



Amber waves of grain

A field of grain yet to be bulldozed to make way for the I-275 connector to I-96 outlines the southbound ramp to the new massive interchange in northwest Farmington Hills. The interstate system will make the Farmington community a major

distribution center of metropolitan Detroit, providing quick and easy access to all parts of the state. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Life-saving radio units coming

By RON GORBINSKI

Ambulance communication is helping to improve emergency medical care in the Farmington community.

If a federal grant is approved, Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills will become part of a county-wide medical emergency radio system.

This system will link the local hospital with every other major accredited hospital in the county as well as the ambulances that serve these facilities.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted recently to approve a High Way Safety Grant totaling \$7.125 to equip five county hospitals with remote control radio consoles.

If the grant is fully awarded by the government, its installation will mark the completion of a radio communications network for medical emergencies in Oakland County, says Gary Canfield, director of Oakland County's emergency medical services and author of the federal grant.

The radio system set up at Botsford Hospital will provide a valuable relay network between the ambulance and the hospital so that doctors at the facility can communicate with the ambulance attendants while on their way to the hospital, he continues.

THE FEDERAL grant requests the government to provide the program with \$18,962.50. Botsford Madison Community Martin Place East Henry Ford and William Beaumont will fund the remaining \$8,137.50 cost of the project.

For Botsford General, that means its share will total \$1,728 to implement the vehicular communication system at the hospital.

With the radios, our personnel at Botsford will be in constant communication with the ambulances bringing patients here, with other hospitals and with the fire department during fires," explains Seymour Cantor, business manager at Botsford.

Ambulance drivers can tell our doctors who they are bringing to the hospital and what condition they are in. This way doctors will be prepared for what to expect when the ambulance arrives," he continues.

It is not so much a benefit for the hospital as it is for the patients because they are the ones who will benefit the most.

Canfield says the system will be used to determine what blood types are available at certain hospitals and the number of empty beds in each facility.

It will also be beneficial during disaster situations like the recent tornado in West Bloomfield, because the local hospital will have direct communications with the disaster site.

REGULAR EMERGENCY room personnel will be trained to operate the equipment which consists of a VHF radio transmitter and receiver.

The hospitals participating in the system

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