

# Safety

## ATM machine in station lobby designed to alleviate fears

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Automatic Teller Machine users afraid of being a crime victim might pin their hopes on a new idea.

Metrobank and Farmington Hills police are unveiling a new machine in the station lobby 10:30 a.m. Wednesday. Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi, City Manager Steve Brock, Metrobank President Robert Heinrich and Chief Bill Dwyer will officially bring the ATM on-line with its first transaction.

The front desk at the station is open 24 hours and is staffed by police officers.

Dwyer said the ATM is another in the department's ongoing community policing efforts, which have been recognized nationally and statewide.

"We've had a number of ATM-related crimes," Dwyer said. "We want to offer a safe haven for people where they can use the ATM without having to look over their shoulder or worry about being a victim of an assault."

In 1996, an ATM service worker was murdered in Farmington Hills. Most recently, a Hills off-duty police officer drew a gun on a suspicious acting man when he felt he was about to be robbed while

**'We want to offer a safe haven for people where they can use the ATM without having to look over their shoulder or worry about being a victim of an assault.'**

Bill Dwyer  
—Farmington Hills police chief

using an ATM.

Officer Bonnie Unruh, who works in the Crime Prevention Bureau, gives victim avoidance seminars to seniors and other groups. People are afraid of using ATMs.

Aside from the risk of being robbed or assaulted outside, users are worried the person behind them is trying to get their personal identification number (PIN), Unruh said.

"They're not only afraid to use it at night, but they're afraid to use it during the day," Unruh said. "It came up quite a bit. It's a scary place for them."



Be safe: Detective Sandie Rochford is ready for ATM action. The Metro Bank ATM isn't online yet, but will be soon.

Unruh saw where another city had an ATM in a police station. She suggested the idea to the chief, who got in touch with Metrobank officials.

Metrobank was eager to get involved. ATMs are mobile, but require setting up a data line.

"This is a community service and we're a com-

munity bank," said Michael McMin, Metrobank senior vice-president.

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi will have the honors of making the first transaction. "It should be pretty safe," Vagnozzi said.

## Water, sewer rates expected to increase for Farmington residents in 1999

BY TOM SMITH  
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It probably will cost a little more money for

Farmington residents and businesses to receive water and sewer services during fiscal year 1998-2000.

Kevin Gushman, director of Farmington's public services department, said the city received notification from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department that water and sewer rates will increase as of July 1.

According to that notification, Farmington's water consumption rate will increase nearly 4 per-

cent, to \$7.02 per Mcf (1,000 cubic feet); sewerage costs will jump by 7.26 percent, to about \$6.80 per 1,000 cubic feet.

About 70,000 Mcfs of Detroit water will be purchased this year for Farmington usage, Gushman said.

But Gushman emphasized that actual water and sewer rates might be slightly different than what Detroit projected. Those figures are being determined as part of Farmington's budget development process.

Farmington's water and sewer rates must be adopted prior to July 1, Gushman said.

"We definitely look at this as a benchmark, a starting point,"

Gushman said, adding that, in recent years, Farmington rates come in slightly less than what Detroit charges.

Meanwhile, Detroit also levied a "look-back" charge against all communities using the system, including Farmington. Gushman said Farmington's fee of about \$26,000 will come out of the water and sewer fund.

The charge, Gushman explained, is for Detroit to offset a revenue shortfall.

"They didn't collect enough revenue to do what they needed to operate and maintain their system," Gushman said.

Gushman stressed that the charge is a mere drop in the bucket, if you will.

"It's not significant when you consider... the city of Farmington pays over \$500,000 a year in sewage disposal charges" directly to Detroit, Gushman said.

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Third, the physician, at least when treating arthritic conditions, can surmise why the present regimen no longer works. The reason is that the underlying condition has progressed beyond the ability of the current medications to treat.

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Christyne Lawson, MD, is a licensed family practice physician with a special interest in pediatrics and women's health. As a family physician, she provides comprehensive health care to all members of the family — from children to older adults.

Dr. Lawson earned her medical degree and various clinical honors at Wayne State University, and completed her residency at Providence Hospital, where she has been a staff physician since 1994. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice and the American Medical Association.

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