

Court clerk bids for exec post

By WAYNE DEAN STAFF WRITER

Of the three people running for Oakland County executive, only Philip Marcuse is currently on the county payroll.

But Marcuse, a county circuit court clerk, is the least known, least-funded candidate in the race.

Still, the Democrat from Huntington Woods hopes his "feel good" message will upset party-backed, Betty Howe in the primary and top-ple GOP nominee L. Brooks Patterson in the fall.

"I want people to feel good about the county, to feel good about where they live," Marcuse said.

County party leaders don't feel the same about Marcuse, though. They're heavily backing Howe, a former state Labor Department director, after recruiting her to challenge Patterson.

Marcuse's chances could be in

whether he's endorsed by the United Auto Workers Union.

While Marcuse has actively sought the UAW endorsement, the labor giant won't name its choice until later this week.

"We've done some screening, but we haven't issued our endorsements yet," UAW spokesman Bob Merkle said.

"I thought he knew Howe in the Age 4 primary," Marcuse says, his criticism for the Republicans.

L. Brooks is just using this as a stopping off point," Marcuse said, pointing to Patterson's previous trip for governor and U.S. senator.

"This is the only job I want."

"My big problem with L. Brooks is the noise level," he added, noting the former county prosecutor's typically high profile campaign style.

Marcuse's own style is more subdued.

On the issue, he's anti-urban sprawl and opposed to incineration.



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Philip Marcuse

There would be no pressure to extend county roads and services to the north and west under a Marcuse administration.

"I think we should leave the people outcounty alone," he said. "They don't want development."

As for solid waste: "I'm not all that unhappy with landfills."

Quality education also tops Marcuse's list of issues, though he admits there's little the county executive can directly do to improve county schools.

"Still, when you speak as the county executive, you speak with some authority," he said.

Clerk for Oakland Circuit Judge John N. O'Brien, Marcuse is completing work toward a law degree at Detroit College of Law. He holds a bachelor's in social science from the University of Michigan.

This campaign, like the others, is expected to be a low key affair.

County park hosts fishing derby

"Real" fun awaits youngsters at the All-American Fishing Derby at Independence Oaks County Park.

The June 6 derby is in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' free fishing weekend. Fishing licenses are not required.

Independence Oaks boasts 68-acre Crooked Lake and the headwaters of the Clinton River. Crooked Lake offers bluegill, bass, perch and bullhead. On-site derby registration starts at 7:00 a.m. Fishing begins at 7:30 a.m.

First and second place prizes will be awarded in each age group: under 4; 5-8 years; 9-12 years and 13-16 years. Fish will be weighed in at 11:30 a.m., with an awards ceremony at noon.

Participants must supply their own gear. Boats are available for rent. Lifejackets are required for everyone. All youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

There is no fee for the derby, however, participants may be charged a vehicle entry fee of \$4.50 for Oakland County residents (non-residents pay \$5).

For more information, or to pre-register, call Mansfield at 626-8133.

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