

# Police nab suspect, robberies may be drug-related

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STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills police arrested an armed robbery suspect for the second time in seven days May 26 at 2:30 a.m.

Police said a man approached the night manager of the Farmington Hills Radisson Hotel at Grand River and 10 Mile and asked for directions. He then handed the manager a holdup note demanding money and threatened to shoot the victim.

The man reached over the

counter and removed \$237 in cash from the register and then fled on foot.

About five minutes later, Sgt. Gil Kohls, working in plain clothes and driving an unmarked car observed a car traveling at a high rate of speed eastbound on M-5. Kohls, who was parked on the freeway emergency turn-around when the suspect's car passed, noticed that the driver matched the description of the robber.

Several marked and unmarked

Farmington Hills police cars forced the suspect's car to a stop at Grand River and Middlebelt. One police car was struck by the suspect's car in an attempt to flee, but there were no injuries.

Police believe the robbery was drug related and the suspect stole the money to repay a drug debt. The suspect works at a warehouse near the hotel.

Ronald Bertrand Morast, 29, of Detroit was charged in the robbery. He was charged with armed

robbery, which carries a maximum life sentence, and fleeing and eluding, which is a one-year misdemeanor. Bond was set at \$20,000 cash surety. Morast, who faces a June 9 preliminary exam, is in the Oakland County Jail.

On May 10, Hills police Sgt. Tim Connor spotted an armed robbery suspect minutes after a robbery at the Farmington Hills Little Caesars at 12 Mile and Farmington. The suspect attempted to flee, but a high-speed chase was

aborted when a plain clothes officer in an unmarked car and uniformed officers following in marked cars forced the suspect to stop.

John Comstock, 27, of Ferndale was charged in the robbery and waived his preliminary exam May 25. Comstock, who is also charged in two other robberies in Troy and Centerline, will face auto theft charges in Ferndale. His bond was continued at \$100,000 and he remains in the Oakland County Jail.

Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer credits exceptional police work for the apprehension of the suspect. Dwyer also said officers showed skill in avoiding high-speed chases.

"Every armed robbery we've had since January has been drug related," Dwyer said, adding that armed robberies are up 100 percent for the year. There have been 18 this year as opposed to nine in 1994.

## POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

### FIRE

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 1 responded to a fire in the kitchen at a residence on Glenwild in Northville at 6:05 a.m. May 25. The fire started when grease residue caught a tea pot on fire. The homeowner put out the fire with a dry chemical extinguisher. Damage to contents was \$300.

Farmington Hills firefighters from Station 1 responded to a trash can fire at the Holiday Inn on 10 Mile at 11:59 p.m. May 27. Security personnel found the fire and put it out with dry chemical and water. A discarded cigarette apparently caused the fire, which resulted in \$250 in damage.

### THEFTS

A fire hydrant worth \$1,200 was stolen from Hills Tech in Farmington Hills May 25.

A \$379 CD player, \$200 gold chain, and \$150 in CDs were stolen from a red 1993 Pontiac Grand Am on Nine Mile in Farmington Hills causing \$109 in damage to the dashboard May 25-26.

### DELINQUENT DRIVING

Farmington Hills police arrested a Dearborn Heights man, 28, for drunken driving at 4:25 p.m. May 26 on southbound Orchard Lake at 10 Mile. Officers pulled over a burgundy 1990 Ford Ranger pickup after it squealed away from the light. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .23 percent. A level of .1 percent is considered too drunk to drive in Michigan.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Walled Lake man, 44, for drunken driving in the drive-thru at the McDonald's on 10 Mile in Farmington Hills May 26 after his burgundy 1986 Olds struck another car in the rear. He had a blood alcohol level of .15 percent.

Farmington Hills arrested a West Bloomfield man, 25, for drunken driving at 1:45 a.m. May 27 at Roosevelt's on 12 Mile. Officers pulled over a white 1995 Jeep Cherokee for speeding. The man had a blood alcohol level of .14 percent.

Farmington police arrested a Detroit man, 44, for drunken driving on Grand River near Hawthorne May 26. Police stopped the 1985 Pontiac Fiero after it was seen drifting on eastbound Grand River. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .13 percent.

Farmington police arrested a Brighton man, 21, for drunken driving on Grand River near Britany Hill May 27. Police stopped the 1994 Ford after it was seen drifting on the road. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .18 percent.

Farmington police arrested a West Bloomfield woman, 25, for drunken driving on Orchard Lake near Pink May 28. Police pulled over the 1993 Ford Ranger after it was weaving on westbound Grand River. The driver had a blood alcohol level of .12 percent.

### DRUGS

Farmington Hills police arrested a Detroit man, 28, and a Detroit woman, 28, for possession of marijuana at the United Artists Theatre on Grand River in Farmington Hills at 8:45 p.m. May 28.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Redford man, 27, for possession of 1/8 ounce of marijuana in the parking lot of Mulligan's Pub on Eight Mile in Farmington Hills at 11 p.m. May 28.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills man, 20, for possession of marijuana in his 1987 Jeep parked on Meadow Hill in Farmington Hills at 1:10 a.m. May 27.

Farmington Hills police arrested four Hills men, one 18 and the others 17, for possession of marijuana in a 1994 Cadillac Eldorado going west on 10 Mile near Crowside in Farmington Hills at 5:45 p.m. May 28.

**CONCEALED WEAPON**  
Farmington Hills police arrest-

ed a Detroit man, 33, for carrying a concealed weapon at 1:55 a.m. May 27. They pulled over a southbound blue 1985 Chevy Celebrity at the Knights Inn on Halsted and found several rocks of cocaine and a knife in the man's possession.

### VANDALISM

A car drove over the lawn of a residence on Gettysburg in Farmington Hills May 27 causing \$200 in damage.

A car was driven over a lawn on

Glenbrook May 29 causing \$250 in damage to the lawn and mailbox.

Two tires on a 1990 Ford Aerostar were slashed while parked in the Ram's Horn parking lot of Grand River May 28, causing \$100 damage.

### AUTO THEFT

A 1990 Plymouth Voyager worth \$5,000 was stolen from the Mobil station on 12 Mile May 27.

A white 1991 Olds (\$6,000) was

stolen from a residence on Rensselaer in Farmington Hills May 27.

A blue 1989 Chevy Cavalier (\$5,000) was stolen from the lot at North Farmington High School on 13 Mile in Farmington Hills May 26-27.

### PARTY VIOLATION

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills woman, 18, for hosting a drinking party for several underage guests at a residence on

Fox Club in Farmington Hills May 28.

### ASSAULT

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills woman, 38, for hitting a police officer at 11:36 p.m. May 28 at the LeBlanc Trailer Park on Hamilton. The woman had threatened to shoot her boyfriend when police arrived to calm her down. When asked if she had a gun, the woman struck the officer.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT

A Farmington Hills woman, 17, told police she was raped by a man after he picked her up in a pickup truck on Runnymede in Farmington Hills May 29. The woman had argued with a girlfriend and gotten out of her car and began walking on Orchard Lake. The man, described as white, 20-30 in age, with wire-rim glasses, blond hair, and wearing blue jeans, offered her a ride and then pulled over onto a gravel course and forced her to have intercourse.



"The emergency team went above and beyond the call of duty."

**M**y daughter, Alexis, has been asthmatic since she was three. So unfortunately we've been to several hospitals over the years.

One night, Alexis had an attack at ten o'clock. We needed to go to the hospital and decided to go to Botsford. The experience was good right from the start.

It began with someone opening the door for us at the new emergency department. Then we went to a room where Alexis was immediately triaged and cared for. I was really impressed with the quality of care. The Emergency Specialists were very adept in pediatrics.

Even though an asthma attack can be very scary, there was never any stress. Alexis was always treated like a person first — never like a number.

I felt the people at Botsford really cared about patients and the community. When we were leaving, the nurse in triage came back in to say good-bye and said, "Hope you feel better Alexis."



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**Reaching out to the people of our community.**  
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To find out more about Botsford's Emergency and Urgent Care Services, call (810) 442-7986.