

● Calls

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

That has been a part of White River Fire Department's learning new procedures for the dispatchers. Firefighters had to be trained in the protocols used by the Greenwood Fire Department...

Greenwood sends an engine and an ambulance to the scene of a traffic accident if it is a minor incident. In the past, White River Township sent a fire engine, an ambulance and a rescue truck...

Greenwood police and fire departments and White River Township firefighters have been working for months to create a system in which all three departments were dispatched from the same location, Engmark said.

White River Township firefighters frequently respond with Greenwood police officers to fire alarms and medical 911 calls at businesses along State Road 135 north of Curry Road...

Also, when the Greenwood Fire Department is called to a fire, the White River Township department is called either to help at the fire or to cover the empty station, Engmark said.

"We felt that if we were dispatched by them, it would be the most convenient way to do that," he said.

For the sheriff's office, the switch means dispatchers in Franklin will handle fewer calls and can focus on other departments.

Johnson County Sheriff's Office dispatchers also handle calls for town marshals in Bargersville, Prince's Lakes and Whiteland and several volunteer fire departments.

"This is also better for us because it allows everyone to share the workload," Sheriff Terry McLaughlin said.

Which fire department and which police department would come to your door in an emergency has not changed.

Radios were reprogrammed and some computers at the call center were rearranged so dispatchers could begin taking the calls for the White River Township Department on Feb. 5.

Here is how it works: • If you dial 911 from the Center Grove area, the call may be picked up by dispatchers in Greenwood or at the sheriff's office in Franklin.

Once the emergency has been established, the dispatcher may have to send you to a dispatcher in Greenwood or Franklin, depending on what you need and who picked up the call.

Greenwood is not being paid by the White River Township Fire Department to handle the calls. Now the number of calls dispatchers receive will go up.

Last year, the Greenwood firefighters responded to 4,444 fire, traffic and medical emergencies. Dispatchers took all of those calls. Now, they will handle the White River Township department, which last year had 1,673 calls.

That doesn't include calls for police. The Greenwood Police Department oversees the 911 dispatch center in Greenwood.

Part of the burden of the extra calls will be alleviated with money from the county given to the Greenwood Fire Department.

A full-time and several part-time dispatchers will be added to the current staff of 11, Greenwood Fire Chief Steve Dhondt said.

The additional dispatchers will be paid from the county emergency 911 fund, which is money raised from fees collected on land-line telephones. Greenwood Fire Department receives part of that money to hire personnel.

While the dispatcher will be trained to take calls for police as well, the person will specialize in fire procedures, Dhondt said.

He or she will supervise fire calls, work to streamline the protocol for taking calls, recommend the best kinds of software and act as a liaison between the fire department and the dispatch center.

Also, several part-time fire dispatchers will be hired to work during peak fire hours, such as in the evenings. They also will be paid with \$65,000 in emergency 911 fund money the department receives.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County

Weather forecast table with icons and temperature ranges for Today, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Regional weather

Regional weather map showing temperature bands and weather systems across the Midwest and South.

State Extremes table showing high and low temperatures in Indiana yesterday.

Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Periods of snow and rain today. Partly cloudy tonight. Sunshine and patchy clouds tomorrow. Thursday: Sunny to partly cloudy and mild.

Today in weather history™

Heavy snow hit the Midwest Feb. 20, 1898. Racine, Wis., received 30 inches of snow. Milwaukee had drifts as high as 15 feet.

Regional cities

Table comparing weather statistics (High/Low) for regional cities like Anderson, Bloomington, Chicago, etc.

AccuWeather.com Almanac

Almanac section containing temperature, humidity, precipitation, and air quality data for Indianapolis.

National weather today

National weather map showing high and low pressure systems and precipitation across the United States.

National cities

Table of national weather statistics for various cities, including high and low temperatures and precipitation.

Weather (w): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.

Weather trivia and wind chill today sections, including a UV index scale and heating degree days.

Advertisement for One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning, featuring a 'Free Heating Service Call' offer.

Advertisement for Benjamin Franklin Plumbing, featuring a 'Free Plumbing Service Call' offer.

Sirius, XM agree to merger

FCC chairman: Companies must prove deal is in public interest

By Seth Sutel. The deal faces substantial obstacles in Washington, including a Federal Communications Commission provision that specifically forbids the two companies to combine.

Guidelines suggest ways for women to curb stroke risk

By Marilyn Marchione. Nearly all American women are in danger of heart disease or stroke and should be more aggressive about lowering their risk, including asking their doctors about daily aspirin use.

The XM shareholders will receive 4.6 shares of Sirius stock for every share they own, valuing them at \$17.02 each based Friday's closing price for Sirius shares.

The deal faces substantial obstacles in Washington, including a Federal Communications Commission provision that specifically forbids the two companies to combine.

Analysts have noted that the FCC could change the rule, but in a statement Monday FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said it will be difficult to prove the deal would be in the public interest.

"The companies would need to demonstrate that consumers would clearly be better off with both more choice and affordable prices," Martin said.

A combination would also have to meet antitrust approval from the Department of Justice. The companies are expected to argue that they compete not only with each other but also with traditional radio and a growing base of digital audio sources such as iPods, mobile phones and non-satellite digital radio.

● Normal

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) Feb. 2, Borges had hoped to get calls from people who saw something they didn't think mattered, such as a person carrying a lemonade pitcher.

● Heat

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE) with lows in the lower 20s, which is normal for this time of the year; he said. But as temperatures warm up, galoshes will need to replace snow boots.

LOTTERY

Here are the winning numbers selected Monday in the Hoosier Lottery: Daily Three Midday: 1-2-5. Daily Four Midday: 0-3-8-4. Lucky Five Midday: 3-11-16-17-33.

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