

# Governor? Spreen is 'interested'

Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen, whose 1978 bid to appear on the ballot for governor fell short by 108 petition signatures, is running for the state's top post again.

Every which way but officially, that is.

Two county residents, Diana Nilson and George Feureman, recently filed formal organization papers as the Johannes Spreen for Governor Committee. Ms. Nilson said about 200 supporters are involved in the effort to garner the former Detroit police chief the Democratic nomination for governor.

And while Spreen isn't officially endorsing the group, it sounds like just a matter of time.

"We have no doubts he will seriously consider it, or we wouldn't have both formed the committee," said Ms. Nilson of Union Lake.

"I put in \$5,000 of my own money last time and that shows I was interested," said Spreen, of Farmington Hills. "And I'm damn interested now."

But he added, "I certainly wouldn't announce until the signatures were collected. That's what happened last time."

In 1978, more than 2,000 of the 20,000 petition signatures filed by Spreen were declared invalid, leaving him 108 signatures shy of the 18,000 required to place a candidate's name on the primary ballot.



**Taking a bite out of crime**

Oakland County Sheriff Johannes Spreen, a potential gubernatorial candidate, is shown here in a sheriff's department photograph with "McGruff," the star of the "Crime Dog" program for use with "very young people." McGruff promises to "take a bite out of crime."

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