

Hampton steps down from circuit court

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Oakland County Circuit Court Judge William P. Hampton has announced he will retire from the bench at the end of his current elected term and will not seek reelection to a new term this year.

He said he plans to re-enter the practice of law Jan. 1, 1977, with the law firm of Davidson, Gotschall, Kohl, Nelson, Secrest, Wardle & Lynch in Farmington Hills.

Hampton, 38, was elected to the Oakland Circuit Court in 1970 following his original appointment to the court in 1970 by Gov. William G. Milliken. He served as the court's presiding judge for one year, as well as an officer of the State Judges' Association.

Hampton said although he is scheduled to assume the presidency of the Michigan Judges' Association in September, he will forego this distinction in order to once again assume the challenge of the practice of law.

Residing in Bloomfield Hills with his wife and three children, Hampton formerly served in the Michigan House of Representatives for six years, four of

those years as the Republican Floor Leader. In 1970 he was named one of the Five Outstanding Young Men in Michigan by the Michigan Jaycees. He is currently serving on the Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice.

"I feel privileged to have served on what I consider to be the finest trial court in the United States. It is with mixed emotions that I leave the bench, however, after 12 years of public service. I believe that the end of this term is the appropriate time.

"I believe that my experience as a legislator and a trial judge offers a unique opportunity for me to utilize that background and serve the citizens of this area in a broader capacity.

Expressing his regret over Hampton's resignation from the bench, Judge Robert Webster said on behalf of the other members of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

"While this decision appears to be final, the bench hopes that Judge Hampton will reconsider and seek re-election. During his tenure on this bench, he has proved himself to be one of the outstanding trial judges in this state.

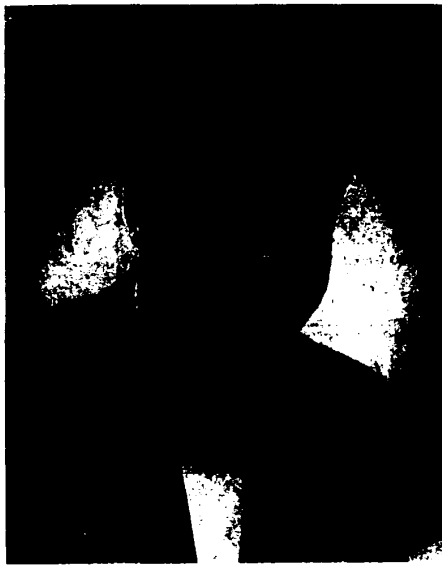
"He has demonstrated outstanding ability, integrity, and fairness and the county and state will suffer a grievous loss as a result of his departure."

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Buyers shift to used houses

House buyers are moving increasingly into the used or "existing" house market.

The reason, according to the United Northwestern Realty Association, is the rising cost of new construction and land development.

In an average year, says UNRA executive vice president Michael Sarnonek, the ratio of existing to new house sales is 2.5 to 1 or 3 to 1. But last year the ratio climbed to 4 to 1.

In 1975 the average sales price in the UNRA area rose 6.9 per cent to reach \$21,461 compared to \$20,445 a year earlier, Sarnonek said.

The average sale price of an existing house remained under \$10,000 until the late 1960s and went over the \$20,000 mark about 1968.

In the tri-county area last year, 41.2 per cent of sales were for more than \$20,000 while 37.2 per cent were in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range and 21.6 per cent under \$20,000.

In the higher priced homes, 19.4 per cent sold in the \$20,000 to \$40,000 range, 9.9 between \$40,000 and \$50,000, 5.7 in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 bracket, 3.2 per cent between \$60,000 and \$70,000 and an even three per cent in excess of \$70,000.

Nature walks set at Stony Creek

A Sunday morning guided nature hike for the general public along the nature trails at Stony Creek Metropark near Utica will meet Sunday, Feb. 6 and Sunday, Feb. 7.

The walks start at 9 a.m. and take about two hours. Persons should meet at the Nature Center Building.

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