

County exec candidates prep for campaign trail

By PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

The race to replace Dan Murphy is still in its infancy, with candidates lining up support and formulating strategy.

But the campaign for Democrat Betty Howe took a major organizational step last week when she named Thomas Scott, former aide to Gov. James M. Blanchard, as the campaign press secretary.

Howe also announced her campaign headquarters will be at 100 N. Crooks Road in suite 106, the same Clawson location as the southern office of the Oakland County Democratic Party.

Republican hopeful, L. Brooks Patterson, opened his headquarters at 2825 University Drive in Auburn Hills some time ago. And he named radio personality Bob Dostman as his campaign press secretary.

Patterson is unopposed for the GOP nomination in the Aug. 4 primary. Howe is running against

PRIMARY '92

Phillip R. Marcuse of Huntington Woods for the Democratic nomination.

Marcuse, a clerk for an Oakland County circuit judge, said he doesn't expect to open a headquarters, or hire a press secretary. "I don't believe anybody should buy an election," he said Friday.

besides, I don't have any money. Money is always important for a viable campaign. But it may not be as vital for the county executive race, according to some of those close to it.

Howe, for example, says she probably won't have enough to run the proverbial textbook campaign, not unless it can be done on a shoe string.

She said her management style — which she compares favorably with Murphy's — is worth more

than money.

"If voters want a good administrator, like Dan Murphy, they want me," said Howe, who was director of the Michigan Department of Labor under Gov. James Blanchard.

The closeness of their association is underscored by the naming of Tom Scott as Howe's campaign press secretary. Scott had the same function under Blanchard.

"I know Betty Howe," Scott said Friday. "And she's an ideal candidate."

Not bad for a press secretary.

Howe, of course, is no stranger to Oakland County government. She was county Democratic chairman in 1974 when Oakland switched to an elected county executive.

She was closely involved in the 1974 contest between Murphy and Democrat Eugene Kuthy. Murphy defeated Kuthy, of course, en route to becoming Oakland's first — and only — county executive.

But Kuthy lost by fewer than 4,400 votes, the closest any Democrat has come to beating Dan Murphy for executive.

Republican county chairman, James M. Alexander, is another who says money may not play a pivotal role in this executive race — especially as far as Patterson is concerned.

"I'm sure Brooks can raise \$250,000 if he needs to," said Alexander. "But with his name recognition, he could run a successful campaign with \$35,000."

Donald Tucker, Democratic county chairman, predicts money will not be the determining factor in this race. "The determining factor

will be of whether Oakland County voters want to reemploy Brooks Patterson... who has no vision for the county.

"Or do they want a nonincumbent with proven administrative and managerial skills who brings a fresh approach to government?"

Patterson, in the meantime, said he is comfortable about the way his campaign is progressing. "We've got a lot of volunteers," he said Friday. "And we've got a lot of people supporting us."

Pearsall aims free talk at cancer patients

Nationally known psychologist Paul Pearsall speaks on "Happiness, hardiness, healing and hope" at 1 p.m. Thursday at Henry Ford Hospital's "Buerki" Auditorium (Lodge Freeway at West Grand

Boulevard, Detroit). The event, which observes National Cancer Survivor's Day, is free and is designed especially for cancer survivors and their families.

Pearsall will focus on the healing

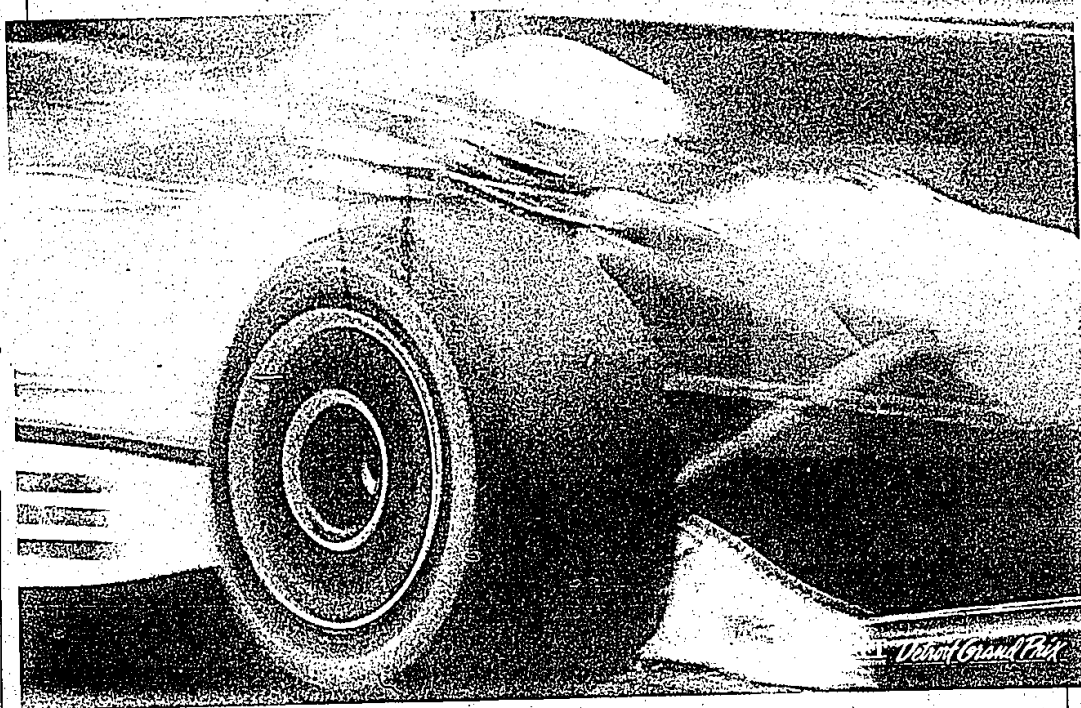
capacities of the human mind, bringing in his personal experience with cancer.

"Dr. Pearsall is in such demand as a speaker that we plan to open the event to the public as well as to

cancer survivors as long as space allows," says Wendy Goldberg, a West Bloomfield resident.

She is a clinical nurse specialist in the Henry Ford psychiatry department.

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