Farmington Observer

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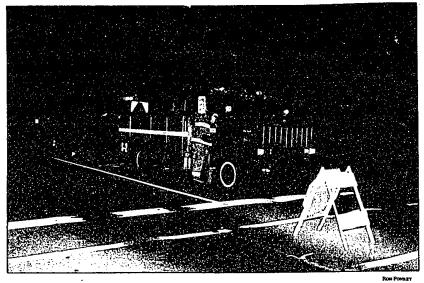
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THE WAY YOU LIVE





Working in the dark: Many city employees, including these Farmington Hills firefighters at 11 Mile and Middlebelt, were called out to help ease traffic woes during the blackout Thursday evening.

In the dark: Callers 'crittercize' outage

BY BILL COUTANT BIAST WRITER

Power was restored in Farm-ington and Farmington Hills by Friday after an outage Thursday night that left about 70,000 Oakland County residents in the dark.

Detroit Edison blamed the outage, which started at about 8:30 p.m., on two failed transformers at a substation at 11 Mile and Inkster in South-

field.
"There was some animal in-terference," said Edison spokes-man Scott Simons of reperts that a raccoon had caused the problem. "But that is not the entire reason."

"All of the power was on by 1:30 a.m. (Friday)." said Farm-ington Hills Assistant City Manager Steve Brock. "We're estimating that between 10,000-15,000 customers were without power."

But to dispatchers at the Farmington Hills Polics Department, it seemed like the entire world was without power.

"It was a night to remember," said Sgt. Joe Rebh, dispatch supervisor. "We had 911 calls that tre weren't supposed to have. People were asking, Where's my power?"

power?"

Rebh said the department lost power for less than a minute before generators sicked in.

Once the phones started ringing, they were going for a solid hour. There were 1,600 calls during the evening, compared to about 200 during the same period on a normal day, he added.

"The trouble is, with that many calls, we couldn't call Edison ourselves to find out what the problem was," he said. "We had to answer in case there was

had to answer in case there was a med-areal emergency."

And, in fact, there was a med-ical run and a dispatch of fire-fighters to a three-story building on Northwestern, where some people were trapped in the dark, Rebb sald.

In a storm, people are less likely to call because they ex-

Rebh said. But with an unexpected power outage, the phones are busy.

"It was the worst I've seen," asid the veteran officer.

Botsford General Hospital did not miss a beat despite losing power. Backup generators kept up all departments. Community Relations Director Bridget Gosin said the emergency department was closed to patients hrought by ambulance, as is procedure in a power outage. But the ER took walk-in patients.

tients.

In Farmington, dispatchers said there were a lot of alarms that went off, but power was completely restored.

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Winery is Halloween haunt

Looking for Halloween fun?
Farmington's Haunted Winery ed Oct. 20-30. Hours are 7-10 p.m. for Commission sponsors Halloween activities for youngsters in the listoric 114-year-old winery building at 31505 Grand River.
Sneak previews will be FridaysSundays, Oct. 7-9 and 14-18, and

CLARIFICATION

A photo caption on Page 15A of the Thursday, Sept. 29, Issue of the Farmington Observer should Friday, and from 10 a.m. to noon have said that Second Edition, a Startagy. Joan Courville volunresale shop at The Longacre teers at the shop.

