Some have familiar names, others don't; but Oakland's precinct delegates hold power with GOP, Democrats

When voters go to the polls for Tuesday's primary election, they will be nominating party candidates for high-profile positions such as governor, the state legislature, Oakland Circuit Court and the U.S. Congress.

But they will also be electing precinct delegates — a position Democrata and Republicans describe as the "backbone" of their respective parties.

their respective parties.

The job carries considerable responsibility, but no salary and few — if any — perks. Yet more than 250 Democrats and 360 Republicans are running for

precinct delegate from Oxford to
Southfield townships and from
Troy to Milford.

Party VIPs

Troy to Milford.

Among the Democrats are State Rep. Nancy Quarles of Southfield; Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills (as well as his wife and son): and businessman Robert D. Nicholson in Birmingham.

Republicans running for precinct delegate include financial planner Mildred G. Pangman of Rochester Hills; county information manager Kathleen Brang of Pontiac; and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Pat-

Party VIPs

"Precinct delegates are very, very important," said GOP county chair Cathy Long of Troy, who said a political party could not function effectively without them. "They represent the grass roots," she explained.

Gary L. Kobut, the Democratic county chair agrees. "They're absolutely critical," he said "They're the key building block of any political organization." On a day-to-day basis, precint delegates serve as a conduit for information, Kobut explained.

They tell candidates and party leaders what their neighbors are thinking," he said, "and they answer questions about the

Christmas

g in July & 20-25% off medially continue.

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party's positions and candidates."

Precinct delegates also attend the party's conventions at the county and state levels, and they elect the party's officers and executive committees. 'In that sense, they shape the party,' said Birmingham atterney Scott Romney, who is also looking to precinct delegates to boost his chances of winning the GOP nomination for state atterney general.

Mildred Pangman estimates that she spends about 16 hours a week — at least now, with a major election pending — as a delegate in the 12th precinct of Rochester Hills. She likes stimulating interest in the political system, especially the GOP, and she likes talking about issues. 'I talk politics when I buy a dress,' she said. 'I's that important to me."

Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi said he first ran for precinct delegate in 1948, the same year G. Men-

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nen Williams made his first bid for governor of Michigan. "Scapy won, but I lost," he chuckled. "Two years later, I ran again and I've been at it ever since."

Family affair

Family aliair
Vagnozzi is the Democratic
delegate in the 12th district of
farmington Hills — in addition
to being the city's mayor. The job
is on easential, he said, that he
encouraged his wife Lois to run
in the 12th district and his son,
Paul, in the 22nd District.
Paul, in the 22nd District.

Paul, in the 22nd District.
Being a Democrat in Birmingham isn't as lonely as it might seem, said Robert Nicholson, one of four people running for precinct delegate in that community. Ropublicans, in contrast, have 18 people running for the same positions.

same positions.
"There are a lot of closet
Democrats in Birmingham," he
said, "and they like to talk about
issues and candidates. I enjoy
that part of being a precinct delegate."

Here is the lowdown on delegates

■ Who can be a precinct delegate?

delegate?
Any registered voter who files an affidavit of identity with the county clerk's office at the appropriate time before the election.

Mat do precinct delegates do?

They provide information to party leaders about con-cerns at the grass roots.

M Where de delegates per-

form their duties?

Many places. From their homes, in the neighborhoods and from the floor of the coun-

M When do they do their

but when do they do that lobs?

County conventions — when delegates elect convention delegates or local party officers — are scheduled periodically.



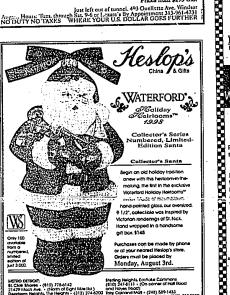
School's out, but summer sports activity remains high; see Section C.



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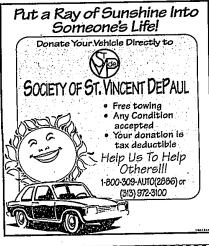


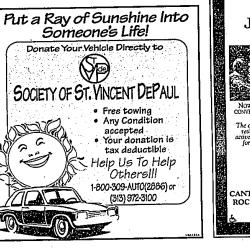


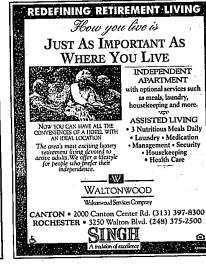
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