

# Moffitt banks on his longevity, experience



# Nash will bring a progressive voice

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

missioners selected unanimously, said.

He chaired numerous committees the public services committee, Workplace Violence Policy Development, Court Reform Study and Zoning Coordinating. He's been vice-chairman of the Public Services Committee, Planning and Building Committee and Majority Party Caucus.

Moffitt said the public often misunderstands what county government does and doesn't do. He's long been supportive of televising commission meetings. It keeps people honest, increases information, and solicits ideas from the public.

He said he's reprinted the county's newsletter and maps at his own expense and dropped them in the district. County taxes have been lowered eight times in 10 years, he said. County taxes are 11 percent of the tax bill.

"I think people are colossally taxed right now. I won't sup-

port new taxes without a vote of the people."

Water rates will be an issue in the future, he believes. "Those of us who have city water will pay 10 times as much for it," Moffitt said. "We have big problems here. We have basements flooding here."

Moffitt has a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Detroit.

Moffitt has been a public hearing officer for the Oakland County Road Commission and a small business owner for 21 years.

He's a nationally-published legal author, court-appointed mediator of Circuit Court civil cases and administrator emeritus for the University of Detroit Mercy School Law. Moffitt is a single parent with two children.

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BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Democrat Jim Nash will face off against veteran incumbent David Moffitt for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in the 16th District election.

Nash believes he's more than qualified to hold the post. "I have been active in politics and government for years working for the Florida Democratic Party and the Florida Legislature in the late 1980s and early 90s," said Nash, 46. "I am active in the Democratic Party. I was Matthew Frumini's closest aide in his 2000 Congressional race and I am a precinct delegate."

He is vice-chair of the South East Michigan Group of the Mackinac Chapter-Sierra Club.

"I want to bring a progressive voice to the county," Nash said. "There's a lot of things

facing the county right now that we have to do something about. If we don't we will be in tough shape soon. Our city deserves energy and I can do it."

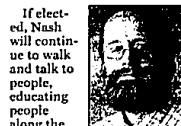
He wants to control sprawl and make developers pay the actual costs of their development and suggested providing tax benefits for developers who stay in the city, rather than build outside and contribute to urban sprawl.

He is concerned about water quality and costs, appropriate mental health care and believes in pursuing options to automobile travel.

"We're the only major metropolitan area in the country which isn't at least planning some sort of mass transit system," Nash said.

"More people would use it because there are jobs they can't get to. A third of Detroit doesn't have a car."

He'd also like the county to do more in the area of prenatal care.



Jim Nash

Nash has a bachelor's degree in political science from Florida State University and was an Army medic. He's been married to Karen for 17 years. The family has four children.

The two youngest, Jacob and Alexandra attend a Farmington Public elementary school.

Nash and his wife co-own McClure-Parkhurst flower shop across from Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

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David Moffitt

to look for and you are not afraid to say what you think. Because you have been right before, people will listen."

Moffitt, 49, a Republican has served since 1985. He's vice-chairman of the board of com-



Sidewalk and curb work continues in downtown Farmington. BILL BREWSTER/OBSERVER

### RCOC ROAD WATCH

Information for Road Watch is supplied by the Road Commission for Oakland County ([www.rcocweb.org](http://www.rcocweb.org)). Information is subject to change.

- In Farmington:** Farmington Road, south of Nine Mile to Grand River — This section of Farmington is closed to southbound traffic as the RCOC reconstructs and widens the road. During the project, the detour route for southbound traffic is Grand River, Drake and Nine Mile. Motorists traveling northbound on Farmington should expect delays and are encouraged to use the detour route as well. Completion is expected Sept. 30.
- In Farmington Hills:** 12 Mile at Orchard Lake Road — RCOC is widening this intersection (adding a right-turn lane on eastside as 12 Mile and extending the right-turn lane on east-bound 12 Mile). Completion is expected Aug. 16.

## Commission is in line for many new faces

BY DAN WEST  
STAFF WRITER

With seven commissioners leaving office for personal and political reasons and four incumbents losing in Tuesday's primary, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners will have at least 11 new faces come January.

Nearly half of the 25-member board will turn over for the 2003-04 term. That number will be higher if any of the incumbents are unseated in the Nov. 5 general election.

Oakland County Clerk G. William "Doc" Caddell said it could be the largest political turnover in county history. In his 23 years observing the board, the former commissioner said turnover is usually no more than one-third.

"I've seen no more than eight in one term," Caddell said. "On Jan. 1, 2003, we're going to see at least 11 new faces and there could be more because I expect at least two or three other races to be competitive this fall."

Before last Tuesday's election, it was known that seven commissioners were not returning: Six ran for other offices and one voluntarily left politics for family reasons.

On Tuesday, four commissioners lost to primary opponents: William Brian (R-Highland Township), Brenda Causey (D-Pontiac), Nancy Dingley (R-William) and Ruel McPherson (D-Hazel Park).

Of the 14 remaining incumbents, five are all but re-elected because they face no challenger in the November general election. The five are: Eric Coleman (D-Southfield), Hugh Crawford (R-Novi), Sue Ann Douglas (R-Rochester), Chuck Palmer (R-Clawson) and Larry Obrecht (R-Lake Orion).

Two newcomers who bested incumbents in the primary and face no general election opponent are Jeff Potter, the Republican mayor of South Lyon, and David Coulter, a Ferndale Democrat.

The other nine commissioners have competition in the

general election. Large turnover in governing bodies is nothing new to Michigan in this era of term limits. The Michigan House had a two-thirds turnover in 1998 and the Michigan Senate is expecting comparable change this year.

The downside to such turnover is the loss of institutional memory from veteran commissioners. Caddell, however, said there are some benefits to the changes.

"First of all, there are new, fresh ideas which could be positive," Caddell said. "Still, there is a learning curve, especially as the new faces take on the tremendous responsibilities they have to grab a hold of, like managing a \$550 million budget."

There are many county resources, Caddell said, that will help new commissioner grasp their new duties, such as seminars and county staff dedicated to research and helping commissioners.

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