

# Rochester area contracts with emergency medical firm

If you live in Rochester, Avon Township (soon to be Rochester Hills) or Oakland Township, what number should you call in a medical emergency?

Your fire department's. That is part of the message that officials from those governments and Crittenton Hospital are trying to get across to Rochester-area residents.

The four groups are cooperating in a program to help residents learn how they can most effectively contact their emergency medical services (EMS).

Dr. Bernard Bigley, the Avon hospital's emergency services director, said the four groups have developed "a program of advisement to the public." In a major effort to avoid confusion when it comes to initiating emergency service requests.

Involving informational letters and the availability of telephone stickers, the emergency response

program calls for the respective fire departments to provide the primary initial response.

"It is imperative that the first department be the first one called," Bigley said.

EACH RESIDENT will receive a letter — signed by officials of their respective government and the hospital — explaining:

• That as of Dec. 1, the Community EMS ambulance company will provide service to Crittenton on a contractual basis.

• And that telephone stickers will be available to each home containing the appropriate number to use in seeking emergency service.

These letters ask the recipients to discard any other stickers they may have or receive and to replace them with the new ones for their specific area and to be sure to use the appropriate emergency number for that area.

"In our emergency medical system," Bigley said, "the fire department is the first responder. It immediately sends out a rescue unit and, when necessary, simultaneously contacts the appropriate ambulance service."

"Fire department personnel are trained as the first responder to apply effective CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), stabilize the patient and provide the oxygen. They provide the initial care."

"When needed, the sooner advanced life support service is dispatched the better. Fire department personnel are trained and qualified to assure that this will happen."

THE LETTER to Oakland Township residents said, in part: "When

an emergency arises, fast and effective action is of prime importance. Knowing the correct phone number to call can save precious time when there is an accident, injury or a life is threatened."

"The telephone stickers provide the appropriate fire department number you should call for medical/ambulance assistance. Remember that only this number will bring the proper coordinated emergency medical/ambulance/life response to your address."

The Avon letter said, in part: "We urge you to use the emergency number provided. It will allow the most efficient access to a system designed to capitalize on the cooperative efforts of your community police, fire agencies, ambulance services and your local hospital."

Rochester residents were told that Crittenton "provides a support base for the ambulance services available through your community emergency response system. Crittenton has long worked to coordinate effective, quality emergency ambulance services for area residents."

"We expect Community EMS to play a key role in our effort to improve the quality and responsiveness of our emergency medical service while at the same time reduce the cost of ambulance transportation to the public."

THE AVON Fire Department is having an in-service program with Community EMS personnel to acquaint the firefighters with the

paramedics and coordinate interactions.

Community EMS paramedics will be stationed at the hospital to assist the emergency department in the management of patients and to receive on-going skill maintenance training. The training will be provided by emergency staff doctors and nurses.

All doctors in Crittenton's emergency department are fully qualified emergency medicine physicians.

Community EMS will station an advanced life support unit at the hospital, and others will be stationed in surrounding areas to provide backup to the Crittenton unit.

Community EMS is headquartered in Farmington Hills.

## Hills picks downtown

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to develop because, for example, the roads serving the property are inadequate.

SOME BUSINESS officials who have expressed an interest in locating along the corridor inevitably want to know when 12 Mile will be widened and when another interchange of I-696 will be added, Costick said.

Tax increment financing is accomplished through a municipal authority, such as the city's Economic Development Authority.

The authority, with council's approval, must devise a development plan, which includes a designated district, type and cost of improvements and a financing plan.

In this case, the district would be bounded on the north by 12 Mile, on the south by I-696, on the west by Haggerty and on the east by property owned by the U.S. Postal Service, approximately one-quarter mile east of Farmington Road.

Improvements that might be undertaken include improving 12 Mile, an additional interchange off the expressway, drainage and stormwater retention facilities, Costick indicated.

The tax increment plan "must identify properties within the development area, their initial assessed value and the anticipated value that will be added and captured for purposes of financing needed improvements," according to report to council from City Manager William Costick.

"We capture what is in place this year," Costick said, adding that the increment plan will be based on assessed

values that are in place as of Dec. 31, the end of the tax year.

TAX INCREMENT revenues, used to finance public improvements, are derived from applying the city's tax rates as well as those of other governmental units, such as school and county, to the captured assessed value on property in a designated development district.

"The tax increment financing plan may earmark all or a portion of the tax increment revenues for use in paying the costs of the development plan," Costick indicated.

City officials must notify all the other taxing jurisdictions, such as the school district, that they would not be receiving the tax revenues they normally would from the area designated as the development district.

While council has taken its first step, Costick guessed that it would be another six months before the development and financing plans are completed. City officials are awaiting the results of studies of 12 Mile and I-696 before they can determine projected costs of improvements, Costick said.

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This "super" grapefruit pill is a dramatically improved version of the world famous grapefruit diet. It is far more effective than the original and eliminates "the mess, fuss, and high cost of eating half a fresh grapefruit at every meal."

"Pill Does All the Work"

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# REYE SYNDROME

Reye syndrome is a rare but dangerous condition that can develop from flu or chicken pox. It occurs mainly in children under 16, usually when they appear to be recovering. Watch for these signs:

- Persistent vomiting
- Fatigue
- Confusion and belligerence.

If your child displays any of these symptoms, consult a doctor immediately.

Some studies indicate that there may be an association between the use of aspirin for flu and chicken pox and the development of Reye syndrome. Further studies are being conducted on this possibility. In the meantime, the U.S. Surgeon General suggests that you check with your doctor before using aspirin or any medication when your child has flu or chicken pox.

—A message from the Food and Drug Administration.

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