

Top county posts to be announced

Murphy to name deputy executive

By ROBERT KIPPER

OKLAND COUNTY—County Executive Daniel Murphy said he expects to announce some of his choices for the top posts in his new administration before next week.

Murphy said one of the announcements will likely be his choice for deputy county executive—the person who will serve as Murphy's second-in-command.

The position, which Murphy can fill without anyone's approval, will go to a Republican, a man, and someone hired outside the county's current payroll, Murphy, a Republican, said.

Democrats and existing county employees are being considered for the other spots, however, Murphy said.

LAST WEEK the Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved the nine top positions created by Murphy's reorganization plan.

Commissioners must approve Murphy's choices in only six of these positions: those chosen to head Murphy's superdepartments.

The county executive has complete

control of who will serve as public information officer (or press secretary), administrative assistant for the county executive, and, most importantly, the deputy county executive.

With an approved base salary of \$33,500 the first year, the deputy executive will be the 10th highest paid employee on the county payroll. Only two elected officials, the county executive and the county prosecutor, receive more.

MURPHY SAID he has narrowed the candidates for deputy executive to 15-20 names. Integrity, an administrative background, and political compatibility will be important factors in his final choice, Murphy said.

"He will obviously be a Republican," Murphy said. "I don't intend to hire anybody who won't be supportive of my programs."

Murphy said he hoped to have all nine positions filled before the end of February.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS last week gave Murphy the authority to spend as much as \$250,000 to pay his new administrators' salaries, although

Murphy assured them he should only have to spend \$100,000 of that amount.

However, Murphy's inability to guarantee that the figure wouldn't go higher led to substantial opposition, almost entirely from Democratic commissioners.

Commissioner Dennis Aaron (D-Oak Park) charged that Murphy's \$100,000 estimate was "pie in the sky" and asked for a specific estimate from Murphy about how much his plan would cost to implement.

AT LEAST one Republican commissioner joined the Democrats in asking for a more reliable estimate.

Commissioner Richard Wilcox (R-1), of Orinville, wanted Murphy's request for nine new positions to be sent to committee for extended discussion.

"I would like to know if Murphy can do it for \$100,000," Wilcox said. "I think Murphy should substantiate a little more."

The majority, however, was willing

to trust that Murphy wouldn't spend more than necessary.

MURPHY, WHO again this week said he wouldn't guarantee that the cost wouldn't exceed \$100,000, said he hopes to keep costs down by hiring current county employees to the new posts whenever possible.

In many cases when an employee is promoted to a new spot his former position can be abolished and his salary be used to help pay for the new position.

Under the old county administrative structure, there were some 27 division heads running various county agencies and services. Since all these division heads are protected by merit system, the positions can't be abolished in the interests of streamlining county government.

In time, however, as protected employees retire or move to other jobs, many of the division head positions can be abolished and their duties transferred to the new superdepartment heads.

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Banks to resolve tax controversy

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Irate homeowners who received notices from their banks to deposit additional amounts of money in their escrow accounts can take comfort in the fact that they probably will get it all back.

Dr. Fred J. Thorn, superintendent of Bloomfield Hills Schools, said Tuesday he had been working with officials from a number of banks which had asked mortgagors to deposit additional sums of money in their escrow accounts as a result of twice-yearly tax collections.

Before the twice-yearly collection was approved in various municipalities, school officials had been assured it would not have an impact on homeowners.

"At the moment I am encouraged at the spirit with which they (bank officials) are looking into our problem," Thorn said.

"I think we will be able to resolve this between the school district and the banks without bringing any outside pressure or legislation," he added.

THE PROBLEM arose because of computerization and the solution is to reprogram the computers, Thorn said. Banking officials have said they would do this, Thorn said.

"Man programs the computers, computers shouldn't be programming us," he said.

Thorn said he understood that persons who received payment requests from their banks will have to comply until they get the computers reprogrammed.

When the new program is in the computer, new statements will be issued and refunds paid, he said.

SOME SMALLER banks may be

able to do this immediately but larger ones will take longer, perhaps as much as six months, he predicted.

"I would advise people to check with their banks as to when they will be able to do this," Thorn said.

He is contacting all major banks in the area and also met on Monday with Rep. James Delebaugh (R-45), Sen. Donald Bishop (R-4) and Dr. Donald Peckenpaugh, superintendent of Birmingham Schools.

Delebaugh is a member of the house banking committee and Bishop is a member of the senate banking committee in the Michigan legislature.

"I hope by the end of the week to have a list of all the banks that are going to cooperate in terms of this unique problem," Thorn said.

Transactional Analysis set

The Continuum Center for Adult Counseling and Leadership Training is sponsoring an official Transactional Analysis course from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Oakland University's clubhouse.

This course is designed to help people understand how and why they behave the way they do.

Eric Berne's theory of Parent, Adult and Child ego-states enables people to discover in a direct way how they relate to others and how they can change ineffectual behavior patterns.

Sandra Landsman, who holds a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Wayne State, will lead the course. For further information, call the Continuum Center at Oakland University, Rochester.

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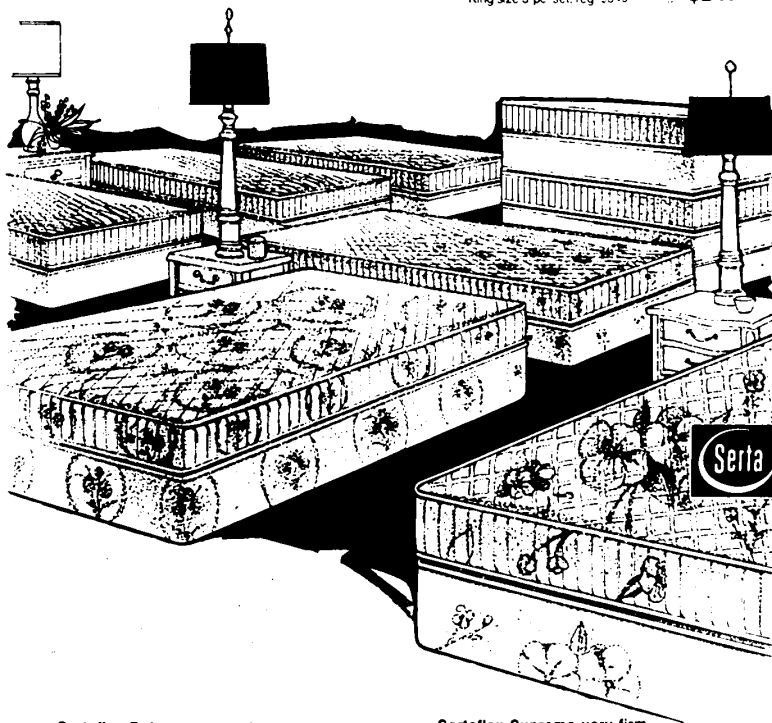
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