## Grandmother's in the swim for **SCAMP**

When she talks about the mile she swims every day followed, by a helf hour of intensive water walking and 20 more minutes of exercise, Helen Smith does not sound like your average 72-year-did.

and the series of the series o

15 years with SCAMP

has a grown daughter with special needs who lives in Connecticut, that is not the only reason as he been involved with SCAMP for more than 16 years.
"It gives me an inner peace to know I'm helping children when someone out in Connecticut is helping my daughter," she said. Another Orchard Valley member selected SCAMP as a swim club project years ago and tapped Smith to take over when he moved away.

Smith to take over when he moved away.

"She's really good about getting the awim team involved and she raises quite a bit of money," swim club manager Mark Holdridge said. "She keeps overyone in their toes around her, but is also generous about helping when there is anything that needs to be done. "And she she was per her person there the minute we open the pool," Holdridge joked. "Even when it's cold we can count on her being here," he said.

#### Fund raising down

Even though fund raising is down to about a \$1,000 from its level of \$2,500 a few years ago, Smith said she is not discour-

aged.
"Our goal is always to raise as much as we can and whatever we raise is better than zero," she

said.
Although the event isn't until
Wednesday, Smith already swam
her laps and raised about \$200 —



A mile a day: At 72, Helen Smith not only swims a mile a day, as she has for years, but swims in benefits to raise money. Her current organization to benefit is SCAMP, and a swim-a-thon will be held Wednesday to raise money.

not bad for a woman who, in her youth, was afraid to go in the water.

"Oh, I used to be just terrified. I wouldn't even get my face wet until I took lessons," said Smith, who has been a member of the Orchard Valley swim club for 39 years now.

years now.

"And I'm glad it did it too. It got me out of a back brace," she said referring to a fall that severely injured her back a few years

ago. Another person who is glad

Smith got over her fear of water is SCAMP, who said she is thankful for people like Smith who are dedicated supporters year after year. "It's wonderful. She is a great volunteer and she just loves SCAMP," Walker said, adding that one child can go to camp for every \$500 groups like Smith scan raise.

Another of Smith's loves is the volunteer work she has done for 30 years with the Niden Park Braille Transcribers. She was

## County commissioner wants probe of prosecutor

BY PAT MURPHY STAFF WRITER

BY PAT MURPHY
STAF WARTSA

An influential Democratic county commissioner is calling for an independent probe of prosecutor Richard Thompson in light of allegations of "political corruption" by a former confident and renewed complaints about inflexible policies that clog the courts.

"I don't think ther's enough information to demand his (Thompson's resignation," commissioner Lawrence R. Pernick, Desouthfield, said Friday, But when a former assistant prosecutor allegas political corruption and a circuit judge says the courts are clogged with patty cases while murder trials are put on hold, "samething wrong.

"We should have an outside agency, the state police or the attempt general, take a thorough jook at the prosecutor's office represents an escalation on the part of Pernick, chairman of the county board's Democratic cutcus and the highest ranking Democratic nounty government.

Fernick has been critical of Thompson, a Republican, before But he generally stopped shout, but and the lightest ranking to the processor of the prosecutor's officer cutcus and the highest ranking to the processor of the prosecutor's officer cutcus and the highest ranking to the generally stopped shout our ging an outside investigation.

Pernick said the change is waranted in light of allegations by

former ossistant prosecutor James Marcinkowski and renewed criticism from Circuit Court Judge Hilda Gage.
Marcinkowski dropped a bombshell Wednesday when he told committee that Thompson's office is rife with "political corruption."

ice is rife with "political corrup-tion.
"This is political corruption of the worst magnitude," Marcin-kowski said. "it is not only what Richard Thompson is lauded for fighting, but slas what he is most guilty of."

He used commissioners to look

fighting, but also what he is most guilty of."

He urged commissioners to look into the prosecutor's office because of a variety of problems, including botched investigations and intimidating, heavy-handed tactics by "storm trooper" investigators working at Thompson's behest.

Marcinkowski, who went doorto-door during Thompson's relection campaign lost fall, said he was victimized by investigators on June 25 when he refused to submit to a tape-recorded interview about another assistant prosecutor's link to a gambling raid in West Bloomfield.

Marcinkowski said he had al-

in West Bloomfield.

Morcinkowski said he had already undergone extensive questioning concerning former assistant prosecutor Paul Rinaldi, who
resigned on June 20. But he

refused to undergo another interview being tape-recorded because, he said, it was demeaning and unnecessary.

Marcinkowski said he was fired. Thompson insisted he resigned.

Either way, Thompson said, the comments of Marcinkowski, who joined the prosecutor's office in February, 1989, after working with the FBI and CIA, were the rantings of a disgruntled ex-employee.

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Judge Gage resurrected the complaint about Thompson's policies in response to reporters' questions Thursday.

"I have nothing against Mr. Thompson personally," said Gage.

"Jurors complain that minor cases are wasting time and resources," the judge said. "But Mr. Thompson is honest. That's what he told voters he would do . . . and he's keeping his promise."

Other circuit judges have voiced similar complaints in the past and publicly feuded with Thompson about them. But no other judges were repeating the criticism as of Friday . . . at least not publicly.

In the meantime county com-

cism as of Friday . . . at least not publicly.

In the meantime, county com-missioners — who have little, if any direct control over the pro-secutor — say they are concerned

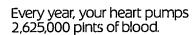
about complaints of Marcinkowski, Gage and others.

Even staunch allies like commissioner Larry Crake, the chairman of the county board, admits
it may be time for a heart-to-heart
talk with the prosecutor, although
Friday he said there's no need for
any outside investigation.

Referring to Marcinkowski,
Crake said, "Here's a guy who
worked for the prosecutor for several years but never said anything

direct control over the prosecutor. Furthermore, as far as I'm concerned, he's doing exactly what the people of Oakland County want him to do."

Commissioner Marilynn E. Gosling, R-Bloomfield Hills, agreed. "I dldn't seen any specif-ics (from Marcinkowski) to warics (from Marcinkowski) to war-rant an investigation, But I would like to talk with Mr. Thompson."



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