

Every dog has its day  
at the DKC show, 4B



Hawks win  
playoff, 1B

Recycling centers team  
up with Goodwill, 3A

# Farmington Observer

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Farmington, Michigan

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Fifty Cents

## Cops nab 12 in raid

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Twelve Detroit-area men face misdemeanor gambling charges following an early morning raid on a Farmington Hills apartment Sunday.

The unnamed men, who were released with misdemeanor tickets, range in age from their teens to early 20s, said Farmington Hills Detective Sgt. Charles Nebus.

The men were charged with frequenting in a place of illegal gambling. If convicted, the men face a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail and \$500 fine. They were released and are expected to appear at 2:30 p.m. March 16 in 47th District Court.

"A number of the people arrested have ties to major narcotic organizations," said Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer. "They are significant — the people arrested."

At 3:30 a.m. Sunday, Farmington Hills police responded to a loud party complaint at a unit of the Cordoba Apartments, on the south side of 12 Mile, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads. "They (officers) could hear that gambling was going on inside," Nebus said.

POLICE THEN obtained a search warrant, raided the apartment and seized gambling equipment and an undetermined amount of cash. Items seized included a dice/crap table, blackjack table, electronic poker machine and an assortment of dice and cards, Nebus said.

"The stakes could have been for hundreds of dollars," Nebus added.

This was the second Farmington Hills police raid in less than a week. Police arrested five Korean women following a raid Tuesday morning on a relatively new massage parlor, Today's Health Spa, 32255 10 Mile. The women pleaded not guilty to a variety of prostitution-related misdemeanors.

"We're going to continue to vigorously go after any illegal gambling or prostitution in the city," Dwyer said.

## Ousted postmaster speaks out



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Ken Harris stands outside the branch post office in Farmington that he once ran. "I refused to play ball," said Harris, who was fired from his post late last year.

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

Nice guys don't always finish last. And former Farmington postmaster Kenneth Harris wants to prove that to his former co-workers, customers and the public.

After an attorney-imposed silence, the popular Harris, 54, who's been on a stress-related medical leave, has granted interviews. Harris, Farmington postmaster since 1975, was formally terminated last December.

"This is not an attempt to try my case in the media," Harris said, adding that he wants to insure that postal customers get the kind of service they need — but he believes they are not getting.

Previously, Harris said he was mum to the media on the advice of his attorney, John DiFalco, who was retained by the National League of Postmasters. DiFalco did allow Harris to contact politicians to identify the problems.

For almost a year, Harris has been assisting U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, Sen. Carl Levin and U.S. Rep. Sander Levin. Harris maintains that he is being punished for his whistleblowing activities, which are not protected under the Whistleblowers Protection Act.

Harris, a former Marine and a troubleshooter for the post office, maintaining that his 28-year work record was unblemished prior to Daniel Presilla's arrival as manager/postmaster for Royal Oak's

**'This is not an attempt to try my case in the media.'**

— Kenneth Harris  
ex-postmaster

management sectional center in January 1990. He said he seldom missed a day and had 2,800 hours of unused sick time to prove it.

BUT HARRIS said he somehow ran afoul of his supervisors, especially Presilla and John Horne, general manager/postmaster of Detroit. Horne declined comment Friday and Presilla could not be reached.

"I will not let this thing disappear," Harris said. "If it can happen to me, it can happen to anybody."

The Post Office has charged Harris with 24 infractions, mostly recordkeeping and accounting. His case comes before Judge Phil Miller of the Merit System, Protection Board on April 2 at U.S. District Court in Detroit.

"No, we didn't inflate any mail count," Harris said in rebuttal to rumors in the community.

"The only thing that we did, because of the undue pressure put on us to beat or improve last year's results, was that volume was counted either on Friday afternoon or Saturday, one day or another," he said.

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## Rules set for declaring preference at polls

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Rules governing the March 17 presidential primary have been worked out and all Farmington and Farmington Hills voters have to do at this point is show up at the polls.

No doubt though voters have been confused about the primary. "We've gotten a little bit of interest I think because of articles in the news," said Farmington Hills city clerk Kathy Dornan.

"On election day, anyone can go in and vote without declaring a party preference in ad-

vance," Dornan continued.

There is one big difference, however, between those who want to vote the Democratic ballot and those who plan to vote Republican. Voters who have not declared their party preference and want to vote the Democratic ballot must sign a declaration form at the polls — if they haven't already. Voters who plan to vote Republican need only tell election workers they want a Republican ballot.

Keep in mind, that if you are a declared Republican, you can't change to vote the Democratic ballot March 17. But if you are a de-

clared Democrat, you can switch the day of the primary.

"They (Democrats) can come in and say I want to change," Dornan said. "The only conflict there will be is if someone wants to vote Democratic but they have already declared (himself or herself) a Republican."

VOTERS WHO have not declared a party preference are free to vote either way come March 17, Dornan said.

In order to cast a vote in the primary, you must have registered to vote by Feb. 18. That's about the only rule that didn't change for the

primary, which began as Michigan's first closed primary in more than a decade.

For the Democrats, the primary is essentially still closed. For the Republicans, it's not. "The Republicans in a sense opened it up," Dornan said.

The primary will decide which presidential candidates Michigan delegates will support at the 1992 national Democratic and Republican conventions.

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## Top officer is sharp but has compassion

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Sometimes his emotions get in the way, but his peers see that as a positive. Known to his friends as "Zeke" and his family as "Sarge," Farmington public safety Officer Hilton Hyde is described as a "dedicated and compassionate" which gives him the edge he needs to work in a community like Farmington.

It's one of the main reasons Hyde's peers selected him as the 1991 Officer of the Year. Hyde, who carries a FSOI (senior officer) rank, was lauded Wednesday during a public safety awards presentation where he also received awards for his work in two life-saving incidents in 1991.

"Dedication is something you have to have to work in Farmington, and compassion is

**"It's nice to know the guys trust you, depend on you, look up to you."**

— Sarge Hyde

something you learn over the years," he said. "It's nice to know the guys trust you, depend on you, look up to you. That's a good feeling."

HE CREDITS the people with whom he's worked for much of his success in Farmington for the past 20 years.

"The people who broke me in were great people," he said. "You just pick it up — take the best of each of the guys you work with. Now it's time to pass it on to the new guys."

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

A proud Officer Hilton Hyde gets support from daughter Carlie and wife Lynn at Wednesday's awards

ceremony, after receiving the 1991 Officer of the Year award from his peers.

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## Farmington board to launch live cablecasts of meetings

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

Another local government body makes its television debut tomorrow evening.

The regular 8 p.m. Farmington school board meeting will be cablecast live on TV-10 for residents who subscribe to cable service through MetroVision of Oakland County. Channel 10 is an educational access channel run by the Farmington Public Schools.

Most meetings will be cablecast from the Lewis Schulman Center on

Shilwassee east of Farmington Road where regular board meetings are held. The district also owns a mobile production van which will allow meetings to be cablecast from remote locations when necessary.

By adding cablecasting, the school board joins members of the Farmington Hills City Council, whose meetings have been cablecast live for several years. The city of Farmington is also considering some sort of cable coverage of city council business.

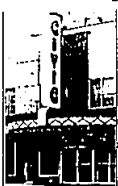
The school district took a middle-of-the-road financial approach when

the cablecasting of meetings was approved, spending \$26,400 for a system with four cameras and a sound system instead of the estimated \$103,600 state-of-the-art system or a minimal \$10,500 system which would have put only one camera in place.

"People need to understand it's not the high quality program, because we didn't feel we should spend additional money on state-of-the-art equipment," said assistant to the superintendent, Pamela O'Malley.

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## FARMINGTON



## FOCUS

MEMORY LANE — From the March 6, 1952 Farmington Enterprise:

• A \$100 reward was posted for information leading to the whereabouts of Howard McCracken, a prominent Farmington Township fruit grower who disappeared in Detroit. McCracken had taken a truckload of apples to the Eastern Market in Detroit. Police found the truck in a parking lot there with a door window smashed and blood stains inside the truck.

• Willard C. Campbell, 69, former Farmington Township clerk, died at his Oxford Street home. He had been township clerk for 12 years in the 1930s and '40s.