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southeastern Farmington Hills, in areas that McDonald had not represented as a county commissioner, he said. "You need to make new friends," Feuer said.

The court, located on 10 Mile, serves Farmington and Farmington Hills.

McDonald and campaign manager, Terry Sever, a former Farmington Hills mayor and current councilman, cited several factors: a heavier than expected turnout and more money spent by Parker.

"McDonald estimates that he spent about \$50,000 total in his entire campaign. Neither Parker nor Feuer, would reveal their numbers.

"We're still paying the bills," Feuer said.

Parker said she had to spend more money because she lacked name recognition and incumbency.

"We did a lot of things right," Sever said. "We had an unexpected turnout of 10,000 people who voted on impulse rather than being informed."

Sever maintained "voter fall-off" occurs when people reach the judicial candidates, with many voters choosing simply to ignore or skip voting in this category.

"A large turnout didn't help me any," McDonald said. "They said it was 'the Year of the Woman'." McDonald said. He pointed out that in Redford Township voters elected Karen Khalil Judge, an attorney who had no trial experience.

Gerald Faye, professor of political science at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, said that being a woman was no guarantee of being elected this year, although the Anita Hill trial made many women more interested in seeking out candidates strong on women's issues.

Whether area women voters specifically voted for Parker is difficult to determine, Faye said. "I don't think that anyone can know that kind of thing," Faye said.

Even exit polls could not accurately determine that, Faye added.

'Informed voters'

Parker said those who cast ballots for her were informed voters. "I made an effort to give people as much information as I could," Parker said.

Both candidates stressed their door-to-door, person-to-person efforts.

Parker also commended Feuer, her Southfield-based political consultant. A Cornell University graduate, Feuer has handled the campaign for local judges, like

Brian MacKenzie in Walled Lake and Susan Moiseev in Southfield as well as a variety of candidates in New York.

Of Feuer, Parker said: "He's very bright, very prepared and very honest."

Feuer said that he is particular about who he works for. "I do not work for any candidate who asks me," he said. "The first winning ingredient is always the candidate. I do not approach candidates. I operate only on references."

Parker's willingness to discuss even legal issues, like how to pay a ticket, worked on her behalf when she spoke with residents, Feuer said.

Parker said that she was "absolutely surprised by the controversy" McDonald initiated by his legal challenge concerning Parker's wearing her magistrate's robes in her campaign ads.

"There's no question that it is appropriate for me to wear the robes," Parker said. "I wear the robes in my job."

McDonald also complimented his campaign manager Sever. "He's very organized and a good, hard worker," McDonald said. "We're in agreement philosophically. I'm very impressed with Terry."

Tree lighting ceremony planned

The public is invited to join the children and the staff of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center for the second-annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5:30 p.m.

The large evergreen tree is on the grounds of the Center at 12 Mile and Inkster roads in Farmington Hills. It will be transformed into a giant Christmas tree to celebrate the season.

Joining the crowd to sing and lead the caroling will be the choir from St. Cecilia's parish in Detroit. Hot chocolate, coffee and cookies will be available to help warm the visitors.

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center is a non-profit agency providing residential care and treatment to children who are in need of care due to emotional problems caused by abuse and neglect.

The agency also provides foster homes and adoption planning for special needs children, in addition to services for pregnant teens and young single mothers and their babies.

Operated by the Daughters of Charity, the center serves more than 250 young people and their families on a daily basis.

The play's the thing



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL DIESLER

Remembering Mama: "I Remember Mama" will be the student production at Mercy High School, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads, Friday-Sunday, Nov. 13-15. Friday and Saturday performances will start at 8 p.m. The curtain will go up at 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$4. Director Cathy Sill (right) leads a rehearsal this week. During rehearsal, the gruff demeanor of Uncle Chris (Greg Kozaczynski, above) frightens nieces Christine (Stacy Fuller, left) and Katrin (Melissa Tumas).




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