future.

A five-member feasibility review panel will review a proposal within 60 days of receipt. If it meets the criteria, the panel will recommend to the director how much should be given to the project and what priority it should have.

One member of the panel will be appointed by the speaker of the House, one by the Senate majority leader, two by the governor and one jointly by all three. They will be representative of the scientific, technical, financial and academic communities of the state.

In addition to the 10 bills already signed, Milliken is seeking legislative approval of six other pieces of legislation: SB 275, which facilitates branch banking; HB 5185, which opens the door to foreign banking; SB 518, which reforms unemployment compensation laws; SB 240 and SB 360, which amend the state's single business tax, and HB 5164, which facilitates the creation of urban enterprise zones.

Headlee leads in GOP \$\$ drive

Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Headlee received more state matching funds than any of his opponents as of July 7, the Secretary of State's office reported.

So far he has received, \$366,744. Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson received \$364,461 and Lt. Gov. James Brickley has received \$347,343. State Sen. John Welborn of

Kalamazoo is trailing, with \$147,460 in state matched funds.

Once a candidate raises \$50,000, the state will match it \$2 for \$1 for each contribution of \$100 or less. Once the candidate exceeds the \$50,000 mark, he/she can apply for state matching funds for any amount, but only on contributions of \$100 or less.

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