

Candidate from page A1



Along the way: Aldo Vagnozzi was several miles west of Webberville by mid-day Monday. Gerald Goldberg and Kon Murray, both Farmington residents, joined Vagnozzi for part of the journey on Grand River. Bill Helwig drives the support vehicle.

motels in the evenings. Friends Kon Murray, Pat Blackard and Jerry Goldberg said they enjoyed partaking in some of the walk.

"Aldo kept us laughing all the way through this," said Goldberg, who is chairman of the Farmington Democratic Club. "I couldn't believe the fun we had."

Bill Helwig drove a truck behind Vagnozzi to keep an eye on him.

While on the steps, State Rep. Gilda Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods, said the state legislature needs someone like Vagnozzi to fight special interest groups and big companies as well as stand for local communities and schools getting a bigger share of state funds.

"He will continue to be a champion for the people," said Jacobs, who is also a candidate for state senate.

Vagnozzi said he enjoyed meeting rural residents along his journey that was mired with a couple days of drizzling rain.

"I saw a cross-section of hometown Michigan, little towns and communities," he said, adding he saw how important small businesses are to the economy.

"We've got to do more for small businesses," he said.

The smaller communities have the same problems of not receiving enough state-shared revenue.



Finally! Aldo Vagnozzi runs the last few yards of his walk and greets cheering supporters.

chases, the candidate said. He repeated his platform to improve mental health care in the state and pay closer attention to nursing home staffing.

So far, Vagnozzi is the sole Democrat running for the seat

that will be vacated by Republican Andrew Raczkowski, whose term limit ends this year.

Was the Democrat going to take a well-deserved rest on Wednesday?

"No. I'll go back and probably do some more door-to-door campaigning," he said.

And if elected Vagnozzi promised a nostalgic trip back up along Grand River, en route to his new job.

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