

# DPW foreman calls it quits

By Joan Adamczak  
staff writer

Joseph DeVriendt retired from his post as DPW foreman last Friday after 21 years with Farmington's Department of Public Works.

And the Farmington City Council took advantage of DeVriendt's retirement to do away with the foreman position and create a new job, assistant to the director of public services.

This is the last step in completing a department of public services, which was created when the department of public works and the water and sewage departments were combined.

Filling the new position at the end of August will be Kevin Gushman, previously employed with Orchard, Hiltz and McClement, Inc., a Lyons-based engineering firm.

Gushman will be responsible for a number of things, including scheduling work crews, setting long-term objectives for the crews, supervising work progress, supervising and inspecting construction and repair projects.

Gushman will also be delegated to aid the director of public services in evaluating workers.

"We've worked with him and the engineering firm he works with for many years," said Farmington City Manager.

Robert Deadman about Gushman. "He's a very talented individual. His background lends itself to the position," Deadman added.

As a crew leader and planner with the engineering firm, Gushman has reading and interpretation skills which will be an asset to his new position with the department, said Deadman.

"He's a good generalist in terms of maintenance and construction," said Deadman.

RETIRED FOREMAN DeVriendt is moving to Roscommon, Mich., with his wife Florence.

"It's a 'Little Farmington' up there," said DeVriendt of Roscommon, "because there are a lot of people from Farmington who have moved up there."

DeVriendt, who has lived in Farmington all his 62 years, said he will miss the people in his home town. But he added that he would like to live in a small town, "for a change."

"I just hope that I did a good job here in Farmington and provided good services to the community," DeVriendt concluded.

DeVriendt is the son of the late Joseph DeVriendt, Sr., police chief of Farmington for 22 years.



RANDY DORST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Joseph DeVriendt retired recently after working for the city of Farmington for 21 years.

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**WHEN YOU START A NEW JOB**  
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Don't charge ahead without sizing up the situation. Get to know who's who and what the established lines of communication are. These may be formal (the official table of organization) or informal (the "pecking" of the work situation). If you act without adequate attention to either of these structures, you're up and stepping on toes.  
Take advantage of the honeymoon period: when other workers expect to help you and are available to offer their guidance. USE this time before the initial goodwill evaporates and other office problems intrude.  
As a new employee, demonstrate your integrity; make clear that you're the kind of person who'll do what you say you'll do. Show you can be counted on. Show also that you can be loyal, and trustworthy in other ways: don't gossip or blame others for difficulties you may encounter.  
Perhaps the most important tip to remember in beginning a new job is that hard work makes up for a multitude of sins. This is the most effective key to getting things done.  
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