



Door-to-door: Farmington Hills resident Judy Kaufman accepts campaign literature from Jack McDonald, candidate for judge in the 47th District Court.

McDonald courts voters in campaign

Second of two parts

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Life has become a juggling act for Jack McDonald in these final weeks before the November election. Maintaining a viable law practice while running for an open seat on the 47th District Court bench fills McDonald's days from morning until night, and sometimes beyond. Although he and a myriad of campaign volunteers are working hard and taking the race seriously, they are keeping a sense of humor.

Campaign newsletters offer his wife Sharon's winning cookie recipe — finding her favorite grocery store cookie aisle with the Oreos. Also noted are the woe of door-to-door campaigning, which have included being chased "by just about every dog in Farmington" and McDonald having his foot run over as he stood in a resident's driveway — a pretty painful experience for a man who, with his wife, is spending seven days a week on his feet, walking the district and meeting voters.

Balancing act

But McDonald balances campaigning with the everyday legal work that pays the bills.

"One day last week, I was in five different courts," said the former Oakland County Commissioner, a 53-year-old attorney and father of three who has practiced in Farmington Hills for the past 19 years. "In the meantime, you try to fit in appointments. I guess a typical day for me is really typical."

On one side of his office McDonald can be found fielding phone calls, doing research and preparing for cases, while the other side of the office is election central, where volunteers handle phones, stuff mailers and keep a schedule of election appearances on the wall. Maps there show that the candidate has already covered more than 90 percent of the district, which includes the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, walking door-to-door.

Cheryl Oliverio, who coordinated absentee voters for McDonald in the primary, is his assistant manager for the general election race. She met McDonald one year ago, when her husband Ron was running for the Hills City Council, and liked his style.

'He knows people'

"This is huge," she said. "He's got a lot of support out there. Jack's been involved with the community so long, he knows a lot of people."

Oliverio said people continue to call offering their help, putting up a sign or donating to McDonald's campaign.

McDonald was the top vote-getter in the August primary, beating out six others for the position. He faces Marla Parker, another local attorney, for a seat on the bench; the winner on Nov. 3 will earn the six-year, non-partisan term as judge of the local court.

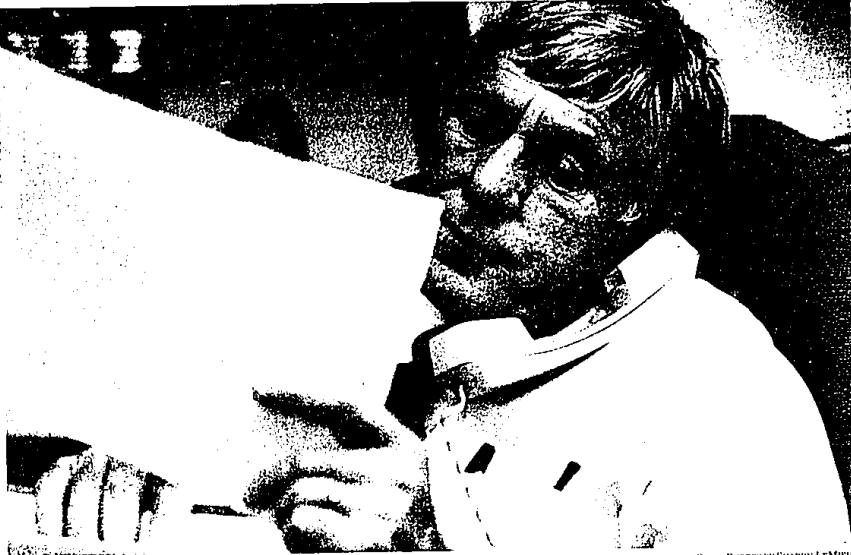
The two once shared office space and know each other well. Although Parker originally vowed not to run against McDonald for the seat, she changed her mind last spring and got into the race. "Everybody has a right to run," McDonald said. "She's running a hard race. I don't know what made her change her mind."

McDonald aspires to wear the judicial robe for several reasons, including his commitment to the community and because he believes he has the experience to run an efficient court. "I'm used to being my own boss," he said. "That's why I'd like to be a judge. It's theory and pure practice of the law — something I know I'd enjoy."

Challenging career

Being an attorney since 1970, when he began his practice as an assistant Oakland County prosecutor, McDonald said his career has been challenging.

"Seldom do you have a day when you're not fighting with someone," he said. "Then you help people out and you feel good about it. Another thing that's rewarding: people put an awful lot of faith in you. You know their innermost thoughts."



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMIEUX

A busy day: Attorney Jack McDonald returns a phone call in his Farmington Hills office.



A family affair: Sharon and Jack McDonald, campaign materials in hand, walk the streets together, as Jack campaigns for a judgeship.



Back at work: Millie Kebrdle, Jack McDonald's secretary, talk in the attorney's office.

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Adat Shalom Synagogue to celebrate new Torah

Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills will dedicate a new Torah at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18.

The Torah is the Jewish scroll which contains the Five Books of Moses and plays a central role in Sabbath and other religious services. The dedication ceremony and celebration will mark the conclusion of the congregation's year-long educational and fund-raising program, Siyum HaTorah.

During the past 12 months, individuals and families have dedicated portions of the new Torah, which was written by an Israeli sofer (scribe), Yoel Booksman, in Jerusalem.

Certain letters at the end of each of the Five Books were left unfinished, and their "completion" began at the Synagogue on Sunday, Oct. 4, and will conclude Sunday morning, with more than 400 families participating in special personal ceremonies.

Dr. Eric Ray, an internationally renowned scribe and authority of Jewish art and architecture, has met with each family to act as their proxy in completing the portions they have dedicated.

The Oct. 18 dedication ceremony will be preceded by a slide show documenting the congregation's

year-long program. During the ceremony, Ray will complete the very last letter of the new Torah, and everyone will participate in the appropriate blessings. The ceremony will be accompanied by music and dance. Synagogue clergy, Rabbi Elfray Spectre and Cantors Larry Vieder and Howard Glantz, will take part in the program, along with numerous congregants.

The program will also be highlighted by the first viewing of the synagogue's new, hand-woven Israeli Torah covers and the introduction of Adat Shalom's uniquely designed needlepoint chupah (wedding canopy).

A dessert reception will follow. The Siyum HaTorah Program has been co-chaired by Sharon Hart and Paul Magy of West Bloomfield and Larry Wolfe of Bloomfield Hills. Dedication Day chairmen are Susan Alterman of Birmingham, and Barbara Cook of Farmington Hills. The dedication event is open to the community. There is no charge. If you wish to attend or receive further details, call 851-5100 by Friday, Oct. 16.