

Drugs from page A1

What was most disturbing about this to me," he said, "was that the son was exiting the home with bags of marijuana at the time we got there."

The 16-year-old Farmington High student, whose name was not released, is in custody on \$50,000 bond pending a formal hearing at Children's Village in Pontiac.

According to the county prosecutor's office, the 16-year-old also faces charges in juvenile court relating to an incident in which a Livonia man was injured with a pellet gun.

His mother, Althea Michele McKenzie, 44, was arraigned Sunday in front of Magistrate Dennis Pheneu on one count of delivering and manufacturing marijuana and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. She stood mute at the arraignment.

McKenzie was free after posting 10 percent of a \$25,000 bond; however, the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office filed an appeal Tuesday, and 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris increased her bond to \$100,000 cash, which she posted Tuesday afternoon.

If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison. Her preliminary hearing is set for Feb. 2 before Judge Harris.

According to Nebus, McKenzie's husband has also been charged with the counts his wife faces. Nebus said Tuesday they have a warrant for the arrest of Richmond M. McKenzie, 37. He was not yet in custody as of Tuesday evening.

"We have information from his attorney that he is out of state, but on his way here and intends to surrender himself," Nebus said Monday.

investigation.

A 14-year-old friend, also a Farmington High student, was in the home at the time of the raid. He was arrested and released to the custody of a maternal aunt.

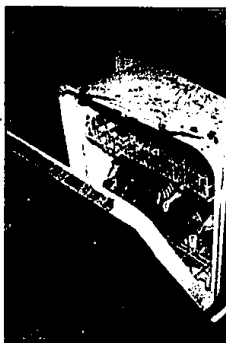
Hills Chief Bill Dwyer said while the department continues to make arrests for possession of smaller amounts of narcotics, the focus will be to bring down major level dealers.

"You have to try to hit at the highest level possible," he said. "If you cut off the head, the body falls."

Dwyer credits a better exchange of information among federal and local authorities, through officers assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration and the county's NET.

"You've got a pretty cohesive operation," he said. "We received information and dealt with that information in a very swift and professional manner."

While the last three major drug cases in Oakland County occurred in Farmington Hills, Dwyer noted drug dealers work in every community. He said top-level drug dealers "think they can escape police detection by residing in large, elaborate homes, located in affluent suburban neighborhoods."



In the home: Cash was seized in the raid, and officers found suspected drugs drying in a dishwasher. Below, left, guns taken in the raid are displayed at Hills police headquarters.



Two Atlanta men, ages 26 and 29, were in the home; the 29-year-old tried to escape out the back door when police arrived. They were both released pending further

Drug cases part of normal pattern

By JONI HUBBARD
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Farmington Hills residents shouldn't worry that their community has become a haven for drug dealers, based on three major narcotics cases over the past month, county and federal officials say.

While she doesn't know the details of the Farmington Hills cases, Drug Enforcement Administration spokesperson Susan Feld said the three sounded typical of narcotics work.

"A lot of times, it's feast or famine," she said.

Nothing has really changed from the federal government's perspective. Their arrest statistics haven't gone up or down significantly in the past year, and agents have maintained pretty much the same effort, she said.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard shares a similar perspective on the local arrests, all of which have involved either the county's Nar-

cotics Enforcement Team directly or the South Oakland Narcotics Information Consortium, which consists of officers from the Hills, West Bloomfield, Novi and the sheriff's department.

"I think it's probably a combination of good luck or bad luck depending on your perspective," he said. "It also relates to a real aggressive and cooperative effort by a number of agencies."

Bouchard pointed out Hills Chief Bill Dwyer has been among the strongest supporters of NET, a unit of officers from a number of Oakland County jurisdictions. NET's work is especially important, because drug dealers don't recognize city boundaries, he added.

"It is going on in every community and what we've got is a real strong effort to uncover information and to expand that effort into every community," Bouchard said.

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Get your partner and register for Euchre from 7-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16. The cost is \$6 per person and pre-registration is required. Call 473-9570.

SKI RENTAL
Heritage Park in Farmington Hills offers challenging cross country skiing trails with ski rental available at the Day Camp building. The cost is \$8, which includes skis, boots and poles for a two-hour period. A \$10 deposit and identification are required and no reservations are accepted. Rental shop hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 473-9570 or 478-8870.

SHELTER RENTALS
Residents may reserve shelters at Heritage Park beginning at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 5. Rates vary. For more information, call 473-9570.

ADULT SOFTBALL
New team registration for men's women's and co-ed softball will start Monday, Feb. 5. For more information call 9579.

OPEN GYM
Get your exercise at the Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills. Adult basketball, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays and 9-11 a.m. Sundays; teen basketball, 3-5 p.m. Saturdays, and 1-3 p.m. Sundays; adult volleyball, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays and 8-10 p.m. Tuesdays; Family Gym and Swim, noon-3 p.m. Saturdays.

The cost to participate for residents 17 and under is \$2, nonresidents, \$4. 18 and over is \$3 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents.

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