# Poor health keeps Moffitt out of race

A last minute decision propelled Lillian Mofflitt into politics. And her 12-year government career ended as

suddenly.

Just one week before the election tilling deadline, the vice chairwoman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners confirmed rumors that health problems are forcing her retirement.

"It's one of the toughest decisions I've ever made, but I must face reality," the soft-spoken commissioner told fellow Republicans during a cancus Thursday as she announced she wouldn't seek re-election. "But remember, I'm going to be here six more months. I'm a lame duck, but not a dead duck."

I'm a lame duct, but not a dead duct."

REMINISCING about her career, Moifit said the decision was as sudden as the one which got her elected. Three days before the filling date in 1972, friends talked her into running for office.

"Two weeks ago, I would have bet you \$1,000 I'd run again," said the Bioomfield Township resident, whose attorney son David is considering running for her 15th Districts seat.

The district includes the southwestern portion of Bioomfield Township Franklin Village, a corner of West Bioomfield Township and about nine square miles of Farmington Hills.

"My number one priority is to regain my health."

THE FIRST WOMAN Republican caucus leader and oard vice chair, Moffitt is an important party leader, though she has never become chair of the full 27-mem-er board.

ber board.

"She'll be hard to replace," said chairman Richard Wilcox, a Republican who has worked closely with her for seven years, "Sho's cooperative, efficient and a big asset to Oakland County."

She is one of the best-read members of the board and miscusses an issue after neary preparation. She has noen a champion of the executive system and strong supporter of County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

That burt any bops she had of being board chair, Other members — both Democrats and Republicans — saw her as too subservient to the executive.

THERE WAS a time when politics was the last thing on her mind. In fact, Molitit didn't even join a party until a precinct captain called her about a census. A former technical writer for the U.S. Army and Redford Township teacher, Molitit was home caring for her only child. "I thought I was an independent and was surprised to find I was Republican," recalled the commissioner, who started attending meetings of the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club.

Women's Club. |
In 1971, as the club's issues chalrwoman, the DePaul University graduate began observing the county commissioners regularly. See abudders as she recalls the experience, recounting commissioners who appointed themselves to better-paying jobs or named unqualified friends to the positions.

to top positions.
"We were appalled at some of the things that happened. Our women were so upset that they decided to
recommend highly qualified candidates."

ONNENT TO work behind the scenes for other candidates, Mofflitt was asked by friends to run for county-commissioner. It was the Saturday before filing deadline and a complete surprise to be well on the community and said they was deeply involved in the community and said they would back me," said the commissioner. "I was stuned.
"But there was no question in my mind I could do the job from what I'd seen."
After calling some community leaders — who also said they would support her — Moffit decided to go for it. And

the won her one and only primary.— against three mea-has has not one tough race kinds:

"I was just a little community volunteer, a little lady from Bloomfield. It surprised everyone when I won, and said with a big smile.

QUICKLY MAKING berself known with a move to ban commissioners from appointing themselves to county administrative jobe, Molittle became the first woman cancurchair in 1975 and board vice chair in 1977. Her bliggest task was presiding over the county's transition to a unified form of government. "It was quite a stormy year and my biggest challenge," he said of the time when many departments were placed under the new county executive.

As a board member, Molitit has been vocal on many issues. She advocates "affordable, realistir's public transportation for the handicapped, indigent and senior citizens, protecting land and efficient, low cost government." But her statements are usually quietly spoken and precise, with no grandstanding.

"I'm a private person. I've never been here on an ego trip," said Moffitt, who defended the closed caucus meet-ings which were allowed before the Open Meetings Act.

PRIDING HERISELF on reacting to facts rather than "gut feelings," Moffit admits to losing her temper "ence, twice — well, maybe three or four times.
"Sometimes it's bard, but it doesn't help matters."
And she enjoys phone calls from constituents, who dist her at home. "It's a wonderful thing to be able to help individuals who are helpless and don't know where to turn," she said, acknowledging that "this reminiscing is difficult for me."

The commissioner said she has no plays beyond making.

difficult for me."

The commissioner said she has no plans beyond making the most of her final six months in office, adding:

"There's an awful lot to do between now and then."

### YOU HAVE 5 DAYS LEFT TO SAVE OR WAIT TILL NEXT MAY

'A lame ouck, not a dead duck'



# PILLOWS 25% OFF

Steep Pillows ... Specially Pillows ... European Sleep Pillows ... Travel Pillows ... Down ... Down and Feather ... Feather ...



European Comfort You Bring Florie
HUNTERS SQUARE - 855-5720
rchard Lake Bd. - 11 Mile - Farmington Hills
Hours Mon San 10-5:30: Wed. - 51:10-9

Silvery Comment

# WSU board approves fall tuition freeze Tallion rates in 1984-85 will be the same as they were in 1982-85 for gradius intention. For the 2,000 of the university's 30,000 students. For the 2,000 of the university's 50,000 of the university council to increase degree opportunities for students who hold sophomores, annual rates of visibles that the MD. The first blad. The first blad that the faculty to develop what are called "two programs, rates will pay 12,048, and will increase 2.5 percent pay 1.32. The new rate of visibles that the faculty to develop what are called "two programs, rates will pay 12,048, and will increase 2.5 percent pay 1.32. The new rate is for students who hold sophomores, annual rates in 1982-85 for gradius and use and undergraduate sudents will increase 2.5 percent pay 1.32. The new rate of visibles to the faculty to develop of visibles and the faculty to develop opportunities for students will be faculty for the faculty of the

"Save during

FOX PHOTO'S

**Memorial Day** 

SALE!"

Kodak Disc film or any 110, 126, o nm color print film (full frame, C-41 proc only). One roll per coupon, excludes

NNW **5.95** 

ΔSK

ABOUT:

David Adamany and the the faculty to develop University Council to in what are called "two-crease degree opportunit lites for students who hold technical degrees from community colleges. work that complement two years of work in a dental state of the complement of

Be the first on your block to learn how to save a life.

Take the Red Cross CPR course.



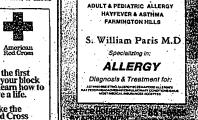
MANCOUR

Security Systems Painting

THE DO IT ALL PEOPLE

• Kitchens & Baths Windows & Doors

• Replacemen





## **FACILITIES INCLUDE:**

- Large Crystal Clear Het Whirlpool Bath
   Ory California Redwood Sauna
- Hot Wet Finnish Steam Room

- Cardiovascular Conditioning
   Aerabic Dance

N & WOMEN HURR LIMITED OFFER REDURING HIMANIA

