

Long-awaited zoning decision due tonight

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The condominium association board of directors recently extended a previous 1989 agreement with Kaftan that addresses condo owners' concerns.

Hillside association president George Kennedy confirmed the agreement between Kaftan's meeting Jan. 9 with residents whose condos are adjacent to the Kaftan property, which is the south side of Hillside Estates.

KENNEDY CONDUCTED a November poll of the 27 residents who live adjacent to the Kaftan property. Of the 24 who responded, only two wanted the land's rezoning to remain as it is. A summer petition of all 96 units in the complex resulted in less than

half supporting the current office zoning, Kennedy said.

According to the Kaftan-Hillside agreement, the developer promised to build less than 128,000 square feet of one-story buildings, with doorways away from the condominiums. The buildings also would be air-conditioned so doors would not be open to bother residents with noise.

Meanwhile, Brenda Kandi of Citizens Against IRO Zoning remains opposed to the proposed IRO rezoning and promises that members of her group will be out in force tonight.

"I'm only halfway through the battle," said the Independence Hills subdivision resident. Though some changes have been made in the use of toxic-hazardous materials, Kandi said, denial of Kaftan's rezoning

request is important, "because they haven't taken all residentially dangerous things out (such as stamping)."

Independence Hills and Independence Commons subdivision residents have been involved in the IRO controversy.

Kaftan wouldn't say whether he's confident the council will rezone the land tonight. But he admitted that he's confident he would win the rezoning if it were to land in court.

The city introduced the rezoning July 1989. Because of protests, it was never enacted. As residents' concerns about toxic and hazardous materials — particularly used in IRO districts — grew, the city council responded with a moratorium September 1989 on IRO development, including

Kaftan's rezoning request.

Kaftan said the city June 1990 in an eight-count complaint, which is still pending. In his complaint, Kaftan called the moratorium "arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable, recklessly indifferent and discriminatory."

With approval of changes in the uses of toxic-hazardous materials in late 1990, the city council lifted the 16-month-old moratorium Dec. 17.

There has been some concern that residents' request that IRO zones be eliminated from being next to all types of residential uses — not just single-family but condominiums as well — is will be taken up by council on Monday, Jan. 21, a week after a decision on the Kaftan land.

But public notices had already been sent out and the date of the Kaftan rezoning and

the residents' request couldn't be changed, according to Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi.

THOUGH SHE didn't want to talk in detail, Kandi said her 1990 request that councilman Ben Marks not vote on the rezoning still stands. She requested that Marks not vote because Kaftan served as the host for a fund-raiser for the unsuccessful state senate candidate, and donated to his campaign. Kaftan confirmed in a telephone interview in July that he donated \$1,000.

But Marks intends to vote unless otherwise directed by city attorney John Donohue. "I don't think I have a conflict of interest," he said. "I have no fiduciary interest in the project."

Marks said he voted in favor of Kaftan's rezoning prior to the August 1990 primary election for 15th District State Senate seat.

Consultant raps old ways of testing

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act out characters from history along the way. They can better understand the history by taking an active part in learning it.

WIGGINS' VISIT was sponsored by the district's Secondary Study Committee which is focusing on how education in the district's middle schools and high schools can be made better. That committee is

scheduled to meet today to begin to hammer out issues they have considered for the past 1½ years. A recommendation on secondary education changes is scheduled to come to the school board in March.

"It is unfortunate it is coming at a time when our finances are in question," said assistant superintendent Judith White. "We've tried to say 'hold the vision and keep the faith' when talking about any proposed changes."

John Barrett, language arts coordinator for the Farmington district, spent the day listening to Wiggins and was excited about how his

suggestions might be used in Farmington.

"We've been dealing with a lot of (curriculum) reform issues... but this one adds a whole new dimension," he said. "It's true what gets tested, gets taught. So if we can change the way we give tests, it's bound to effect how we teach."

He said teachers have several concerns, such as are they ready to make such a change, will they have time to do the additional work necessary to deal with coursework on that level, and will they do students a disservice if traditional testing remains at the university level?

Barrett said he believes teachers are ready for a change because of some of the curriculum changes already being done in Farmington. And, he said universities have many of the same concerns about testing and curriculum, and are reviewing them.

He said he can see some of Wiggins' suggestions being used in individual classrooms, various departments and buildings and even some at the district level.

"A lot depends on the readiness of the staff and administration in each building," he added.

carrier of the month Farmington



Brittany A. Dixon

Brittany A. Dixon, 11 ½, delivers the Observer in the Normandy Hills subdivision. She has delivered the Observer since January 1990.

The O.E. Dunkel Middle School sixth grader's favorite subjects are math and English.

Her hobbies are playing piano, clarinet, gymnastics, and reading. She is an A student.

Brittany received the Farmington Fitness Award and Honorable Mention Award in Piano.

She plans to be a lawyer or teacher after college.

Handling money and keeping records are some of the things she learned on her route.

Brittany is the daughter of Bill and Linda Dixon. She has one brother, Brandon, 16.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington Hills City Council
City Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile Road
7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14

Two public hearings are scheduled, including one to consider vacation of a 20-foot alley in the Pasadena Park subdivision, and another by the city's Hospital Finance Authority for council consideration of approval on the issuance of revenue bonds for improvements at Botsford General Hospital.

Under unfinished business the council will:

• Consider enactment of a zoning map amendment, postponed from the Dec. 17 meeting, for the east side of Drake north of Indoplex Circle from OS-1 to IRO district. Proponent: Leonard Siegal. Owner: Melvin Kaftan.

• Consider setting a date for study session to review proposed zoning text amendment relating to wall signs in business, industrial and expressway districts.

The city manager will also recommend council approval of a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for a noise abate-

ment wall north of I-696 west of Orchard Lake Road.

Special notice

Because of technical difficulties, the swearing in of the new Farmington Hills mayor and mayor pro-tem and the city's employee awards presentation Jan. 7 was not seen live on cable Channel 18.

The program can be seen at the following times on cable Channel 12 at the following times: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18; 8 p.m. Jan. 22; 3:30 p.m. Jan. 25; 2:30 p.m. Jan. 28; 8:30 p.m. Jan. 29; and 12:30 p.m. Jan. 30; and 5:30 p.m. Feb. 1.

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Often, arthritis is not the only medical problem you face. Heart disease, emphysema, diabetes, and hypertension are conditions that occur independently of arthritis, and also require treatment. The question arises if drugs taken for arthritis interfere with the efficacy of other medications or increase their potential for toxic side effects. This freedom from such hazardous interactions makes aspirin and related salicylates the medications of choice when treating adults with arthritis. If you are on a blood thinning medicine, coumadin, then you should not take aspirin at the same time, however the other salicylates are acceptable. This exception aside, investigations to date indicate that aspirin is safe particularly for the individual who is elderly or on multiple medications. The same statement is not applicable to other anti-inflammatory drugs. The experience with arthralgia taught physicians the lesson to be careful with new drugs. Quale alone had little side effects, but given to a person on several medications, Quale ran a high risk of initiating liver damage. In the instance of taking drugs for arthritis, the old way, the aspirin way, is still the best way.

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