Local

Walters to step down in Guilderland



Carl Walters retiring supervisor

By EDWARD CAREY

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GUILDERLAND — Guilderland Town Supervisor Carl Walters loves to golf, fish, paint and refinish furniture.

When January of next year rolls around, he'll have plenty of time to do all of these things.

Walters, who will have served as Guilderland town supervisor for 16 years at the end of this year, announced Sunday that he will not seek his ninth two-year term as supervisor.

Republicans in the town, faced with a supervisor election without Walters as their candidate for the first time since 1963, have chosen Albany attorney Kevin A. Moss — a former assistant district attorney in both Rensselaer and

Albany counties — as their candidate for supervisor.

Walters said Sunday at a Republicansponsored town picnic that he had "promised my family several years ago when I reached early Social Security age, I would try my hardest to get out of the political arena." Walters, at 62, is the longest-tenured town supervisor in the immediate Capital District.

While supervisor, Walters — a former president of the state Association of Towns — oversaw the construction of a new Town Hall on Route 20, the installation of public water and sewers in a town that had had public water only in the hamlet of McKownville before his election, the acquisition of Tawasentha Park on Route 146 by Guilderland for use as a town park, and the establishment of planning and zoning regulations in the town.

Also since he first became supervisor in 1966, the town went to full-value property assessment and became embroiled in the one of the hottest controversies in Guilderland history that of the proposed Crossgates mall in Westmere.

Moss, who resigned from his position as Guilderland town justice over the weekend, is the 35-year-old attorney who first captured headlines as the Rensselaer County assistant district attorney who prosecuted the highly publicized James Whitbeck kidnap-murder-torture case. He also ran and lost in 1977 against Democrat Sol Greenberg for Albany County district attorney.

Moss had served as town justice since January 1978, when he was named to fill an unexpired justice's term. He was elected to fill the unexpired term in November of that year, and was reelected to a four-year term in November 1979.

He will be replaced as town justice by Kenneth E. Riddett, 30, of Woodlake

; Moss nominated

Apartments, a lawyer in private practice in Albany who also works part-time for the state Senate Committee on Cities.

Moss predicted Sunday that the main issue in the race for town supervisor will be that of "qualifications for the job. I've served three-and-a-half years as town justice, and served well. As town justice, I've derived expertise by rendering decisions after considering all the factors. As town supervisor, the decisions will be more varied."

Moss will face Democratic Party candidate William Aylward, former mayor of the village of Altamont, and Democratic County Legislator Anne Gaffney, who will run as an independent candidate, in November.

Also on the Republican ticket. November:

- Donald Cropsey and John Ryan will seek re-election to the Town Board.
- Steven Simon, an Albany attorney, will seek re-election as town justice, and Riddett will seek election as town justice.
- Jane Springer, incumbent, will seek a new two-year term as town clerk.
- Shirley Holmes will seek a second four-year term as town receiver of taxes.