

Therapeutic benefits of massage, 1B



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# Farmington Observer

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## Non-residential land values up

By Joanne Maliszowski  
staff writer

By now, most commercial and industrial property owners in Farmington Hills have received the news they have been waiting for — or dreading — two years to hear. The news is simple. Most Farmington Hills commercial and industrial property owners most likely will pay higher taxes in 1987 due to an average 30 percent increase in property tax assessments.

The increased assessments are the result of a major two-year reappraisal of all commercial and industrial property in Farmington Hills. The reappraisal will bring assessments up to the 50 percent market value

that the state requires property to be assessed at for taxing purposes.

Though 30 percent is the average increase, many commercial and industrial property owners' assessments were more than doubled, City Assessor Dean Babb said.

Under the reappraisal, a property assessment of \$100,000 — the amount on which taxes are paid —

would increase to \$130,000 for the 1987 tax roll. Or a \$1 million assessment would increase to \$1.3 million, Babb said.

But that's still the average. Other property owners' assessments increased 60-80 percent. A more than 60 percent increase in dollars means a \$1.2 million assessment increased to \$2 million, for example.

SHOPPING CENTERS were the hardest hit with the biggest assessment increases because they had long been under-appraised. Apartment complexes and hotels and motels also received significant increases, Babb said.

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## Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item or an idea for a feature story or an action picture with a Farmington-area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

TRASH won't be collected on Christmas Day or New Year's Day in either Farmington or Farmington Hills.

In Farmington Hills, the Thursday and Friday trash collections during both Christmas week and New Year's week will be delayed one day — the Thursday route will be covered on Friday and the Friday route will be covered on Saturday.

In Farmington, the Thursday trash collection during each week will be done as part of the regular Friday trash collection.

BAGS a big one. Farmington Hills resident Paul Chalm brought down a record-size elk during the state elk hunt Dec. 9-14.

He bagged a 482-pound bull Friday in Olsage County. The 6-year-old elk had a 14-point rack.

The old record, a 654-pound bull with a 15-point rack, was set last year by a hunter from Weidman.

COMING soon. Dimitri's, a shish kebab restaurant, will soon open in the former Hardee's restaurant on Grand River in downtown Farmington.

IT'S rezoned. Farmington Hills City Council has rezoned seven acres on the west side of Orchard Lake Road, between Ravine and Firwood, from single-family residential to special office district. The proponent was Brooks & Layne Development Co., Farmington Hills.

NEXT spring, look for improvements to 20 baseball/softball fields in Farmington Hills.

The city council has awarded a \$7750 contract to Southlane Landscape of Madison Heights to spread and fine grade athletic infield material at school sites used by two local youth baseball leagues.

STOP signs have been approved for four Farmington Hills intersections.

The city council has approved stop signs for southbound North Park Drive traffic at Old Timber Road, eastbound York Ridge Drive traffic at Old Timber Road, eastbound Northwick Drive traffic at York Ridge Drive and southbound Claymore Drive traffic at Regency Lane.

KEEP these numbers handy for reference when calling the Farmington Observer: news line, 477-5450; sports line, 591-2312; home delivery, 591-0500; classified ads, 591-0900; display ads, 591-2300.

FOOTNOTES: A peek back into history — If you look closely the next time you're walking or driving by the southeast corner of Grand River and Farmington Road, you'll see the after-hour depositary on the side of the former National Bank of Detroit, which operated there from 1855 to 1984. Today's Village Mall previously was the Farmington State Bank and the Farmington State Savings Bank.

## Iran arms story 'bashed' press credibility: Kalb

By Shirlos Ross Ison  
staff writer

In the process of sending spare parts to Iran, the administration made a spare part of the State Department.

Bernard Kalb, veteran newsman and former spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, included this statement, with regret, in his remarks to a large audience of contributors to the Allied Jewish Campaign at the Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills Tuesday evening.

A "pinch hitter" for ABC newsman Sam Donaldson who was involved with the production of a special program on the Iran-Contra scandal, Kalb was a surprise guest speaker to some 500 people at the fund-raising event.

"I'm auditioning to be Sam Donaldson," he quipped, "and I'm not Marvin Kalb either."

Kalb refused all interviews, say-

*'I spent a half hour at your Holocaust Center (in West Bloomfield) this evening and found it the most extraordinary building in the U.S.'*

— Bernard Kalb  
veteran newsman

ing that he reports the news and doesn't make it. However, the journalist became a major newsmaker weeks ago when he resigned from his post as foreign policy spokesman upon learning of the administration's "disinformation" tactics involving Libya, and other international affairs.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Former State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb was the guest speaker at an Allied Jewish Campaign program Tuesday night at Adam Shalom Synagogue.

## Blaze proves costly

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Steve and Wendy Blachford have spent the last few days assuring 6-year-old Courtney and 9-year-old Stacey that Santa will arrive as scheduled next week.

After living in their house on Meadowlark for only 10 weeks, a fire started in an electrical cord under their freshly cut Christmas tree Monday, causing an estimated \$50,000 in damage to their house and belongings, said Farmington fire officials.

Much of the contents — including recently purchased Christmas presents — went up in smoke or are damaged beyond repair. Some of the items cannot be replaced: Wendy, for example, lost a set of Hummel figurines she began collecting when she was 7 years old.

"The kids are taking it pretty well," said Steve Blachford from a neighbor's house Tuesday. "The neighborhood is just great — opening up their houses and everything."

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## Day care home issue goes to planners

By Joanne Maliszowski  
and Casey Hans  
staff writers

*'Without meaning to, I feel this ordinance has forced an underground network of child care providing because of the needs of this community.'*

— Darlene Feldman  
Farmington Hills

Farmington Hills officials will consider changing zoning laws to make professional baby-sitting legal in residential areas.

At the request of Darlene Feldman — a Hills resident at the center of a growing controversy over child care in residential areas — the Farmington Hills City Council asked planning commissioners to consider amending the zoning law. The process of reviewing the proposed change and making a recommenda-

tion may take up to 90 days, officials said.

"Without meaning to, I feel this ordinance has forced an underground network of child care providing because of the needs of this community," Feldman told council Monday. "Obviously, we have a lot of young working families in order to afford the homes here, and it has created this underground network."



Darlene Feldman

Her proposed ordinance change calls for "state certified quality home day care" as a "permitted accessory use of land in an RA-1, or single family residential zone" and that such use is not subject to special conditions.

Planning commissioners are expected to make a recommendation to the council, which could schedule a public hearing on the issue in March 1987, Zoning Supervisor Hal Rowe said.

Meanwhile, Feldman's neighbors continue to oppose the baby-sitting service on Minglewood, a residential street in the Holly Hills Farms sub-

division. They are concerned with traffic problems, especially in the winter, caused by parents dropping children off at the Feldman residence. They also contend she is running a business, which they oppose.

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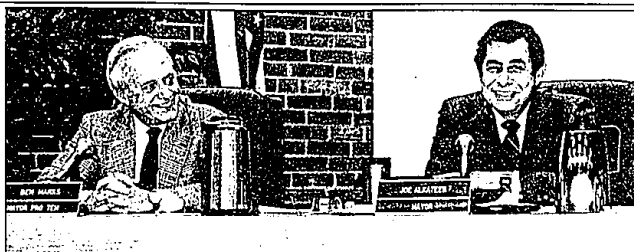
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## Marks named mayor



Jody Soronen, incoming mayor pro tempore.



Incoming mayor Ben Marks (left) with outgoing mayor Joe Alkateeb at Monday night's Farmington Hills City Council meeting.

Eight-year Councilwoman Jody Soronen is the Farmington Hills City Council's new mayor pro tempore for 1987.

In 1988, she will become mayor if the council continues its practice of electing the mayor pro tempore as mayor. Current mayor pro tempore, two-year Councilman Ben Marks, will begin his one-year term as mayor at the first regular council meeting in January when Mayor Joe Alkateeb turns over the gavel.

In separate unanimous 6-0 votes

photos by BOB SKLAR/staff photographer

Monday, the city council elected both Marks and Soronen to the honorary posts. Councilwoman Joan Dudley was absent.

Councilman Terry Sever nominated Marks. He lauded the former charter and planning commissioner's accomplishments in city government. He referred to Marks' tenacity in his council election attempts, facing defeat once and near defeat a second time.

"I think that shows the commitment, determination of an individual and the people that support

*Reminder*

Your Observer Carrier will be stopping by this week to collect for the month. Please have the money ready and be sure to get your receipt. It's worth a \$2.00 discount on the next classified advertisement you place in your hometown newspaper.