

'Enhanced 911' to be slow, costly

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

It will be 1984 before any Oakland County communities can hook up to "enhanced 911" service.

Representatives from municipalities throughout the county are preparing for the advanced emergency network, said Mariya Vickers, county staff coordinator for the 911 planning committee.

"We have representatives from local police fire, EMS, township supervisors association and the city managers association," she said.

"The committee is provided with information so local communities know how they can each design their own 911 system."

Enhanced 911 is an emergency system by which a resident in any service area can pick up his phone, dial 911 and be immediately connected to the local police, fire and ambulance services.

"The purpose of enhanced 911 is so that all the different telephone exchanges in the same community can be connected to the community police station (or other selective routes)," Vickers said.

"In Troy, for instance, there are

three different exchanges, and they all want the same features and system, so they need the enhanced system.

"Farmington Hills has a plan that's ready to go, but Michigan Bell won't be able to offer enhanced 911 until 1984," she said.

While most communities are interested in hooking up to enhanced 911, the high cost may slow adoption of the service.

"It's quite expensive. There is a tariff imposed by the Public Service Commission, and there is a \$20,000 installation charge for each answering point requested, as well as a \$1,000-a-month fee for each phone number connected to the service."

There is also a \$1.40 fee-per-installation of each selective routing line and a 10.3-cent-per-month charge for each main station.

"Not only is the initial up-front cost high, but so are the regular monthly payments. Because of the divestiture of Michigan Bell (by AT&T), the basic rates will go up," Vickers said.

Presently, Southfield and Oak Park are the only two Oakland County communities which subscribe to the basic 911 service. They pay for the service from the cities' general funds.

Solid waste rules proposed

Oakland County communities which host solid waste landfills shouldn't have smelly problems dumped upon them, according to a group of citizens committee to tighten landfill controls.

The Oakland County Solid Waste Committee recently presented several recommendations to the county Board of Commissioners on landfill maintenance. The recommendations will be forwarded to the county board's building and planning committee for study.

The 24-member Solid Waste Committee, chaired by Jim Meenihan, has been studying landfills since 1977.

As a result of the meetings, the group recommended:

- A citizens information committee in each landfill host city and township should be formed to answer residents questions pertaining to the underground trash pits.

- The county environmental health department should provide personnel for daily landfill inspection.

- No host community should get a second landfill unless all alternatives for other sites are exhausted.

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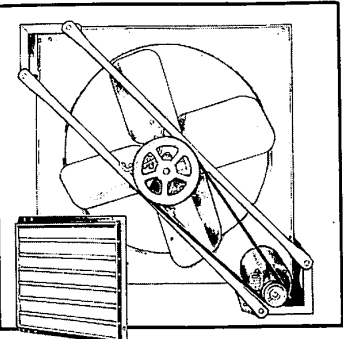
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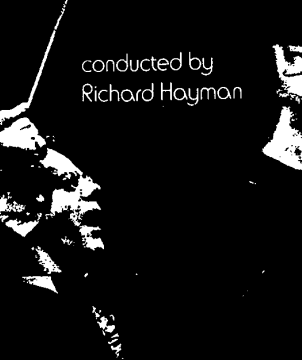
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