

Franklin's chief plans to quit post, return to S'field

By ALICE COLLINS

Franklin Police Chief Joseph George is expected to resign within the next few weeks to return to the Southfield Police Department. He served there 11 years before coming to Franklin.

George confirmed last week that he had applied for reinstatement in the Southfield department. On Thursday night, the Southfield Police and Fire Civil Service Commission ruled unanimously that George was eligible to return under Civil Service Act 78.

"My treatment here in Franklin has been excellent," said George. "I'm not leaving because of any disagreement or conflict. Things have worked well here."

"I find that I miss the diversified kind of police work that exists in a city the size of Southfield. I spent a lot of years there, my family and I live there, and I feel going back will be best for me and my family."

George was hired by Franklin President William Herrick approximately eight months ago to replace retired chief Frank Wilson.

"WE CONSIDERED it a great day when we got him," said Herrick on Friday. "It will not be a great day when we lose him. I'm very disappointed having him go. He's a super professional. He's done a super job with the department and will be a difficult guy to replace."

Southfield Police Chief Edward Ritenour confirmed that George has been accepted for reinstatement. The paper

work is being processed, Ritenour said, and his starting date will be set in about three weeks.

George said he notified Herrick of his pending resignation, but hasn't submitted it officially, because he is still awaiting information concerning the conditions of his reinstatement and because he didn't yet have a starting date.

According to Act 78, George will return to Southfield as a patrolman, the rank he held at time of his resignation.

GEORGE WILL leave Franklin just as the village council is about to go to the voters with a tax hike proposal to increase the size of the police department from seven to 10 members.

"The reason for asking for the increased police protection is for the safety of the citizens of Franklin," said George. "It's something they really need and it should be the same whether I'm here or not."

"With respect to the ballot proposal (expected to be decided upon by the council Nov. 19)," said Herrick, "Joe's leaving doesn't affect it at all. We'll still have the same requirements we had a week ago."

Herrick said he would begin a search for a new chief as soon as George makes his resignation official. According to Franklin's charter, the chief of police is appointed by the president.

George, 35, said he wasn't sorry he took the job in Franklin. "I feel I accomplished something there. The morale of the department is good. Everyone's working as a team and I feel I personally got a lot out of it," he said.

EMU student receives honor

Therese M. Dwyer, daughter of Doris M. Dwyer of Farmington, has received a Regents Scholar Award from Eastern Michigan University.

The award is the top honor at the university. Recipients must maintain a 3.75 grade point average in high school

and have an American College Testing score of 23 or a combined Scholastic Aptitude Testing score of 1000.

A graduate of North Farmington High School, Therese plans to study education at Eastern.



Christmas trees already?

Yup, believe it or not. Even though the day we honor the turkey is still a week away, businesses are already gearing up for the next big holiday. Dick Zoner (left) owner of Farmer John's Greenhouse on Hagerty in Farmington Hills and Don Field unload a batch of Yuletide trees. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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