Area benefits minimal

County wins assessment battle

Farmington and Farmington mina are among the communities sharing Oakland County's successful lawful against the State Tax Commission (STC) for imposing a 5-percent county-wide 1982 assessment increase, hiking

wide 1982 susessment increase, hiking residential property taxes.
On June 22, the Michigan Court of Appeals threw out the tax commissions' ruling that Oakland County's 1982 property (ax assessments were 6 percent below the true market value of residential property.
By failing to give more weight to property sales made near the Dec. 31,

Students from the Farmington and Farmington Hills area received de-grees this year at Mercy College of De-troit.

troit.

Graduating magna cum laude were
Susan Edwards with a bachelor of science degree in alcohol and drug abuse
studies and Carolyn Meyette with a
bachelor of arts degree in religion.
Lori Cenzer graduated cum laude
with a bachelor of science degree in
nursins.

1981 dealine, the STC "committed an error of law," the appeals court ruled. The lawsit filed by Oskland, Wash-tenaw and Lapeer counties argued that the tax commission about have based assessments on a 6-12-month sales average of property prices rather than a 30-month average.

Jo-month average.

Using the 6-12-month average would have given greater weight to the depressed housing market of 1981 rather than the earlier housing boom period.

Although the court's decision could lead to refunds or tax credits for real-dential property owners, those won't be

Mercy graduates spring class

degrees in nursing were Gia Ruffino, Elizabeth Walker and Rebecca Wormlak. Other awarded bachelor of science degrees were Mary Kelly in the school of alcohol and drug abuse studies and Christine Black in the school of medi-cal record aministration.

studies and Carolyn Meyette with a backelor of arts degree in religion. Lori Cenzer graduated cum laude with a backelor of science degree in alcohol and drug subus studies, and Andrea Selewali mouraing.

Also receiving backelor of science

• Rings

established until the STC develops a new state equalization formula that meets with the appellate court's ap-proval.

LAST year when the state applied the 6-percent assessment factor, both Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils rolled back their local tax rates instead of collecting additional

"It should have no effect," said Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman, about Oakland County's win in court. "But it vindicates the county."

Last year Farmington officials rolled back the 11.25 mills that was to be levied to 10.785 mills. So even though assessments increased, taxpayers did not pay more in local taxes because the tax rate was cut, Deadman

said.

In Farmington Hills, the tax rate was similarily cut from 7.7830 mills to 7.4330 mills taking the 5-percent factor into account.

into account.
"Our position is that we would not have to refund anyone," said Charles Rosch, city financial director. "Me didn't raise any more dollars (than had been expected when the 1982 budget

Even though Farmington-area tarpayers won't be getting any money
back from the cities, tarpayers in other
communities which decided last year
to collect the additional revenue from
the 6-percent increase will. Most cities,
such as Southfield, collected the addittional revenue and put it into an escrow
account pending the outcome of the
county a lawrait.

Oakland County will be setting the
procedure for refunding tarpayers in
communities that collected the additional dollars, said Tom Schults, director of linancial and management services. The county set saide \$2.8 million
in a special fund to cover rebates that
may be due residential tarpayers.

"WE WIN the case," said Dakland.

"WE WON the case," said Oskland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, "We had the court agree with us that the process the Situe Tax Commission used was wrong,
"In essence, the court said the commission should have come up with a formula that takes into consideration the last few months of 1981 when property and home sales were really down."

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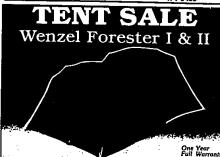




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