



Leaning on the limo that brought him to the award ceremony, John Shoemaker displays a replica of the \$50,000 check he won.

Man banks \$50,000

By Susan Buck
staff writer

A part-time Farmington resident and semi-retired thoroughbred horse trainer has won Michigan National Bank's \$50,000 grand prize Lifetime Sweepstakes award.

The bank presented the award to John Shoemaker, 77, who summers in Farmington and winters in Tampa Bay, Fla.

The \$50,000 Lifetime Services Deposit was presented Dec. 11 at the bank's Farmington Hills branch at 10 Mile and Grand River.

Michigan National arranged for Shoemaker to arrive at the branch in a white, chauffeur-driven limousine.

"I didn't believe it at first," Shoemaker said. "A friend came over and told me."

Shoemaker has trained horses mainly at Ladbroke DRC in Livonia for the last 40 years as well as at Hazel Park Raceway. During the winter, he trains horses at Tampa Bay Downs in Florida.

Michigan National picked up Shoemaker's round-trip travel expenses to Detroit.

SHOEMAKER BECAME interested in horses while growing up in

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Paoli, Pa. He later trained quarterhorses and thoroughbreds in Tucson, Ariz. "I came here, because, frankly, the purses up here were much higher," he said.

This was the biggest prize Shoemaker ever won. During the 1930s, he won a shotgun in Arizona.

As an accomplishment, Shoemaker is particularly proud of a horse called Monkey Music, which he bought for almost nothing and which recently won two races in a row.

At the ceremony, Shoemaker, a 10-year bank customer, was presented a king-sized check replica, deposited into a Michigan National Lifetime Services Account.

Lifetime Services is a financial program whereby customers can select and combine a variety of interest-earning accounts to qualify them for a special free-service checking account.

SHOEMAKER WAS chosen from among 1 million entries at a random drawing conducted Dec. 1 at Michigan National headquarters in Farmington Hills. The sweepstakes were held Sept. 11 to Nov. 18 at all 200 Michigan National branches throughout Michigan.

During the 10-week sweepstakes, customers who completed specific bank transactions received game cards, which could be rubbed off for a chance to win instant prizes, such as \$50 or \$1,000. Customers were also able to enter the game in a drawing drawing for a chance to win the \$50,000 Lifetime Services-deposit grand prize.

Shoemaker, who lives with a friend on Gill Road when he is in town, said he has no relatives nearby. "I'm really sort of the last of the Mohogans," he said.

He plans to pay some bills with the money he won.

Holiday safety tips offered

The following information is provided by the Farmington Department of Public Safety, which incorporates both fire and police protection for residents of the city of Farmington. Residents or business people with questions, concerns or additional information should contact the department at 473-7202.



Tips for a safe holiday season:
 • Buying a Christmas tree — Try to obtain a fresh tree by checking the needles on the tree and making sure they are firmly attached and not dry and falling off the tree already.

Once home, keep plenty of water around the base of the tree at all times. A dry tree is the source of more than 1,000 home fires every year.

Keep candles and open flames away from live-cut trees at all times.

• Electrical safety — Many Christmas lights are stored in areas subject to extreme heat or cold (at-

tics). This can cause wires to crack and may cause worn insulation problems. Check strings of lights for loose sockets, broken plugs or bare wires showing. Discard a cord that shows signs of wear, it can cause fires, shocks, even electrocution.

Be careful about hanging several light strings together. You can easily overload a circuit and this may

cause the wires to heat up. All outside lighting should be turned off before you go to bed.

• Space heaters — Keep these and other types of portable heaters away from table cloths, curtains, bedspreads and other furniture. Make sure little children know they could get burned if they touch one.

• Fireplaces — Everyone enjoys sitting in front of a fireplace, especially during the holidays. But few people have their chimneys cleaned as often as needed. Creosote build-up can cause chimney fires. When using your fireplace, be sure to burn hardwoods such as oak and maple, and avoiding burning woods such as pine and poplar.

Be careful not to hang the stockings too close to a hot fireplace. Screens should be used at all times when a fireplace has wood burning inside it.

The Farmington Department of Public Safety would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a fire-safe holiday season.

14-Orchard Lake rezoning considered

A request to rezone the northeast corner of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Road from office service and general business to community business will come before the Farmington Hills City Council tonight.

William Sherr, a real estate developer, wants to combine four parcels and rezone them to allow for a three-tenant community business district.

The Michigan National Bank branch currently on the 3.6-acre site

would be torn down and rebuilt. Another parcel houses a Michigan Bell switching center, which also would be torn down. Two other parcels are vacant.

The new community business district would front Orchard Lake Road, 14 Mile, Northwestern Highway and Greening.

On Nov. 18, the planning commission recommended approving the rezoning request.

The acreage is master planned for office and commercial use. But planners felt the rezoning request "would be a reasonable alternative and wouldn't have a negative impact on the master plan," said Ed Gardiner, senior planner for the city.

Evidence shows that a community business district would create less traffic at peak hours than office zoning would. Planners also could better control curb cuts, Gardiner said.

Holiday hours announced

Christmas, on Monday, Dec. 25, will mean several closings next week.

Farmington Hills City Hall, Farmington City Hall and the 47th District Court in Farmington will be closed Monday and Tuesday. The Farmington Community Library will be closed Saturday through Monday.

The Farmington Observer and the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and all banking institutions will be closed Monday.

Trash collection in both Farmington and Farmington Hills will be pushed back one day next week. For example, Monday's normal pickup will be done Tuesday.

There will be no window service, post office box service or residential/business mail delivery on Monday.

Normal holiday mail collections will be made and special delivery and express mail service will be provided, Farmington postmaster Kenneth Harris said.

clarification

A special science unit focusing on the eye, was designed and implemented by student teacher Michelle Burke at Longacre Elementary, who has worked with veteran teacher Pamela Brown since September.

Burke contacted Kodak, which sent the class 30 free cameras to use, and K mart developed film for students at cost. Students took photos as part of the project.

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