Dems run into Republican incumbent buzzsaw

As usual, it's easy to guess the Re-

And the Democrats are question marks.

With Republicans holding all but one of the top Oakland County elected positions, that party's 1984 nominees are proven vote getters. Running again are well known figures like Oakland Executive Daniel T. Murphy, Prosecuting Attorney L. Brooks Patterson, County Clerk Lyon D. Allen, Treasurer C. Hugh Dohany, and Drain Commissioner George W. Kuhn.

George W. Kunn.

Even the non-incumbent Republicans have name recognition. Running for-sheriif are Farmington Hills Police Chief John F. Nichols, Huntington Woods Public Safety Director James. Stewart, and attorney Bill Ortman, who was on the Farmington Hills City Council. Drain Commission challenger Frank R. Ballard is taking his third shot at his former boss, Kuhn.

But there are no big names on the commissioner and prosecuting attor-lohanner F. Spreen, who is running for secretive. The only other contender line, the Democrats had a full lineup fromer county commissioner.

"Our people are known in their areas," said Oakland County Democratic Party chair Mary Ryan Taras, stressing that its candidates come from the "grassroots."

"It's not difficult to get just anyou to go out. It's difficult to get good pe ple out — and we want good people.

"There is no Democrat running who would not be a very good office holder."

ONE OF THE Democrats biggest problems in Oakland County is that in-cumbents are tough to beat. And not many folks want to go up against the well entrenched Republican officehold-

Filing day there was still some ques

- County Executive (Republican) incumbent Daniel T. Murphy, Sylvan Lake.
- County Executive (Democrat) Billy J. Nolin of Clarkston, a sheriif's capitals in charge of communications and ilaison with emergency services, disaster planning and civil defense. Nolin was demoted by Spreen for al-legedly circulating a petition against him but was restored to capitaln by the county appeals board.

Also running for executive is Sheriff obtaines F. Spreen, Farmington Hills.

- Prosecuting Attorney (Democrat)
 Robert W. Gagaluk of Troy, an attorney with the Pontiac firm Beer, Gagaluk, Schulte and Franzel.
- o Sheriff (Republican) John F. Nichols, Farmington Hills Police Chief; James Stewart, Huntington Woods Public Safety Director, attorney Bill Ortman of Farmington Hills.
- Sheriff (Democrat) James. D.
 Couts of Union Lake, a sergeant in corrections and in charge of a shift at the
 Oakland County Jail; Henry I. Hansen
 of Pontiac, a sheriff a department ileutenant in charge of detectives, Niles F.
 Oison of Pontiac, a General Motors finnancial controller and scheduler who
 was a county commissioner for 10
 years.
- County Clerk/Register of Deeds (Republican) Incumbent Lynn D. Al-len, Drayton Plains.
- County Clerk/Register of Deeds (Democrat) Linda D. Lash of Avon Township. Chair of Rochester Area

Democratic Club, Lash is a secretary at Oakland University.

• Treasurer (Republican) — incumbent C. Hugh Dohany, Novi.

- Treasurer (Democrat) Louis L.
 Miller, Jr. of Farmington Hills, Miller
 is president of Financial Data Systems
 Inc., Southfield.
- Drain Commissioner (Republican)
 Incumbent George W. Kuhn, West
 Bloomfield.
- Challenging Kuhn for the third time is Frank R. Bailard of Postiac. A 23 year employee of the drain office, he is suing the county for what he contends was a forced retirement due to his po-
- ilitical activities.

 Drain- Commissioner (Democrat)

 Darlene Berent of Madison Heights.
 A secretary in the Community Action
 Program of United Auto Workers Region 1B, Berent ran unsuccessfully for
 state Senate and Madison Heights City
 Council. She is environmental action
 chaltperson for the General Federation
 of Women's Clubs.

WHILE FACING a repole primaries—which she boped to would—Terns is optimistic about Demokrate charges this year.

"Incumbents are always difficult to unseat and long term, incumbents are even more difficult. But we will challenge every sent And if his Republicans take it, it will be with a good hard fight."

Cann taxe up.

Bespite the more comfortable position of having five people running for re-election to county posts, the Republicans aren't sitting still.

Political director Paul F. Welday er-pects the sheriff primary to be a close race. And a lot of time and effort in going into the executive race.

going into the executive race.

"Obviously, we'd be lar, in our job !!

we just ast back," said Weldny, who
bopes to retain all 17 Republican commission seats and possibly lake atother.

"We feel pretty good, but wa're not
taking anything for granted. We want
to give the executive a nice margin and
let people know this is Murphy country," be explained.





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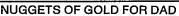
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