

## McDonald appointed circuit judge



Jack McDonald wanted a seat on the district court last year. The voters said no. But now Gov. John Engler has said yes to a circuit court appointment for McDonald.

By TOM BAER  
STAFF WRITER

Friday the 13th was a lucky shamrock kind of a day for Farmington Hills attorney Jack McDonald. Last Friday, the 13th of August, McDonald's telephone rang and it was Gov. John Engler's office on the line.

John J. "Jack" McDonald, loser of

a hard-fought battle for a judgeship in the Farmington District Court last November, was appointed by Gov. Engler to a seat on a higher bench — Oakland County Circuit Court. "Ironic, isn't it," said McDonald from his office Friday afternoon. "I'm still in a state of shock. It hasn't sunk in yet."

McDonald, a former Oakland

County Commissioner, will replace Judge John N. O'Brien, who died last March 30. No swearing-in date has been set.

"Jack's reputation as an honest, patient and empathetic individual indicates that he possesses the temperament and skills needed to serve as a judge on this very busy circuit," said Engler in a press release issued Friday.

"Jack is well known due to his past service on the county board of commissioners and for his continued participation in a variety of civic activities."

The gubernatorial appointment extends through Dec. 31, 1994. McDonald will have to stand for reelection in November 1994 to serve the balance of the term, which expires at the end of 1998.

"Don't tell me I'm going to have to walk again," McDonald said with a laugh, referring to his door-to-door campaign in the district court race last year. "I think I lost 20 pounds."

McDonald said the qualifications for circuit court judge are about the same as for district court.

See MCDONALD, 4A



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### Farmington's problem path



SHARON LEMIERRE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Bring back barriers:** Claudia Paschke stands with some neighborhood children near the path that connects two ends of Oakland Street. Paschke says the path is dangerous.

## Path will lead to accident, residents say

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A path connecting two neighborhoods has some neighbors divided. The trail at the corner of Longacre and Oakland is designed to allow students to walk to nearby Longacre Elementary School, but residents also use it for walking, biking and in-line skating.

The easement is Farmington Public School District property.

Tony and Claudia Paschke, who live next to the path on Longacre, say "the route is a roadway for mopeds, bicycles and skateboards, which spill out onto traffic on Longacre."

"They say the situation is a tragedy waiting to happen. The Paschkes

went before the Farmington Board of Education to make their plea.

"Do something," said Tony Paschke reading from a prepared statement at Tuesday's meeting, "or I'll be the first one back here to tell you I told you so when you might have to attend a funeral."

One boy already ran into a van two months ago riding off the path.

He was not seriously hurt and walked away from the incident. According to police, the boy was at fault in the accident.

The school district responded by clearing the pathway of weeds and shrubs to increase visibility for approaching pedestrians. Also, two

See PATH, 2A

## City council election draws 5 contenders

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

### FARMINGTON

The drive for five is on. Five candidates filed for this year's Farmington City Council race. The deadline to turn in nominating petitions at the city clerk's office was 5 p.m. Friday.

The newest candidate to enter is Tom Lyzckowski, who lives in what was the old Farmington post office building on Farmington Road.

"I think there are a lot of people who are concerned about what's going

on in this community," said Lyzckowski, 34, who has lived in Farmington for five years. "There's a lot of resources there that could be tapped. Unfortunately they don't seem to be tapped."

"That's why I'm pursuing this. Maybe we can get more people involved that way."

The architect lines up with an attorney, a Realtor, a product problem

analyst and a business owner in the race for three open seats on the council. Two are incumbents, Shirley Richardson decided not to run for reelection this year.

The top-two vote getters will receive four-year terms; the third finishes a two-year term. The election is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Council hopefuls include: ■ Mary Bush, 40, who is a former president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. This is her first election bid for council.

She is an executive assistant and associate broker for Thompson-Brown Realtors in Farmington Hills.

■ Russell Buyers, 61, an attorney with a general law practice in downtown Farmington. He's been practicing law 28 years, including work as an attorney for the Wayne County Road Commission. Buyers is on the Pine-wood Condominiums' Association board of directors. This is his first election bid.

See ELECTION, 7A

### It's appreciated!

Residents and managers of Independence Green course, swimming and volleyball. Complimentary refreshments were served. A short recognition ceremony honored police and firefighters.

Activities included golf at the adjacent Independence Green course, swimming and volleyball. Complimentary refreshments were served. A short recognition ceremony honored police and firefighters.

"We just wanted to get together and say thanks," said resident Pam Kelly. "It went real well. Quite a few area businesses got involved by donating food and cash."

### FARMINGTON FOCUS

#### Wanted: Good citizens

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce is looking for a few good citizens. Any suggestions?

Each fall, the chamber honors the Farmington-area's Citizen of the Year — this is the 22nd year for the award — and nominations are sought from the community beforehand.

There are no limits on a nominee's age, sex or residency, but hopefuls must have accomplished their good deeds in the Farmington area.

Past award-winners are excluded, and government officials may be nominated for their volunteer achievements only. Past nominees who were

not winners may be renominated.

Walter Sundquist, of Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home in downtown Farmington, won last year's award. Some other recent winners: Lloyd Smith, Betty Nicolay, Kay Blakney, Kay Briggs, Shirley Richardson, Bayard Tupper, Jean Fox, Jim Ellis, Harold Gibson, Robert McConnell and Terry Sever.

A nomination form is available at the chamber office, 3341 Grand River, Farmington. Deadline for entries is Friday, Sept. 10, at the chamber office. The awards banquet will be held Thursday, Sept. 23, at the Botaford Inn.

For more information, call the chamber at 474-3440.

Items for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336; dropped off at the newspaper office; or faxed to 477-9722.