

Bathtime becomes
a 'suite' dream, 1D



Lakes hoop
winner, 1C

Couple gets big award
in medical suit, 2A

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WALKERS welcome.
A recruitment rally for people who want to be part of this year's CROP Walk Against Hunger is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, in North Congregational Church, 26275 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.
Ten-kilometer walks will be done simultaneously in the battle against hunger, sponsored by clergy from Farmington, Farmington Hills, Birmingham, the Bloomfields and Southfield.
Last spring, the CROP Walk in downtown Farmington raised \$12,000 for Church World Services hunger relief and local food agencies.

WORTH noting.
March 20-25 is National Poison Prevention Week. The pamphlets "Guide to Poison Prevention" and "What About Plants?" as well as stickers with the Poison Control Center telephone number are available at no charge by sending a business-size stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Poison Control Center, Children's Hospital of Michigan, 3901 Beaubien Blvd., Detroit 48201.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — A larger Hills branch of the Farmington Community Library will be needed by the 1990s if quality services are expected to be continued, library trustees and director Beverly Papal told the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils.

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HOME IS
WHERE THE
HEART IS

CREATIVE
LIVING

NOW IN EVERY MONDAY
AND THURSDAY ISSUE



Creativity Springs Alive

Senior Doug MacLeod (left), junior Randy Ryan and senior Suzanne Bashara print T-shirts promoting Farmington High at the school's Creativity Springs Alive exhibition.

More than 2,000 students and teachers attended the event Friday. For the story and more pictures, see Page 3A.

— Staff photo by THOMAS ARNETT

Man charged in stickup of 3 Hills inns



Suspect William L. Wheeler

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A Detroit man charged in the armed robbery of three Farmington Hills inns told the judge at his arraignment Sunday he was a crack cocaine user "and hoped to get some treatment," said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer.
At least seven other area police agencies plan to question William L. Wheeler, 32, in connection with stickups of inns in their communities since Feb. 13. Up to 20 inns have

been robbed since then.
The Fairfield Inn in Canton Township was robbed of more than \$150 about 89 minutes before Farmington Hills police arrested Wheeler Saturday morning.
Charges have only been filed in the Farmington Hills robberies.
Arraigned before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington at the Farmington Hills Jail, Wheeler stood mute to three counts of armed robbery in connection with the stickups of the Quality Inn Feb. 20, the Dillon Inn Feb. 28 and the En-

voy Inn Feb. 29. Innocent pleas were entered in his behalf.

IN EACH Farmington Hills robbery, typical of the other inn robberies, the robber approached a desk clerk and implied he had a gun. More than \$200 was netted in Farmington Hills. No gun was found in Wheeler's car, Dwyer said.
Wheeler is being held at the Oakland County Jail in lieu of \$150,000 cash or surety bond pending a preliminary examination in 47th District Court in Farmington March 18.

He faces a penalty of up to life in prison if convicted.

Farmington Hills uniformed and undercover officers arrested Wheeler and a woman companion on I-696, near Orchard Lake Road, at 11:40 a.m. Saturday, minutes after the two left the Skylight Inn at Eight Mile and Haggerty, Dwyer said.
While the woman waited in a gray 1987 Ford Escort, Wheeler went into the Skylight Inn lobby shortly past 11 a.m. "But after a few minutes, he

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Working with people makes his job special

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

How can he always be that happy?
That's a question postmaster Kenneth Harris is always asked. His constant smile and jovial behavior have people wondering what he's so happy about.
He says the reason is simple: he's happy.
"I thoroughly enjoy getting up in the morning and going to work," said Harris, the 27th postmaster for the two-branch Farmington area postal service begun in January 1926.

"I look at things in a positive way rather than in a negative way."
Take the long drive from his home in Brighton to his office at the Farmington Hills branch on 12 Mile. When others are aggravated by the drive and the traffic, he takes the half-hour drive as his time for peace and quiet.

"It's my way of relaxing. It gives me a half-hour to think. It's so amazing when you're alone in the car. I think about what I'm going to do with the day," said Harris, 47.

When he arrives at the post office in the morning, Harris makes his rounds. As postmaster, his job is to improve service and reduce costs. But how the employees are faring at any given time is just as important.

"People, I like people. I interact with all the employees. I like to talk to them, see how things are going."

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Ken Harris is the 27th in a long line of postmasters in the Farmington area postal service, which began in 1926.

McDonald weighs run for prosecutor

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

A six-term Oakland County commissioner from Farmington Hills will run for Oakland County prosecutor this year if his former boss, incumbent L. Brooks Patterson, doesn't seek re-election.

"If Brooks decides not to run, I probably will run for the position," county commissioner Jack McDonald, 48, said Thursday. "But if Brooks says he's running, there's no way I'm going to run."

McDonald was an assistant prosecutor alongside Patterson for two years under former prosecutor Thomas Plunkett 1970-72.

McDonald stayed in the job during Patterson's first year as prosecutor in 1973. He then entered private practice.

In 1974, McDonald won election to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, representing the 27th District, which includes Farmington and much of Farmington Hills. As transportation committee chairman, he earns \$18,719 a year in the part-time post.

Patterson, 49, a part-time pen-



Jack McDonald

sion fund investment counselor, says he'll announce by early April whether he'll exchange his 15-year career as prosecutor for a higher paying job in the private sector.

A FARMINGTON Hills resident since 1965, McDonald calls the \$77,140-a-year prosecutor's position "a tremendous job."

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