

**A flaky Friday**



SHARON LEMUEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A 'brush' with winter: Jabe Bacon of Farmington removes snow from his car Friday morning during a snow-storm that dumped 4-6 inches on metropolitan Detroit. Bacon had a good reason for getting his car cleared. A belt on his snow blower broke and he needed to drive to the hardware store to get a replacement.

# Cops beef up community relations

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington's Public Safety Department officials want to continue to improve community relations programs.

That's only one goal for the upcoming year, according to acting public safety director Gary Goss. But it's one residents keep their eyes on.

Neighborhood Watch is one such program. Some 2,200 Farmington residents on 110 blocks — roughly 80 percent — participate. They meet with public safety officers the second Thursday of each month to get tips on keeping their homes secure and to hear news on any burglaries.

"It's a good program; it's an active program," Goss said. "We'd like to see even more involvement."

Since the program's inception in October 1983, there's been a sharp decrease in burglaries.

Farmington averaged 110 burglaries a year prior to 1983. Last year, there were 14. In 1991, there were 8 reported and 11 in 1990.

"Neighborhood Watch is not totally responsible," said commander Charles Lee, who coordinates the program. "(But) What else has caused such a dramatic decrease in burglaries?"

Goss would like to see that success rub off on other community outreach programs such as Business Watch and school programs such as Teaching, Helping, Involving, Noticing Kids (THINK) and the liaison program at Farmington High.

Business Watch has 70 businesses involved, primarily in the Downtown Development Authority area and the Uptown Plaza. Goss would like to see that expanded.



Gary Goss acting public safety director

The group only meets annually. Businesses are alerted regularly, though, to crime trends that range from a rash of armed robberies to someone who's writing bad checks in the area.

Another officer has been added to THINK, which is a drug and alcohol awareness program for elementary and middle school children. Officers Terry Purves and Maria Puit coordinate the program, visiting schools regularly to speak on substance abuse education.

Other Farmington Public Safety goals:

■ Adopt the National Fire Academy's incident command system. The system establishes a chain of command when different departments are involved in fighting a fire.

■ Continue to look into alternatives to the use of lethal force such as freeze or pepper fog which can incapacitate an armed suspect for up to 20 minutes.

## 2 charged with 2nd hotel robbery

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Two Detroit men have been charged with the robbery Farmington Hills hotel.

Farmington Hills police arrested Rodney Dolterro Lynn, 21, and Jason Wells Washington, 20, both of Detroit, around 10:20 p.m. Wednesday after undercover officer Craig Summers saw Washington running out of the Comfort Inn on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road just as a police dispatcher called in a robbery of the hotel.

Summers chased and confronted Washington, who dropped a gun and \$400 in cash before crossing I-696. Lynn was arrested shortly thereafter. In all, eight officers were involved in the arrests.

A police officer testified at the arraignment of the two men that Washington had admitted to a Jan. 19 robbery of the hotel.

Lynn and Washington were

■ A police officer testified at the arraignment of the two men that Washington had admitted to a Jan. 19 robbery of the hotel.

charged with armed robbery in 47th District Court Friday and face up to life in prison. Lynn stood mute to the charge and a plea of not guilty was entered for him. Washington, who did not have an attorney, will be assigned one before a preliminary exam. Lynn faces a Feb. 22 exam.

Lynn's attorney, Sequoia DuBose of Detroit, told Judge Fred Harris that his client had no criminal record, was in his third year of college at Oakland Community College, had been accepted at Washington State University, Wayne State University and

Moorehead State University, had, until the incident, been working at the Comfort Inn and had the support of his family.

"They have great concern for his well-being," DuBose said. "He has been employed for the past year at the Comfort Inn. His alleged involvement is a little less than . . . deep involvement. With his background, it's mind boggling that he could even be standing here."

DuBose also pointed out that Lynn had been cited by police for his part in helping them bust a gambling ring at the hotel two years ago.

But Harris said the charge was serious. The hotel clerk said he had been "looking at the working end of a bullet launcher," the judge said.

Washington, like Lynn, has no criminal record. But detective Brian DeGrande testified that

Washington had confessed to robbing the Comfort Inn on Jan. 19.

Bond was set at \$5,000, corporate surety. That bond requires property equal to the amount of the bond used as collateral. DuBose said he did not think his client or Washington could come up with that type of resources. The defendants are in the Oakland County Jail.

### 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 Police assisted city firefighters in extinguishing a car engine fire on the west-bound shoulder of Northwestern Highway Feb. 9. The fire, which destroyed a black 1985 Chrysler Lebaron, was blamed on an electrical problem.

Hills firefighters believe a gas leak caused a fire in a heating unit on the roof of the Cafe Cortina on 10 Mile Feb. 9. A three-man crew from the Olde Town station put the fire out with a foam-pressure water extinguisher and a booster line.

■ **VANDALISM**  
Ball bearings were used to break the front windows of a residence on Aspen in Farmington Hills between Feb. 8-9.

## Man faces trial in armed robbery

A Farmington Hills man accused of robbing a pizza delivery man was bound over to circuit court on Jan. 28 to face armed robbery charges.

Dwayne Keith Neil, 25, faces up to life in prison if convicted of armed robbery charges. He will be arraigned in 6th Circuit Court in Pontiac on Feb. 17.

Police arrested Neil after a Domino's Pizza delivery man was robbed of \$45 in cash and \$25

A rock was thrown through the windshield of a 1992 maroon Dodge parked on Timber Ridge Court in Farmington Hills causing \$260 in damage Feb. 9.

A garage door at a residence on Brandon in Farmington Hills was broken on Feb. 9 causing \$400 in damage.

■ **AUTO THEFT**  
A man who said he left his car at Bob Saks Oldsmobile on Grand River in Farmington Hills for repairs in November of 1990 complained that his red and white 1977 Oldsmobile Cutlass must have been stolen. He reported it missing from the dealership Feb. 9. It is valued at \$500.

Farmington Hills Police recovered a stolen 1985 gray Saab in the parking lot of the Target store on Grand River Feb. 10. The is worth \$15,000.

Farmington Hills Police recovered a 1988 Chevy Blazer in Royal Oak Feb. 11 after it had been stolen from a residence on Hylt Street.

■ **Police arrested the suspect after a Domino's Pizza delivery man was robbed of \$45 in cash and \$25 worth of pizza on Jan. 2.**

worth of pizza on Jan. 2 at the Independence Green Apartments. Neil has no prior convictions.

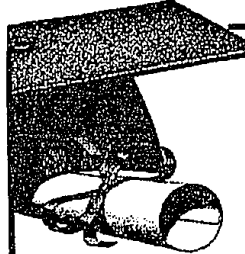
■ **THEFT**  
Items worth \$4,569 were stolen from a residence on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills Feb. 9. A new fur coat worth \$3,600, low leather coats, a VCR, jewelry and a portable telephone were among the items stolen.

Items worth \$1,250 were reported stolen from a residential garage on Schulte in Farmington Hills Feb. 10. A generator, circular saw and a woman's golf bag were reported missing.

A woman's lamb skin coat worth \$900 was stolen from the Metro Music Cafe on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills between Feb. 6-7.

■ **BREAK-INS**  
Two cars were damaged and wheels and tires from them were stolen Feb. 10 at the Summers Ridge Apartments on Squires Trail in Farmington Hills. The two 1991 Pontiac Firebirds, one red and one white, were spray painted, causing \$1,000 in damage to each. The wheels and tires were valued at \$2,600.

■ **EMBEZZLEMENT**  
Farmington Hills Police are investigating a report that a former employee of Farmington Hills Chrysler/Plymouth on Grand River embezzled \$3,000 from the dealership between Nov. '27 and Dec. 30, 1992. The dealership had sold a car to a wholesaler for \$3,000, but found during an audit, that the car had not been paid for. After checking with the wholesaler, the dealer suspects that the former employee turned over another check for \$3,000 that had been paid for three other cars and had cashed the first \$3,000 check and kept it.



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