

Bowers says party won't 'pull strings'

Marie Bowers says "No one will pull my strings" when it comes to working with the highly partisan Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Bowers, a Republican, is challenging incumbent Lillian Jaffe-Oaks to represent the 21st District.

To get there, Bowers is running a low budget campaign. "I could have all the money in the world and not win the campaign. What's important is how I come across to people," she explained.

"If the Democrats have the better idea, I'll go with that idea."

For her campaign, Bowers is concentrating on walking precincts in her district, which includes a portion of southeastern Farmington Hills (precincts 2, 4, 5 and 13) and Southfield.

BOWERS EMPHASIZED during the interview that she is opposed to higher taxes or anything that costs more money without first looking to see if it can be done cheaper.

The candidate, who works as a home health care aide and is a reserve police officer in Detroit, said she opposes the \$25 registration fee on the ballot.

"There's something wrong that there isn't enough money to take care of our roads. The road commission has not been held accountable," she said. "Someone should sit down and look and see what's going on."

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— Marie Bowers

To handle crowded courtroom conditions, Bowers suggested that night court be held rather than going along with expanded or new facilities.

Issues which Bowers said she is interested in include the homeless, crime prevention, senior citizen needs and education. If elected she would like to implement a plan in the city police department, having them work with kids. She would like to keep them occupied with meetings, duties and fun things to go to.

"This would save kids and we would not have adult crime," she said.

Bowers, who previously lost a bid for the state board of education, added that all kids should be able to go to college, which would make for less people on welfare.



- Marie Bowers
- age: 47
- college: Oakland Community College
- party: Republican, precinct delegate 1986 and 1988, delegate to state and county conventions
- experience: self-employed as home health companion. Member of various civic organizations including Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 12, 300 Club of Oakland County and several Republican clubs.



- name: Lillian Jaffe-Oaks
- age: 72
- party: Democrat
- college: Wayne State University
- experience: incumbent — county board of commissioners, Southfield city council member, former teacher and business entrepreneur.

Jaffe-Oaks says she works well with board

Having adapted herself to working with the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Lillian Jaffe-Oaks would like to return to the board to continue fulfilling activities left behind by the death of former commissioner Alexander Perinoff, who represented the 21st District.

Jaffe-Oaks has found the county board to be a "highly partisan" group, but said she has been able to work well with the party opposite hers despite board votes cast on politics rather than merit.

The Democrat's accomplishment in the last year, when she completed Perinoff's unexpired term, is learning about the county.

'Oakland County is considering what it will do to cover the cost of retirement benefits in the future. My position is right now, if you are hired and told your benefits will continue, how can you cut them off? The objective is how to grandfather them in.'

— Lillian Jaffe-Oaks

"I've done more reading than ever before," she said. "There's a little bit of excitement there from the varied problems that need to be solved."

JAFFE-OAKS SAID her special interests have been in the humanitarian areas of mental health and hospitals. She is on the building and planning, personnel, general government and retirees committees.

However, her concerns are not limited to those areas. While she voted to put the \$25 vehicle registration fee for roads on the ballot, she doesn't support the measure.

"I don't feel it's equitable," she said. "There have to be other means of supporting roads."

"In Southfield, for example, senior citizens hardly use their cars. They are not the primary destroyers of our roads."

Jaffe-Oaks cited large trucking companies and people driving through the city as those who should help pay the cost for road improvements.

She also would like to see court facilities expanded rather than a new facility built, and she said she is encouraging Southfield to join the rest

of the county in construction of an incineration facility.

"As of right now, things are perking," she said. "The cost of pick-up will go up, but we'll be asking where we're going to put it."

THE COUNTY is considering what it will do to cover the cost of retirement benefits in the future.

"My position is right now, if you are hired and told your benefits will continue, how can you cut them off? The objective is how to grandfather them in."

Privatization could be used to save money in many areas, Jaffe-Oaks said, but she wouldn't make it a general rule.

She has no problem with home rule provisions for the county and moving road and drain commission responsibilities to the board of commissioners.

But Jaffe-Oaks is concerned that people "generally don't know much about county, yet they pay taxes to the county," she said.

Facts about board race

21st district county commission

Today's coverage of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' 21st district race includes profiles of Republican challenger Marie Bowers of Farmington Hills and Democratic incumbent Lillian Jaffe-Oaks of Southfield.

They will square off in the Tuesday, Nov. 8, general election.

The 27 county commissioners, the county's chief lawmakers, serve two-year terms.

They must be registered voters and residents of the district they represent.

Their base salary for the part-time job is \$17,191. Responsibilities include attendance at twice-monthly commission meetings as well as assigned committee meetings.

The county commission's role is similar to that of a city council or state legislature. It acts on proposals by the county executive and makes proposals of its own. Government policy is set by the board and implemented by the county executive.

The 21st district covers southern Southfield and four southeast Farmington Hills precincts: 2, 4, 5 and 13.

Chamber mixer slated

The Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will host a business after-hours mixer Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Holiday Inn at Farmington Hills, Grand River and 10 Mile.

Meet new friends, see old friends,

display a product or service and bring your business cards.

Cost is \$5 per member, \$7.50 for non-members. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Hours are 5-7 p.m.

Call the chamber for reservations, 474-3410.

Young readers hone talents in library's special programs

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Michael Turner, 2½, loves the puppets, flannel boards, computers and crafts.

"He does the things there I don't have time to do at home," said Michael's mother, Barbara of West Bloomfield.

Three-year-old Thomas Komendera loves taking out the new books. His mother, Paula of Farmington Hills, has noticed he enunciates words much better than his companions.

Michael and Thomas are among hundreds of children who participate in the Farmington Community Library's programs and activities specially designed for children ages 2-9.

Library officials and staff are drawing more attention to programming offered children because 1988 is "The Year of the Young Reader."

Of the library's 1,000 annual programs offered to the community, half are for children. Of that, only four or five annually are conducted by people outside the children's staff. In any given week, the library provides programming for 350 children through an average of nine programs. The Farmington branch offers an average of eight programs weekly.

"WE'RE PROUD of what we're doing for the community," said Sandra Conrad, children services coordinator.

"Hordes of people come to the library during registration. We get so many people coming from Detroit, Livonia, West Bloomfield that we have to turn them away," Conrad said.

With the varied type of programming, designed to make the library a fun and interesting place for children, library officials and parents are hoping for a generation of children that loves, not fears, the library.

"He loves the library. He loves the computers. He does the alphabet and numbers already," Barbara Turner said of her son, Michael.

The children's library is a child's dream, with stuffed animals, colorful books, computers, some indoor play gym equipment. And then there's the paints, crayons, paper anything and everything to interest children.

As fun as it is for the kids, each program offered by the library is educational. Each program offers an artistic facet designed to help children develop their creativity.

"I try to take advantage of every



Three-year-old Thomas Komendera (foreground) of Farmington Hills and his pal, Michael Turner, 2½, let their creativity flow as Michael's mother, Barbara, gives nodding approval. The two children participated in the Farmington Community Library's "Animal Antics" parent-toddler program.

opportunity for continuing education of the staff," Conrad said. "Each of the staff has to do a certain amount of continuing education. It's our responsibility to keep up-to-date so what we're offering is educational in focus."

THE CHILDREN'S library at the Hills branch has three full-time staff members and one part-time staff member. The Farmington branch has three full-time staff members. And several of the staff members are teachers.

Literature and the joy of reading are the basic ideals followed in each program. It's not that the preschool group studies literature. But the activities planned for the children are

designed to develop an appreciation for books and reading.

Conrad refers to a study called "Becoming a Nation of Readers," which refers to involving children and their parents in the library. "Children get the impression that reading is valuable when they see their parents enjoying reading," Conrad said.

Children's programming is a testament "to the library as a multipurpose place," Conrad said.

Books, of course, are of continuing importance. But the library also offers microcomputers for children, films, crafts and musical activities. Each week of programming also offers a unique theme.

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