

Community center develops

Botsford tunnels toward progress

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Patients recuperating in rooms on the east side of Botsford General Hospital are getting a bird's eye view of the hospital's \$1.2 million construction project.

The best part is already over. A huge portion of brick wall on the lower level was gouged out for a 450-foot underground tunnel that will connect with the new wing.

The new wing will be housed in a former elementary school nearby. Administrative offices — many of which are now based in a motel for lack of hospital space — a medical library, community education classrooms, and a lounge for interns and residents (who are lobbying to keep the old school gymnasium intact) will be housed there.

Hospital spokesman Russ Tuttle envisions the new wing as a community center for the '80s.

"We want people to be aware of the hospital as a community resource, not

just a place you go to when you're sick. And it's not just at Botsford, all hospital (administrators) feel this way," he said.

Part of the new wing is still uncommitted. Move-in date is targeted for May 1982.

"The hospital is sorely in need of expansion," said Peg Rehmer, director of planning, who worked as liaison between the hospital and architects.

"THERE'S NO WAY you can predict how a community is going to accept a hospital," Tuttle said.

"Botsford has boomed."
Botsford was built in 1965 and this is its third major construction project. Planners are already looking ahead for expansion of surgical, obstetrics and emergency room facilities in the next few years.

"We handle 25,000 (emergency room) cases a year, surgery has expanded, and 1,300 to 1,500 babies are born here every year," Tuttle said.

Botsford is also Farmington Hills'

biggest employer, with 1,400 staff. And at least 275 beds (out of just over 300) are filled every day, according to Tuttle.

"All of our patient care areas don't allow room for the types of programs and service we'd like to provide," Rehmer said.

The new wing will add 38,000 square feet and over seven acres to the hospital's domain, which is hidden from Grand River on a stretch of road behind the Botsford Inn, west of Inkster.

The hospital board had requested rental space in Edgewood School, which abuts Botsford's complex, before the Clarenceville Board of Education was forced to close the school in June 1980 because of declining enrollment.

That decision turned into a lifesaver for the landlocked hospital. The hospital board bought the school for \$1.2 million.

"WE'RE LOOKING AT substantial renovation to increase energy efficiency," Rehmer said.

Heating and air conditioning sys-

tems, a new roof, electrical service, and new windows with thermal reflective glass are on the drawing board.

"There won't be access from the residential side of the school on St. Francis Street because of neighborhood complaints about increased traffic."

All traffic, both pedestrian and motor, will be routed through the Botsford complex.

"Neighbor attitudes have improved," Rehmer said.

From the time the school closed a year ago last June until the hospital started renovation in May 1981, the vacant building was a target for vandals.

The project was designed by Henningson, Durham & Richardson, a national hospital architectural firm in Omaha, Neb.

McBro Brothers of St. Louis, Mo., is general contractor for the various phases of construction.

"Everything is moving on schedule," Rehmer said. "We were fearful of a delay because of the sheet metal workers' strike, but they settled."



Workers on the grounds of Botsford Hospital work on a portion of what one day soon will be the tunnel leading from the main hospital to the reconverted school building.



Peg Rehmer examines plans for the reconverted elementary school which now serves as a portion of Botsford General Hospital.



Tunneling from one building to another can be quite an impressive site as patients and staff at Botsford Hospital learned recently while observing the construction project presently being carried out on the grounds.

Staff photos by R.S. Wilson

INSIDE ANGLES

BY MARY RODRIQUE

A BIT OF SCANDINAVIA comes to Farmington this fall. Conversational courses in Finnish will begin Monday, Sept. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. 8 Mile. There will be a beginners' and an intermediate course (both 10 weeks). The textbook will be "Finnish for Foreigners" by Malja Aalho. Enrollments will be on a first come, first served basis. Call Mrs. William Pudas at 478-7620 for registration information.

The Swedish Club in Farmington Hills is looking for a girl of Swedish descent (at least 15 years old) to be crowned Lucia 1981 to lead a traditional Christmas procession in the true Swedish tradition. Club spokeswoman Ebba Siomenna said this is a cultural event, not a beauty contest. The girl will lead a procession at the club's Christmas dinner wearing a lighted crown and will enter the building to the strains of the Scandia Chorus singing "Santa Lucia." Deadline is Oct. 12. Call Mrs. Siomenna at 255-9705 or Mrs. Karin Johnson at 645-1044 for more information. The Swedish Club is at 23280 Ruth Street.

WELCOME, BOAZ MEIR. The 17-year-old Israeli boy recently arrived in Farmington Hills to spend a year living with Mr. and Mrs. Ron Lowy and their sons, Jordan, Todd and Adam, as part of a student-exchange program.

Boaz, from the city of Petah Tikva, is attending Harrison High School. In Israel he is a member of a youth organization whose members live on a kibbutz after high-school graduation. Boaz and several other students spent time in New York for their orientation and sightseeing before arriving at their new homes. They were brought here by the Open Door Student Exchange.

Hospitality is needed for students from 12 other countries who plan to come to the United States this fall and winter. The students need homes. If you'd like to volunteer, call Mrs. Cheryl Dahod at 728-0527.

KUDOS KORNER: A bouquet to Schroeters Flowers of Farmington Hills for winning first place in the 1981 Michigan State Fair Horticulture contest. A handshake to Robert E. Shaw Jr. of 30300 N. Stockton, Farmington Hills, for being selected for inclusion in the 1981 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America." Selected from nominations received from legislators, college presidents and civic groups, those chosen have distinguished themselves in one or more fields of endeavor. And a pat on the back to Mark A. Karney

and Paul R. Gurizian, both of Farmington Hills, for being named to the dean's list for spring semester at the General Motors Institute in Flint. Gurizian is a cooperative student with Materials Management Staff in Detroit. Karney is a cooperative student with Buick Motor Division, Flint.

MARK THE CALENDAR. As has become customary, the League of Women Voters of Michigan and the West Bloomfield/Farmington Area League dedicate one week a year to focus on LMV achievements. This year Sept. 20-26 has been so designated as "League of Women Voters Week." In his proclamation, Gov. Milliken noted that since it was founded in 1920, the League has worked to foster informed, active citizen participation in government. There are 43 member Leagues in Michigan.

GARY MARTIN is coming back to town. Martin, known as Gary Weisenburg when he was a senior at Farmington High School in 1969, is returning to his old home town with his band Palm City — all the way from Ft. Myers Beach, Fla. Palm City will be appearing at Charlie's Place in Farmington Sept. 16 through Oct. 18 (Wednesdays through Sundays), from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. FHIS Class of '69 is especially urged to attend this engagement.

VOLUNTEERS are needed by Farmington Youth Assistance, a non-profit community service organization working to prevent juvenile delinquency and neglect and promote youth and family well-being. Operating through FYA sponsorship are parent-education classes, preschool-information, fair-aid directory, teens' summer activity center, family counseling, and child-related speakers and workshops. Persons interested in lending a hand should call 476-3840 or stop by the office in the basement of Farmington City Hall.

MOMS OF TWINS, take note. The regular monthly meeting of the Farmington Area Mothers of Twins Club will be Thursday, Sept. 17, at 8 p.m. For details, call Diane Ignatius at 937-8967.

WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN, urges the American Lung Association, which is trying to save the highly controversial Clean Air Act, set to expire Sept. 30. The ALA is afraid the act will be gutted, its health goals ignored. Their argument is that standards should be set for certain pollutants that are dangerous but not yet regulated. For more information, call the ALA at 961-1697.



Meet Rose Dauphin, our new Personal Trade Manager for The Woodward Shops, Oakland

Come treat yourself to this personalized shopping service, a real boon if you're short of time. Rose can simplify life by helping you coordinate your wardrobe. She'll acquaint you with our designers' selections, outfit you for business, travel and special occasions. Even suggest new ways to spice up your present wardrobe. And men: if you're looking for that special gift, let Rose find it. It's a marvelous, personal consultation, and yours for the asking when you call for an appointment, 585-3232, ext. 2020.

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