

# Farmington Observer

Volume 93 Number 77

Thursday, July 8, 1982

Farmington, Michigan

52 Pages

Twenty-five cents

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## Shots given without consent

# State fines nursing home owner

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Dr. Edwin Blumberg, owner of Oak Hill Nursing Home in Farmington, has been fined \$13,400 by the Michigan Department of Public Health.

He was ordered to pay the department \$1,500, and \$100 to each of 119 patients at the 151-bed Oakland Care Center in Royal Oak, another Blumberg-owned nursing home.

The fines resulted from a health department probe into the unusually high number of deaths at Oakland Care Center in November 1981.

Officials attempted to determine whether 18 deaths which occurred at the facility between Nov. 2 and Nov. 23 were related to a flu vaccine administered to patients on Nov. 2.

The average death rate previously had been six deaths per month at Oakland Care Center.

According to the health department, Blumberg violated the public health code by:

- failing to notify patients or their guardians the vaccine would be administered. By law, patients can accept or refuse treatment.
- failing to administer the vaccine in accordance with the written orders of an attending physician.

The department also found Blumberg in violation of a facility policy which says patients with respiratory or kidney infections were not to receive

flu vaccines. Five patients showed such symptoms the day they were vaccinated, according to their medical records.

Repeated attempts by the Observer to reach Blumberg were unsuccessful. Robert Whitty, Oakland Care Center director of finance said, "Our official position is that we don't agree with the finding."

"We're going to appeal it," Whitty admitted that patients received the vaccine without being notified but refused to discuss the appeal.

"The actual particulars of the appeal are being put together by Dr. Blumberg and our attorney. That's more of a technical area."

According to Whitty, "business has never been better" at Oakland Care Center despite the civil penalties levied by the health department.

"The proof is our waiting list," he said. CITIZENS FOR BETTER CARE, which functions as a nursing home ombudsman, greeted the health department's findings as a moral victory.

"We're pleased the health department fined Blumberg. We are shocked that a nursing home operator didn't ask the patients what they wanted, much less their physicians," said Susan Rourke, executive director of Citizens for Better Care.

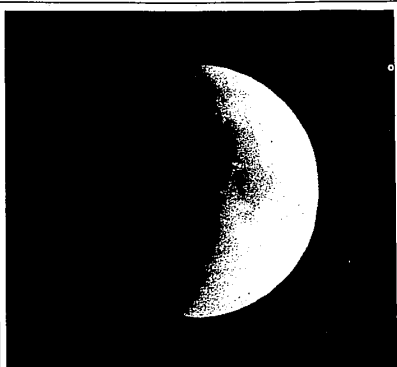
"The patients' right to choose the type of health care they receive is so important that when there are violations, you need to have financial sanctions of this nature."

Among other health department findings:

- More deaths among Oakland Care Center residents occurred during November 1981 than would be expected by chance alone.
- Records on patient progress and the vaccination program were of consistently poor quality both in terms of completeness and precision, making

by chance alone.

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The shadow of the earth creeps across the face of the full moon during Tuesday morning's total lunar eclipse.



About 2:30 a.m. this is what the full moon looked like as the century's longest total lunar eclipse occurred.



Just before the lunar eclipse reached totality at 2:38 a.m. this is what the moon looked like. The darkened area took on a copper-colored glow from sunlight bending around the earth's edge.

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Lunar eclipse Heavens awe earthlings

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

The longest total lunar eclipse of the century came and went in the early morning hours Tuesday while most earthlings slept. Despite a big build-up of the event by astronomers promising a celestial spectacular, those who remained in bed didn't miss much.

To recap the happening for those who missed it: The moon got darker as the earth passed between the sun and the moon. At its most dramatic (yawn) stage, the refraction of the sun's rays bending around the earth's edge cast a slight, copper-colored glow on the darkened face of the full moon.

Hardly worth staying up to observe, this observer felt. "I disagree," noted Jim Loudon, staff astronomer at the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum. "I thought it was extremely spectacular. It was very, very dark — the darkest since '63."

One interesting aspect noted by the astronomer was that the upper portion of moon was darker than the lower por-

tion, a phenomenon caused by volcanic dust in atmosphere. The light show began when the moon entered the earth's shadow at 12:22 a.m. and didn't end until 5:29 a.m. when the shadow slipped off the moon's right side.

Just don't make the mistake of asking Loudon why anyone should care about a total lunar eclipse.

"Nobody ever asks why they should care about a baseball game being played," Loudon says. "But why should anyone care?" always comes up when we talk about science.

"Should be a moral term. I'm not the Ayatollah Khomeini or Ann Landers, I'm an astronomer."

Whether they should have or not, about 100 people climbed to the top of Angell Hall on the campus of the University of Michigan Tuesday morning to join Loudon in viewing the lunar na-

The event was sponsored by a group of amateur astronomy buffs who call themselves the University Lowbrow Astronomers.

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## Council corrects, protects a secret

By Craig Piechura  
staff writer

A secret ballot taken by Farmington City Council June 21 was erased Tuesday and replaced by a public vote unanimously electing Bayard Tupper to the legislative body.

This week's roll call was taken after questions about the legality of the secret voting procedure under provisions of the state's Open Meetings Act.

Tupper replaces his son, Richard, who resigned May 17.

By voting unanimously this week, council members kept secret their split 3-1 vote of June 21. Also under consideration for the council appointment was John Washburn, a former Farmington school board member.

The council's June 21 vote was challenged by the Farmington Observer on grounds that Michigan Attorney Gen. Frank Kelley has ruled that "a voting procedure at a public meeting which prevents citizens from knowing how members of a public body have voted is prohibited by the Open Meetings Act."

Because the secret ballot procedure didn't require council members to disclose how they voted for, the action was illegal, according to Paula Reeves, an assistant attorney general.

But City Attorney Robert Kelly wasn't quite so sure.

"The Michigan Act in question requires an open vote upon a matter by which a public body effectuates or formulates public policy," he told council Tuesday.

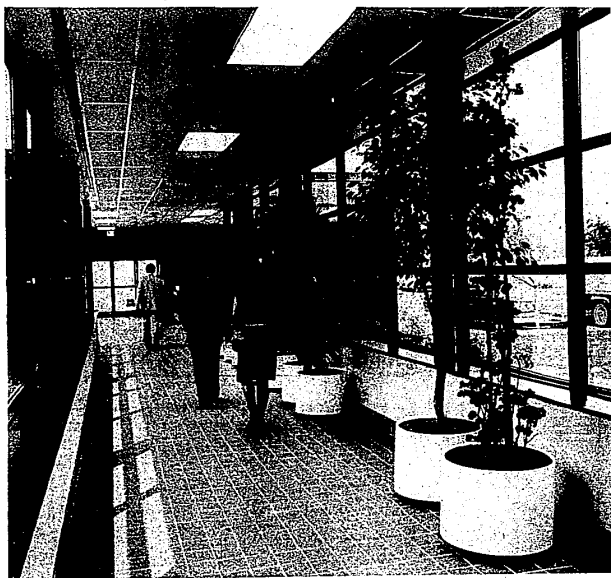
APPOINTING a councilman to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation on an elected official, Kelly wrote in a legal opinion requested by the city council, "does not seem to be a matter by which your body formulates public policy."

"There is a real question whether the Open Meetings Act covers this particular action," Kelly stated. "On the other hand, I do not believe that this is a matter of such import to run the gauntlet of possible litigation."

Consequently, Kelly recommended the council "reaffirm the appointment by a public vote and formal appointment."

The elder Tupper was sworn in by City Clerk Josephine Bushey after the 4-0 vote and took his place at the council table.

The meeting ended with Councilman William Hartscock presenting a reporter for the Farmington Observer with a T-shirt featuring an armadillo on its front. This newspaper ran an editorial on July 1 headlined "Balking the wild peccadillo in Farmington."



Botsford General Hospital's new Administration and Education Building sits on a seven-acre site once used as a grazing field for cattle and sheep by Henry Ford.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Botsford converts school

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Sunday marks the dedication of Botsford General Hospital's Administrative and Education Building, formerly Edgewood Elementary School.

The converted 58,000-square-foot facility was remodeled on a seven-acre site once owned by Henry Ford. A 450-foot concourse joins the osteopathic hospital's Professional Building and North and South Towers to its new \$3 million development.

Outdoor ceremonies begin at 1 p.m. Sunday with an address by keynote speaker Dr. Myron S. Magan, dean of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

An open house, employee craft show, slide presentation and student art show complete dedication day festivities, which end at 5 p.m.

"We evinced interest for an educational facility two years ago when the administration first became aware that Edgewood was closing due to declining enrollment," said Dr. Allen Zeiger, president of Zeiger Osteopathic Hospital Incorp., the nonprofit corporation which owns Botsford General.

"Botsford is outgrowing its facilities at a rapid rate in terms of physical space, and this makes for a smoother operation."

Construction began about a year and a half ago, shortly after the property was rezoned by the Farmington Hills City Council. The July 11 targeted moving date for 125 Botsford staffers was stretched to Aug. 1 due to a skilled tradesman strike which halted activity for several days last spring.

HOUSED IN THE Administrative and Education Building are the hospital's executive offices; nursing administration; community education rooms; medical library; nursing dictating rooms; human resources and finance

offices; cafeteria and courtyard. No hands-on care will be provided in Botsford's latest addition.

Classrooms in the existing Professional Building will be converted to private physicians' offices.

"This will afford us the means to fully institute our community education program in less than a year," said Dr. Philip Adler, who has delivered 6,000 babies since he began practicing obstetrics 30 years ago.

"We've had a limited community program focusing on weight control, smoking, exercise, and stress management that has been subscribed to fully. All the programs have been well attended. People are more interested in health maintenance than they were 20 years ago."

Zeiger agreed.

"The public is seeking out this type of activity. It was very difficult in the past to bring people in. It's been largely a question of public education."

Already the results are becoming evident, he added.

"We're seeing heart attacks declining by 25 percent as a result of innovative approaches and diet control, while strokes have gone down by 30 percent. Preventive medicine is the key to health maintenance."

FURTHER EXPANSION is planned for Botsford. In the planning stages are an additional 100,000 square feet of space to house patient services such as cardiac catheterization, CAT-scanning, radiation therapy, and obstetrics facilities including a birthing area and outpatient services.

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