

IN THE PAPER TODAY

On the mend: A 2-year-old seems to be improving after taking a tumble from the balcony of a Farmington church last Sunday. /2A

Carjacked! A visitor from Northern Ireland told Farmington Hills police he was carjacked and forced to drive to Detroit. /4A

Warrants sought: Farmington police are seeking warrants against a Hills man, 35, in connection with the sexual assault of a teen-age girl in the Downtown Center parking lot June 15. /12A

COMMUNITY LIFE

Fruits of labor: Two Farmington Hills brothers carefully plant a garden each year and proudly carry on a family tradition. /13A

Feeling no Spain: A Farmington Hills mother, this week's guest columnist, says how much she enjoyed hosting a foreign-exchange student from Spain. /13A

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

In focus: Tom Halsted has long recognized the special beauty and power of the art of photography. His Halsted Gallery, which presents photo exhibits, is marking its 25th anniversary this year. /1B

SPORTS

Grid preview: Farmington High hopes to take a successful 1994 football season a step further in '95. /1C

Golf victory: North Farmington kicked off a new high school campaign Monday by winning the city tournament. /1C

LOTTERY

The Wednesday Lotto jackpot was worth at least \$6.3 million. The Michigan lottery numbers for Wednesday, Aug. 23, are:

- DAILY 3: 255
- DAILY 4: 9754
- CASH 5: 2, 3, 10, 35, 37
- LOTTO: 6, 7, 14, 16, 33, 36

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Edison 'stormed' over outages



The lights are back on and the air conditioners are humming again, but memories of recent power outages haven't faded from the minds of Farmington-area residents.

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Michigan Public Service Commissioners got an earful Tuesday when citizens and public officials from

Farmington Hills and other communities packed the Hills city council chambers to slam the performance of Detroit Edison.

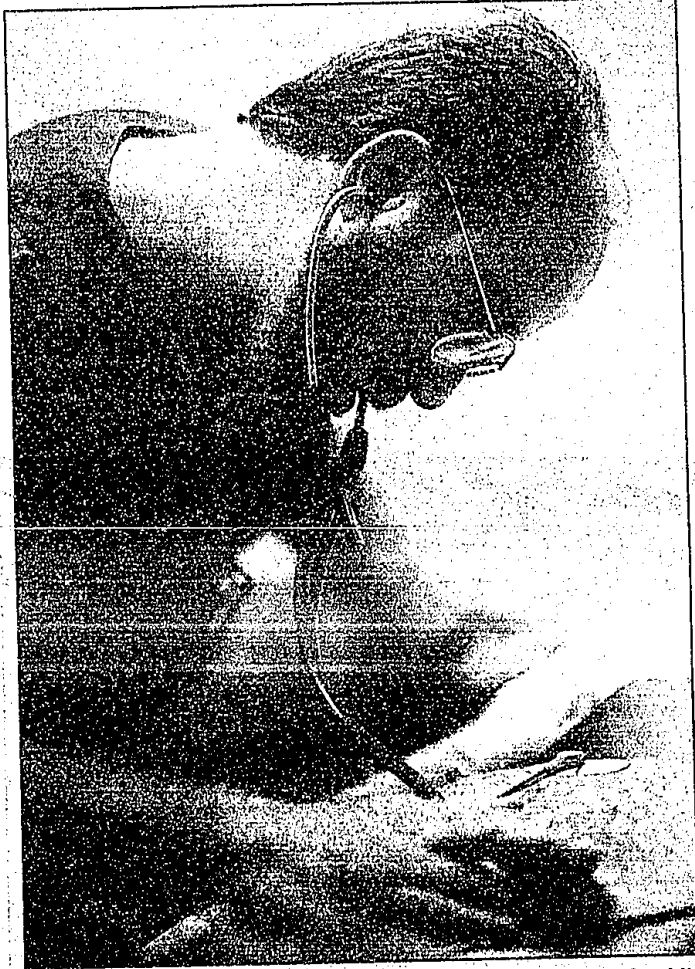
The public hearing, the last of

three that had included Flint and Waterford Township, took well over two hours and for the most part chronicled what those who spoke saw as a dismal performance by the giant utility, not only during the recent July storms and power outages, but at other times when power has gone out. Commission Chairman John Strand said last month's storms were "the first real test since the problems of 1991."

"We want to find out what was done right and what was done wrong," he said.

Strand and fellow commissioners John O'Donnell and John Shea certainly heard what was done wrong. Speakers told commissioners that Edison had not responded well enough during the storm, had antiquated and unreliable equipment,

See EDISON, 6A



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRADON LEBLANC

Just routine: It was hardly the busiest Friday evening they'd ever seen at Botsford General Hospital's Emergency Room when an Observer reporter and photographer dropped by for a visit. In the photo above, Dr. Sandy Vieder listens to the heart and lungs of a patient. At right, Metro EMS technicians Tom Chapman (left) and Cory Kraus wheel in that same patient.



ER: No TV drama, but Botsford bustles

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

No people in teal and royal blue scrubs and white tennis shoes are running around frantically. And doors are not swinging open like a western saloon at happy hour.

In other words, this is not like the TV show "ER."

"It's a myth," said Dr. Kenneth Zaremski, a resident physician in Botsford General Hospital's Emergency Department, referring to NBC's highly rated drama.

Oh, they get swamped. A security man, Farmington High grad Russell Yerge, said the past week in particular has been extremely busy.

Which is why those in the Farmington Hills hospital's emergency room are caught off guard by a Friday night lull.

The respite has them thankful, if not giddy. Someone mentions how the word quiet is never to be mentioned.

"Now you've done it," said Dr. David Walters with mock alarm, "you've said the Q word in vain."

Superstition is not quashed under years of medical school and training. ER staff laugh at its ironies, but count on its prophecies.

Moons and cats

They respect full moons, stay clear of a ladder's underside, and watch for felines noir.

Some will even connect an unrelenting busy spell to the fact it's two to three days after Social Security checks have come in the mail.

Whatever mystic forces are at work, Dr. Sandy Vieder is grateful. He asks if two visiting journalists can return the next night, figuring them to be two rabbits-foot worth of luck.

"It's usually not like this," Vieder said.

Botsford's bustling

Last year, the hospital's Emergency Department treated 44,498 emergency patients and expects to see 64,000 this year. That's double the number — 23,000 — from seven years ago.

On a given night, they can see 70 to 75 people in critical care.

While sheer volume speaks to the hospital's changing role, the variety and severity of cases is also telling.

Botsford ER treats patients ranging from gunshot and stabbing victims from inner-city quarters to the critically injured from car accidents on one of four nearby freeways.

Amid extreme trauma cases are those who come in with sundry minor ailments like fevers and colds.

"We do have our share of frequent fliers," said Vieder about the regular visitors who often seek more emotional attention than medical.

See ER, 3A

2 vie for Hills mayor's office, 5 for city council seats

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

There were no last minute dramas at the Farmington Hills City Clerk's office Tuesday as a time sometimes replete with candidates filing petitions or deadlines.

"It looks like we're not going to have anyone else file," said City Clerk Kathy Dorman.

And after 4 p.m. had come and gone, there were two candidates for mayor and five for city council. Former mayor and current City Councilman Aldo Vagnoni will square off with attorney and former Councilman Paul Sowerby in the city's first direct

election for mayor.

Vagnoni is a veteran of city politics and has also served on the Farmington Board of Education and has been active with the Democratic Party in state and national politics in the past, serving as an elector in the 1992 presidential election.

Sowerby filled a two-year vacancy on the council but was defeated in a re-election bid in 1999. He has won some impressive endorsements from the likes of U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Peterson and county commissioners Donn Wolf and David Moffit.

In the council races, incumbents Nancy Bates and Terry Sever will seek re-election in the company of challengers Ben Marks, Dennis Fitzgerald and Vicki Barnett.

Joanne Smith announced Monday that she would not run for re-election to the council.

Businessman Roy Lindhardt, who has been active in city parks and recreation issues, had taken out petitions for both mayor and city council, but did not file. Julie Pulgini, a member of Knollenberg's staff, took out petitions for mayor, but did

See COUNCIL, 6A