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Safety first concern for sled hill

Officials from the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and Farmington Public Schools met Friday to work on solutions to engoing problems on the Shi-awassee sled hill.

Apparently, progress was made.

"We want to make sure it's safe," said David Boyer, director of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services.

"And work will be done to remove some of the (broken) hay bales and fencing."

Boyer said another possibility is elimination of one of the sledding trails, probably the center trail.

ably the center trail.

The hours of operation won't change.

and neither will the times when the hill is supervised, which currently is on weekends and scheduled school vacation days. But, emphasized Boyer, all three parties in the sled hill consortium will step up efforts.

For example, staffers from the school district will increase routine patrols of the sled hill, located adjacent to the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center on the northeast corner of Shiawassee-Farmington roads. And, Boyer, said, police officers from the two cities will have more of a presence to "make sure everything is OK."

It is hoped that the improvements will be put in place by February, Boyer added.

This winter's heavy snowfall has gen-

Vintage Lucu

See our editorial, page A8

erated a huge amount of activity on the sled hill. But some users have not followed posted rules or vandalized hay hales and soft-plastic fencing. The hay and fencing are intended to protect sled-ders from injury.

"I've never witnessed this level of chaos on the hill," Kewin Gushman, director of the Farmington Department of Public Services, said last week. "It appears as though there's been a lot more vandalism than we've seen in the gast."

Boyer concurred that the use of the sled hill is "a serious issue, a lot of people are using it and our goal is to keep it safe" for those people.

Baker Street from page A1

approve the rezoning from residential to central business district (CBD). Reymend soon will move her nine-year business into the historic district. Her lease is ending at Village Commons Mall in Farmington.

The site plan calls for Raymond to make sure the business blends in with surroundings, with measures such as ample landscaping, unobtrusive signs and lights. Baker Street Draperios would require nine parking spaces, with six on the property and three at nearby Masonic Temple.

"I'm very pleased," Raymond, a Farmington resident, said after the meeting. "I think the property and three at nearby Masonic Temple.

"I'm very pleased," Raymond, a Farmington resident, said after the meeting. "I think the property and three at nearby Masonic Temple.

"To nowhere for Baker Street. And, I'm glad it's here." During the public harries, 20 people spoke, most of them opposed to the plan. Some questioned whether Raymond has demonstrated enough of a business hardship to warrant moving onto Oakland rather than another retail spot in the city, also voiced concerns that a business there would cramp already-narrow Oakland, overload existing parking, impact drainage, lower property values and create a precedent that might further whittle away at the character of the neighbor-

and Why
USA Real
Estate.
Morency
began the
hearing by
emphasizing that
point.
Another
concern was
"evolution"
of the property, which is located between
the Felsot residence and Salom
United Church of Christ. The
rezoning would remain in place
whenever Raymond might sell.
"I'm totally convinced Mrs.
Raymond will improve the property, "said Jim Atkinson. "What
I'm concerned about is the evolution of that property, I want
some assurances."

In defense

In defense

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Current owner Ken Johnson defended Raymond's bid. "(Raymond) didn't come to me, she went to the city and the city

Regent Street of West Bloomfield 4460 Orchard Lake Road West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Morency later said those concerns will be addressed. The drainings will be addressed, the drainings will be addressed, the draining will be addressed, the draining will be addressed. The draining will be addressed, the draining will be addressed. But the city's master plan for future land use, adopted in 1993, lists that property as one of three current Oakland locations that could have dual zoning—the others being the Felsch home and Why USA Real E state.

also chal-lenged any notion that the stretch of Oakland currently is totally residen-tial, not-ing the existence of a interpression

of a church of a church with a 50-space parking lot.
Fermington Assistant: City Manager Bill Richards said during the meeting that the future use of the property would be better protected under CBD zoning because a future owner would need to have a site plan approved for that business.
Several residents, including Jim Pfeiter, jurgested that the master plan be amended to eliminate, the dual zoning for that portion of Oakinad Street, only 20-test wide.

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'The bottom line is I love Farmington as much as you do. '

Shelley Raymond Baker Street owner

plan if it involves sneaking busi-nesses into that 20-foot area," Pfeifer said. "It should be amended."

Not here

Not here
Pfeifer turned toward Raymond, seated in the front row, and added that business is a tough world and I wish you the best of luck. Just not on Oakland.
Several representatives from Salem United – located just east of the proposed studio – also spoke against the rezoning.
We have nothing against Baker Street Draperies, said church deacon Richard Newman. 'It's opposition to any business going in. It's a house, it's not appropriate for a business to go in there.'
Newman said the lack of park-Newman said the lack of park-

Newman said the lack of parking is the primary concern.

Among factors working in Raymond's favor is she is an established, well-respected business owner with sophisticated clientele.

A letter of endorsement from Metrobank President-Bob Heinrich, also of the Farmington Downtown Development Authority, was read into the record. The letter stated that Baker Street Draperies is 'economically viable' and the kind of business the city needs to support.

She'll walk

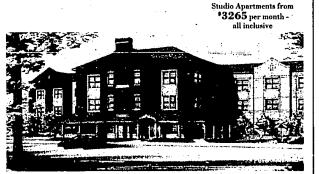
The historical commission and soning board of appeals previously gave the required approvals that would enable Baker Street Draperies to move into the treasured historical dis-

into the treasured historical distinct.

In December, the ZBA allowed a parking variance that would enable the business to use three spaces in nearby Masonic Temple's parking lot.

On Monday, Raymond reiterated that the business would not create much of a parking burden. Baker Street Draperies has four designers, including Raymond, who would need a place to park. Typically, the studio only works with a few clients per day. "Il walk to work if I have to," she told the commission. Meanwhile, trash generated at the studio will be transported to a warehouse facility.

"The bettom line is I love Farmington as much as you do," said Raymond, in comments prior to the public hearing, "And I don't want to do anything that would be bad for the city."



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