

RACE

FROM PAGE A1

Grant was appointed mayor pro tem at Monday's city council meeting. After the November elections, the council rotates members to serve in place of the mayor when she is unable to attend meetings or functions, Grant said.

Barnett's term expires next year, so if she loses her bid, she will not serve on the council. She said her experience and knowledge would make a good fit as mayor.

"I think I have a lot to offer the community," she said.

Part of her plan, the 48-year-old said, is closing the gap between the business community and residents.

She said her experience as vice chairwoman of the community and development advisory council of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments would serve the community well.

"I'm somebody who is pro business - and pro redevelopment," she said.

She also serves on the Michigan Municipal League's Transportation, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and is vice chairwoman of the Information Technology and Communication Steering

Committee of the National League of Cities.

The financial planner said she has no plans to run for higher office if she wins the mayor's race.

"This is a direct desire to serve my local community," she said. "I love what I do."

Barnett has been elected twice to council since 1995. She announced a campaign for state Senate last fall and withdrew early this year, citing family concerns.

She is married to Mark Steedford and they have two children, Samantha, 18, and Jordan, 17.

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SUIT

FROM PAGE A1

Reiter said the young girl, who is now 6 years old, was subpoenaed by Oakwood's attorney and asked questions in Judge John Murphy's courtroom. "It was very painful. We didn't want to bring her in. It was a traumatic event for her."

The doctor in the case, Dr. John Armstead, was cleared of negligence by the trial. Oakwood's statement after the verdict was brief:

"Oakwood is gratified that no cause of action was found for

the attending physician and is confident the nursing staff involved in the incident provided the highest quality care and medical treatment."

Reiter said the doctor was in the hospital at the time but was not called into the labor room by the nurse about three hours before delivery when problems developed. The nurse claimed to have called the doctor but her claims could not be supported by the written case record, according to Reiter.

Reiter said the doctor would have offered a Caesarean section. "There was general agreement that a C-section performed sooner would have prevented brain

injury," Reiter said.

Reiter said the child's life expectancy is 75 years. He fully expects the verdict to be reduced to about \$2 million when finally settled.

Reiter and his partner specialize in childbirth negligence cases. "We represent kids," Reiter said. They filed the suit in January 2001. The trial took about seven weeks and jury deliberations about four or five hours spread over a couple of different days.

The two attorneys have information about themselves on the Internet; search for American Baby and Child Law Centers.

SHURTLEFF

FROM PAGE A1

Shurtleff, 46 and a graduate of Harrison High School, was around during the fire department's early days, when dirt roads and apple orchards made up the city's northern landscape. Back then, yearly calls to the department averaged 370. That's compared to today's number of more than 6,500.

"We were blessed with a forward-thinking chief," he said. "He wanted young, energetic people willing to learn."

Because of that, the department turned into a full-service organization, focusing also on emergency medical issues.

In 1978, Shurtleff became a certified instructor and in the early 1980s was named the department's training officer, a job he takes seriously.

"The thing is (in training a firefighter) you still need hands-on training," he said.

That translates into countless hours putting trainees through the motions of going into struc-

ture fires through the department's controlled burn program.

"You can tell someone what it's like to be in a fire, and you can show it in a book, but would you want to be the one where it's the first one he goes into?"

Shurtleff, who is married to Julie and has two children ages 19 and 16, said he doesn't plan to sit in a rocking chair during retirement. He promises to stay active in the community and focus on consulting and training outside the department.

"I'm at a young enough age that there's still lots to do," he said.

COLLEAGUES

Fire Chief Richard Marinucci and Shurtleff started with the department around the same time in the 1970s.

"Tom is very dedicated and he has a lot of energy and enthusiasm," said Marinucci. "He's been very involved in the community and he's always willing to offer his expertise in so many areas."

"He has a passion for fire service and that translates to the individuals he's trained."

In fact, Marinucci noted, every one in the department, except a few, have been originally trained by Shurtleff.

"There's a benefit to teaching it and being able to do it," Shurtleff said. He feels he has a gift for teaching.

Fighting fires is a skill, he said. Since a person is dealing with an unpredictable force of nature, the job entails knowing when to take the proper risks and use the proper tools, said the career firefighter.

In the 130 controlled burns he's helped oversee, no serious injuries ever occurred - a fact he's proud to note.

"A lot of it (training) is passing on the tricks of the trade," he said. "I've always enjoyed my profession."

A FRATERNITY

He was also part of the group of Farmington Hills firefighters who walked from the Ambassador Bridge to Brooklyn in show of support of the firefighters who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

He said firefighters, no matter where they live or work, are part of a brotherhood and sisterhood.

"It's a fraternity, a family," he said. "That camaraderie exists on a national capacity."

Besides fighting fires, he said he's done his share of emergency runs in his career, from delivering babies to resuscitating people whose hearts have stopped.

"Those are the moments that made a good thing happen," he said. Shurtleff noted he's glad he stayed with Farmington Hills as well. "It's a good community," he said. "I've been involved with my kids' FTA, the Heart Association."

Another reason he wants to retire is having time to focus on his spirituality, he said.

He is studying to obtain a master's degree in pastoral ministry. "I've become more and more aware of my spiritual side," he said, adding he's a member of St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills.

"That's a part of why I'm decided to retire now," he said.

Training people to be firefighters is in many ways like a ministry, he said.

"I don't want to waste the gift that's been given to me."

Having some time off will also allow him time to dabble in his hobbies of woodworking and sail boating. "I'm eager to learn something different," he said.

The Farmington Hills Firefighters Union is hosting a retirement party for Shurtleff at 7 p.m. Jan. 24 at Glen Oaks Country Club. Tickets are \$35. Contact the fire department at (248) 426-4400 to learn more.

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