



## Franklin switches dispatch

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In addition to the \$1,000 monthly charge to Farmington Hills, Franklin will spend an additional \$3,000 to upgrade its communications system in preparation for the change.

When Farmington Hills takes over dispatching Nov. 1, the city services will include answering the Franklin police emergency telephone line and dispatching Franklin officers.

In addition to performing the dispatching services, Farmington Hills will also provide overnight jail lockup for Franklin prisoners, will administer breathalyzer tests for suspected drunk drivers and provide additional administrative services.

"We've been taking our prisoners all the way to Pontiac to the Oakland County Jail, so this will save us time," Glomb said.

Although the Farmington Hills City Council voiced concern about adding more prisoners to what they thought was an already crowded lock-up, Police Chief John Nichols said that judging from Franklin's arrest rate, there should be no problem.

Because the lock-up is used to house prisoners until they are taken to Oakland County Jail, Nichols said the cells are rarely overcrowded.

THE FARMINGTON council first voted Aug. 8 to authorize the village to enter

into an agreement with Farmington Hills.

The final draft of the contract is being prepared for signatures by both communities, Inspector Richard Niemisto of the Farmington Hills Police Department said Friday.

The Farmington Hills department — with an authorized strength of 89 sworn police officers and about 100 total employees — is roughly twice the size of the Birmingham Police Department.

Farmington Hills does not provide dispatching for any other community, said Niemisto.

Franklin, with six officers, serves the villages of Franklin and Bingham Farms. Bingham Farms contracts with Franklin for those services.

Birmingham began dispatching for Franklin in 1975 under a federal grant for communications. The grant was used to purchase equipment.

Franklin Village president John Verdon said he was hopeful the change could be made soon after Nov. 1.

The Franklin police telephone number — 628-5444 — will remain the same, said Verdon.

## School contract detailed

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• **CLASS SIZE:** Class size limitations remain 30 students in elementary and 33 students in secondary. However, the contract allows the board to exceed these limitations if financial restrictions force them to do so.

• **SENIORITY/LAYOFF/RECALL:** Thirty working days' notice are required for layoff. However, the contract allows a one-time-only layoff with just 10 school days' notice. A one-time early retirement incentive of \$15,000 will be offered teachers 55 years or older with at least 10 years in the district. Retirement must occur before layoffs this month. Funds for this offer come from saving two teacher working days because of the strike.

• **CALENDAR:** The school calendar will remain the same all three years with a "traditional" starting date after Labor Day. The last day of school this year, however, will be one week late (third week in June) because of the strike.

## Save energy

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