## Hills increases mayoral marriage fee

Weddings — at least those performed by the Farmington Hills mayor — will cest more in 1987. In a 3-2 vote Monday, the Farmington Hills City Council increased the longstanding \$10 feet of \$353, as requested by Mayor Ben Maris Mayor Pro Tempore Jody Soronen and Councilwoman Joan Dudley opposed the increase. But Maris's accompanying proposed the increase. But Maris's accompanying proposed the increase. City attorney Paul Bibean is expected to determine whether city of the determine whether city of the city at the council whether city of the city at the council whether city of the city at the city at the city at the city of the city at the city at the city of the city at th

"Currently, the city charges \$10 for all marriage ceremonies, and I understand from talking with (former) Mayor (Joe) Altatech that while this covers the citys administrative costs for setting up the appointments for the actual ceremony, most times the burden of performing the ceremonies became quite an imposition in having to meet other people's schedules," Marks said in a proposal to council.

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WHILE MAYOR, Alkatech performed 10 wedding ceremonies in 1986. In June, Alkatech stopped performing weddings because they were too time consuming and difficult to schedule, according to city records. At \$10 a wedding, the city's general budget received a total \$100 for weddings performed by the mayor in 1986.

Marks told council that after years of charging only \$10, it's time the fee was increased, especially in light of the time and effort involved in arranging and performing the cer-

in arranging and performing the ver-emonles.

"My thinking on this is that \$10, which seems adequate to cover our administrative costs, would be allo-cated to the city's general fund as has been done in the past, and the other \$25 be directed to any city or other community program or project as proposed by the mayor and approved by city couchl," Marks continued.

Dudley, however, fold council that

Marks continued.
Dudley, however, told council that if \$10 covers administrative costs that's all that should be charged.
"We are not a profit-making business," she said.
DUDLEY COMPARED Marks'

proposed \$35 fee to the \$25 fee charged businesses for an operating license. Other than the basic administra-

license.
Other than the basic administrative costs, the only other demand on the city is the mayor's time, which is included in his \$2,700 amusal salary, buildey said.
When asked his opinion, Bibeau said, "I suppose the mayor's time is a legitimate consideration of the cost to the city." He added that the city council probably could justify any reasonable fee increase.
Further lobbying his proposal, Marks told council that "the records show that over 50 percent of individuals who have been married, are relatives of, but not residents of, our city, Further, it is my view that this is not an obligation but an accommodation on the part of any mayor."

Duiley disagreed. "I don't think it's an accommodation. I think it's an honor (to be asked to perform a wedding ceremony."

A mayor who doesn't have the time or desire to perform weddings

can decline the invitation, Dudley added.

WHILE THE majority of the com-cil was willing to approve the \$25 in-crease, Marks suggestion to redirect the revenue drew concern. "I am concerned since Mrs. Dud-ley brough it up ..." whether, the city can legally redirect revenue to the community center, Sorones said.

City attorney Paul Bibeau told council he had his doubts whether the city could legally use the \$25 increase for the community center. But he told council he would review

the request and report back.

If redirecting the additional revenue to the community center could be illegal, Soronen saked council whether performing the wedding ceremony is worth \$35 when all revenue night be kept in the general fund.

Councilman Terry Sever also questioned Marks' proposal. "Other organizations out there could feel slighted," he said.

Marks proposed allocation councilmans are proposed allocations.

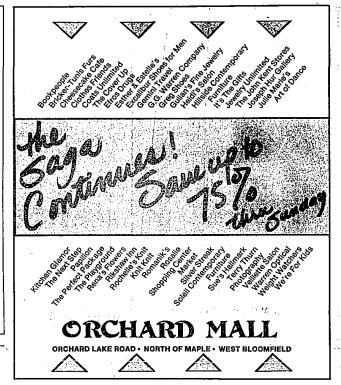
Marks proposed allocating reve-me to the Farmington Community Center "because they provide a great variety of services to the com-munity, are not tax supported, and lave currently been involved with a campaign for funding to help make many improvements that are needed if this institution is to survive."



Snowy creation

Saturday's 714-Inch anowfall produced a clew of snowmen throughout the Farmington area, but none perhaps as creative as this 7-looter on Violet in Farmington. Its creators included (from loft) Sue Duquetto of Farmington Hills, Barb Noctzel of Livolla, Carolyn DeLeir of Detroit and homeowner

Sue Kin. Sue Kin and her husband, Chuck, also made an 8-foot snowman on the side of their house. Bach snowman took three hours to make. "It was great fun," said Sue Kin. Sue Duquette agreed. "I've been waiting all year for snow." Said Barb: "I'm a Michigan-





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