

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Bell-ringers: Farmington Hills Council members will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. /18A

Development squabble: There's a difference of opinion about how to develop the land on the West Bloomfield side of 14 Mile and Farmington roads. /13A

Cops collide: An area police department no longer is cooperating with the Oakland County sheriff. /5A

OPINION

Charities galore: There are many deserving charities needing help at this time of the year. /20A

Keeping a promise: Governor John Engler kept his campaign promise to reduce property taxes by offering the cut and cap plan rejected by voters in November. He won't have to try again, says columnist Tim Richard on today's Points of View page. /21A

STREET SCENE

Special section: Look inside for Street Scene, the Observer's monthly tabloid-size supplement tracking the unchained sights and sounds of the alternative music and lifestyle scene.

SPORTS

Hoop preview: Preparations are under way at Farmington High for the upcoming boys basketball season. /1B

Swim test: North Farmington coach Jon Teal will compete in the U.S. Open Swim Championships this weekend. /1B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Learning, sharing: Women who have problems going through menopause find help and understanding by participating in area support group that meets in Southfield. /1H

Preventing osteoporosis: Having bone density checked can indicate whether a woman needs to take steps to curtail bone thinning and its harmful results. /1H

INDEX

Building Scene . . . F Creative Living . . . 1D
 Business . . . 1C Crossword . . . 2E
 Cable Connection 8A Entertainment 8-12B
 Classifieds . . . D-G Opinions . . . 3A
 Auto . . . F-G Opinion . . . 20A
 Real estate . . . D-F Police, fire calls . . . 6A
 Employment . . . F-G Personal scene . . . 4G

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Drug arrest shocks neighbors



BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The arrest of a man on charges of dealing drugs that authorities say paid for his lifestyle in a new, expensive home in Farmington Hills has left his neighbors surprised and philosophical.

Eric Adams, 37, was arrested Saturday by agents from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms following a shootout on Detroit's east side. One agent was injured during the arrest, but not from gunfire.

Adams has been arraigned on charges of cocaine conspiracy and using a firearm during the incident. But in Farmington Hills' new Copper Creek subdivision near 12 Mile and

Halsted roads, his \$500,000 house and three cars didn't seem out of the ordinary.

"I wasn't sure what he did," said one neighbor who didn't want to be named. "I was surprised. I thought maybe he was a TV producer."

But according to federal agents, Adams just moved to the suburbs, as any successful businessman might, while conducting business as usual in Detroit.

"We have seen cases where drug dealers are living in the suburbs," said Vera Federak, public information officer for ATF's Detroit office,

"but I can't say that that's a trend. There are many who still live in the city where they do business."

Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer, who had worked in the narcotics division of the Detroit Police Department for eight years, said although his department has a good record on drug cases, the problem is widespread — even in affluent areas.

"Obviously, this is one of the most affluent neighborhoods," Dwyer said. "The upper echelon of narcotics traffic will reach into the affluent areas

See ARREST, 2A



HILL BREWSTER'S STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sprucing up: Barber Max Maxwell (left) trims the hair of Jack Emmett of Farmington Hills at the Detroit Baptist Manor.

Barber's still going strong at 89

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Max Maxwell still talks in a soft, slightly southern drawl that betrays his Kentucky roots as he masterfully finishes cutting the hair of a longtime customer.

For Maxwell, a resident of the Detroit Baptist Manor in Farmington Hills, cutting hair while he exchanges news of sports, politics or anything else is something he'll probably do as long as he can stand. He's still going strong at 89.

"I don't have a good hobby," Maxwell said. "I was cutting the hair of our family doctor and he said to me, 'The best thing that has happened to you is that you've never quit working.'"

Maxwell, who barbers Mondays and Saturdays in the Baptist Manor's beauty salon, had no ambition to cut hair while growing up on a farm near Bowling Green, Ky.

One of nine children, Maxwell followed an older brother to Detroit "right out of high school," and worked in the Hudson Motors factory.

Like many auto workers since, Maxwell was laid off when the economy soured, and took up barbering in 1929.

"I just wanted to keep busy while I was laid off," he said. "I never thought I would stay in this business."

But stay he did. From "just cutting hair" when he first started, using just scissors and hand clippers to tinting, styling and straightening as hair fashion and technology changed, Maxwell has kept up with the changes. He won hair styling awards for Wayne County in 1969-70.

"A lot of the older barbers didn't want to go back to school," he said. "But you had to keep up with the changes."

From brush cuts in the 1930s to the longer stylings of the 1970s, Maxwell has kept pace, all the while retaining his easy-going man-

See BARBER, 4A

Fund assists students

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

In a season where non-profit groups count on the community's open pocketbook and generous heart, one fund often goes unnoticed — the Farmington Emergency Fund.

Many residents haven't even heard of it.

This fund was set up in 1965 by Nick Abid, principal of William Grace Elementary, who died four years ago, to help families with children in the Farmington Public Schools.

"The sole purpose of this fund has been to keep youngsters in school and to work with their families to keep them in school," said Phyllis Howard, an early Childhood coordinator and former Head Start coordinator.

Howard and Al Lanigan, the Larkshire Elementary principal, agreed to continue Abid's beloved project after Abid was diagnosed with cancer.

"We dearly loved Nick," Howard said, explaining why she and Lanigan took on this labor of love.

Every need is different and individual. Among its many expenditures, fund monies have paid for shoes and socks, bought medicine for a diabetic child and purchased an inhaler for an asthmatic child. Increasingly, the fund has assisted in medical needs.

In some cases, utility bills were paid and in one extreme case, the fund picked up part of the cost, to which the Lions Club also contributed, for a mother's eyeglasses so that she could continue to work.

"Al and I run hard," Howard said. They beg, too, when needed. The fund usually teeters about \$700.

See EMERGENCY, 4A

Shoppers find plan eases their pathway

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A plan by the city of Farmington Hills in cooperation with area businesses could stem the loss of a retail trade to other malls and communities.

Improved access to shopping malls, businesses and restaurants along the city's retail corridor between 12 and 14 Mile along Orchard Lake Road has begun to impress shoppers and boost sales at some outlets.

The latest improvement — thanks to the city — is an access road between the Hunter's Square and Orchard Place malls on the west side of

Orchard Lake at 14 Mile roads. Previously, it was impossible to drive from one mall to the other without going onto busy Orchard Lake Road.

"This is really an improvement," said Richard Harper, a Farmington Hills resident of 35 years. "I thought that a couple of these stores were going to die. But look at this parking lot. It's nearly full."

Rula Chidiac, a regular shopper at the malls, said the link between the stores gave her more shopping variety.

See RENOVATION, 3A

A good fellow at work



KNUTSTOFFER GILBERT

Payback: Bob McSweeney hands a motorist a Goodfellows newspaper as the driver puts some money in the milk bottle in downtown Farmington. "When I was a kid, I used to get packages from the Goodfellows," McSweeney said. "I just wanted to pay them back." For a story on the Goodfellows drive and more photos, see Page 3A.

Vet's party draws 160

The calendar was turned back half a century last Saturday night at the Farmington Elks Club.

Many war stories were told and days in the armed services were recalled at a party attended by about 160 area veterans of all wars and their guests. Touches from the 1940s — especially from the World War II years — were in evidence at the party.

Danny O'Brien, an Elk, was emcee and played records from the 1940s before Joe Stevens, a former Army bandman, and his orchestra took over.

Chef Debbie Nelson came up a 23-item menu with most of the selections coming from a 1942 Army cookbook. The Farmington American Legion post, led by Don McTigue, provided an honor guard.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

Matt Thomas, a student at Farmington High School, closed out the evening by playing "Taps" as party-goers stood in a darkened room for an "Eleven O'Clock Toast" to honor "the absent brothers" — including those killed in the wars fought by the United States.

Jack Curd, a WWII Navy vet and a longtime Farmington resident, organized the event. Most of the attendees had a good time, he said.

"I can't tell you how many people came up to me and said, 'Jack, we gotta do this every year.'"

Photos on display

"Snapshots of Old Farmington," a collection of

photos depicting local historical sites or scenes, is on display through January in the Farmington Hills Historical Commission exhibit case at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

Bob Sklar, Historical Commission member, assembled the display with photos from his collection and the files of the Farmington Observer. The exhibit on the first floor of City Hall just outside the city council chamber.

Memory Lane

From the Dec. 4, 1952 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

Harvey E. Chapman was re-elected president of the Farmington Little League organization at the group's annual meeting at Blakeslee's Garage.