

Sheriff looks to another term

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

John F. Nichols hasn't lost his zest for the job as Oakland County sheriff because of recent disclosures of wrongdoing within two of his departments.

Nichols will not resign in the wake of allegations of criminal wrongdoing within his department. In fact, the opposite may be true. He will likely seek re-election to a fourth 4-year term in 1996, the 74-year-old Nichols said in an interview Monday.

"If anything did assure that I'd seek re-election, it's this," Nichols said, referring to the 47 criminal charges related to the sheriff's substitution in Rochester Hills and 24 in the work-release program based in Pontiac.

During the eight-month investigation into his department, Nichols generally maintained a low profile, referring most questions to the prosecutor's office.

Now that charges against 11 people — including Rochester Hills Mayor Billie Ireland and three sheriff's command officers — have been filed, the sheriff was usually to talk about the episode characterized by prosecutor Richard Thompson as the "worst po-

litical corruption in Oakland County history."

"I told you I'd talk once the investigation was complete," Nichols said. "Now I'm ready."

In sharp contrast to last week's press conference with Thompson, Nichols seemed relaxed. At the press conference, the sheriff seemed defensive, almost combative. For the interview, he seemed almost relieved as he talked about a variety of subjects, including:

■ His future: He'll stay in office and probably seek re-election.

In private, one high-ranking Republican said Nichols may be "the new poster child for term limits," a cutting, but on-target reference to his three terms in office.

If anything, controversy on his watch made him determined to stay on and, if necessary, continue to clean house.

"I'd never quit during a fight," he said. "I've been accused of being many things, but never a quitter . . . nor have I ever been accused of dishonesty."

■ Accusations that a lax management style led to wrongdoing and corruption.

See SHERIFF, 12A

Prosecutor may testify for defense

BY JAY GROSSMAN
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County prosecutor Richard Thompson should be removed from prosecuting the case against Sgt. Gerard Carlin, since he's being subpoenaed as a witness for Carlin, according to Carlin's attorney.

That was one of the issues discussed Tuesday when attorneys for Carlin and Rochester Hills Mayor Billie Ireland and former mayoral aide Daris Key-ion met, along with assistant prosecutor Larry Bunting, in 52-3 District Court before Judge Ralph Nelson.

They discussed how the court proceedings should be handled, since the preliminary exam itself promises to be lengthy and cumbersome.

Carlin is charged with accepting \$20,000 in illegal overtime over a two-year period when he headed the Rochester Hills substation of the Oakland County

Sheriff's Department and ordering his deputies to chauffeur L. Brooks Patterson during his county executive campaign. Ireland and Key-ion are charged with scheming with Carlin to pay the overtime.

A second issue discussed Tuesday was whether the prosecutor's office is going to make copies of witness statements and other information for free, or charge the defendants a nickel per copy.

Bunting told the court that Oakland County has a policy of charging 5 cents per copy for any information it releases.

So far, the prosecutor's office has accumulated 5,000 pages of interviews that are packed tightly in eight boxes, Bunting said. Consequently, each defendant would have to shell out around \$250 for information they need to prepare their cases.

Lawyers for the three defendants believe that information

should be provided for free.

Carlin's lawyer, Tom Kizer, said he planned to file a motion to disqualify Thompson and his office from handling the case. According to Kizer, Thompson is going to testify on "crucial matters in this instance."

One source close to the investigation says Kizer plans to question Thompson about a 1988 campaign commercial that shows Carlin and another former Rochester Hills deputy, Aaron Westrick, endorsing Thompson for office. Carlin is reportedly going to testify that he made the TV commercial while on duty.

Responded Bunting: "If Gerry Carlin wants to say he violated the law in 1988, then we'll bring on another charge." Sheriff workers aren't allowed to campaign while on duty.

As for his own boss, Bunting said it's up to the attorney general's office to determine if there

was any campaign wrongdoing on Thompson's part in 1988.

"Gerry's been charged with several serious felonies, so I guess it's understandable he's going to make a few statements of his own," Bunting said.

The assistant prosecutor also said he plans to make a motion to disqualify Judge James Sheehy from hearing any part of the case. Sheehy is assigned to preside over today's preliminary exam for Deputy Mike Schmitzerle, charged with stealing two call boxes from Detroit — one of which was given to Nichols for his birthday.

The exam was scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. today. But Bunting said he plans to file a motion to have Sheehy disqualified from the case, because of the reportedly close ties between Sheehy and Carlin. Sheehy couldn't be reached for comment on Bunting's statement

WAREHOUSE PIANO SALE

SAT. 10-5
SUN. 12-5
SAVE UP TO 40% ON SELECTED BRANDS & CONSOLES

New & Used Pianos
Grands, Baby Grands, Consoles, Spinets,
Choose from Yamaha, Kimball, Kawai, Baldwin, Wurlitzer, Weber & Sons, PIANO DISC AND PIANOMATION PLAYER PIANOS

USED PIANOS	KORG Digital Pianos	NEW BABY GRANDS
\$595	\$1799	\$4995

Midwest Piano Distributors
2350 Franklin Rd. Bloomfield Hills
(313) 333-2600 1-800-357-4266

6 Reasons Why an Executive Custom Shirt is the Best Shirt in the World:

- Selection - 2000 world fabrics!
- Style, Collar, Cuff...Anything you want!
- Body - 1 Dozen critical measurements!
- Combined Expertise - Over 70 years!
- Guarantee...Unconditional!
- Buy 6 shirts, pay for 5!

Executive Custom Shirtmakers & Tailors, Inc.
223 South Woodward Avenue • Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Just South of the Birmingham Theatre • (313) 642-0460

1993 DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE
Villa Baronna
• 23 Designers • 13,000 Sq. Ft.

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
HALL
OCTOBER 2-24
Tuesday-Saturday 10 to 4
Sundays 2-6
Closed Mondays

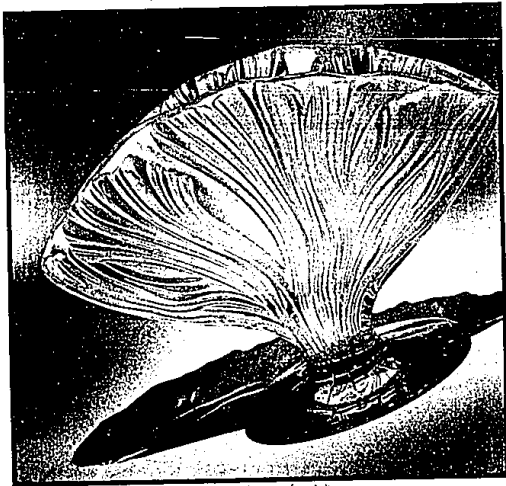
3376 Franklin Road between Long Lake and Square Lake Roads in Bloomfield Hills
Tickets: \$12 at the door (\$2 off with this ad)
Free parking and shuttle service from Kirk in the Halls Church at 1340 W. Long Lake Road, just west of Telegraph
For tickets and further information call 962-1000
No children under 8 (including infants).
No photographic equipment permitted.

Presented by:
Gurka & Silver Builders, Inc. and Erlich Development Co. Bloomfield Hills, MI

NM Presents

MADAME MARIE-CLAUDE LALIQUE

In An Exclusive Troy Appearance



NM exclusive lichen vase from Lalique.

While defining the future of fine crystal, Lalique continues to retain the integrity of its age-old glassmaking tradition. Neiman Marcus offers an unparalleled selection of this renowned collection, including 1993 editions of vases, figurines, bowls, and objets d'art.

Meet Madame Marie-Claude Lalique, Thursday,
October 21, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This third-generation president and designer will be available to sign your crystal purchases of 250.00 or more. Receive a complimentary one-year membership in the Lalique Society of America with the purchase of a special piece selected by the Society. And take advantage of double InCircle® points — to be given on Lalique purchases made Thursday, October 21, only. The Galleries.



The Somerset Collection 2705 W. Big Beaver Road 313-643-3300
Store open Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9; Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 10-6; Sunday noon-5.