Y2K

Farmington services ready for the bug

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer
tsmith@oe.homecomm.net

'Everything from heat and gas, fire and police, electricity, have been addressed in our area, both in Farmington and Oakland County.'

Frank Lauhoff
—Farmington city manager

The Y2K bug won't take a big bite out of Farmington's city services, according to a comprehensive report detailed at Monday night's council meeting.

During the 8 p.m. session at Farmington City Hall, council members were updated on the city's Y2K readiness by Gary Goss, director of the Farmington Department of Public Safety.

Goss has spent the past two years attending regional preparedness seminars and meeting with all departments and various utility companies (such as Detroit Edison) to ensure that when Jan. 1, 2000, rolls around, residents will still have heat, water, electricity and other essentials.

Goss and Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer were among Oakland County police chiefs who formed a Y2K preparedness committee.

"We're in good shape," Goss said. "We're in real good shape, as a matter of fact."

Although minor glitches for the first part of 2000 probably are unavoidable, Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff emphasized that there will be no Y2K catastrophe in the city.

"Everything from heat and gas, fire and police, electricity, have been addressed in our area, both in Farmington and Oakland County," Lauhoff said Thursday.

He estimated that "billions of lines of communication" have been re-done in the past year, following the initial mass hysteria about whether the United States could survive the turn of the century.

Even now, however, there remains some anxiousness about what might happen, simply because of all that was said in the past.

"I've had about five or six calls in the last couple months on this," Lauhoff said. "It's not to say people aren't concerned. (The hysteria) has definitely died down. But that time is almost upon us and there's sure to be some anxiety due to all the previous discussion."

Staff Photo by Bill Brenner

New century: *Preparation for the new millennium includes determining Y2K compliance for city of Farmington-owned vehicles.*

Even though every possible Y2K bug situation is being looked into months in advance, and even though Lauhoff insists there will be no life-threatening dilemmas, every city employee will be working when the new millennium arrives.

"Department heads will be working on New Year's Eve, city staff will be on hand to work through any problems that may occur," Lauhoff said. "But Farmington residents can feel secure that, if anything does occur, staff will be in place to respond immediately."

According to Goss' report to council, city department heads received a so-called Year 2000 Compliance Audit Kit, supplied by the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

"We have been following a four-step process which includes awareness, assessment, remediation and validation. The process will continue up to and beyond Jan. 1, 2000. We have reviewed all our critical systems and will be ready for the new millennium."

Some of the key areas reported on by Goss include the following:

■ Communication: All police radios and call-back systems are Y2K ready. New call-taking equipment has been installed and officers "are undergoing training on the new system." It will be operational as of Oct. 21.

■ Public safety: Goss will tell the council there is nothing that will impede the ability of the public safety department to do its job when the new millennium strikes.

For example, automatic external defibrillators, used to revive patients, are Y2K compliant. Radar units and in-car video cameras also are ready.

■ Water and sewage: The Nine Mile sewage pumping station won't be impacted by the date change, while the Chesley and Twin Valley pumps also "are not date sensitive," Goss said.

"They're just valves and pipes," Goss added of the system.

Meanwhile, all city of Detroit water stations "are capable of manual override and will be staffed" for the change to Jan. 1, 2000. Farmington gets its water supply from Detroit's system.

■ Traffic control systems: The county road commission has assured Goss that traffic signals will be Y2K ready. But, there are "many computerized signals and some may be date sensitive," such as the one at Grand River-Farmington Road.

But Lauhoff said such signals are designed to default to the previously existing clock system, and that the signal would still be functional for motorists.

■ Contingencies: Lauhoff said snow plows and the spreading of rock salt won't pose problems. The plows are hydraulically operated and salt spreaders are mechanical.

Goss noted that the public services department will have a battery back-up unit for fuel pumps and a sufficient supply of salt available. The city also will bank on an emergency generator if needed.

The city will issue Y2K statements to anyone interested.

Staff writer Heather Needham contributed to this report.

FREE TUITION*

H & R Block Tax Course Begins Next Week

Thousands of people are learning the skill of income tax preparation from H & R Block and are earning money as income tax preparers.

H & R Block, the world's largest tax preparation service, is offering an income tax course with morning, afternoon and evening classes available. Classes will be offered at area locations.

During the 11-week course, in addition to learning the nuts and bolts of tax preparation, you will receive clear explanation of the recent tax law changes and how to use the new tax laws to your advantage. You'll receive this information from some of the finest, most experienced tax preparation instructors in the country.

And you'll have the opportunity to expand or enhance your job-related skills.

H & R Block designed this course to assist people who want to increase their tax knowledge and to save money on taxes or who are looking for a second career or seasonal employment. It is perfect for students or retirees seeking part-time earnings.

Qualified course graduates may be offered job interviews for positions with Block. Many accept employment with Block because of the flexible hours available. However, Block is under no obligation to offer employment, nor are graduates under any obligation to accept employment with H & R Block.

One low course fee includes all textbooks, supplies and tax forms necessary for completion of the course. Certificates and 6.6 continuing education units will be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

Registration forms and a brochure for the income tax course may be obtained by contacting H & R Block.

For more information, call
1-800-TAX-2000
or visit our Web site at
www.hrblock.com/tax

*There is a $99 fee for course books.
AA EEO/M/F/D/V

H&R BLOCK

Ameritech
RELAX FCN END 3 DEF 6 MNO

Our Best Values Just Got Better!

FREE Digital Phone
- FREE Long Distance on Ameritech's network
- 300 Peak Minutes
- $39.95/mo.

CLEARPATH™
SO CLEAR, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE THERE!™

10¢/min. Offer
$49.95/mo.

OR

$4.95/mo. until 2000*
- FREE Profile 300 Phone
- FREE Nights & Weekends until 2000!

- FREE long distance on Ameritech's reliable wireless network.
- FREE Digital phone
- 500 minutes/mo.

Buy a digital Qualcomm 860 phone on a new $39.95 plan & get a FREE University of Michigan wind shirt.
While supplies last.

AUTHORIZED AMERITECH LOCATIONS. CALL FOR AVAILABILITY.

ALLEN PARK
Fox Pagers
313-928-4170
MetroCell
313-382-5253
ANN ARBOR
ABC Warehouse
734-669-0200
CellTel Wireless
734-332-0000
AUBURN HILLS
MetroCell
248-377-3333
BELLEVILLE
Crystal Communications
734-699-8188
BERKLEY
CellTel Wireless
248-584-3000
BIRMINGHAM
Hawthorne Appliance
248-644-2200
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Crystal Communications
248-745-9699
BRIGHTON
ABC Warehouse
810-229-2130
CANTON
PageTec
734-455-5100
CANTON TWP.
ABC Warehouse
734-981-7780
CHESTERFIELD
ABC Warehouse
810-755-9090
CHESTERFIELD
Diamond Communications
810-948-0035
CLARKSTON
Champion Communications
248-922-0800
CLINTON TWP
ABC Warehouse
810-791-1000
Champion Communications
810-954-3333
MegaCel
810-286-3333
Rapid Page & Cellular
810-416-0000
CLIO
Diamond Communications
810-687-0173
COMMERCE TWP
PAGECELL Communication
248-669-7878
DEARBORN
ABC Warehouse
313-584-5300
Fox Pagers
313-299-9555
313-581-1900
313-843-1180
Imperial Plus Communications
313-278-1569
MetroCell
313-624-8336
Page-Com
313-278-4077
313-382-0040
Pager One
313-982-9400
Rapid Page & Cellular
313-322-5333
DEARBORN HEIGHTS
ABF Communications
313-291-1881
Crystal Communications
313-278-4080
DENSON
Advanced Communications
313-864-3333
Air One Wireless
313-934-2502
CellTel Wireless
313-255-9000
Crystal Communications
313-993-1100
Diamond Communications
313-255-0444
313-387-1777
313-593-1510
313-872-3480
313-278-8550
313-849-9000
Fone-Tec
313-897-3000
Fox Pagers
313-272-0979
313-341-5000
313-895-5520
313-896-8959
313-922-4222
313-925-2610
Imperial Plus Communications
313-372-7440
313-417-0300
313-892-3688
313-527-1124
MegaCel
313-884-8060
313-885-7373
MetroCell
313-371-2020
313-963-8709
PAGECELL Communication
313-273-9900
313-273-8000
Page-Com
313-271-0177
313-273-0900
Pager One
313-259-7000
313-368-9200
PageTec
313-794-4444
313-794-8000
313-872-8000
Rapid Page & Cellular
313-326-6116
Tele-Com
313-831-3131
Wireless Communications
313-526-0800
EASTPOINTE
Advanced Communications
810-775-6790
FAIR HAVEN
All Time Audio
810-725-8884
FARMINGTON HILLS
ABC Warehouse
248-539-0990
Crystal Communications
248-737-9070
248-848-1939
PageTec
248-848-8300
FERNDALE
Diamond Communications
248-542-8679
Rapid Page & Cellular
248-545-3044
FLINT
AB-C Warehouse
810-732-8920
Champion Communications
810-665-5757
810-742-1010
Joe's Pager Master
810-742-3151
MegaCel
810-768-7500
MetroCell
810-767-7900
Pager One
810-232-4000
FORT GRATIOT
ABC Warehouse
810-385-9330
MetroCell
810-385-6913
FRASER
Crystal Communications
810-293-5465
GARDEN CITY
PageTec
734-421-8000
734-458-6000
GROSSE POINTE
MetroCell
313-417-2320
HAZEL PARK
Rapid Page & Cellular
248-542-3333
HIGHLAND
PAGECELL Communication
248-887-5632
HOLSTER
Diamond Communications
313-359-6400
734-595-7100
MetroCell
313-359-4344
LAKE ORION
A&P Communications
248-693-3700
MetroCell
248-693-1900
LATHRUP VILLAGE
MetroCell
248-569-5638
LINCOLN PARK
TeleCon
313-294-9400
LIVONIA
A.N.T. Pageway
734-261-3900
PAGECELL Communication
734-261-2185
Pager One
734-513-4172
Premier Cellular Telephone
248-443-7100
Rapid Page & Cellular
734-422-0800
MACOMB
ABC Warehouse
810-247-7710
MegaCel
810-566-0770
MACOMB TWP.
Telecom U.S.A.
810-949-8449
Skynet Communications
810-286-7878
MADISON HEIGHTS
Imperial Plus Communications
248-399-5335
MILFORD
PAGECELL Communication
248-685-7376
MT. CLEMENS
MetroCell
810-790-5900
WOWI Communications
810-465-7310
NEW BALTIMORE
Rapid Page & Cellular
810-725-5230
Skynet Communications
810-949-1575
NOVI
MetroCell
248-849-4299
OAKLAND PARK
A&P Communications
248-393-7070
OAKLAND TWP.
PAGECELL Communication
248-627-5857
PONTIAC
A&P Communications
248-332-0116
248-373-8583
Diamond Communications
248-335-1952
PORTAGE
ABC Warehouse
734-937-2100
Fone-Tec
313-387-9600
RICHMOND
AB Tele Audio
810-727-6884
ROCHESTER
Telecom U.S.A.
248-601-1814
ROCHESTER HILLS
Hawthorne Appliance
248-299-4800
Imperial Plus Communications
248-844-9896
ROMULUS
A.N.T. Pageway
734-641-5500
ROSEVILLE
Advanced Communications
810-498-9700
810-774-5200
PAGECELL Communication
810-447-8292
PageTec
810-774-7664
Telecom U.S.A.
810-777-0300
SHELBY TWP.
Diamond Communications
810-731-3560
MegaCel
810-323-8070
Rapid Page & Cellular
248-601-3333
Skynet Communications
810-254-7570
SOUTH LYON
Crystal Communications
248-446-0036
SOUTHFIELD
ABC Warehouse
248-557-3570
Diamond Communications
248-262-3030
248-395-4444
248-569-5200
Pager One
248-352-1988
PageTec
248-350-0305
248-827-3000
TeleCon
248-569-1709
SOUTHGATE
ABC Warehouse
734-283-9400
ST. CLAIR
All Time Audio
810-326-6884
ST. CLAIR SHORES
Diamond Communications, Inc.
810-778-8905
Rapid Page & Cellular
810-294-9007
WOWI Communications
810-774-4080
STERLING HEIGHTS
Champion Communications
810-268-7755
Fone-Tec
810-323-1600
Imperial Plus Communications
810-264-5533
810-979-5555
MetroCell
810-939-4660
PAGECELL Communication
810-264-4322
PageTec
810-268-2080
Premier Cellular Telephone, Inc.
810-977-2331
SYLVAN LAKE
PAGECELL Communication
248-706-0200
TAYLOR
Advanced Communications
734-374-1000
Fone-Tec
734-947-0700
Fox Pagers
313-299-1850
Pager One
734-374-2337
PageTec
313-287-3000
Telecom U.S.A.
248-287-7531
TROY
ABC Warehouse
248-362-5151
Champion Communications
248-879-0000
General Cellular Sales
248-524-3232
Rapid Page & Cellular
248-740-3900
WOWI Communications
248-528-2710
W. BLOOMFIELD
Pager One
248-538-2100
WALLED LAKE
PageTec
248-960-4446
WARREN
Fox Pagers
810-772-9973
Imperial Plus Communications
810-759-4600
MegaCel
810-754-0000
810-756-9700
WASHINGTON
Skynet Communications
810-677-4655
WATERFORD
ABC Warehouse
248-683-1660
Fone-Tec, Inc.
248-666-3590
MegaCel
248-682-7564
PAGECELL Communication
248-738-6500
248 673-3383
Pager One
248-623-2100
WAYNE
MegaCel
734-641-3355
WESTLAND
A.N.T. Pageway
734-729-4900
MegaCel
734-422-2700
Page-Com
734-326-9200
PageTec
734-641-8888
WILLIS
Page-Com
734-461-1111
WOODHAVEN
Fox Pagers
734-675-7224
WYANDOTTE
Fox Pagers
734-284-2700
YPSILANTI
CellTel Wireless
734-487-3000

AMERITECH COMMUNICATION SERVICE OPEN SUNDAY

ANN ARBOR
734-669-8079
CLARKSTON
248-620-6870
DEARBORN
313-277-4111
EASTPOINTE
810-777-0007
FLINT
810-733-6061
LATHRUP VILLAGE
248-557-8855
248-423-7848
NOVI
248-449-1779
PLYMOUTH
734-451-0720
SHELBY TWP.
810-566-8950
SOUTHGATE
734-285-8066
TROY
248-588-6780
WESTLAND
734-427-5760

BEARS LOCATIONS. OPEN SUNDAY

ANN ARBOR
734-994-0381
DEARBORN
313-441-1520
FLINT
810-733-2028
LINCOLN PARK
313-389-0663
LIVONIA
248-471-2937
NOVI
248-349-5316
ROSEVILLE
810-293-2008
STERLING HEIGHTS
810-532-0460
TROY
248-597-0900
WATERFORD
248-706-0630
WESTLAND
734-762-5008

Many locations open Sunday.
CALL 1·800·MOBILE·1
for additional locations near you.
www.ameritech.com/wireless