



SILVIA LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Proceeds help: Ann Oppenheimer, chairwoman of the Women of North Farmington's "Auction Extravaganza," Betty Arnold, director of the Farmington Area Advisory Council, and Marion Prover, president of Women of North Farmington, show some of the audio-visual equipment and materials used in the council's substance abuse education. The equipment was made possible through a \$4,500 donation by the Women of North Farmington. The group also donated \$4,500 to Meals on Wheels. The money is raised through the annual auction. This year's "Auction Extravaganza" is 7 p.m. April 24 at Muirwood Club House.

Dolan works for 'potty parity'

AP — When nature calls, State Rep. Jan Dolan and the rest of the Michigan Legislature answer.

The House gave preliminary approval this week to a so-called "potty parity" bill that would require more toilets for women in public buildings.

It's an issue not nearly as pressing as the property tax, auto insurance or medical malpractice reforms facing lawmakers.

But let's face it, Dolan, a Farmington Hills Republican, said Friday: When you've got to go, you've got to go.

"It's about time we tackle a real issue in this Legislature," said Dolan, the bill's sponsor. And she was only half joking.

The Farmington Hills Republican bases her bill on a 1988 study by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. Researchers there found that women take about twice as long as men do in public restrooms.

Men in the study were in and out in an average of 34 seconds, including washing their hands. Women took about three minutes, plus extra time for hand washing. Dolan's bill would require builders of arenas, theaters and other large public gathering places to include more toilets for women than for men. It's designed to give women "equal speed of access" to restrooms in new buildings or old ones undergoing major renovation.

Men's rooms often have more stalls and especially more urinals, which take up less space. Women, by contrast, suffer in far longer lines at concerts and sporting events.

"It's fairness. More and more women are attending major functions, and you see these tremendous lines," Dolan said. "Women, out of desperation, have even had to use the men's room. We want to give the restrooms back to the guys."

The measure sailed through the

House last April and passed the Senate Commerce Committee, but died when the full Senate failed to take action on it before the end of the year.

Dolan said the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, Sen. Paul Wartner, R-Portage, has promised her he'll do his best to get the bill to Gov. John Engler's desk.

"The governor is very sympathetic to the inequities that women face," Engler spokesman John Trusec said Friday. Rep. William Bryant, R-Grosse Pointe Farms, said the bill might lead to unisex rest rooms or pose an unreasonable economic hardship to builders and developers. But Dolan said it shouldn't be a problem for architects to pencil more toilets on blueprints for new or renovated buildings.

Similar laws are on the books in California, Florida, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and other states, as well as the District of Columbia.

Hills facility gets a name

Farmington Hills' newest park has a name.

What was known as the Sod Farm property at Eight Mile and Metroview was officially recognized as "Founders Sports Park" by the Hills City Council at Monday's meeting.

The name was selected by the

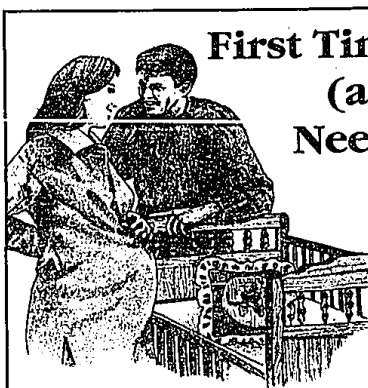
Parks and Recreation Commission from 175 entries at its Feb. 10 meeting.

The name was derived from entries submitted by Amanda Kandi and Sherman Lacroff, both Farmington Hills residents.

A committee that included

commission members Mary Foran, Gary Unruh, Jerry Ellis, Mike Horner and City Manager Bill Costick chose the winners.

The council approved the new name by a 4-0 vote. Council members Jon Grant, Joanne Smith and Larry Lichtman were absent.



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