

Parker from page B1

experience," she said. "I really enjoyed the campaign, but it was a full-time-plus undertaking." After leaving the magistrate bench every day, Parker would head out into the community. She walked after work and on the weekends, 10 a.m. until dark both Saturday and Sunday.

"That was one of the best parts of the campaign," she said. "People were very friendly. You got to hear people's concerns, and they had some real good questions."

What got her moving — and keeps her going — has been the idea that she could make a difference in people's lives in a bigger way and in her community. She saw things in the system as an attorney that she felt she could improve and make more

efficient.

Parker said she entered the legal profession because of an interest she discovered in a couple of college law classes. Even before that, though, she realized the law fit in with a lot of the things that meant a lot in her life, like the intellectual challenge and the ability to help others.

"And you get a laugh every now and then," she added.

Moving on to the bench simply broadened those horizons for Parker. While she has since shifted away from politics, as judges must, she has served with a variety of professional and community groups, such as the Commission on Children, Youth and Families and the Hills Y2K

'Your role is to serve the community.'

Marla Parker
—47th District Court judge

committee.

She sees her work as more than just mediating disputes and issuing criminal penalties.

"You always have to recognize your role is to serve the community," Parker explained, adding she tries to educate people, especially children, about the law and the judicial system. "I think the more people know about the legal system, the more they respect it."

Dudley from page B1

Having lived in the community just five years, Dudley watched as Farmington Hills stood poised on the crest of cityhood. The decisions that had to be made would be overseen by a charter commission, and she wanted to be a member.

"It was a big issue, a really big issue, and I didn't want to leave it to someone else to decide what kind of city we were going to be," she said.

Back then, Dudley said, campaigning wasn't what it is today. For one thing, it wasn't quite as expensive. It didn't take \$1 million to run for office, she said,

and most of the campaigning involved personal contact.

"Coffeees were very popular back then, so we did a lot of those," she said.

Changing tactics

After a three-year absence, Dudley returned to Farmington Hills and decided to run for office again; this time, because she didn't like what she saw going on in local government. By that time, coffeees had become passé, so she used mailings, debates and other venues to push her campaign forward, with one exception.

"I never did signs," she said. "What do they tell you about the candidate? They're a blight."

Unquestionably outspoken, Dudley found politics absolutely different for her than it seemed for men. While she found success and enjoyed her time in city government, she also found some roadblocks because of her willingness to tell people exactly what she thought and felt.

"Men can be assertive. Women going or saying the same are thought to be aggressive," she said. "I'm sure it annoyed a lot of people that I said what was on my mind."

Oliverio from page B1

Council meetings and work sessions take up many hours, especially when officials are in the midst of a controversial decision. But the job involves far more than attending a meeting now and again.

Recently, Oliverio traveled to Washington, D. C., to attend the National League of Cities convention. Because of her family commitments, she said, it was the first time she has been anywhere in three years.

dream for Oliverio. She got started by working as part of someone else's campaign.

"My ex-husband ran a couple of times for council, and I helped him," she said. "I worked on (Circuit Court Judge) Jack McDonald's campaign (for district court judge), and that's what got me involved in politics."

But the idea of actually serving a term of office didn't appeal to her — until she attended her first city council meeting.

"I was just kind of awed by it," she said. "And I wanted to be part of it."

After being encouraged by friends and family to run for

office, Oliverio finally took the plunge and was elected to her first term six years ago. While she loved going door-to-door and talking with residents, not all of the campaign process appealed to her.

"The toughest part for me was the debates," she said. "I am not a public speaker, so that was the hardest."

Getting out and meeting people proved to be an important part of her campaign and a real help as she began working with citizens.

"You've got to find out from people what the issues are," she said.

Pick and choose

"I have to kind of pick and choose," she said of the events she attends.

Politics wasn't a lifelong

Seminar set for caretakers of aged

Those caring for an aging parent, friend, relative or spouse can attend a free Sunday presentation "Who Will Care For My Relative When I Can't?" planned April 2 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The talk is co-sponsored by North Congregational Church in conjunction with Botsford General Hospital and will be held at

the church, 36520 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Mollie Evans, RN, director of nursing at Botsford Continuing Health Center, will describe the continuum of possibilities including home care, adult day care, psychiatric day care, senior apartments, assisted living residences and skilled nursing facilities.

You will learn about the relative costs, reimbursement possibilities and medical indications for each type of care. She will also offer suggestions for evaluating facilities and ways to begin discussing care options with relatives.



Boxelder beetles won't do harm to your house

males of this beetle before, you may think you are witnessing a science fiction movie in the making.

Your house is just being used as an over-wintering area by the female of the species. A hole, crack or crevice in your home or garage makes a great spot to sleep away the winter. These critters are harmless to humans and when the warm days of spring return, they will leave your home to fly away to renew their life cycle once again.

I've heard of a few instances where homeowners immediately run out, purchase insecticides and spray their entire house. Dear readers, we are poisoning ourselves as well as all of nature with these dangerous, unnecessary chemicals.

Please don't do this. Instead, caulk any and all entry points, especially with an older home. This should prevent most insects from entering. Many people also experience this same thing with ladybugs.

The boxelder bug lives in gardens, forests and deciduous woods. They feed on the leaf juices of the boxelder, maple and some fruit trees. What we all have to learn is to be more tolerant of the other species we share this planet with. We live inside our home; most other varieties of nature are content to live outside. They have to live somewhere, so let's learn to share this world together.

Joe Derek is the city naturalist for Farmington Hills. Leave him a message at 478-9574.

A few of our homes were covered with hundreds of black and red beetles during the extreme warm spell a couple of weeks ago. A friend informed me that these beetles are boxelder bugs. Can they harm my house?

No. These insects, which your neighbor described correctly as the Eastern Boxelder bug, will not harm your house. If you've never seen the swarms of the

Paintings on exhibit



Exhibitor: Leon Schochit, a long-time member of the Farmington Artists Club and a Farmington Hills resident, will show about 30 of his watercolors at the annual art exhibit and sale at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, April 8-9. Admission is free. The artist is shown here with two of his recent works: "Houses" and "Sailboats." The Farmington Artists Club will meet next on Wednesday, April 12, at the Farmington library on 12 Mile Road at 7 p.m. Balthazar Korab, a photographer of architecture, will be the guest speaker. All are welcome.

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