## Marks recruits home-rule backers

Farmington Hills city councilman Ben Marks is looking for a
few good mea and women.
He hopes to garner help from
the relected Months as he lights
proposed legislation — and the apparent trend — to take decisions
away from local cities like Farmington and the Hills.
He is working closely with the
Michigan Municipal League, a
group representing local governments in Lansing, which devoted
much of it? November newaletter
to the state weakening of local control and to alter cities to what the
MML believes could become a crisur. The mean state leads for the state weakening of local control and to alter cities to what the
MML believes could become a crisur. The mean state leads for the state weakening of local con-

MML believes could become a cri-sis. "I want them (state legislators) to know this won't go away," said Marks, who has testified three times before legislative commit-tees about the issue of local conocal towns say laws gobble powers

But neither day care or plano lessons are the issues here, Marks aid. It's who centrols how those things are handled. He is asking other area city councils to adopt similar resolutions, which he intends to hand-deliver to legislators. "It seems that our senators and representatives are utilizing the 'balony' philosophy where home

Continued from Page 1

"I want them (state legislators) to know this won't go away."

çity councilman

trol, or home rule in recent years.
"I think home rule is something
that has been taken for granted for
many years. This (recent Senate
action) could be the leak in the
dam."

MARKS AND the MML are fighting two bills which recently passed the state Senate and will be considered by the state flows over the next few months. One allows home day care in any residential zone and the other bill would not allow local ordinances probiblting must lessons in residential houses. He has already received support on his home rule issue from the cit-

one silice at a time." Marks sald in his letter to the cities.

FARMINGTON City Manager Robert Deadman said he did not lind the legislative push surprising, given state level trends. "The state, for some time, has been looking over the shoulder of local communities as they (the cities) zone to prohibit some uses," he said.

Deadman said state legislation is

ies of Farmington and Dearborn and he is seeking similar support from other governments which are members of the Michigan Munici-pal League. He plans to hand-deliv-er resolutions from supporting cit-

er resolutions from supporting cities.

Just how does a weakening of home rule impact the average resident? Marks said more state control means iess control for residents. "If the state takes control, the average resident) has no forum. He's not going to go to Lansing." Marks said. "The beauty of local authority is that it's right here."

Much of this back-and-forth, es-

Both Farmington and Farming-Both Farmington and Farming-ton Hills allow one-person busi-nesses in a residence, with some re-strictions for floor space used and storage of materials. Zoning offi-cials say such people must keep low profiles in any case.

over the past three years and Marks has kept an eagle eye on developments. He wants to encourage state legislators to pass laws for the bigger statewide problems and work with local governments and citizens to handle smaller problems. "Everyone needs to look at what benefits the whole and not a special interest group," he said. "That's why we threw the tea off the dammed ship, isn't it?" He believes state officials don't know they are 'picking away at home rule' and that local officials are just starting to realize the importance of the issue. He said he plans to follow through on an issue decems one of the most important for local cities. "I took a bite of the apple and it's gotten preity big," Marks admitted. "But I'm going to stay with it.

John Donohue, city attorney for both Farmington and Farmington fillis, said the proposed legislation governing plano lessons and the like is especially confusing, "It prohibits a municipality from probibiting music, lessons in the home," be said, "It doesn't say you can't regulate it. Who knows what that means? "It will be left for the courts to decide."

## Strings attached to transit backing

AT LEAST ONE council member doubts a merger with Detroit's sys-tem would work, and suggested pri-vatization of the system be consid-

ered.
"I look at D-DOT (Detroit Department of Transportation) and the trouble that system's had," said councilwoman Joanne McShane. "I'd be very hard-pressed to see that mereer."

merger."

But there may be little motivation to privatize the system. SMART statistics show less than one percent

of all working residents in Oakland County take the bus to work.
Deadman sald the issue is a "so-cial" one, impacting residents who rely on such transportation to get back and forth to their jobs from city and suburbs.
Deadman sided some cities necessary offer free, or many offer free, or many transportation of the county offer free, or many transportation to the county offer free, or many transportation, the said, is "are we willing to subsidiare public transportation to that degree? I doubt it," he said.

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To any others who helped in any way, but whose name were inadvertently omitted.