



# Farmington Observer

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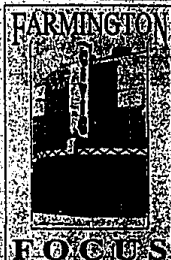
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Farmington, Michigan

48 Pages

Fifty Cents

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## Hills cops seize stun guns in raid

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Police seized 104 stun guns in a raid early Thursday morning in the home of a Farmington Hills couple, who are federally licensed firearms dealers.

The stun guns, valued at \$4,000-\$5,000, were seized while federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency agents executed a federal search warrant at the house on Wakefield, south of Nine Mile between I-375 and Haled Road, at 7:35 a.m. Thursday, Farmington Hills

police assisted ATF agents, said Farmington Hills police Inspector Thomas Godwin.

"They (ATF) were looking for records," he said, referring to a separate ATF investigation.

Possession of stun guns, which is a hand-held device that emits a high voltage, low amperage electrical discharge, is a violation of state law. That's why Farmington Hills police seized the personal security devices and are seeking a warrant against the couple, said detective Tim Swanson. Possession of a stun gun is a four-year felony.

"They are illegal even for use by police officers," Swanson said. "We rarely run across them (stun guns)."

FARMINGTON HILLS police Chief William Dwyer said stun guns were used in the beating of a Los Angeles man by police officers March 3. Rodney King was hospitalized after being arrested, then kicked or beaten with a nightstick and shocked with a stun gun.

Police seized several stun guns Thursday of various sizes, including larger ones capable of discharging 200,000 volts and smaller ones of

65,000 and 90,000 volts. The larger stun gun would probably cost about \$200 and the smaller ones about \$50-\$60, Swanson said.

When an activated stun gun touches someone, the electrical shock interrupts voluntary muscle control. The shock can cause a person to fall to the ground in a dazed, confused state, according to stun gun information provided by police.

Stun guns are used for personal protection. "If someone is attacked, they can get away

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**S**HELL TAKE a look at the new look of Farmington Hills. The new look is a result of the 1991 Founders Festival Fantasy Car Rally.

She had her choice: A new Corvette or \$30,000. She had some good reasons for taking the cash. "I've been unemployed because I've had a baby... she's eight months old today, in fact... so the cash will come in handy," Baker said. Friday, "I was putting a down payment on a house," probably in the Farmington area.

A group of four — Tom McPherson, John Cowley, Jim Bacon and Bob Chapman — shipped in and won second place a \$1,000 shopping spree with local chamber of commerce members.

How did Frank, Baker, who owns the Amoco Station on Grand River, win a \$500 shopping spree? As did Greg Goldstein of West Bloomfield and Janice Wagner of Farmington Hills.

Some 255 tickets at \$100 each were sold for the rally, which benefits the annual Founders Festival, said Jody Swenson, director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

**I**F YOU'RE A Farmingtonophile, then your tree is an oak, your flower a day lily, your bird a cardinal and your butterfly a giant swallowtail.

They are the symbols of your community, and that goes if your life in either Farmington (city of) or Farmington Hills.

The Farmington Hills Beautification Committee recently asked residents of both cities their preference in trees, flowers, birds and butterflies, and more than 230 responded. Farmington's City Council approved the symbols 5-0 at a recent meeting.

"I think they (the symbols) are wonderful," said Esther Frank, community relations director for Farmington Hills. "We're going to be promoting them in many ways... T-shirts and things like that."

**B**UY THE BOOK and take the cap off the pen... author Jeff Smith is coming to downtown Farmington.

Smith, 32, of the PBS series "The Frugal Gourmet," will be signing copies of his five cookbooks 3:30-5:30 p.m. Friday, June 14, at the Cargo Express store, 2326 Farmington Road.

"It really is a coup for us and for Farmington," said Tim Hopkins, president of the company that owns Cargo Express. The store sells cookware. "He doesn't make many appearances. He's making only three this year."

In addition to signing his books, he will discuss cooking, Hopkins said.

"The Frugal Gourmet" is a highly-rated show with an audience of 15 million. Locally, it may be viewed at 8:30 p.m. Thursdays and at 4 p.m. Saturdays.

**M**EMORY LANE — From the June 21, 1991 Farmington Observer:

The Farmington City Council received 10 applications for the new position of city manager, said Mayor Ken Loomis. Council was to fill the post by July 2.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

### Sniffing out problems

Farmington public services director Earl Billing sniffs at a bottle unseathed Friday in a sewer improvement project in the State Street parking lot, as Inspector Don Ferrier (center) of Orchard, Hiltz & McClement and Larry Davis look on. Also unseathed in the lot was a 55-foot deep community water well, which was filled in. Some traffic delays were experienced last week in the city's center as work continued on the multi-

million dollar project, which Billing said is "moving right along on schedule." Work in the Farmington Road area is expected to wrap up this week, as contractors move on to Orchard Street, Grove Street, and then east on Grand River near Brookdale and the Rouge River. With a suppliers strike, replacement of concrete has been delayed, Billing added.

## Psychiatric tests ordered for man in shooting of 2

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

As Farmington Hills police took Edward Hopkins out of the 47th District Court Friday morning, family members shouted goodbye.

"Eddie, I love you, I'll see you tonight," a family member shouted as he was taken down a hall to a waiting police car.

A psychiatric evaluation has been ordered for Hopkins, the man accused of shooting and killing two Detroit men in what's believed to be a drug-related incident May 31 at a house, 20735 Inkster, in Farmington Hills.

Judge Fred Harris of the 47th District Court of Farmington ordered the evaluation at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti at the request of Hopkins' court-

appointed defense attorney, Tom McGinnis of Birmingham.

"At the time the incident occurred, the defendant was under medication," said McGinnis who acknowledged that the case involves both legal and illegal drugs. McGinnis told Harris there are questions about Hopkins' criminal responsibility.

Oakland County assistant prosecutor Margaret Davis agreed to the psychiatric evaluation.

HOPKINS is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of felony firearms in connection with the shooting deaths of Leticia Lee Carter, 19, and Ricardo Preston, 17, both of Detroit.

Friday was the date originally scheduled for a pre-

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Edward P. Hopkins (right) of Detroit stands in 47th District Court with his court-appointed attorney, Tom McGinnis of Birmingham.

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## Local schools accuse state of tax-sharing double-cross

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Passage of a state Senate plan — in which school districts like Farmington would share half of their future commercial tax revenues — has left Farmington school superintendent Michael Flanagan frustrated and angry.

School and city officials in the Farmington area had supported the tax base sharing concept, he said, with the stipulation that the school district be reimbursed for the cuts dollar-for-dollar.

The recently passed Senate bill does not do that.

"We've been reasonably supportive of tax sharing," Flanagan said. "Then for them to turn around and change the deal — it's bad faith."

He called the recent Senate action "sneaky clean."

In an effort to equalize school spending across the state, the Senate voted to shift \$400 million from districts like Farmington to less affluent districts over the next 10 years. In the coming year, the bill would take tax base sharing and continue to recapture \$72 million.

In future years, tax base sharing would fully kick in and recapture would be phased out, legislators said.

THE MEASURE now goes to the state House for consideration, where legislators expect quick action, possibly by the end of June.

Gov. John Engler has said he supports tax base sharing. State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, said the measure is considered in the House Education Committee before it comes to the House. It will be sent to a conference committee if agree-

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