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ing method than the current system.

"We typically called (county election offices) and hand carried results to the county," Cantrell said. "... Because the county will be able to get the results electronically, they should be able to provide election results quicker during the presidential year."

Farmington Hills Deputy Clerk Pam Sibley confirmed Wednesday that the department

will participate in the test.

Sibley concurred with Cantrell about the benefits of going to such a system.

"I think they wanted to hold this mock election before the presidential primary in February" to iron out any rough spots, Sibley said. "I think it (the system) will be a big help" during elections with big voter turnouts.

One obvious benefit if the system is perfected and put into use

during actual elections is that local results can be made available earlier in the night, Sibley said. Meanwhile, state and federal legislation is being discussed that could eventually lead to Internet voting, casting ballots by mail, or even casting absentee ballots "without (requiring) a reason," Cantrell continued.

"Internet voting is being discussed at the federal level," she said. "It's probably (just) a matter

of time."

Among issues to be studied before that can happen, however, are ensuring the secrecy of a vote and seeing that citizens don't cast multiple ballots.

Some communities already have purchased, or are looking into purchasing, touch-screen voting systems. But, noted Cantrell, those wouldn't be without the risk of glitches, such as power failures.

Welcome Santa to Farmington

Bring the whole family and help the city of Farmington and the Farmington Area Jaycees get ready for the joyous Christmas season with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Warner Mansion in downtown Farmington.

Hot chocolate will be available along with a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

A new event will be added to this year's festivities. Farmington area children can submit

their most creative homemade ornament to hang on the tree. The top three submissions will be awarded gift certificates from Toys R Us. First prize will be \$50 and 2nd and 3rd prize will be \$25.

Ornaments will be judged and hung on the tree before the lighting. Have them at the Warner Mansion gazebo by 6 p.m.

Admission is free, but the Jaycees you bring canned goods as donations to Neighborhood House.



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