

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Greatest generation: WWII veteran Bob Yackley was the oldest of five brothers drafted into military service. He reminisces in Hometown Life, Page C-6.



Farmington Hometown Life, honored as one of the best lifestyle sections in Michigan

Longacre: From psychic reading to Middle Eastern dance, the Longacre House offers winter classes for all tastes. Page C-6.

Hills holds public hearings tonight

Farmington Hills Planning Commission members will hold public hearings Thursday night on two requests for zoning changes related to a large commercial project in the 14 Mile/Northwestern/Orchard Lake area.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads and will be broadcast live on cable TV Channel 8.

CLARIFICATION

Company not properly identified

A story in Thursday's Farmington Observer incorrectly stated that a Farmington firm would be paying a fine for bid fixing.

The story was based on indictments unsealed by the Department of Justice last week and a DOJ press release that mentioned Motorama Engineering, a firm that no longer exists.

The business and assets of Motorama Engineering were acquired by Schenck Motorama Inc., more than a year ago. The company is located at 34300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington, and is owned and operated by an European firm, Schenck Pegasus of Germany.

Schenck Motorama was not involved in any aspect of the indictment or legal proceedings. The Farmington Observer regrets any false impressions created by its publication of the DOJ press release.

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Man and wife charged in heroin bust

Second big drug arrest in a week in the Hills



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRADLER

Charged: Farmington Hills detective Al Patterson (center) directs Lutettus Perry and Iris McKinney-Perry to their arraignment.

BY JONI HUBRED
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A second major drug bust in Farmington Hills over the weekend netted three-quarters of a pound of pure heroin, 116 grams of marijuana, \$66,000 in cash and illegal weapons.



Late Friday night, officers from SONIC - the South Oakland Narcotics Investigation Consortium - which consists of officers from Farmington Hills, Novi and West Bloomfield and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department - raided a home in the 29000 block of High Meadow.

They arrested 64-year-old Lutettus Perry and his wife Iris McKinney-Perry, 43, who had lived in the house for the past five years, according to Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer.

Perry faces 10 separate charges of narcotics and firearms violations; Dwyer said he has a criminal record involving drugs and violence that stretches back to the 1970s and includes time served in a Federal cor-

rectional facility. McKinney-Perry, who has no prior arrests, faces four charges.

Both face preliminary exams on Monday, Jan. 22, in 47th District Court in front of Judge Maria Parker. They are both still in custody; his bond is \$500,000 and her's is \$100,000.

The couple's two sons, ages 21 and 24, were taken into custody but later released. Police said officers also turned up packaging equipment, scales and powdered lactose, used to reduce the drug's purity.

On Jan. 11, in a separate incident, Oakland County's Narcotics Enforcement Team, newly constituted under the direction of Sheriff Michael Bouchard, arrested a Miami resident after finding 46 kilos of cocaine in the trunk of a car he was driving through Farmington Hills.

Cesar Augusto Velasquez, 60, is still in custody on a \$10 million bond and charged with drug trafficking. If convicted, he faces life in prison. His preliminary exam is Friday, Jan. 19, in front of 47th District Judge Fred Harris.

Though the cocaine seizure had an estimated value of \$23 million, Dwyer couldn't put a fixed "street value" on

the heroin,

which differs from cocaine in how it is packaged for distribution. Cocaine may be diluted to 80 or 90 percent strength.

"It would kill you if you used heroin at that level," Dwyer explained.

"With heroin, it's more like three to four percent. So this could have resulted in several kilos."

In both cases, Dwyer credits law enforcement cooperation as the "recipe for success." A Hills officer is assigned



Display: Farmington Hills Chief Bill Dwyer and some of the seized evidence.

Please see HEROIN, A2

Rezone bid wins approval

BY TIM SMITH
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Downtown Farmington residents turned out en masse Tuesday night in a last-ditch attempt to keep a house in their historic neighborhood from being rezoned for a commercial use.

But after points and counterpoints were made on both sides of the issue, Farmington City Council

DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON

voted 4-to-1 in favor of the rezoning, largely because it is a permitted land use in the city's Master Plan. As a result, the residence at 33432 Oakland Street will become the new location for Baker Street Draperies.

Several residents were given the chance to speak out against the issue before council made its decision. The speakers made it clear that the problem wasn't with Baker Street Draperies owner Shelley Raymond or her business. It was with how the rezoning might reduce property values, hinder parking and traffic flow and impact the future of the neighborhood.

Resident Jim Pfeifer displayed a petition with more than 100 signatures - claiming to represent 97 percent disapproval rate of homeowners who live in the Farmington-Shinawasee area.

"What about the future? What about five years from now or 10 years from now?" said Pfeifer. "Ten years from now we don't know what it's going to be. We have to keep that in mind."

"We have beautiful, historic homes there, beautiful neighbors and a beau-

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STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRADLER

Together: Ramsey Haddad, Adrienne Sundquist and Nanasha Smith take turns lighting the wicks on the unity candle.

Program honors Dr. King's legacy

BY DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Despite a light drizzle, a breeze and heavy, dark skies, about 400 people took part in the first ever Farmington/Farmington Hills candlelight vigil and march to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday.

The event was planned and sponsored by Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multicultural Community Council.

Participants walked from the Costick Center a few hundred yards over to the Mercy High School auditorium. Not many people were able to keep their candles lit in the breeze and rain, but they walked "this day truly sharing the light that leads us



Marchers: Wooddale principal Lasenia Jones, community activist Aldo Vagnozzi and Mercy High's Regina Marie Doelker lead the marchers from Costick Center to Mercy.

to a path of understanding" of Dr. King's words and deed, according to the Rev. Mark Jensen of the North

Congregational Church, Farmington

Please see KING MARCH, A3

Farmington area voters quickly sign CCW petitions

BY JONI HUBRED
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A petition drive opposing the enactment of a new state law regarding concealed weapons permits has received several hundred signatures of support from people in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

"It's asking to put the issue on the ballot, and the issue is to repeal... Public Act 381," said local volunteer Aldo Vagnozzi.

Volunteers have staked out local libraries and circulated petitions at Sunday's candlelight walk in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., held at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. To date, Vagnozzi said, they've collected between 400 and 500 signatures.

Set to take effect on July 1, P.A. 381 amends state law regarding concealed weapons permits, requiring local gun boards to approve applications except if the applicant is under 21, a convicted felon or has been treated for a mental illness. Under current law, applica-

tions are reviewed by local police chiefs, who make recommendations for or against issuance. Applicants have to show a merit to carry a concealed weapon.

Passed late last year by a "lame duck" Legislature and signed by Gov. John Engler on Jan. 1, the law has come under intense fire from critics who say it will greatly increase the number of permits issued. Supporters of the measure, including State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, don't believe it will have a signif-

icant effect. They believe the change actually improves the current law by requiring eight hours of weapons training and banning concealed weapons in certain venues.

The effort to repeal the bill began almost as soon as it was signed, said Ruth Carter, chief of communications for "People Who Care About Kids." Organizers need 151,000 signatures but are shooting for 252,000.

"We are looking at somewhere

Please see PETITION, A7

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