

Women face second
half of lives' work, 1C



Falcons
fly, 1B

2 Senate candidates
front and center, 3A

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Farmington FOCUS

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DRAWS the spotlight.

Farmington Hills Councilwoman Jan Dolan, an advocate for the elderly and a representative to Medicare-certified home health agency advisory councils, was named one of seven metro Detroit unsung heroes by the Sweetest Day Committee.

Each received the Salute Someone Special Award, which recognizes people who make life better for others through their jobs, as volunteers, or just as special friends. They also received flowers and candy. The Sweetest Day Committee includes 19 retailers/business people from the Detroit area. In addition to helping the elderly, Dolan is a champion of women, who, through divorce, death or abandonment, are now faced with poverty.

"Over the past three years, her sensitivity and concern for the needs of the elderly have inspired and assisted the development of programs to serve their needs," reads the award announcement.

CURBS deteriorating along Grand River in Farmington are scheduled for replacement.

The estimated \$70,000 project will replace curbs from the M-102 intersection west to Gill Road — the area serviced by the city of Farmington — with money appropriated through the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The initial phase of the project will be handled through the city's current sidewalk contractor, Italia Construction, which is charging \$18 per linear foot for the 3,000-foot project.

"We have attempted to secure other proposals, but have been unsuccessful as it is late in the season and most contractors are fully committed until the end of the season," City Manager Robert Deadman told the council.

SHE'S appointed.

Farmington Hills City Council has approved the appointment of Pat Voss to the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission's cable access committee.

She will fill the remainder of Dan Shehan's term, which runs through February 1988.

NOW licensed.

FAC Enterprises, planning a new Sheraton hotel at 37553 Grand River, received Farmington Hills City Council approval for a resort B-hotel license to serve alcoholic beverages. A resort license does not count against the city's allocation of liquor licenses.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — City officials stopped issuing building permits for six unfinished Farmington Hills subdivisions after developers failed to complete open-space park areas by an Oct. 10 (1985) deadline.

Cities are dropped as defendants

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills are no longer involved in a sexual harassment and discrimination suit brought by a former librarian who resigned her position with the Farmington Community Library. Former library director Gordon Lewis and the library are still defendants.

In a five-count complaint filed June 3 in Oakland County Circuit Court, former children's librarian Jill Locke claims she was "constructively discharged" — transferred from a supervisory to non-supervisory position — for refusing and rejecting Lewis' alleged requests for sexual favors.

About a month ago, an order was entered for voluntary dismissal of the complaint against the two cities, said Oakland Circuit Judge Gene Schnell's clerk.

Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees President Jonathan Grant confirmed the dismissal against the cities.

"That's correct. They have been dismissed from the lawsuit," he said. "Under the (state) public act under which district libraries are formed, we (the library) are a separate autonomous authority. They (the cities) are simply our funding agencies. We're a separate authority, and they are not responsible."

FARMINGTON AND Farmington Hills jointly finance the library system. Both city councils appoint members to the library's board of trustees.

Farmington Hills city attorney Paul Elbeaux and library attorney Dennis DuBay were unavailable for comment.

Locke, who has requested a jury

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Mighty mushroom



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Royal Oak resident Ivan Iles discovered this 40-inch diameter mushroom while clearing woods behind the Hand house on Chenepe in Farmington Hills. Iles, an immigrant from Yugoslavia, said, "In the old country, we

walked through the country to pick mushrooms but never found anything this big. It looks like a mushroom boiling on the stove." Iles is trying to determine whether the giant fungi was edible.

Hills seeks a name for athletic park

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Naming a planned Farmington Hills youth athletic park in honor of the late civic activist Jim Ellis is one option.

Other possible names for the new park on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Farmington roads will be developed by other athletic clubs, such as the Farmington Soccer Club and baseball clubs, within the next month, assistant special services di-

rector Eric Wurmlinger said.

Recommendations from area youth athletic clubs will be forwarded to the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Commission, which will narrow the field to two or three possible names. Sometime after the first of the year, city council members will choose from among the recommended names, Wurmlinger said.

Ellis' name was suggested for the park by his widow, Beverly, who wrote a letter to the Farmington

Hills City Council. Council members forwarded the letter several weeks ago to the parks and recreation commission.

"We received the letter from Bev Ellis. It was read into the records," Wurmlinger said, referring to last week's parks and recreation meeting. Not much discussion took place last week about the park's name, he added. "Quite honestly, there were a few people on the commission that didn't know Mr. Ellis. And a few did."

Originally, the name "Youth Park" was suggested for the city's first athletic park, on which construction will begin next spring. But city council members rejected the name, preferring something more descriptive.

In a telephone interview, Bev Ellis said she thought naming the park after her late husband "seems logical" because of his long-term involvement with youth and athletics.

"It would be a nice memorial,"

Bev Ellis said, adding that it is only a suggestion and that she has no plans to actively lobby for the park's naming.

For the 35 years, Ellis lived in the community. He was involved with youth athletics — an organizer of junior football and the Little League. When the Farmington Public Schools were having financial difficulties in the 1970s, Ellis was instrumental in organizing athletic boosters to help

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Shipmaking — that's his love

By Casey Hana
staff writer

It's time for Carl Burger to christen his ship and sail it home.

The ropes are carefully coiled on deck, the sails in place and the tiny replica — currently on display in the downtown Farmington library — stood proudly on his dining room table.

For the Farmington resident, life is measured in the miniature parts of the historic ship replicas he spends many hours completing.

Since May, he's worked eight hours each day to finish his model of the Ajax, a British frigate from the Battle of Trafalgar fought off the Atlantic coast of Spain in 1805.

History buffs will celebrate the battle's anniversary Oct. 21, as they recall details of the naval battle in which Lord Nelson defeated the French and Spanish fleets.

DEVELOP

Under normal conditions, such a model would take upwards of 1½ years to construct, Burger said. He used 10 different plans to construct the ship, molding them to fit the ship's history.

"IT'S LIKE the old frigate was, on an original scale," Burger said.

He applied a special "artistic realism" to his work. Nineteen cannons line the ship's sides.

"All the parts on this boat can really be used," he added. "I love the old frigates — the way they used to do things; the history of it."

As an officer in the Farmington

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Carl Burger can often be found caught up in his hobby of model shipbuilding.

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