



Bea Palmer of Ramble Hills subdivision in Farmington Hills is as upset as others in her neighborhood over property tax

assessments on their houses. The Palmers pay \$14,000 in property taxes.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Ramble Hills jolted by tax trauma

Continued from Page 1

The Abdenour house is assessed at \$212,900. "My husband and I would feel lucky if we could get \$350,000," Kim Abdenour said.

"The main part of the problem is that we don't mind paying taxes. We want to get our assessments in order," Fred Abdenour added.

On the average, Ramble Hills residents say their assessments rose 10-15 percent this year. Ramble Hills residents pay an average tax bill — including city, school and county taxes — of \$10,000-\$15,000 annually, Palmer said.

"Some people are satisfied that their assessments are at 50 percent market value. Others believe it's more than 50 percent. The actual market value (of the houses) doesn't seem to support those assessments," Lamping said. "Many assessments in the neighborhood would indicate market value in the neighborhood of \$400,000-\$500,000."

Assessor hears Ramble Hills complaints

Continued from Page 1

Residents also complained that the square footage of their houses listed on assessment notices does not match the square footage designated by their builders or architects.

Babb said the square footage on which assessments are based are exterior dimensions. Residents also were angry when they realized that

their cathedral ceilings are added into square footage for assessment purposes.

But Babb said they have to be. "We list them as 1 1/2-story. These things add value. It's a way of accounting for the value of it. A cathedral ceiling will change some of the square footage."

TO RESIDENTS who said they wondered whether their houses, in the \$300,000 range, were among

those to carry the tax burden, Babb said, "absolutely not. The statute talks to 50 percent of the market value whether it's a \$500,000 house or a \$50,000. That's the only consideration."

Even though Babb will speak with residents Tuesday, he urges them to appeal their assessments to the board of review. Appealing on the local level also will preserve residents' right to appeal to the state Tax Tribunal.

Appeals can be made in person or by letter. Appointments can be made by calling the assessor's office at 473-9584.

Assessment notices went out a week ago. The majority of residential property owners were expected to receive an assessment increase ranging between 3 and 8 percent. Residential assessments increased an average of 5 percent this year.

Headlee due to take stand

Continued from Page 1

expect," Anderson said. The pair also want to check the tax rate rollback under the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment. Though voters approved a half-mill in 1985 for five years, each year the tax was levied, it was at less than a half-mill (except for the first year) because of the rollback.

"I want to make sure that if it starts again at 0.5 mill, it will be spent properly," Anderson said. After a first glance at the city's financial documents, Anderson said Friday morning that he was pleased with what he saw. The city maintained the tax below the Headlee limit during the former five-year period, he said. "I see they are responsive to the taxpayers wanting to keep them (taxes) down," Anderson added.

Dennis Fitzgerald, parks and recreation commission chairman, was unavailable for comment.

Fitzgerald contacted Headlee and Anderson as the ax was falling on two Farmington Public Schools' millage requests Feb. 5. Fitzgerald has said he contacted the two because he wants them to have the facts of how parks and recreation money was spent in the five-year period and how revenue from the proposed half-mill for eight years would be spent, if approved by voters.

HEADLEE AND Anderson took issue with the school millage proposals, which were defeated overwhelmingly Feb. 5. They spent upwards of \$10,000 in what they called an informational campaign about the school budget and tax proposals.

The city's original half-mill levy was approved by voters in 1985 and expired July 1990.

If approved, the proposed levy would generate about \$9.6 million over eight years. The eight-year action plan, which provides voters with an idea of projects to be financed by the money, has an estimated \$10.9-million price tag. City officials hope the difference can be financed with state grants.

The plan includes land acquisition, development of ballfields and soccer fields, bike paths, senior-adult cultural facilities and programs, Heritage Parks improvements, some development, such as a picnic area and entrance road, on the Peltz-Michigan Department of Transportation property, and the expansion of the city-owned San Marino Golf Course.

The plan also includes the purchase of a roving recreational program trailer, the purchase of vehicles for senior citizen recreation and the leasing or contracting of a facility or programs for teens.

Schools hold kindergarten, preschool signups this week

Registration for Farmington schools kindergarten programs will take place throughout this week and preschool registration is ongoing through March 20.

Parents have a choice when enrolling 3-year-olds for kindergarten.

They may choose the program in their home elementary school or a center program at one of the early childhood centers, Alameda or Fairview.

Although goals and objectives are the same in all kindergartens, the centers offer an environment focused on young children.

Kindergarten registration will take place at all elementary schools and at the Alameda and Fairview centers Monday-Friday, March 11-15.

Call Alameda, 489-3808; Fairview, 489-3799; or Farmington Community School, 489-3374.

Our new name is longer...but so is our reach.
The 19 Hometown and Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

COUPON
the HAIR COMPANY
HAIRCUTS \$7
Includes Shampoo & Blowdry
MANICURIST WANTED
27716 W. 7 Mile Rd. 2 Blocks West of Inkster
NEXUS 538-1044



**A Man's Gotta Do
What A Man's
Gotta Do**

All young men have one responsibility in common. They have to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

A public service message of this publication and Selective Service System

We're happy to announce the opening

**Of Our New
KITCHEN &
BATH
SHOWROOM**

Complete displays in traditional and contemporary styling. Shown with appliances, plumbing fixtures and Curian counters.
Open 10-6 daily
10-4 Sat.



De Giulio Kitchens & Baths 422-1100

33250 W. Six Mile (at Farmington Rd.) Livonia, MI 48152
FREE ESTIMATES

LOSE WEIGHT WITH ACUPUNCTURE

You've probably tried to lose weight with all the usual ways. Acupuncture is an ancient Oriental way of therapy. It has proven very helpful in treating many of modern day problems and diseases. Losing weight is one of them. NOW is the time to make a change and lose weight with acupuncture. For further information, CALL

NANKIN PROFESSIONAL CLINIC, P.C.
Michael T. Nedomy, D.O.
29200 Vassar, Suite 200, Livonia

477-7344

Recycle and Save!

40% OFF SALE LIMITED TIME!
**Butler
Tray Table**
Reg. \$949
NOW \$569

One of 45 pieces now on sale from our "Copies" Separate collection. All Reduced 40%!

Classic Interiors

20292 Middlebelt, Livonia • South of 8 Mile
474-6900



**City of
Plymouth**
**SPRING
ARTS & CRAFTS
SHOW**
Friday March 15 11 am-6 pm
Saturday March 16 11 am-6 pm
Sunday March 17 12 pm-5 pm
FREE ADMISSION
For further information, please contact the City of Plymouth Parks & Recreation Dept.
455-6620
525 Farmer St.
Plymouth



SILHOUETTES BY SALLY NEWCOMB

Join us as we welcome silhouette artist Sally Newcomb. Creating gifts to be treasured for a lifetime, Ms. Newcomb does portraits in the centuries-old art of silhouette...for parents, lovers and friends. Ms. Newcomb's portraits are fun to watch being made, fun to collect and fun to give to loved ones.

Heads \$14 with copies at \$5. Figures \$28 with copies at \$10
For your appointment in Livonia, call 591-7696 ext. 236
March 19, 20, 22 and 23, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
March 21, 12:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Jacobson's

We welcome Discover, Charge and American Express.
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.