

Florida was very nice, but it wasn't her home

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Sherry Accettura believes that home is where the heart is — and her heart is here.

All through her growing-up years in the Farmington Road-11 Mile area of Farmington Hills, Accettura dreamed of living on a beach.

The dream persisted through her years at Farmington Hills Mercy High School, the University of Michigan and the Life Chiropractic College in Georgia. After obtaining a doctorate, she sought out her home on a beach and set up shop in Florida.

It was all that she expected it to be. It fulfilled the dream. But it wasn't home.

"My heart wasn't there. The business was going well. I was making new friends. I had everything I wanted but family," she said.

"Now my mother is my secretary. And my father worked very hard

helping get this space into shape," she said of her parents, Beverly and Muzio Accettura. "I am very at home in downtown Farmington. Starting over isn't easy, but it helps if it is a mom-and-pop-family organization."

"I am re-acquainting myself with old friends and bettering the quality of life for those old friends and everyone around me."

ACCETTURA ENTERED chiropractic school following her sister, now Lori Smatt, who has a practice in Manhattan.

"Lori had gotten a whiplash from an accident when she was in junior high school and suffered for years with no relief from muscle relaxers, pain killers and a neck brace."

"We had already tried every avenue we knew to try. I will never forget the night she woke me up in pain and asked me to drive her to the hospital — I had just gotten my driver's license — and what we got was more

people

muscle relaxers and pain killers. At that point, we were ready to try crystals, novenas, faith healers," Accettura said.

"What we tried was a chiropractor. We didn't know any. We found one in the Yellow Pages. What we discovered was that in 1,000 years, those muscle relaxers and pain killers were never going to make her better. Whiplash is a misalignment of the neck. That's all. The bones had to be moved back into place."

Accettura said educating her clients on the body's ability to heal itself runs parallel to her practice. "I am constantly re-training my clients in their thought patterns about their own health and well-being," she said. "My mother was so defensive about chiropractic — so fearful that my sister was going to be worse off if somebody tried to move her bones around — that I am very much aware how important that initial re-education must be."

RE-EDUCATION is harder for Accettura in Michigan than it was in Florida.

While living in her home on the beach, Accettura worked periodically as a circuit speaker for the Commission on Aging in Coral Gables. Her job was to give talks to the elderly on sleeping, lifting, eating, exercises, water aerobics — things having to do with taking preventive measures and using practices that will maintain good health.

"They knew what I was talking about when I talked about nerve interference or taking pressure off a nerve. I didn't have to explain it to them. Most of them had a chiropractor, and the elderly in Florida — in great numbers — are taking responsibility for their own health," Accettura said.

"And it is so simple — so basic. Think of the nerve as a water hose with a crimp in it so the water can't get through to the garden. We take the crimp out and let the life force and its intelligence do its work."

"There is a cause and effect for everything," she said. "The symptoms are the effect. We find the cause. And every day we have a mini-miracle here."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

First graders from Eagle Elementary perform Halloween magic in the school's media center.

Schoolmates and parents enjoyed the play, which was performed last week and today.

Whooo

Eagle pupils act in Halloween spirit

FIRST GRADERS at Eagle Elementary in Farmington Hills treated schoolmates to some spooky entertainment last week, as costumed students performed their Halloween play.

Witches, skeletons, angels, bats, pumpkins and even a couple of Frankenstein's monsters graced the stage where they all played a part in the fun. The play even offered "trick or treat" safety rules.

Students were scheduled to perform again today at other schools in the Farmington district are busy with assemblies and other Halloween activities.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Angel Kori Smith, a first grader at Eagle Elementary, was narrator for the school's Halloween play. Behind her, dressed as a witch, is Jillian Gold.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Sherry Accettura fulfilled her dream of one day living on a beach, but she moved her practice into downtown Farmington where she feels at home.

State House candidates look out for local interest

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Both candidates for the 69th state House District seat say they will look at issues statewide, but take a special interest in how issues will affect their constituents.

Issues including the treatment of mentally ill people and school finance reform, plus questions about the names and ages of the candidates, were raised last week during the last major Candidates Night scheduled before the Nov. 8 general election.

Jan Dolan, 61, a Republican from Farmington Hills, and John Dolan, 65, a Democrat from Bingham Farms, will square off for the seat now held by state Rep. Wilbur Brotherton, R-Farmington, who is retiring. The two are not related.

HERE IS a synopsis of issues and how the candidates responded:

● **mainstreaming mentally ill people into group homes and family settings** — John Dolan said he was "not fully informed" on the issue but would tend to favor it. Jan Dolan said she favors group homes in residential areas, and called for more support, including tax credits, for those taking care of mentally ill family members in the home.



● **school finance reform** — both believe reform is necessary, and support current measures to lower property taxes and raise the state sales tax. Jan Dolan said she "doesn't want to lessen what we're offering here (in the district)" and John Dolan said the current system "just isn't working very well."

● **raising the minimum wage** in the state — John Dolan said he would support an increase. Jan Dolan said "the market sets the pay" and in today's market "the minimum wage doesn't even prevail."

● **issues of age and name raised during the campaign** — Jan Dolan said there "should not be a concern" to voters because of the falsification of her age, which was revealed two weeks ago. When asked, John Dolan, a retired businessman, denied he entered the race on the coattails of Jan Dolan, a well-known city council-

woman, because they have the same surname. He said he would have run "regardless of who my opponent might have been."

● **cap on medical liability settlements** — John Dolan agrees the issue should be reviewed, but disagrees with a \$250,000 cap as suggested by health care providers. He said "a figure double that would be reasonable." Jan Dolan said such a cap is needed: "there's a tremendous drain on Michigan, on the medical profession."

IN CLOSING, John Dolan talked about a nationwide education system falling behind: "As the children of the 69th District were home this afternoon — the students in Tokyo were in school. The students of Frankfurt were in school. In Japan the school year is 25 percent longer."

"We are falling behind and falling badly behind. We must address it aggressively. In world competition, we aren't measuring up."

Jan Dolan asked voters to look at the individual: "The issues are going to change. I think you should look at the person and what they will take with them to Lansing."

"I've been part of this community, you've seen what I've done in Farmington Hills. I want to be your representative in Lansing."

Teen driver gets probation

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MORRIS SAID he urged the judge to "deal mercifully" with Walker, but he believed that Walker was going to admit responsibility for the accident.

"I thought that he needed for his personal sanity to state I am guilty for this. (Walker) did say he was going to take responsibility for his role in this," Morris said. "He's denying what his role is."

3 injured as truck runs into 2 cars

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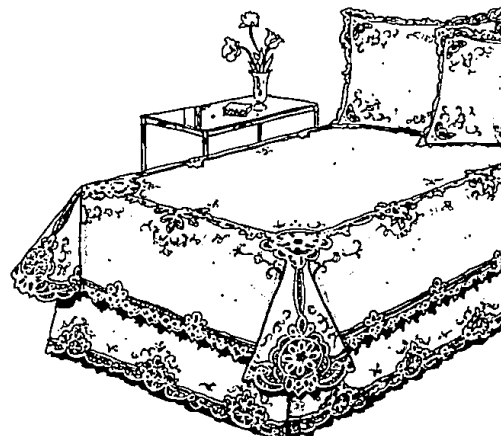
Cranston, supervisor of the Traffic Section. The driver of the first car that was struck, a 56-year-old West Bloomfield woman, also was

among those slightly hurt and was not wearing a seat belt.

The driver of the other car, a 73-year-old Farmington Hills man, was not hurt, but a 74-year-old passenger was. Both of them were

wearing seat belts, Cranston said.

IT APPEARS the truck driver entered the 12 Mile-New Market intersection on a red light, Cranston said.



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