

# State plans reductions in

BOSTON (AP) — The Welfare Department has proposed \$79.9 million in "extraordinary" spending reductions that would lean heavily on Medicaid recipients to meet Gov. Edward J. King's demand for a "level funded" budget in the state's next bookkeeping year.

In its budget proposals recently filed with Human Services Secretary William T. Hogan, the welfare agency requested \$1.9 billion for the next fiscal year but proposed \$79.9 million in "extraordinary reductions" that would bring the total down to \$1.833 billion.

This is below the \$1.847 billion the department listed as its spending level for this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

King has told agency managers he wants them to keep next year's spending at current levels. Inflation and other unavoidable cost increases are supposed to be offset by reductions elsewhere.

The Medicaid account, at \$1.024 billion this year, would grow to only \$1.030 billion in fiscal 1983 under the level financing proposal, despite hospital inflation that has been soaring at about 13 percent.

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# Nuclear evacuation plan r

By MICHELLE CARUSO  
Recorder Correspondent

CHARLEMONT — Local Civil Defense authorities met Thursday night with Dorsey Holsinger, senior emergency planning officer for the Rowe Yankee Atomic power plant, to review the emergency notification and evacuation plan begun last July in compliance with federal regulations.

The plan — a 50-page document prepared by Yankee Atomic, state Civil Defense officials and local selectmen, police, fire and health authorities — outlines emergency procedures and chain of command in the event of an accident at the Yankee facility. It outlines public notification and evacuation procedures, including plans for transporting handicapped persons and pupils from the

town's three schools to Greenfield Community College, the designated area receiving center.

According to Holsinger, public notification of a nuclear emergency would be accomplished by means of a Thunderbolt siren, provided by Yankee Atomic and mounted Thursday behind the town garage and by home receivers which will be provided by Yankee to residents within a 10-mile radius of the plant. The \$10,000 siren, a 120-decibel unit which rotates 360 degrees, will be operational by Nov. 30 and will be equipped with an auxiliary generator to protect against power failure. Testing of the Thunderbolt is tentatively set for Dec. 9 and 10 and will determine its range of audibility.

The home receiver units will be delivered to town officials by Nov. 23. Plans are being made for their distribution. Holsinger said the receiver units

## Forcing blooms

# Bulbs can brighten winter

By PAT LEUCHTMAN  
Recorder Columnist

Autumn means bright, brilliant leaves. Then come the gaily decorated holidays. For Halloween there are golden pumpkins, for Thanksgiving, ears of multicolored Indian corn and then Christmas, the king of holidays, brings greenery punctuated with scarlet holly berries, lady apples and garlands of della robbia fruit.

After the sparkle and flash of New Year's, January is dark and quiet. For me January and February don't seem like the beginning — those months are the end, I long for something bright and beautiful to cheer the dreary days and remind me that spring really will come again.

Forcing bulbs into bloom is like bringing a little bit of spring into the dark days of January. Paper white narcissus is the basic bulb to use for forcing. They are lovely and light and fragrant. A dark, cold cellar and healthy bulbs are all you need to guarantee the necessary root development that makes rigorously blooming plants possible.

First be sure that you choose large good quality bulbs for forcing. Be particularly careful to avoid damaged bulbs or those that may have dried out from being stored in a too warm room.

You can use any kind of bowl or flower pot, but the bulb pan has been especially designed for bulbs. It is about half the height of a regular flower pot. It is the perfect depth to allow for drainage, good roots and the bulb. Drainage is very important because you don't want to rot the bulb. Crock the pot well, that is cover the drainage holes with old flower pot shards or pebbles to keep them clear and draining well.

Then add a layer of soil which will also drain well. A suitable mixture might be made up of one part soil, one part peat moss and one part perlite. Bulbs contain within themselves all that is needed for good bloom

## BETWEEN THE ROWS

so a rich soil is not necessary, but you might want to add a little steamed bone meal to the soil mixture.

Add enough soil to the pot so that the tip of the bulbs will be even with the top of the pot when they are set in. Arrange the bulbs so that they almost touch. This will give you a good show in each pot. Then fill the pot with additional soil, and water well to settle things.

If you have several pots of different varieties, each pot should be labeled. Then prepare to put them in a dark cellar to develop a good root system. The dark and cold temperatures are what they require to simulate a winter spent underground.

Thalassa Cruso, the noted British horticulturist, has her own system for successful forcing. After planting the bulbs in pots she brings them to the cellar, sets them on her shelf and then covers them with cardboard cartons. Over the cartons she wraps sheets of plastic (opened cleaners bags or trash bags will do). "This double play keeps the pots in darkness and preserves the moisture."

It takes about 12-16 weeks for most spring bulbs to develop roots and reach the blooming stage.

When bringing the bulbs out of the cellar acclimate them gradually. Start them off for a week or two in a dark room that is not too warm and then bring them into the sun.

Once they start to bloom, take the plants out of the direct sun and be grateful that we are trying to keep rooms cooler these days. The blossoming period will last much longer if night temperatures don't go above 60 degrees.

Although narcissus are most commonly forced, daffodils, hyacinths, netted iris, crocus, snowdrops and single early tulips can also be forced indoors successfully.



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