

# Happy birthday

## About to turn 80, Sheriff John Nichols considers another term

By PAT MURPHY  
Staff Writer  
pmurphy@oe.homecomm.net

An Oakland County Sheriff John F. Nichols approaches his 80th birthday, those around him wonder if his health will enable him to serve the two years remaining in his term of office.

Nichols, however, wonders about seeking another term.

"I'm thinking about it," Nichols said Sunday when asked about a possible fifth term. The occasion was a gathering at the Deer Lake Racquet Club to honor Nichols who turns 80 on the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Talk about another term might be serious.

Others, however, believe this will be his last term. Instead, talk about another is more likely intended to emphasize that Nichols remains firmly in charge of

**'Ho can still bite a head off. But he's almost 80 years old, and he's got some health problems associated with somebody that age.'**

Rudy Lozano  
—Friend

the 850-person department and its annual budget approaching \$70 million. Nichols seemed very much in charge Sunday as he acknowledged the support of fellow police officers, politicians and old friends. Wearing a stiffly camel sport coat, Nichols chatted with people as they came over to the table at which he was sitting in a wheel chair and breathing oxygen.

the microphone where he joked, "This is like a funeral, but I can smell the flowers."

The wheelchair and oxygen are pretty much mandatory these days. Arthritis, emphysema and other health problems have taken a heavy toll.

"Ho can still bite a head off," said friend and admirer Rudy Lozano, who organized the birthday bash. "But he's almost 80 years old, and he's got some health problems associated with somebody that age."

Lozano and others are fiercely loyal to Nichols and vow their support as long as the sheriff wants it. But even the most loyal followers acknowledge Nichols' health is failing.

Two years ago — when he was less dependent on oxygen and a wheelchair — Nichols survived a tough challenge from Democrat-



Considering: While some are wondering whether his health is in good stead, Sheriff John Nichols, who is about to turn 80, is thinking of another term in his toy-filled office.

challenger Matt Hogan, who pulled about 49 percent of the 471,900 votes cast for sheriff.

The incumbent sheriff won, in large part, because of support from command officers and deputies who respect Nichols and admire his command style. Much of his support also came from civilians — like Lozano, who raised money for a tough campaign — who simply respect the man.

"He's here every day," said Capt. Mike McCabe. "He keeps a work schedule that puts younger men to shame. People love and respect John Nichols."

McCabe declined to comment about Nichols' health problems, or to speculate about the future. But others — even ardent supporters — hope Nichols finishes out his term and gracefully ends his career that started in 1942, when he joined the Detroit Police Department. He eventually rose through the ranks to become police commissioner, a position comparable

to chief of police. Several people have privately said they are considering a bid for sheriff once Nichols' term is finished. There could be a real power struggle, however, if the sheriff's health deteriorates to the point he would not be able to finish the term.

Nichols is aware of a possible power vacuum in either case. "But we've got a lot of good command officers," he said. "And I have full confidence somebody will take command."

There are so many good candidates, Nichols said he is not endorsing anybody or grooming a particular candidate. "I'll let the voters speak," he said.

A regular election would undoubtedly draw a number of heavyweight candidates, although none have thus far announced plans — partially because doing so might be interpreted as being disrespectful to Nichols.

State Sen. Michael Bouchard, a former police officer, is rumored to be interested. While the Birmingham resident has high political visibility, he could not expect a cakewalk. Somebody from within the department — possibly undersheriff Henry Buffa or Maj. Thomas E. Quisenberry — could be expected to mount a strong challenge, as a Republican in the primary or a Democrat in the general election.

Should Nichols not be able to finish out his term, it would not be voters who elect a successor. It would be a panel consisting of prosecutor David Gorecky, clerk Lynn D. Allen and probate judge Eugene Moore.

"I haven't even thought about the possibility of picking a successor to John Nichols," Gorecky said. "His health isn't the best, but Nichols is still very much in charge of the department, and it's functioning very well. I see no reason to worry about a successor."

**SHANGRI-LA**  
GOURMET CHINESE RESTAURANT

Authentic HONG KONG Style Cooking

Wonderful Traditional Favorites...Superb Variety of Dining Specialties

- LIVE FIRE, LOBSTER, and CRAB in our tanks, COOKED TO ORDER
- DIM SUM LUNCH SPECIALS 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- SAT., SUN. DIM SUM (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
- LUNCH SPECIALS 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

HOURS  
Monday thru Sunday 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.

6407 ORCHARD LAKE ROAD  
In The Orchard  
424-8585  
Special Carry-Out Menu

**CASH**  
Waiting For You At  
Italia Jewelry

Bring In All Of Your Old Diamonds & Gold  
Rolex Watches Wanted

\$1.99 Batteries for Most Watches  
\*Excluding Lithium \*W/Coupon \*Limit One

33463 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia • (248) 442-7878

**Mai Thai**  
RESTAURANT

Featuring Authentic Thai Dishes

- LUNCH SPECIALS FROM 11-4 PM
- CARRY OUT & CATERING AVAILABLE

Cocktails Now Available  
Reservations (248) 626-6313

6635 Orchard Lk. Rd. at Maple • Old Orchard Shopping Ctr.  
HOURS: Mon.-Thur. 11 AM-10 PM, Fri. & Sat. 11 AM-11 PM, Sun. 12-9 PM

**The Willows**  
Specializing in Memory Loss  
Licensed Adult Foster Care

- 15 Years of Experience
- Seven rolling, private acres
- Secured Environment
- Six Private Accommodations
- Family Style Meals
- 24 Hour Trained Personnel
- Respite and Adult Day Care
- Conveniently located near major shopping areas and freeways

40705 Thirteen Mile Rd • Novi  
(248) 374-2088

Our Philosophy  
To Sell the  
Finest Jewelry  
at the Lowest Price

**Graet's**  
JEWELERS

3270 Middlebelt Road • Farmington Hills, MI  
1st & 14 Mile Rd. in the Heartway Plaza  
(248) 851-4710 • www.graets.com

**JCPenney Optical Center**  
The Eye Care Professionals

free eyeglass frames up to \$191

When you buy KODAK lenses or select other premium lenses at regular price!

Styles include many of your favorite designers!

Ask for these: 1 year KODAK lenses, THE ADVANTAGE LENS GUAR™

We now have Vision Care Plans for:  
American Blue Cross/Blue Shield, American Family Life, Blue Cross of Michigan, Blue Cross of Ontario, Blue Cross of Canada, Blue Cross of New York, Blue Cross of North Carolina, Blue Cross of South Carolina, Blue Cross of Virginia, Blue Cross of West Virginia, Blue Cross of Wisconsin, Blue Cross of Illinois, Blue Cross of Indiana, Blue Cross of Iowa, Blue Cross of Kansas, Blue Cross of Kentucky, Blue Cross of Louisiana, Blue Cross of Maryland, Blue Cross of Massachusetts, Blue Cross of Minnesota, Blue Cross of Missouri, Blue Cross of Nebraska, Blue Cross of Nevada, Blue Cross of New Jersey, Blue Cross of New Mexico, Blue Cross of New York, Blue Cross of North Carolina, Blue Cross of North Dakota, Blue Cross of Ohio, Blue Cross of Oklahoma, Blue Cross of Oregon, Blue Cross of Pennsylvania, Blue Cross of Rhode Island, Blue Cross of South Carolina, Blue Cross of South Dakota, Blue Cross of Tennessee, Blue Cross of Texas, Blue Cross of Utah, Blue Cross of Vermont, Blue Cross of Virginia, Blue Cross of Washington, Blue Cross of West Virginia, Blue Cross of Wisconsin, Blue Cross of Wyoming

Also, Save on Contact Lenses!  
Disposable contact lenses starting at \$11.95 per box (3 lenses)  
Ask about receiving a complimentary RENU Great Solution

Kodak is a trademark of Eastman Kodak Company, used under license by Superior America, Inc. See dealer for details. Cannot be combined with other offer, which may vary. Offer expires October 31, 1998.

• EYE EXAMS • OVERNIGHT SERVICE AVAILABLE

Now Accepting New Patients

Sohela Pezeszki, MD, specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and has a special interest in menopause care and infertility treatment. She earned her medical degree at Wayne State University in 1994, and completed her residency at the Detroit Medical Center/Sinai Hospital. She is a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and is fluent in spoken and written Turkish and Persian.

Dr. Pezeszki is happy to be joining the practice of Henry Maicki, MD, Lakshmi Gavini, MD, Anthony Bout, MD, Thomas Dolnick, MD, and midwife Debbie McBain, MSN.

**PROVIDENCE**  
HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTERS

Providence Obstetrics and Gynecology  
22250 Providence Dr., Suite 305  
Southfield, Michigan 48075  
For appointments: 248-557-3890

**Mexican Gardens II**  
FAMILY RESTAURANT  
Serving Authentic Mexican Food

Buy One: HALF OFF A 2ND  
Lunch or Dinner and Beverage OR LUNCH OR DINNER of Lesser Value

Come Celebrate Sweetest Day With Us!  
Fajitas for Two \$15.95  
\$15.95 per person (tax & tip extra)

36800 GRAND RIVER AVE. between Westfield & Davis Rds. FARMINGTON  
(248) 474-8417  
CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

**Zoup!**

WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

More than 100 one-of-a-kind soup creations, featuring 12 different home-made varieties each day. Including low-fat, dairy-free, vegetarian and spicy selections. All natural. All served with a hunk of our fresh-baked bread.

3717 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY AT 14 MILE RD. IN THE FRANKLIN PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER 348.793.8800

HOURS 10:30 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M. DAILY

Take-out Zoup! or enjoy it in our friendly, coffee-house-style setting.

**CHARTER HOUSE**  
OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
A Convalescent and Nursing Center

Charter House of Farmington Hills has received Accreditation with Commendation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. This is the highest level of Accreditation awarded by the Joint Commission, which is the nations oldest and largest accrediting body.

Charter House of Farmington Hills is among the 4% of accredited nursing homes awarded Accreditation with Commendation. "We are extremely pleased to have achieved this designation," says Lisa Barthold, Administrator. "Everyone here goes the extra mile on a day to day basis to provide the best possible health care to our patients. Receiving Accreditation with Commendation is just the icing on the cake."

Please feel free to contact one of our caring staff at (248) 476-8300 for further information.

our annual porch sale!

save up to 50% on select gifts & invites

thursday through sunday  
october 8-11, 1998  
10am-5pm  
help us make room for holiday merchandise!

everything else in the store 20% off during sale days (except already discounted items)

**GayZope**

32644 franklin rd • historic franklin • 248-539-7705