

# Where your charity dollar goes

*'As much as \$1 million may be taken out of Oakland County from funds donated to the charitable organization'*

By SUSAN L. SILK  
**OAKLAND COUNTY** — If no one will tell you what parts of your charitable donation actually reaches the charitable project, would you still want to make that contribution?

That is the question posed to Oakland County residents and businessmen contacting the prosecutor's consumer fraud division regarding the current rash of police and firemen's groups seeking donations for their charitable projects.

And concern is mounting because an estimated \$1 million may be taken out of Oakland County each year by charity event promoters.

The telephone solicitations — some people have complained of five, six or seven calls a week from different groups — "really aren't the fault of the police or firemen," said Ms. Sheri Perelli, director of the county consumer fraud division.

APPROXIMATELY 25 associations of Oakland County policemen and firemen have been recruited by about seven fund-raising promoters who operate in the tri-county area.

Most of the groups need funds to carry out their charitable activities or establish a widows and orphans program, Ms. Perelli said.

So the police or firemen's group "rents" its name to the professional fund raiser, said Ms. Perelli.

The promoter then stages a circus, carnival or athletic contest and assigns a portion of the money collected to sending handicapped or disadvantaged children to the event.

The promoter then allegedly takes his profit and expenses out of same pot, Ms. Perelli said. The consumer fraud division has no idea what those costs or the profit may be, she said.

IN EXCHANGE for the use of its name, the police or firemen's charity group usually receives a flat fee (several thousand dollars) or sometimes a percentage of the gate, Ms. Perelli said.

"The police have to take the promoter at his word as to how much was collected," Ms. Perelli said.

The fund raiser's staff mans a "boiler room" type telephone solicitation operation, according to division investigator Mrs. Marilyn Appel.

The callers, many times youngsters, often repeatedly contact the residents and businessmen of an area.

"The officers of the lodge asked me to help them on their annual

fund raising drive this year," one promoter's callers read from printed materials.

One promoter's employe reportedly reported each businessman asked to advertise in a police yearbook or to donate money for a track meet.

PROSPECTIVE donors are told that "some of their contribution is going toward sponsoring an athletic event and financing busloads of needy youngsters" who wouldn't be able to attend it unless they are sponsored by our friends and business people like yourself.

The consumer who agrees to make a donation will be visited by "one of the Boys," but most often a "representative" to pick up a check.

Last February, after a volume of consumer inquiries into the legitimacy of the numerous police groups, Ms. Perelli invited some police and firemen's groups into the office for a discussion of the problem.

"The library was standing room only," Ms. Perelli said.

Each organization was given a three-page form to complete, asking about their organization, its activities and the financial relationship between the promoter and the group.

NONE WERE returned, Ms. Perelli said.

Several groups complained that the form was too long, that the fi-

nancial information asked of them was only obtainable from the promoter, but that they were not required by law to supply the information and refused to do so, Ms. Perelli said.

A shorter form, asking only what fund-raising activities were being engaged in, and how the promoter was and how much the group and the fund raiser each made, was prepared.

But not one of the groups returned the questionnaires, Ms. Perelli said.

Professional fund raisers are not unique to the police and firemen's charities. National and state organizations often employ an individual or an agency to administer their fund drives, Ms. Perelli acknowledged.

HOWEVER, the State Attorney General's office, consumer fraud division, considers 25 to 30 percent a reasonable limit on the amount of the collected funds that can be withheld from the charitable project for administration and overhead, Ms. Perelli added.

"The police claim that they are not involved in the event sponsored and only get paid in return for their name," Ms. Perelli said.

But Ms. Perelli disagrees. "They have to be at least morally responsible for what happens under their name," Ms. Perelli said. The charities lack of knowledge

into the operation of which they are a cash recipient and the lack of legislation controlling the promoter are to blame, according to Ms. Perelli.

"THERE'S ONLY one statute on the books and that does not go into effect until a charity solicits funds in more than one county," Ms. Perelli said.

After talking to individual police and firemen's groups, Ms. Perelli said she is convinced that the charities do not even know the means

by which the promoters are generating the cash.

"But if they get \$4,000 from their charity, to a lot of groups that's a lot of money, a lot more than they have time or people to collect themselves," Mr. Perelli said.

However, as much as \$1 million may be taken out of Oakland County by the promoters each year from funds donated to the charitable organization by the average consumer who simply answers a telephone call, Ms. Perelli added.



## STATE FARM - The World's Number One Homeowners Insurer

More people insure their homes with State Farm than with any other company. That's because they've found State Farm offers the best in service, protection and economy. Give me a call. I'll be glad to give you all the details.



GOURNEY CRILE  
35111 Cr. Bldg.  
478-1220

BON CAMPBELL  
35111 Cr. Bldg.  
478-1060

LEE LEUNG  
Fire Mkt. Bldg.  
535-5511

TOM TURPIN  
S. Main W. of Farm.  
421-8020

LOUIS KOPPEL  
1724 Farmington  
427-8530



Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.  
 STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY  
 Home Office: Bloomington, Illinois

## HAVE BREAKFAST WITH...

- Jack McDonald ..... 626-9722
- Bruce Frankel ..... 851-4000
- Tom Kukes ..... 557-5050
- Aldo Vagnozzi ..... 963-1783
- Dan Lichtman ..... 476-6290
- John Borbi ..... 961-0922
- Ernest Turken ..... 353-6030



Every Wednesday Morning—7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.  
 MacInerney's-29501 Northwestern Highway, Southfield



## Heaney-Sundquist FUNERAL HOME

Dear Friends,  
 Recently we were asked if a person could make advance arrangements for his funeral... select the desired vault and casket, determine details of the funeral, and place the required funds for that purpose in a local bank. Such advance planning is feasible for most funeral homes and is especially sensible when there are no surviving relatives.

Respectfully,  

 Walter E. Sundquist

32720 FARMINGTON ROAD  
 PHONE 474-5200 FARMINGTON, MICH.

# CARPET SALE

ANNOUNCES THE ARRIVAL of FLINTKOTE FLOOR TILE

Deal with the OWNER He can do more for YOU!

## 15% OFF

Custom Peel & Stick Tile Available

OFFER GOOD ON ALL QUALITIES PURCHASED IN FULL CARTONS THRU JUNE 30, 1974

## 2 local scout receive eagles

Two members of Boy Scout troop 179 received Eagle Awards at the troop's court of honor recently.

Bill Beatty and Brian Tupper received the awards during a ceremony at Farmington Junior High.

Beatty's Eagle project was the renovation of the fence and grounds of the old cemetery on Gill Road. Don Carrier presented the testimonial to Beatty.

Dr. John Richardson presented the testimonial to Tupper. Tupper's project involved the clean up of the grounds and renovation of picnic tables at the Drake Rd. Park near Freedom Road.



Merchan Draskovich

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Merchant of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Pamela Ann, to John J. Draskovich Jr., son of Mr and Mrs. John Draskovich of Farmington. The bride-elect is a 1969 graduate of West High School in Rockford, Ill., and attended Rock Valley College and Concordia Teachers College in Illinois. Her fiancé, a 1967 graduate of Farmington High School, served the U.S. Army in Hanau, Germany, and has attended Oakland Community College. The wedding is planned for Aug. 3.

Troop 179 received the highest award granted in connection with the District Sustaining Membership Enrollment Campaign.

The award was given to the troop for enrolling more than \$500 in pledges. The award was presented by Barry Kolley, associate district executive from the Okawa District, Clinton Valley Council.

The guest speaker for the program was Pat Nowak, past president of the Michigan Jaycees and an Oakland County Drain Commissioner.

## SHAGS

- FROM \$3.99 sq. yd.
- KITCHEN CARPET FROM \$3.99 sq. yd.
- INDOOR/OUTDOOR FROM \$1.99 sq. yd.

Quality Carpet Expert Installation

If you have a new home to carpet or a lot of rooms to replace in your present home stop in and check our complete package programs.

# G & P CARPET

30746 Grand River FARMINGTON 477-5333

## Glockenspiels name winners

The Glockenspiels gave a first place scholarship award of \$100 to Marianne Walk in the musical competition held annually by the senior chapter of the Farmington Musical.

Second place went to Steve Johns; third, place to Cathy Bennett; and fourth to Beth Linger.

A membership increase will be the club's primary goal for the coming year. Information on the club's purpose and requirements for membership will be posted in all Farmington junior high schools next fall.

Debbie Cross will be president, and Miss Bennett, vice-president, for the 1974-75 year. Other officers are Jan Neimeczak, Ruth Kowaleski and Ralph Dingle.

Carey is trustee  
 Robert H. Carey of Farmington is a trustee of the Russel A. Poiner Scholarship Fund of the Michigan Association of Realtors which recently awarded \$3,000 to the University of Michigan graduate school of business administration.  
 Carey is president of the Michigan Board of Realtors.

## Sears Photography Studio

portraits / passports / copies



Frames not included



Save \$5.00 on a new 5x7 black & white copy of your old photograph

For an additional charge we can reproduce your old photograph in oil, in color, in miniature, or in your favorite size enlargement. This reproduction can also be restored to eliminate cracks and fading.

OFFER ENDS SAT., JUNE 22

\$4.95 REG. \$10.00 6 Day Offer

Livonia Mall, 476-6000  
 Macomb Mall, 293-8000  
 Oakland Mall, 585-1000

Sears  
 SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.

9 to 8:30 Mon., thru Sat.