

by George D. Clay.

Housing agency chooses board

By JANE MARCHAM

The newly incorporated Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, organized this fall to help downtown homeowners upgrade their properties, has announced selection of a board of directors.

Margaret Jones of 509 Cascadilla St., a neighborhood representative, was elected corporation president. Other of-

ficers will be H. Brock Manville of First National Bank, vice president; James Gibbs of 512 S. Plain St., treasurer; and Barbara O'Chester of 115 Park St., secretary.

The program will start operating this month, the officers reported, when neighborhood residents will receive an announcement telling how to seek as-

sistance and funds. Neighborhood meetings will be held in December, to provide details and answer questions.

Controlled by a local 15-member board, the non-profit corporation is funded by the city, through federal Community Development aid, plus local banks, and grants from industry and charitable foundations.

The program will aid homeowners in evaluating repair work, securing estimates from contractors, and obtaining bank loans. Those who are unable to secure bank financing can be assisted through a special loan fund.

Initial work will concentrate on the city's Southside, on the blocks between Albany and Plain streets bounded by Green Street on the north and the Elmira Road on the south.

The board of directors is designed to include eight residents from the Northside and Southside "target" neighborhoods, four representatives of local finance institutions, and two city officials.

Board members, in addition to the officers, are Lucy Brown, Claude Colleyacme, Mary Franklin, Maynard "Ozzie" Richardson, and Shirley Watkins, from the neighborhoods; William Kiernan, Kenneth Myers and Raymond VanHoutte, from banking institutions; and Thomas Hoard, city building commissioner, and Matthys VanCort, city planning director.

'Undecideds' hold key

Two days before the election, nearly a quarter of the registered voters in Tompkins County who answered a survey on Sunday say they are either undecided or plan not to vote for a presidential candidate.

This was the result of a scientific telephone survey taken Sunday night by students at Ithaca College.

The survey also showed that President Ford has a slight edge over his Democratic opponent Jimmy Carter. About 38.5 per cent of the voters said they planned to cast ballots for Ford while 35 per cent supported Carter. Because of an error margin in such surveys, the statistics are too close to predict the outcome of that race here.

A surprising 16 per cent of the

respondents said they were undecided, while 8 per cent said they would not vote for a presidential candidate. The undecided vote may be inaccurate simply because telephone surveys encourage a higher number of respondents to say they have not yet decided.

Another 2 per cent of the voters said they planned to cast ballots for minor party candidates.

The survey used a sample of 200 registered voters taken randomly from households listed in the Ithaca telephone directory. Students connected with the Ithaca College television program "Panorama" conducted the survey between 7 and 9 p.m. Sunday.