

Race *from page 1A*

Enberg and Levin tapped different sources.

Levin's financial backing came from one source: Her parents. Enberg received contributions from a myriad of people.

Linda Levin of Southfield put \$4,900 into her daughter's election bid. Her father, Yale, also gave \$500.

"They were proud to contribute," Jennifer Levin said.

The Committee to Elect Linda Enberg raised \$3917.50 in a fund-raiser attended by 69 people at Kerby Koney Island May 22.

Some notable contributors to Enberg's bid included former

47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer, \$25; Hills councilman Jonathan Grant, \$25; once unsuccessful Hills council challenger Tom Oliverio, \$50; school board trustee Helen Protow, \$30; Farmington Families in Action President Betty Nicolay, \$50; and O.E. Duncel Middle School Principal Pam O'Malley, \$25.

School trustees Cathy Webb and Joe Svokle also lent support with in-kind contributions of stamps.

"I have some very wonderful friends who came through," Enberg said.

■ Such spending is probably on the "high side," said Michigan Association of School Boards spokeswoman Gail Braverman. 'Because it's not a partisan election and it's not linked to a general election, (candidates) tend not to get caught up in the spending spiral.'

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For your information: Angela Janes, a nursing home employee, takes part in an informational picket at Mercy International Tuesday.

Workers *from page 1A*

sign a pledge of support for their demands.

Tuesday morning's protest was also part of a statewide campaign to make people aware of nursing home working conditions.

Nursing home workers' pay averages \$6 an hour with little or no benefits, union officials said. That's leading to a high turnover rate, which is averaging 85 percent.

As a result, patient neglect and employee injuries are increasing, union officials said.

Only 30 percent of nursing home workers in the state are

unionized. The state Legislature dealt with understaffing by implementing staffing requirements. Union officials said those staff-to-patient ratios set in 1978 are inadequate.

Mercy Health Services operates eight centers. They haven't led by example, protesters said. "They're supposed to be a Catholic organization," said Anna Simpson, who works at St. Joseph nursing home in Hamtramck. "They're not living by their means."

Mercy Health Services spokeswoman Maxine Kollasch said negotiations between both

"Mercy Services for Aging supports the rights of workers, in accordance with the social teachings of the Catholic Church and the laws of the state of Michigan," Kollasch said.

Demonstrations are planned at other facilities, Policicchio said. Mercy headquarters was selected because of the lack of progress on contract negotiations.

"We've been unable to get their attention," Policicchio said. "So, we're coming to their front door."

Edison *from page 1A*

The PSC was able to get a consent agreement from the utility, which services about 2 million customers in the state, in late 1993. That agreement included improvements to the system to make it more reliable, improved communications with customers so they would know what was happening and the addition of about 70 customer service repre-

"In 1931, their communications system could only handle about 3,000 calls an hour," Perle said.

"So people would call for days and get a busy signal. They didn't get an answer and they didn't see any crews, so they had no idea of what was being done."

Thanks to a better communication system, some 45,000 calls an hour were handled during peak times after the initial storm.

But because there were three separate storms, customers who were told they would be up by Saturday were sometimes pushed back after the next two storms hit.

Padgett said that 60 mph winds will do damage, and that Oakland County, with its heavy tree growth, is susceptible to downed lines from trees.

this time. Up to 20 percent of Farmington residents were without service at some time during the five-day period. But crews were able to restore power relatively quickly.

"I think the problem for many people was the extreme heat," he said.

Padgett said Edison had also met service obligations of its consent agreement until the storm, by averaging under the agreed upon downtime.

Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said Edison did a better job, with the exception of power being out at Station 2 for about 18 hours.

Residents have been supportive of crews, even bringing them beverages as they worked on lines, Padgett said. A confrontation between some irate customers and a crew at Nine Mile and Drake Sunday afternoon did not escalate beyond words as police were able to break it up.

But the continuing problem of intermittent power outages, even when there are no significant weather problems, and the time Edison is taking to respond to a serious event, still concern Hills officials.

"I know that Edison has spent several million dollars in our community to improve service," Hills City Manager Bill Costick said. "But that hasn't made the

Costick said that in addition to Vagnor's suggestions, he would like to see more circuits installed, a reliability study by Edison, and the replacement of old equipment (up to 60 years old).

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