

# Local judge gets chance to serve on jury

BY BILL COUTANT  
STAFF WRITER

One thing's for certain: 47th District Judge Marla Parker will be in court Monday — but which court?

Parker, 37, elected to replace retired Judge Margaret Schaeffer in January, received a notice in the mail from the 6th Circuit Court that her presence is requested in Pontiac Monday for jury duty.

"I'm treated like any other juror," Parker said. "I'll have to call in Sunday night to see if I'm to come in Monday."

Now, if anyone would have an excuse for not serving it would be Parker. Right?

Wrong!

"Every citizen has an obligation to serve, and I won't ask to be excused," Parker said. "Frankly, I've always been interested in what goes on in that (jury) room."

If she is chosen, Parker said she will be replaced by Schaeffer, who has agreed to sit in if need be.

And although attorneys can boot off jurors with no reason with their allotment of peremptory challenges, Parker said she would like to serve. And it wouldn't be unprecedented. Other judges have served as jurors recently.

"Judge (Debra) Tyner (6th



Judge Marla Parker

Circuit) served on a jury for a drunk driving case earlier this year," Parker said.

Serving would be more than fulfilling a civic duty, Parker said the service would help her to better understand the jury system.

"I've studied the jury system and I'll be attending a jury management seminar next month," she said. "I've also interviewed jurors after a case."

But there's nothing like first-hand experience, Parker said. And who better to sit on a jury than a judge?

"Which lawyer is going to take a judge that I couldn't be fair?"

# Local Scout earns Award of Merit

Not only does Louis A. Brugman of Farmington Hills balance a life of work and engineering studies at the University of Michigan in Dearborn, but he also serves his community through the Boy Scouts of America. He was given the honor of scouting's Award of Merit at the recent awards banquet of the Clinton Valley Council's Ottowa District which encompasses western Oakland County.

The District Award of Merit, "a council award given to volunteers for service to scouting," was presented to Brugman by Steven Potter, scoutmaster of Troop 230, another Farmington troop in the Ottowa District.

In presenting the award, Potter noted some of Brugman's scouting efforts, which include working with 62 scouts in Troop 179, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington Hills, where he has organized numerous programs.

**An avid computer hobbyist, Brugman's talents in electronics are put to the test not only in his rigorous engineering curriculum but also at Acromag Inc. in Wixom, where he works as a co-op student circuit designer during alternating semesters.**



Louis A. Brugman

Impact of his efforts."

Brugman also takes his community involvement to the workplace. As the coordinator of the Home Chores program of the city of Farmington Hills' Senior Adult Division, he organizes scores of volunteers and paid staff in carrying out free or low-cost home repairs and yard work for hundreds of elderly or disabled Farmington Hills residents.

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Brugman, a 1989 honors graduate of Farmington High School, will earn his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering next year through the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is the son of Louis and Penny Brugman of Farmington Hills.

On the district and council levels, his interests include creating district-wide Scout activities, and working with a scouting service fraternity called the Order of the Arrow.

Said Chuck Williams, scoutmaster of Troop 179 and prior recipient of the Award of Merit,

"It's wonderful that our troop can offer a role model like Lou to the youth of our community. Besides being a tireless volunteer, he has a real talent for relating to kids."

"At 23," said Potter, "Louis is the youngest volunteer in our history to be given this high award, a fact which demonstrates the real

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