Hills ambulance service expands

By Gary M. Cotos staff writer

Plymouth's recent shift in ambulance service apparently hasn't set well with some city and the set well with some city and the set well with some city of first-response responsibility from the fire department to Community Emergency Medical Service (CEMS), a non-profit ambulance subseldary of Bots-ford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

The firefighters union has filled an unfair labor practice charge with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission because of the change. The union claims the shift was implemented without negotiation and came earlier than expected.

without negotiation and Calling Calling and Calling Ca

nove, he said.

However, some city commission members reportedly were caught off guard by Graper's implementation of the change. Apparently, an announcement of the move, credited to Mayor David Pugh, was released before the commission was aware of the action.

Pugh refused to comment when asked if he knew of the amnouncement prior to its mailing.

COMMISSIONER Bud Martin intro-duced a motion Monday night to au-thorize the shift and called for it to end in 45 days. The motion failed 4-3, with Pugh and Commissioner Mary Ellen McKercher joining Martin in voting for it.

"I thought it important to bring this action back into perspective," Martin

said.
"We authorize temporary signs, so I think we should authorize something like this."

like this."

Commissioners Mary Childs and Jack Kenyon said Martin's resolution came after the fact and was unneces-

came are: the rest says,
"I have enough faith in the credibility of the city manager to do what he is supposed to do," Childs said, "I'm not in favor of the resolution." Pugh disgreed, saying be was "very upset"

with Graper's handling of the switch.
"I just hope after 45 days we will have the chance to say yes, go, or no, don't go, to a permanent change." Pugh

said.
"It didn't happen last time, If Bud Martin wants to put it back in the prop-er perspective, I can support that."

"WIIAT WE are going to do toolght is look at the performance of CEMS. We should have done that before we went to be sometiment of the whole study session after Monday night's regular meeting, the commission received a report on CEMS performance as a supplemental service in the city.

Greg Beauchemin, CEMS director of operations, responded to allerations.

operations, responded to allegations that the company had slow response

that the company has according to calls.

During the five months CEMS provided supplemental service in the city, response times ranged between 4.88 minutes to 3.78 minutes, Beauchemin

said.

The response times, he said, are recorded by computer, which doesn't allow for manipulation by the drivers.

The CEMS response time compares
with a national accepted average of
eight to nine minutes, be said.

Another factor in the response time,
according to Beauchemin, was a two to
three-minute lag in receiving the call
from the police desk.

from the police desk.

SINCE TAKING over as the firstresponse rus, CEMS has averaged a
two to three-minute response times
from the moment the call comes into
the police desk, he said.

The CEMS director also cautioned
that response time shouldn't be the
only consideration in evaluating service.

"We don't push speed as much as fire
departments. We try to bring a more
sophisticated unit to the scene and staballize the patient," he said.
The city averages some 55 emergency ambulance calls a month and, for
this reson, Beauchemin said, CEMS
paramedics are rotated between communities to maintain their skills. In Occumunities, with Pymouth averaging the least calls per month, he said.

YMCA highlights

The Farmington Area YMCA provides a variety of services for youth and adults in the community. Further information may be obtained by calling 553-4020 between 9 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. daily.

LATE WINTER MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUES — Four-on-four banketball at the Farrington Area YMCA may be played in with two separate leagues. The Night Owis league meets on Wednesday, with games played after 10 p.m. The Sunday league plays on Sunday evenings. The league is loop for members and soo-members, with registered of ficials and a eight-week schedule plus a tournament. Team fee is \$215. Deadline is Sunday, March 4.

MEN'S FLOOR HOCKEY — Join the excitement of a non-checking organized floor hockey league. All games played on Tuesday or Thursday evening after 10:30 p.m. Team fee is \$250, with a mearling of 12 players per team. All games will have officials, scorekeepers and standings kept. Organization meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1.

FOR ELEMENTARY YOUTH — Come and spend the night at the YMCA. Come and celebrate the second birthday of Youth Steep Overs. The date is Saturday, Feb. 18, from 8 p.m. until 9 n.m. Activities include gym games, midnight swim, pizza and

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ice cream, crafts and lots more. All youth should bring swim sult, towel, toilet articles and sleeping bag. Enrollment is limited, so sign up early. Fee for member is \$8 and \$12 for non-members.

SNOWBALL SPECIAL — Moms and Dads, do you need a place for the kids to go during the upcoming winter vacation? Come over to the YMCA — we have the program for you. Snowball vacation runs Feb. 20-24, with activities such as gym games, craft projects, snow games (weather permitting) and more. The program has two sessions, 9 a.m. to 1, p.m. or 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Working parents, please consult Working Parents Delight.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUNG ADULTS — What an experience; an over night at the YMCA. Middle-school-aged youth only. Activities include gym games, free video games, movies, swimming, pizza, music and more. Date is Saturday, Feb. 25, from 8 pm. to 9 a.m. Bring swim suit, towel, sleeping bag, snacks and a radio. Fee for members is \$8 and \$12 for non-members. for non-members.







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atin America is discussed The response of the church to the political and economic realities of oppure Tuesday evenings, 730-330 p.m. Puesday evenings, March of through April 17. The series will focus on the growth and change of the church in Latin America in the past two decades, with attention to: WOMEN IN TP • Healing

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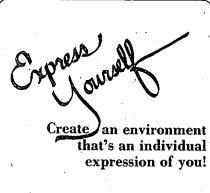
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