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The County Line  
Reminder

# Top cop retires

## Burkett to take over Searing's post

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ORTONVILLE — There'll be a new, but familiar, face behind the sergeant's desk at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office's Brandon Substation Dec. 10.

After nearly 30 years with the sheriff's office, Sgt. Michael Searing is hanging up his holster Dec. 7.

"They told me years ago the day would come when I'd know it's time," Searing said. "It's time."

Searing said his replacement following his retirement will be Sgt. Pete Burkett, currently the commander at the Addison Township Substation.

Searing started his career in law enforcement in 1976 with the Northland Police Department, then the only private police department in the state. After three years there he did a brief stint with

the White Lake Township Police before joining the sheriff's office.

Over the next three decades, Searing worked road patrol, motorcycles, narcotics and just prior to coming to Brandon Township he commanded the department's eight-member traffic unit. Coming to Brandon, he said, was a "department decision," but he added the Brandon Substation is a "coveted slot" among sergeants.

In the end, Searing said the decision to retire came down to economics. Deputies' pensions are based on an average of their last five years on duty and heading up the traffic unit offered the opportunity for a lot of overtime, he said.

Still, he said, the Brandon Substation "has been a good experience." He said he would have liked to have redesigned the substation's layout and upgraded the school district's crisis plan,

but he wasn't in the position long enough to do so.

Although he's retiring, Searing won't be leaving law enforcement entirely. After a short vacation someplace warm, he said he'll be working part time for the department doing court security. "Right now, a couple of days a week sounds fine," he said.

That should leave him time for the mountain bike he plans to buy.

Searing's replacement as substation commander is no stranger to the Ortonville area. Searing said Burkett's wife is a teacher with the Brandon School District and he once served as a detective at the substation.

"I'm very proud of what these guys do," Searing said of his substation officers. "I've been blessed. I've loved my job my whole career."

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