Communications center

3 hospitals make county bid

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

"The coordination center is the keystone of the entire system," said Gary Canfield, director of EMS and disaster control for Oakland County.

The county-wide EMS planning agency, which is made up of 60 medical and government representatives, has pledged a $150,000 federal grant to setting up a comprehensive communications sysdem. Canfield estimated that the entire system would cost approximately $200,000. The remaining $50,000, it is hoped, would be made up by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

According to the planning agency, the Oakland County Council for Emergency Medical Services (OAKEMS), the communications center would prevent messages from mobile EMS units from becoming tangled and garbled. The messages would be relayed from the EMS unit on the scene of an emergency to the communications center to a receiving hospital.

Information from the EMS unit's technical health monitoring equipment could be relayed to the hospital. Medical advice from doctors at the hospital could be relayed to the EMS unit.

OAKEMS ALSO recommended that one hospital be designated the communications center and be given the reso8sibility of "medical control."

Medical control, which is required by the federal government, means that the EMS services must be under the direct control of a physician.

THREE HOSPITALS — Southfield's Providence Hospital, Royal Oak's William Beaumont Hospital and Pontiac Osteopathic — are being considered by OAKEMS.

Providence was the first hospital in Oakland County and the region to operate a mobile "advanced life support" system. Advanced life support teams are able to administer drugs and other advanced medical procedures on the scence of an emergency.

Most communities offer only "basic life support" services through their EMS units. Basic life support technicians render only basic medical care — splinting and bandaging, for example.

William Beaumont Hospital, one of the fastest growing in the region, has also put in a bid to become the system's communication's coordinator. Beaumont is rated as a comprehensive hospital by regional health agencies, meaning it is able to handle any medical situation.

According to insiders, Providence and Beaumont are vigorously campaigning for the job. Providence, however, has an advantage with its new, three-story emergency facility nearing completion.

The County Board of Commissioners is considering OAKEMS recommendations. The planning agency has not yet recommended a hospital to serve as the communication coordinator. Canfield said that decisions will be made March 21.

The board of commissioners is expected to take action on the EMS package sometime in May.

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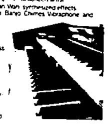
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Cheaper in-state phone calls eyed

Michigan Bell Telephone Co. has proposed restructuring its long-distance rates.

According to Michigan Bell officials, the plan, which would make directly-dialed long distance calls between any two points in Michigan cheaper than calls made out of state, would save customers $16 million annually.

"Right now its cheaper to call Toledo than it is to call Flint. We wanted to change that," said Robert Hunter, customer relations manager.

The proposed rate structure would reduce weekend and late night rates for long distance calls within Michigan.

The new "off peak" rates would feature a 50 per cent discount on long-distance calls made to any point in the state all day Saturday, Sunday before 5 p.m. and every night from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. The present discount is 30 per cent and would continue to apply from 5 to 11 p.m. weekdays.

The telephone company is also proposing offsetting increases on other long-distance services to make up for the revenues lost through the cheaper intrastate weekend and night rates.

As part of the package of changes, Michigan Bell is asking for a three-cent increase for the first minute on most daytime long-distance calls made weekdays within the state. There would also be increases in charges for long-distance calls requiring the assistance of an operator; person-to-person, collect and credit card calls, for example.

Michigan Bell is also proposing a new charge of 30 cents for long-distance calls from payphones to points 20 or more miles away.

The new rate package must be approved by the Michigan Public Public Service Commission (MPSC) before it could go into effect.

The new rates, according to company officials, would encourage customers to shift their long-distance calls to weekends and nights. "These are periods when the telephone network has plenty of spare capacity for more telephone traffic," said Lloyd Haynes, Michigan Bell vice president.

Even though Michigan Bell is trying to attract more customers for its long-distance facilities at times when the telephone network is not being fully utilized, company officials denied that company would realize any additional revenues from the rate shift.

Students figure in math test

About 800 of southeastern Michigan's best junior high and middle school math students will compete in Eastern Michigan University's 1978 Mathematics Contest on Saturday, April 29.

The annual math contest is open to students in grades 6-9, who are enrolled in general math-type courses.

The students will take the first part of a math test in their classrooms. Regional finalists will be chosen from among the students who achieve the best scores on the first part of the test; then they will compete with their top-notch peers at the EMU competition.

OU continuing ed lines up courses

Spring brochures are available detailing non-degree courses to be offered evenings by the Division of Continuing Education at Oakland University, Rochester, beginning the week of April 17.

Brochures may be obtained by calling the Continuing Education office, 377-3120. Many of the courses are attuned to spring interests: guidelines for purchasing a home, restoring old homes for profit and fun, geography for travelers, to eat or not to eat, a course in identifying and preparing wild edible plants, and a course in weather-reading.

Two new mime courses also are scheduled, one in clown characterization and one in masks.

Deadline near to buy new license tabs

Area drivers have until April to get their 1978 license plate tabs, according to the Secretary of State's office.

The mail-order program has ended for this year, so the tabs must be bought in person at a Secretary of State branch office.

To buy tabs, you need to present either the prepared application form sent in the mail earlier this year, or the 1977 registration, or vehicle title. You must also show proof of insurance.

After April 1, all vehicles on the road must display their 1978 license tabs. The March 31 deadline falls on a Friday.

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WATER QUALITY PUBLIC HEARINGS

Announcing Public Hearings on a Water Quality Management Plan for Southeast Michigan

Eight public hearings will be held throughout the seven counties of Southeast Michigan on a water quality management plan for Southeast Michigan dealing with municipal wastewater treatment facilities, nonpoint source management and residuals management. The hearings will be held in the following locations:

- ALLEN PARK, Monday, April 17, 1 p.m., Allen Park City Hall Auditorium, 16850 Southfield Rd.
- MONROE, Monday, April 17, 7:30 p.m., Monroe County Community College Cafeteria, 1555 Raisinville Rd.
- DETROIT, Tuesday, April 18, 1 p.m., Commissioners' Auditorium, 13th Floor City-County Bldg., Two Woodward Ave.
- BIRMINGHAM, Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers Birmingham Municipal Bldg., 151 Martin St.
- HOWELL, Wednesday, April 19, 1 p.m., Howell Recreation Center, 925 W. Grand River.
- ANN ARBOR, Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m., Little Theater, Pioneer High School, 601 W. Stadium Blvd.
- PORT HURON, Thursday, April 20, 1 p.m., County Board of Commissioners, City Council Rm., County-City Bldg., 201 McMorran Blvd.
- MT. CLEMENS, Thursday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., Macomb Intermediate School District, 44001 Garfield Rd.

The hearings are sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) which is the designated Areawide Planning agency in accordance with Section 208 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (PL 92-500). The same subject matter will be presented at all hearings. Copies of the three chapters of the plan to be discussed and related materials currently are available through SEMCOG. Information sites will be established and advertised 15 days before the hearings.

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