

Saline mayor joins Swisher Commercial

BY PAULA GARDNER

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The mayor of Saline is taking on a new role: Commercial real estate brokerage.

Gretchen Driskell will join the staff of Swisher Commercial in January, after working for several years in property management for the Phoenix Co.

Driskell initially will focus on office and retail leasing for the Ann Arbor-based Swisher, she said. Eventually, she could end up focusing on the markets in southern Washtenaw County.

"I'm ready to expand my horizons . . . and represent more than just a single property owner," Driskell said of the move.

Driskell has been mayor of Saline for seven years. It's a part-

time job that blends politics with multiple roles that fit commercial real estate, she said.

During her time as mayor, Driskell has built familiarity with economic development issues, zoning and brownfields.

She also brings an educational background in finance, including a master's degree in business administration.

The move to Swisher began this fall when Driskell and Swisher CEO Dave Hamilton ended up comparing notes on their CCIM training during a chance encounter. Hamilton completed the intense commercial brokerage courses years ago, and Driskell recently started them.

She followed up by sending the company a resume, and then meetings turned into a job offer.

Driskell left the Ypsilanti-based

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— **Gretchen Driskell,**
new Swisher agent

Phoenix in December. She said she values the years she was there, representing the company's commercial properties across the area. Among them were South Main Market in Ann Arbor and Mur-

phy's Crossing in Saline.

That experience gave her a start in real estate, prompting her to get her license.

The move to Swisher means a different twist to her career, but one that naturally follows her previous position.

She'll also remain as mayor of Saline, she said, and she doesn't expect that to be an issue as she represents building owners and tenants.

"I wouldn't do anything to impact the integrity of that position," Driskell said.

At Swisher, she'll join a staff of about a dozen agents. The company is among the top three local companies in number of listings.

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