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can legislate for the people in their area."

After testifying numerous times with MML staff before the state Legislature, Marks successfully got on the league's legislative urban affairs committee, which discusses bills and take a position for the membership. "We fight for that policy. It's a majority situation. Not everyone agrees."

He also tried unsuccessfully to get a post on the league's board of trustees about two years ago. "We already had a representative from our region," he said.

But Marks didn't give up. After the last election for the board of trustees, one member was not re-elected. That meant there was a vacancy. Marks went after it and got it.

While in his first year on the board, Marks continued his fight against any deterioration — in

legislative bills — in home rule. "Home rule in the state of Michigan is in danger. Legislators feel local officials will take what is handed down to them as gospel," Marks said.

As MML president, Marks intends to let state Legislators know the MML is alive, well and ready to make its impact felt. His first goal is gain more respect for the MML. He plans to work on legislators so they realize MML should have a say.

"When a bill is crafted I want them to say, 'let's call the league and see what they think about it and get input from the local level,'" Marks said.

He also wants to form an elected officials lobby. As someone who has testified before the Legislature, Marks said it's fine to have staff members from MML testify, but it's a stronger statement to have elected officials there.



Ben Marks

"They (legislators) are going to find out we want the attention

they give to the political action committees, the unions. They're missing the boat. We can deliver the votes."

Marks will travel the state, stopping in to see city councils and village commissions to urge members to get involved and to demand a say. "I hope I make the rut in the road so succeeding officials can make the rut longer for the goals we are looking for."

The Farmington Hills City Council celebrated Marks' election as MML president Monday night with a reception at city hall. "Ben's election as president of the league is an honor for Ben as well as the entire Farmington Hills community," Mayor Jonathan Grant said.

"Throughout the years, Farmington Hills' elected and appointed officials have taken a strong leadership role in regional and state affairs and have been active participants with the Michigan Municipal League."

RECREATION NEWS

Each week, the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services presents a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding programs, call the Recreation office at 473-9570. For City Council agenda items, call the Newsline at 476-3838.

EUCHE TOURNAMENT

Get your partner and register for the euchre tournament 7-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, at the Visitor Center in Heritage Park. You will play a round robin format that will allow you to play the entire evening. Awards will be based on number of teams registered. Refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is required, \$10 per team by Oct. 7.

PARKEY SERIES

Parkey the Panda invites children ages 5-10 to join him for a special Halloween event called "Ghosts, Goblins and Goodies." Children will create Halloween crafts and hear a story or two. The event will be held on 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Visitor Center in Heritage Park. Remember to wear your costume. Pre-registration fee of \$7 per child is required.

PARKEY'S PUMPKIN CARVE

Parkey and his assistants will help your child (ages 5-10) create an interesting creature from a pumpkin, using safety carving knives. We will provide the pumpkins and all necessary decorating materials and apple cider. The program will be held at the Visitor Center in Heritage Park 12:30-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.

Pre-registration fee of \$7 per child is required.

HANDICRAFT FESTIVAL

Come to a Holiday Handicrafts Festival sponsored by Farmington Hills Senior Adult Program from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, featuring a craft sale, bake sale and white elephant sale at the Senior Adult Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, gate 4. Enter through Door C. Rental space for senior crafts is available at \$3 per space. Call 473-1854 for information.

HUNTER'S SAFETY

In accordance with Michigan State Law, participation is required in a certified Hunter's Safety Clinic for individuals who were born after Dec. 31 and wish to purchase their first hunting license. The course will meet from 6-9 p.m. on Oct. 19, 21, and 23 and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 24. Participants must attend all sessions and pass a written test to qualify for their certificate and be 12 years of age by March 31, 1993. Pre-registration fee of \$5 per person is required.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Children in grades 6 through 10 can register for the fall basketball league that will be played on Friday evenings, beginning Oct. 30. The program will focus on developing individual skills through practices and game situations. Teams will be based on ability. Fee is \$15 per person for this six week program. Registration deadline is Oct. 23.

Library has kids' activities covered

Following are some activities for youngsters at the Farmington Community Library. For more information, call the Farmington Hills Branch (553-0300) or the Downtown Farmington Branch (474-7770).

Preschool Storytime — Stories, songs, filmstrips and activities. No registration, Farmington Hills Branch; Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9 and 16; 11-11:30 a.m.; Farmington Branch; Oct. 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25; 10:30-11 a.m.

Evening Storytime — Storytime for the whole family — children may wear pajamas. Farmington Hills Branch only. Oct. 19, 7-8 p.m.; Nov. 23, 7-7:30 p.m. No registration.

Learning Activity Center, Junior — Short storytime and hands-on activities for 2-year-olds with an adult only. No registration. Farmington Hills Branch 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Oct. 20, 29, Nov. 3, 11, 17, 25. Farmington Branch, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Oct.

19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, and 16.

Learning Activity Center — Hands-on activities for 3-4 year olds with an adult. Farmington Hills Branch, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 13, 18, 25. No registration.

Halloween Program — Farmington Branch only. A "Boo Bash" for ages 6 and up. Make bats, ghosts and all creatures that for Halloween. No registration, but 6-7 year olds must be accompanied by an adult. Oct. 24, 2-3:30 p.m.

Turkey Talk — Margaret Schmidt tells "Turkey" stories with a live bird. Farmington Branch only. Ages 6 and up. Nov. 21, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Registration required.

Children's Book Week Programs — Stories from Marion Wingert. Farmington Hills Branch, 2-3 p.m., Nov. 14. Farmington Branch, 7-8 p.m., Nov. 12. For 3-year-olds and up. No registration.

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With Sweetest Day just 2 days away, now is the time to call McFarland's and order the perfect gift for that special someone. Fun-loving balloon arrangements, exquisite gift baskets, lush dish gardens, beautiful Michigan grown roses and distinctive floral arrangements made-to-order and sure to please your sweetie.

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