

## Gorcyca expected to name chief assistant next week

BY PAT MURPHY  
STAFF WRITER

Although he won't assume the duties of office until Jan. 1, Oakland County prosecutor-elect David G. Gorcyca is scheduled to take the oath of office Wednesday.

Gorcyca and other officials elected countywide will take their respective oaths of office beginning at 2 p.m. in the commissioners auditorium at the county complex, 1200 N. Telegraph.

In the meantime, his transition team is continuing to meet with current assistant prosecutors interested in continuing in their jobs. "I wouldn't call the meetings job interviews," he said. "The meetings are more a matter of getting to know everybody and their career plans."

Gorcyca said he doesn't expect to announce his chief assistant until next week. "It (the selection process) is going slower than expected," he said. "I have a short list, but I'm not ready for any announcements."

The new prosecutor does expect, however, to attend a seminar sponsored by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan Jan. 21 at Shanty Creek.

"Otherwise," Gorcyca said Tuesday, "I'm in the process of closing out my private practice."

Until he defeated incumbent Richard Thompson in the

Republican Primary and then Democrat Steven Kaplan in the November general election, Gorcyca had his law offices in Birmingham. "My practice took a beating during the campaign," he chuckled, "so referring all my clients to other lawyers won't be much of a chore."

He has already resigned from the Royal Oak City Council, where he had served for almost three years.

Outgoing prosecutor Richard Thompson has scheduled an office Christmas party on Dec. 14, but there are no plans for a roast or farewell tribute as there was for his predecessor, L. Brooks Patterson.

"We're saying our goodbyes as we finish our responsibilities," said outgoing chief assistant Lawrence J. Bunting, who this week is sending out announcements about his new office in Troy.

"I'm really looking forward to it," said Bunting, who joined Thompson's staff in 1989 after three years with the U.S. Attorney's office in Detroit. "I've always wanted to go into private practice, and now it's happening. My wife and I have been picking out office furniture."

Bunting, a 1976 graduate of Wayne State University, had been an Oakland County assistant prosecutor under Patterson from 1977 until 1986.

## Longtime Metroparks director retires

William P. Sherman on Jan. 10 will retire after a 40-year career with Huron-Clinton Metroparks, where he started work as a Metro Beach summer beach patrol officer and rose to direct the 13-park operation.

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority board already has voted to promote his deputy, Frank Sudek, to the director's post. Sudek, of Hartland, joined the five-county parks authority in 1960 as a survey crew worker and worked up through the ranks as purchasing manager, secretary to the board and deputy director.

"During his (Sherman's) eight years as director," said Dave Moilanen, public information officer, "the authority opened a new park, Wolcott Mills, and added many new facilities — the Marshlands Museum and Nature Center, and an 18-hole golf course at Lake Erie; a paved hike-bike trail and Washago Pond activities complex at Willow; and the activities building at Metro Beach."

For \$1.12 an hour, Sherman's 1967 duties "consisted of directing the parking of cars in the lot, and showing people where to walk, swim and sit. During slow

periods, I picked up paper and cigarette butts," recalled Sherman, 66, of Clinton Township.

"During my very early years, the direction of the Metroparks was land acquisition and development of basic facilities. The pattern was to purchase the land, develop a few picnic areas, a water facility and a nature interpretive center along with some trails."

"Since those early years... we have added more facilities: modern tot lots, dance and concert programs, court game areas, boat launches, winter sports and great golf courses," said Sher-

man in a farewell column in the agency's newsletter.

Since HCMA was formed 55 years ago, it has promoted more than a dozen candidates from inside and outside the system before promoting Sherman, who had managed Metro Beach Metropark and served as deputy to David Laidlaw.

HCMA now has 13 parks and an operating budget of more than \$42 million. It is financed by a property tax of 25 cents per \$1,000 of valuation plus vehicle entry permits.

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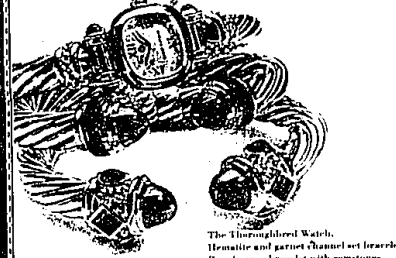


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