

# Code service officer position created

Ordinance enforcement in Farmington is being beefed up. The city council voted Sept. 15 to establish a new position of code service officer — a person responsible for building inspection and enforcement of the city's zoning ordinances, litter laws and sign regulations.

The new person will also coordinate public health activities with Oakland County, and do annual sidewalk hazard inspections. The new position takes retiring building inspector Jay Harrison's job one step further. "We have found those persons as-

signed to assume his (Harrison's) duties have insufficient time to function as code inspection officers," City Manager Robert Deadman told the council in a report. "We... seek an individual who has had some previous training in inspection or law enforcement."

Neighboring cities, including Farmington hills, Berkley, Madison Heights, Oak Park and Novi, have such code enforcement personnel, Deadman said. Compensation ranges \$20,000-\$25,000.

THE FARMINGTON job will pay between \$19,000 and \$23,500, according to Deadman's report. There is already \$9,000 budgeted for the current year for the remainder of

Harrison's salary, and the council voted to take \$7,000 additional from the city's contingency fund for the remaining \$15,000 portion of the salary. The new employee will be based at the city's public services department on Nine Mile.

Although city employees have found time to do regular building inspections "without delay," according to Deadman's report and information from Director of Public Ser-

vices Earl Billing, "the department is busy doing typical... functions and has had insufficient time to do an adequate job in the other areas." Many of the functions are being handled by Billing and his staff.

The newly appointed officer will work closely with the Department of Public Safety, handling ordinances not normally enforced by that department, Deadman added.

## Talk topic: El Salvador poor

A nationally known photojournalist and theologian will describe the theology and courage of the poor in El Salvador Thursday, Sept. 25.

Jim Harney, a Boston native and a former diocesan priest, will speak at 9:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Church Hall.

"With pain and beauty, Jim Harney brings us Salvador. And I am the better for it," wrote actor Ed Asner.

Harney has traveled to El Salvador eight times, living with and photographing peasants in rural areas. He lived through an aerial attack by the El Salvadoran army against a village of peasants. His photo story details the flight of vil-

lages in a modern day exodus.

HARNEY VISITED Detroit in February, speaking at local congregations and to community groups about his most recent trip to El Salvador. Witness for Peace in southeast Michigan is sponsoring his trip along with local congregations and communities.

Over 750,000 refugees have crowded into the capital area of San Salvador, living in desolate poverty. They have been forced off their land the past two years by aerial attacks and sweeps carried out by the El Salvadoran army in an effort to remove the civilian population from areas held by revolutionary forces. Another 800,000

refugees are estimated to be outside the boundaries of the country.

Currently, the refugees are beginning to attempt to move back into their homelands, meeting with resistance from the government and army. Often, they seek accompaniment from the North American religious community — believing that the presence of North Americans will discourage the Salvadoran army from brutality.

Witness for Peace organizes delegations of visitors to Central America, chiefly to Nicaragua, to observe conditions and report back to local faith groups. For more information on Witness for Peace, call 843-9093.

## City adopts local seat belt law

In a move to put more state revenues into the local pot, Farmington city officials introduced a local ordinance requiring safety belt use for those driving within the city limits of Farmington.

The ordinance mirrors state laws that require passengers in the front seat of vehicles to buckle up and that safety belts or child restraints be given for children under 4.

Fine revenues generated through the 4th District Court in Farmington for safety belt law violations are currently forwarded to the state, according to a report from City Manager Robert Deadman to the Farmington City Council. The council voted 3-0 Sept. 15 to introduce the

measure. Council members Ralph Yoder and Shirley Richardson were absent.

Both district court judges, Margate Schaefer and Michael Hand, and city administrators requested the change because of the revenue situation, the report said. No revenue estimates of how much local court coffers would gain could be given by city officials.

As with state law, enforcement of the ordinance section requiring drivers and front seat passengers to wear properly adjusted safety belts "is secondary to other violations which caused an officer to stop the vehicle," the report said. Children under 4 would "be re-

strained by a system which meets federal standards" under the ordinance, the report said. Exceptions to this include those occupying seats in buses, taxis and motorcycles.

Points would not be given against the driver's license for a violation of either portion of the ordinance.


Councilman Arnold Campbell suggested the city add rear seatbelt provisions to the ordinance, but City Attorney Robert Kelly said the state law would pre-empt any local ordinance. "I don't think you can make it more restrictive," he added.

The state legislature passed the child restraint law in 1982 and the current law covering safety restraints for drivers and front seat passengers was passed in July 1985.

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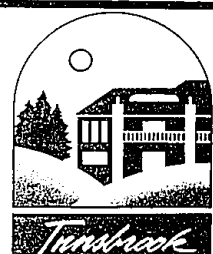
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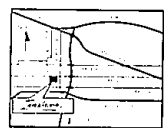
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