

Corporate leader to be honored

Farmington Hills resident Florine Mark-Ross will be the first national recipient of the State of Israel's newly instituted Deborah Award for Distinguished Achievement, an award presented to outstanding women in the corporate world.

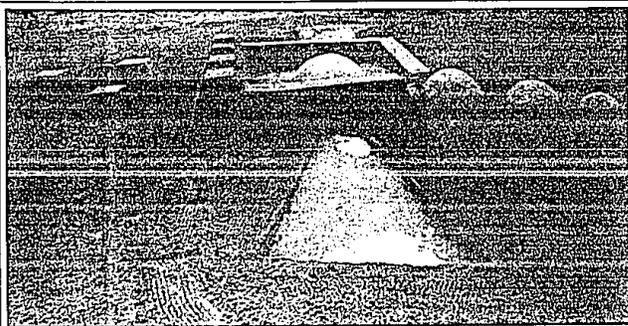
The award presentation will take place at a tribute luncheon to be held at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 in the social hall of Adat Shalom Synagogue, announced Meryl Podolsky, chair of F. Mark-Ross the Metro Detroit Israel Bond Women's Division sponsoring the luncheon through its corporate women's program.

Mark is president and chief executive officer of the Farmington Hills-based Weight Watchers Group, Inc., the largest franchise of Weight Watchers International and the eighth largest woman-owned business in southeastern Michigan.

She is affiliated with a variety of Jewish and non-Jewish community service organizations, civic and cultural institutions and has been frequently cited for her work and leadership.

Mark was the Detroit Committee of Wiczmann Institute's 1988 honoree, the B'nai Brith Women's "Woman of the Year" in 1987 and a recipient of the "Top 50 Business Women in Michigan Award," presented to her by Gov. James Blanchard in 1988. Recently, she was Adat Shalom Synagogue's honoree for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

She served as 1987 Golden Mile chair for the March of Dimes, 1987 president of the Business and Professional Women's Division of the Allied Jewish Campaign and is president-elect of the Fashion Group of Detroit.



Hills firm emerges king of the castle

John Marasich, right, holds the winner's trophy from Saturday's sand castle building competition in Hines Park as teammate Paul Donkhaus looks on. Marasich and his teammates from Tiseo & Associates of Farmington Hills were winners in the castle building contest, sponsored by the Wayne County Parks System. Above is their entry. The event, co-sponsored by the Detroit chapter of the American Institute of Architects, was open to design professionals. Sand sculptors gathered at the park volleyball courts to craft their wares. Though only three teams entered, castle-builders went all-out to design the most elaborate and ornate sand sculpture. It was the second annual event. An estimated 40 people participated. Last year's winner, The Warlords, a group of former U-D students, finished second. Castles were judged on the basis of concept, originality and execution. The Farmington Hills firm will keep the winner's trophy for one year. Despite the hard work, the sand sculptures had a short life span. Most were destroyed less than two hours after the event's completion.



photos by JIM JAGDFELD/staff photographer

Town spruced

Continued from Page 3

going to make the core of the city "much nicer," Donovan said. "I'm just glad the construction is over."

The "new building" on the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Road, is being restored to a turn-of-the-century look by owners Dunwant and Mohlander Chathas and Salem Township at a cost of \$200,000.

When completed, the two buildings will include up to three retail stores on the first floor and up to seven small apartments upstairs.

The Chathas see the accompanying downtown revitalization increasing the beauty and value of their historic buildings.

The DDA work is funded by tax increment financing, where tax increases are captured from a certain point in time and used to pay for the improvements. A 2-percent tax levy also is assessed to property owners in the DDA district to help administer the program.

Development of the third phase will begin next spring. It will continue sidewalk and streetscape improvements, with lights and trees along Grand River, from Grove to Mayfield.

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