

# Mother Nature's snowy surprises zaps power lines

Mother Nature's three-to-five inch snow surprise last weekend cast some dark moments on about 2,000 Farmington and Farmington Hills residents who were without electrical power for anywhere from one to ten hours.

"Wind and snow was the cause," said James Connelly, Detroit Edison's director of Customer and Marketing Services in Oakland County. "This stuff

was real wet and it stuck."

Usually, Connelly said, a snowstorm causes few problems with electrical and telephone wires. But because last weekend's snow was wet, the wires arched, causing many to burn out.

That's what happened, for example, near Grand River and Orchard Lake roads, where 1500 customers were

without power for about 6.5 hours early Sunday morning, Connelly said. Problems were caused from burned-out fuses, wires laden with wet snow causing them to wrap around each other and even one area where it appeared that lightning had struck the wires, he added.

"But we had them all back on Sunday," Connelly said.

EVERY OTHER phone call Sunday, he said, was from Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Both Farmington and Farmington Hills police log books were filled with residents' reports of power outages and falsely tripped burglar alarms, also due from the heavy, wet snow.

"But there was no real major damage," said Walter Karolak, Farmington

Hills Department of Public Works superintendent. "I think we made out quite well."

Agreeing, Farmington Director of Public Services Earl Billing, said "there was nothing out of the ordinary, no real inconveniences."

But both cities did call in extra crews between 3-4 a.m. Sunday and finally finished plowing about 2 p.m.

In some areas fallen tree limbs and branches, broken from the snow's weight, had to be removed from the electrical wires and roads, Karolak said.

Although "sort of worried about flooding" following the storm, Karolak said the cold temperatures most likely will prevent the snow's quick melting.

## Hospital offers walk-in service

A 10-inch gash requires stitches. A nagging cough can be tended to in a scheduled visit with the doctor.

But what happens when sudden chills and fever strike and it's 9 o'clock at night?

Henry Ford Hospital's West Bloomfield Center now offers walk-in care — without an appointment — by doctors and nurses around the clock.

The program is called the 24-Hour, Walk-In Physician Service. It's a system of dispensing all-day health care

that's new to the West Bloomfield area and western Oakland County.

The service, at the West Bloomfield Center on Maple west of Drake, is designed to meet health needs, even if it isn't an emergency or a chronic problem.

It's for people "who want to see a physician, but who don't think they need to go to the emergency room. The service fills that void," said Linda Messina, administrative manager of the West Bloomfield Center.

"What we recognize as a No. 1 priority for persons who are sick is access to a physician. If a person's physician can't see him or her, or is out of town, or if a medical problem occurs after hours, the 24-Hour Walk-In Physician Service is available to them."

TREATMENT INFORMATION, provided through the new service, will be forwarded to the patient's regular physician. If the patient has no physician, the information will be kept on file at the West Bloomfield Center, where follow-up care and referrals to specialists are available.

The 24-Hour Walk-In Physician Service also offers X-ray laboratory and emergency facilities, if needed.

The fee for the 24-Hour Walk-In Physician service is higher than a visit to a doctor but less than the cost of emergency room care.

For more information about the service, call 661-6100.

## School chief retires

COTTON, WHO WAS born in England and raised in Detroit, graduated from Detroit Northwestern High School. A guard on Wayne State's football team, he had his college career interrupted by World War II.

As a member of the Army's 27th Infantry, he participated in the invasions of Saipan and Okinawa.

"It's been great here in Farmington. We have a lot of friends on staff. The people with whom we've worked have all been wonderful. My fellow administrators have been very good to us."

Cotton's impending retirement was the topic of discussion at the Farmington Board of Education's April 19 meeting.

The board voted 6-0 to advertise for a new athletic director "at all lo-

cal universities and in regional placement centers" in the words of Lew Schulman, Superintendent of the Farmington Schools, and to set up a committee to review applicants.

Earlier, the board had given some consideration to decentralizing the position.

"We decided that it would be wrong and dangerous to the program to decentralize," said Schulman.

## Farmington signs up CEMS

Continued from Page 1

A committee of representatives from the four municipalities in March recommended the CEMS proposal over a bid from NAS which has served Farmington residents for 11 years.

The committee was formed about 18 months ago in response to public concern about the delivery of NAS ambulance and emergency services. Deadman said when Farmington first approved the CEMS proposal.

"WE FELT the best way to solve the dilemma was to seek proposals (from

the emergency services) and pick the best proposal," he said.

Although NAS offered less expensive rates, committee members said, in an evaluation report, that they recommended approving CEMS because they felt the firm offered better service, more equipment, more qualified personnel and agreed to train city personnel free of charge.

The report also indicated that representatives were concerned about NAS' two rate reductions in the past nine months. Committee members indicated

that those reductions "raise some questions concerning the basis of the rate structure."

But John Early, NAS owner, pointed out that he reduced NAS' rates because Farmington officials told him residents were complaining about the "high rates."

According to both firms' proposals, a patient suffering a heart attack, with emergency medical technicians (EMT) transporting him 10 miles, administering oxygen and charging other emergency care fees, would pay \$185 with CEMS and \$150 with NAS.

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