

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

■ 'I feel very fortunate . . . But I've worked hard, too, for everything I have.'

Jo Anne McShane
councilwoman

she raised a family. McShane has two grown children: son Kelly, 28, and daughter Erin, 24.

"I feel very fortunate," said McShane, who jokes that she stopped the war because her birth date is Nov. 11, 1945. "But I've worked hard, too, for everything I have."

Self-motivation has not been a problem for McShane, who has been with Horace Mann for 12

A Dale Carnegie certificate adorns her wall in the neatly organized office. With the exception of a few photos, the room is all business.

Prior to joining Horace Mann McShane was an administrator for group homes and a college student.

All this came during or after

When not working or tending to city business, McShane is a physical fitness buff who hikes, walks and works with weights.

She's also an avid kayaker. She went on Lake Michigan this summer, including the Sturgeon River.

"It's a wonderful way to relax on the water," McShane said. "It's different than a power boat, or a sailboat. You're in the water . . . and you're just there. It's a great way to see the shoreline."

She's getting some exercise by not taking anything for granted in

the Nov. 7 election. She and her mother, Mildred, went door to door campaigning and passed out literature Sunday.

"We know we don't have to (campaign)," she said. "It's important for me to let people know what I stand for."

telning Farmington's infrastruc-
ture. That will be a challenge as
federal and state funds dry up,
coupled with people's resistance
to pay more taxes.

She favors a regional approach for some services, including police, fire and in purchasing matters. She cites the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County and its new facility on Eight Mile Road as a perfect example.

Farmington's population is also getting older. She noted a national statistic that predicts by the year 2020, the majority of people will be between the ages of 55 and 65.

"As you're paying more and more for social programs for those whom you care about," McShane said, "you're going to have to find more creative ways to pay for your infrastructure."

The city's historical and quaint character needs to be maintained she said. Housing stock is also getting older.

McShane favors a more intensive inspection program, similar to the one in Dearborn where homes must be inspected when

"It would cost a little more," she said, "but in the long run it would be good."

Her insight on issues and residents' concerns is not without effort.

McShane is a delegate for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and is involved in the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural and Multiracial Community Council, and regula-

ly attends Michigan Municipal League functions.

She was a member of the Beautification Commission and Zoning Board before becoming a council member.

During the divisive clock tower issue three years ago, McShane was the first city official to not take sides in the discord among some residents. She also monitored the situation by attending Downtown Development Authority meetings.

"I talk to people all the time," she said. "I, myself, was against the clock tower as to the way it was designed."

"A number of people said to me, 'We don't like what's going to happen with the clock tower. . . .'
"Sometimes people are afraid

to speak up," McShane added. "they are unhappy with something you have to find out why if they are unable to communicate it."

Several residents spoke out against the downtown clock tower was nixed. McShane was pleased with the process, if not the result.

She relishes times when compromises are reached when differences of opinions would make that appear impossible.

She refers to the flap over the Big Boy statue being put in front of the Farmington Road enter Council agreed to OK it after the owner found a smaller version of the corporate symbol.

"Government has to compromise at times," she said. "You want to enforce your ordinance. You want to keep things aesthetically pleasing, but there are exceptions."

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