

## Utility officials try to dim Y2K fears

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Y2K worries brought Farmington Hills residents out to meet the faces behind their utilities Monday.

Detroit Edison and Consumers Energy officials tried to allay fears about a year 2000 bug during a Utilities Citizens Committee meeting Monday in Farmington Hills City Hall.

Aside from millennium worries, residents raised concerns about outages, tree trimming and questionable sales practices involving upstart gas companies.

Detroit Edison officials usually answer questions and listen to customer complaints. A Consumers Energy manager joined the panel for the latest gathering. In the future, city officials are going to invite phone and water company representatives to take part.

Utilities are unified in their Y2K efforts. Detroit Edison alone spent \$80 million to avert any computer-related problems, officials said.

"I don't think it's a problem; it's an issue," said Detroit Edison's Jim Connelly.

By comparison, Consumers Energy has put \$22 million toward preventing Y2K glitches. The natural gas supplier operations are mostly manual - not computer-driven.

Utilities will simultaneously test their systems April 9. Several dry runs have already taken place with no problems.

"We're certainly not making the fool's assumption that everything is OK," said Bill Pike, Consumers Energy West Metro area manager. "We're working on this daily."

One resident lauded Edison, in particular, for its attention to the matter. Pat Daniels said she didn't feel as reassured when talking with someone at the Detroit Water Department.

A department representative on the phone told the Lancaster Drive resident to write a letter and it would be referred to their legal department.

"That wasn't real comforting," Daniels said.

Other concerns focused on the present. Residents complain of sporadic power outages. Electrical interruptions even occur during clear days, they said.

"It's very irritating when you

have to go around and reset the clocks everyday," said Cal Oppertshausen, who lives on Spring Hill Road.

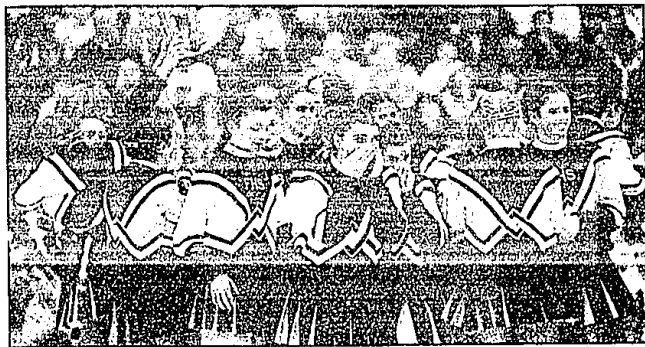
Edison spent \$20 million in maintenance and improvements since 1991, which corresponds with a drop in overall outages, officials said. "We understand there are pockets where that needs to improve," added Gary Fauser, Edison director of Engineering.

The company remains busy with its tree-trimming program. At least 70 percent of power outages are related to tree branches coming in contact with wires.

Former Hills Councilwoman and 42-year resident JoAnne Smith complained about a maple tree in front of her home, which tree trimmers "sheared" down one side.

"It just made me sick what they did to that tree," Smith said. "They didn't have to... I was so angry I couldn't call Edison."

The utility contracts with one of the best tree trimming services, which strictly adheres to arborist standards, officials said.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBBARDSON

**Good news:** The Farmington High School pompon squad was just informed that they had captured first place in the Mid-American state competition at Saginaw Valley University.

## Pom from page A1

"Participating in the regionals and state competition was a goal the entire squad set for themselves at the beginning of the season," said coach Amy Hermon. "The squad's success can be attributed to the initiative taken by team captains, the determination of every member, the invaluable assistance of Fawn Jueckstock, and a wonderfully supportive booster club. It has been a pleasure working with such hard working and professional young women."

Added Harrison parent Lisa Zajanos, "We could not have been more proud and amazed at the very fine performance we saw on

Sunday."

Members of the first-place Farmington High School squad are: seniors, Heather Bruce, Becky Culver, Stephanie Dow, Kim Hickey, Kristina Horton, Kim Marano, Kelly Martin, Martha Morris, Megan Sanford; juniors Melissa D'Arcy, Nikki Giroux, Leslie Helisek, Nicole LaVake, Sarah Miller, Meghan Ostach, Heidi Paquette, Jenny Reeve, Jenny Tosioian; sophomores Sara Niskanen; freshmen, Lindsey Abbott, Kate Bouschet, Lauren D'Agostino, Adriane Grace, Melissa Judge, Natalie Schauer; coaches Jennifer Fitzgerald and Cheryl Smith.

According to Janet Pion of the North pom squad, hard work was a key to the team advancing as far as it did.

"This season has been incredible," Pion said.

She listed several of the team's accomplishments: Grand Champs at camp; five all-star members; pep rallies; games; and, of course, sixth place at the state competition.

Because Mercy High School was closed Friday, efforts to receive a comment about that team's fourth place showing were unsuccessful.

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## The Great Lakes Youth Ballet Theatre is hosting an Open Audition

for a  
**1999 2-week Summer Ballet Intensive Program**

**Date:** Sunday, March 14

**Location:** Deborah's Stage Door Dance Center  
1928 Star-Batt Dr.  
Suite B  
Rochester Hills, MI

**Time:** 12:00-1:30 Ages 12-14  
1:30-3:00 Ages 15 & up

**Who:** Male & Female Dancers

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Jane Baas

For further information or an audition application please contact  
The Rochester Hills Dance & Arts Society  
at (248) 852-4574



Students will take various technique classes as well as repertory, character, pointe, partnering, nutrition and injury prevention. In addition there will be classes focusing on leaps, beats, turns and separate boys classes.

An informal performance will conclude this exciting two weeks of study.

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### EVENTS OF THE WEEK OF MARCH 7

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Saturday, March 13, 3:00-5:30 p.m.

#### CALIFORNIA CLOSETS

Simplify your life by attending California Closets' "Organizing Your Pantry" workshop.  
Wednesday, March 10, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

#### CRABTREE & EVELYN

Learn what it takes to start an herb garden.  
Saturday, March 13, 3:00-5:30 p.m.

#### HUDSON'S

Join us in the "Alice in Wonderland Shop" and be amazed at the assortment of spring collectibles in the china department.  
Friday, March 5-Saturday, April 3 - All Day

#### L'Occitane

Stop by L'Occitane to enjoy a complimentary hand treatment.  
All day each and every Saturday

#### NEUMAN MARCUS

Stop by Neuman Marcus' pre- and post-gardening products for skin, hair and body. Located in the cosmetic department.  
Saturday, March 13, 1:00-1:30 p.m.

#### NORDSTROM

Floral Arranging 101: Come and see just how easy it is to arrange flowers in your favorite vase.  
Saturday, March 13, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

#### RAND McNALLY

Leaving home? Learn how to pack efficiently for a winter cruise with fashions by Talbot's.  
Monday, March 8, 11:00-11:50 a.m.

#### SCANDIA DOWN

Representatives from Anichini Fine Linens of Italy will be in the store introducing their new lines.

Sunday, March 7, 12:00-5 p.m.

Learn how to make the perfect bed.

Friday, March 12, 3:00-5:30 p.m.

#### WENTWORTH GALLERY

Join Mediterranean artist, John Zaccheo, as he discusses his latest artwork.

Sunday, March 7, 2:00-6:00 p.m.

#### GARDEN EVENTS IN THE NORTH GRAND COURT

##### WJR 760 AM LIVE

Join Dean Krauskopf, host of the WJR Lawn and Garden Show, as he broadcasts live from The Somerset Collection. Joe Gagnon, the WJR Appliance Doctor, follows at noon with a live broadcast.

Sunday, March 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

##### STANDARD FEDERAL BANK

Standard Federal Bank experts will be on hand to personally answer all of your banking, mortgage and loan questions.

Sunday, March 7, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

##### ENGLISH GARDENS

Learn to create beautiful arrangements with fresh cut flowers for your home.

Saturday, March 13, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

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