## Canton senator steps into secretary of state race

Acron Sennett figures it will get \$1 million to become Michi-gin's next secretary of state in MOA.

That's why the State Senator, AlCanton, is hitting the fund-ralising trail new. A \$250 per plenon reception will be held for him Dec. 8 in Grosse Pointe Farms.

him Dec. 5 in Grosse Peinte Farms.
Firm not a wealthy person, said Bennett, and there's no way I can afford an expensive compagin by myself. But I can get my awast equity in as an attendance to raising a certain schount of money.
Next months event iant a formel kickoff for his campaign. He shoomed his intentions to run last spring.
Firlis is something I've thought about for some time, I'rnie is for some time, I'ennott said. I feel I have the background. Tm the only person

would be in charge of keeping state records.

It needs to be a high profile position, he said of the historical aspect, "I think the scretary of state needs to use the position as a bully pulpit for historical preservation."

Bennett thinks he can lit the ground running as exerctary of state.

I come with practical experimints make it necessary, he said.

in the senate who has been on the front line of managing voter registration and elections.

The former formablic clerk will be term-limited out of the senate in 2002. Current Secretary of State Candice Miller, a possible Republican candidate for governor, farse the same fetus.

The has built a foundation of graciliance feel fean build on, said Bennett. "I feel Candice Miller has done an outstanding job of improving the system since taking office."

Bennett served as Canton's Bennett wante to include the server of the state for six years before moving on to Michigan's senate in 1994. He said there are some similarities between the position and secretary of state. The secretary of state in the secretary of state in the secretary of state. The secretary of state is between the position and secretary of state and the discouraging factor it can be on election day with people," he said. "I passion—for announcing his bid so early make registering as says and painless as possible."

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To come with practical experience, he said. "I's not theory." First things first, however. He must win the election.

Bennett validate for the first production of a multiple profile as a possible.

The former formating it as perfect as possible." It needs to be a high profile as the received as a builty pulpit for historical spect. Think the secretary ound running as secretary of state.

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"I come with practical experience," he said. It's not theory."
First things first, however. He must win the election.

Bennett realizes that he hes opened himself up to criticism for announcing his bid so early. But he maintains vigorously that the race won't take away from his duties in the senate.

"It's something I go from morning to night seven days a

week," Bennett said. "I'm always up on the issues."
He points out that he has a 100 percent attendence and vot-ing record in the senate. Bennett says he'd be shooting himself in the foot if he slacked now in



A took back: State Sen. Loren Bennett when he was sworn in as a senator in Lansing as his wife, Terri, looks on.

amount of money," he commanded.

Ho'd like December's fundraiser to be a rarity, though.

"I prefer to meet people onson-one," Bennett said. "My game
plant is to get out and meet a lot
of people."

## Father helps police nab man suspected of boy's sexual assault, Internet solicitation man's son. Jeffery Clay Lacey, 26, is charged with two counts of rape and one count of using the Internect to solicit sex from aminor. He was arraigned in 34th District Court in Romulus Shaday. The judge set cash bail at meeting at their Livonia home,

LARRY O'COMOR

Authorities are crediting the ther of a 14-year-old Livonia boy for helping them arrest a Mostland man who is charged

After exchanging e-mail, a After exchanging e-mail, a man picked up the boy and took him to his Westland apartment where the sexual assault took place. Afterward, he continued to exchange e-mail with the child, police said.

The father, acting on advice from Wayne County Sheriff Internet Crimes Task Force, became suspicious of his son's continue activity and found the computer correspondence.

Using his son's e-mail identity, the dad sent a note to others warning that his son was only 14 and not to have sontact with the

and not to have contact with him.

The suspect replied that, although he knew it's illegal, he still wented to meet the boy again, authorities said.

Investigators searched Lacey's apartment and seized his computer. Internet Crimes Task Porce investigators will analyze data on the computer's hard drive.

data on the computer's hard direction declined to speculate if more victims may be found. Your investigation continues," he said. In this case, a father's diligate was crucial, the sheriff aid.

If think as any parent you'd be devastated, "Ficano said. "Yet at the same time he's concerned about other youngsters who could fall into similar circumstances."

Awards

Company amployees partici-

and mentoring programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels, Rosiek said. "Our award-winning company also has made a financial com-

mitment to the Fermington Harmington Harmington Harmington Harmington Harmington Harmington to Examilies, the Fermington Downtown Development Authority banner program end several area subtlet teams," Rosiek said about LOC.

about LCC.
Outgoing chamber chairman Melamed was praised by Carleigh Flaherty, chamber president. She called him a "total motivator for the staff and the shambar.

from page A9



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chamber.

"It has been a fantastic year,"
she continued, adding that
Melamed has gone "showe and
beyond" in moving the chamber
forward with a total 750 memforward with a total 100 most-bers.
Melamed urged members to participate in Bouchard's Coats for the Gold program, now in its 13th year. The program was started to collect new and used coats, hats and gloves to be donated to Oakland County shel-ters. In the last two years, nearters. In the last two years, nearly 13,000 items have been collected.

Great Harvest Bread Co. own-

ers Ray and Lorie Novelly will provide a \$5 gift cortificate for each business or organization that makes a donation. Call the chamber office at (248) 474-3440 to make arrangements for done

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