Nichols runs for sheriff

John Nichols, Farmington Hills police chief since 1977, wants to be Oakland County's next sheriff.

The veteran policeman of 43 years service has revealed his intention to run for sheriff in the August 1984 Republican primary.

"At this point I'm not ready to say why I'm running," Nichols said, adding he will announce his reasons at a news conference Thursday in Pontiac.

He will formally announce his candidacy at a 3 p.m. gathering in Lupes Restaurant, 1240 Wide Track Drive West at M-59.

Nichols

IF NOMINATED, Nichols may have to take on a man who twice has been his boss — three-term incumbent Johannes Spreen. In the center of political and legal battles, Spreen has not announced whether he will seek a fourth term.

A 32-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department, Nichols "was the second one (in the department) who came up through the ranks" to serve as police commissioner.

He served under Spreen, who was Detroit police commissioner during the 1960s. Later Nichols was police commissioner in the administration of Roman S. Gribbs.

In 1973 Nichols was an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Detroit, losing to Coleman A. Young, the present mayor.

Meanwhile, Spreen had moved to Oakland County. After being courted by both parties, Spreen successfully ran as a Democrat for sheriff in 1972 and was re-elected in 1976 and 1980.

Nichols was Spreen's undersheriff until 1977, when he left to take the Farmington Hills post.

AT THE MOMENT, Nichols appears to have competition for the GOP nomination from James Y. Stewart, Huntington Woods police chief and the 1980 GOP candidate against Spreen.

Stewart announced months ago he wants another crack at running for sheriff.

Nichols has been courted to run for sheriff by leaders of the Oakland County Republican establishment. His announcement Thursday may reveal the extent of his high-level support.

TB found; free tests offered

To ward off a potential problem, the Oakland County Health Department is offering free tuberculosis tests to any county employee or resident concerned about contracting the disease.

Oakland officials are searching for an unknown person with TB who has had regular contact with county maintenance employees.

A TB testing program turned out positive for 12 maintenance employees who are under observation. These people do not have the disease, but have been in close contact with someone who has an active case.

"WE DON'T want anyone to panic, but we are concerned about the potential problem until we find the active TB carrier," Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said.

"We're encouraging county employees and their families and friends who are concerned about contracting the disease to have a free test at one of the two county clinics."

Free testing is done from noon to 4:40 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Monday and 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday at both the Southfield Center at 27725 Greenfield and 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac. No appointments are necessary.

Testing began after a part-time employee in the county medical care facility turned up with active TB about three months ago. She has since been treated and has returned to her job.

Oakland road bids sought

Michigan Department of Transportation will take bids on several Oakland County projects Aug. 17 in Lansing Civic Center.

The projects will be among 66 totaling an estimated $41.9 million in improvements to Michigan roads, highways, airports and railroad tracks in 37 counties.

Bids will be sought for these projects and completion dates:

- In Southfield, pavement patching, joint and crack sealing and drainage structure cleaning and repair on four miles of US-10 (Lodge freeway) from the city limits northwest to Lahser; November 1983.
- In Troy, installation of medium intensity runway lighting and lighted wind cone at Oakland-Troy Airport.
- In Huntington Woods and Oak Park, construction of earthberm sound barriers along the new I-696 freeway from Church east to Morton and reconstruction and landscaping of Victoria Park; September 1984.
- In Pontiac, installation of security fencing at Oakland-Pontiac Airport; October 1983.

Bids also will be taken for work on the Lodge in Detroit. The project, to be completed by November 1984, will cover pavement patching and joint sealing on seven miles and resurfacing on two miles, plus repairs and drainage cleaning on the entire project from north of Wyoming southeast to south of Cobo Hall.

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