

# Farmington Observer

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## Osteopath pioneers in hip replacement surgery

By MARY GNIEWEK

Dr. John Swienkowski is one of the few orthopedic surgeons in the country who performs a simplified operation to help patients with severe hip problems walk again.

A staff physician at Botsford General Hospital, Swienkowski has performed 25 ball and socket surface replacement procedures in the past 2 1/2 years at Botsford, one of the few hospitals in the country performing the radically new procedure.

Using a technique devised in Germany as an alternative to a more common total hip replacement operation, Swienkowski replaces only the surfaces of the hip joint, not the bone itself.

A small metal cup inside a plastic shell weighing less than two ounces is implanted over the hip bone to give the patient maximum movement of the artificial joint. The ball is shaved and replaced with the metal cup prosthesis. The socket is replaced with the high density plastic shell. Both are cemented in place.

"IT'S TECHNICALLY difficult, but the surgery is not that hard. Technically, it must be put in the right way to get the right result," said Swienkowski, pointing to x-rays depicting the procedure.

"Medicine is as much an art as it is a science."

Swienkowski's patients have ranged in age from 21 to 60, victims of auto accidents, pelvic disease or severe arthritis.

"We've had close to three years of followup now. They're all doing well, many are back at work," Swienkowski said.

"We do know in Europe they've held up for six years or more."

One patient has a total hip replacement on one side and resurfacing on the other and can't tell the difference. Surgery is sought when pain becomes so debilitating the victim can't walk.

"It has to do with quality of life," Swienkowski said. "When that's affected, something needs to be done."

An orthopedic surgeon can recommend surgery. It's a good procedure, it's worked for us."

A Botsford orthopedist since 1971, Swienkowski routinely performed total hip replacement operations until he studied the European method in Germany.

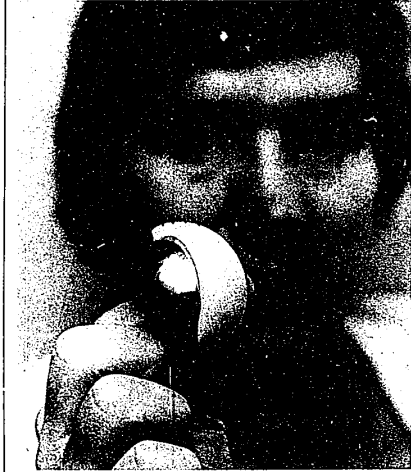
Whereas hip replacement surgery removes the entire joint — about three inches of bone — just a few millimeters are shaved off in the resurfacing procedure.

Studies conducted at the Mayo Clinic, a world-renowned medical research center in Rochester, Minnesota, of operations performed between 1972 and 1977, show one out of four total hip replacements unsuccessful.

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This is how the radical hip replacement looks through the eye of the x-ray camera.



Dr. John Swienkowski, an orthopedic surgeon at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, shows the ball used to replace the hip joint. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Seeks meeting with President

## Congressman miffed over Japanese import deal

By MARY GNIEWEK

Congressman William Brodhead, D-17th District, has requested a meeting with President Jimmy Carter to resolve the issue of import tariffs on Japanese trucks.

Brodhead, whose district includes Farmington, Southfield, Lathrup Village and Redford, has charged the U.S. Customs Service with breaking the import tariff law.

In a January 23 letter to Commissioner of Customs Robert Chasen, Brodhead demanded that the Customs Service charge a Congressionally-mandated 25 percent import duty on small trucks rather than the 4 percent now charged.

Brodhead claims Japanese exporters simply remove the cargo beds from road-ready trucks and take the cab chassis and truck bed through customs

as parts, paying a 4 percent duty applying to parts while 25 percent applies to whole trucks.

"The law is clear as I read it: duty should be imposed," Brodhead said in a phone interview from Washington this week.

"The fact that the administration is dragging its feet means they've got other matters under consideration."

Brodhead speculates the U.S. may have made a deal with the Japanese government in exchange for support of economic sanctions against Iran or an agreement to boycott the Moscow summer Olympics.

"OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING like that is going on," he said. "This is an important issue to the Japanese."

The Carter administration has told Brodhead — and a delegation of 28 Michigan and Ohio legislators who joined him in the request for action — that no decision will be made until after Japanese Prime Minister Ohira's visit in May.

"The near-disastrous level of unemployment in the U.S. auto industry and the soaring increase in Japanese auto

imports makes it vital to resolve the problem without further delay," Brodhead said.

Japanese automakers exported 446,000 small trucks to the U.S. in 1979, 21 percent of the total Japanese vehicle imports into the country, Brodhead said.

That the 4 percent tariff allowed Japanese automakers to avoid \$600 million in import duties in seven years.

"They totally dominate the market. Ninety seven percent of small trucks sold in the U.S. are made in Japan," Brodhead said.

"The trucks are good but they could be made in the U.S. by Japanese companies or other companies."

"Sixty percent of unemployment in the auto industry is due to truck production."

## Council dumps road oil as dust controller

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor

Oiled roads in Farmington Hills soon will be history.

That's the word from city administrators this week. The one bidder applying to oil 26 miles of road has told

the city he is unable to sign the contract.

Concern over pending federal regulations measuring levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) was the reason, according to City Manager Larry Savage.

Over the years oil has been used on those 26 miles to contain dust during the summer months. The remaining 57 miles have been treated with calcium chloride.

Unless homeowners, on their own, can find a road oiling service willing to

oil by May 9, all 83 miles will be treated with calcium chloride.

"I'm very pessimistic that they will be able to find anyone to do it," said Ralph Magid, Department of Public Service director, at this week's council session.

Only one road oiling firm had submitted a bid to Farmington Hills.

Road oiling companies are shying away from the business since the federal government mandated the waste oil to be tested for PCB.

If oiling companies were forced to use more refined oil it would be economically unfeasible to treat the roads, according to city officials.

Many of those same companies are changing over to the use of calcium chloride.

BUT MANY RESIDENTS at this week's council session objected to calcium chloride, saying it was inadequate in controlling dust.

## Theft probe continues

Preliminary exams for five suspects arrested in connection with receiving and concealing stolen tires will continue May 27 in 47th District Court in Farmington.

Judge Michael Hand scheduled the new date following a full day of court testimony Tuesday. Hand will decide if the case should be bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court for trial.

Defendants Charles Acker of Redford, Rodney Allegrina of Ferndale, Lucky Barton of Dearborn, Joseph Giniel of Livonia and Carmen Williams of Detroit all pleaded not guilty to the charges stemming from their Nov. 10, 1979 arrests.

If convicted, the charges carry a maximum five-year prison term or \$2,500 fine for each. In addition, Barton and Giniel are charged with possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, which carries a mandatory two-year prison term.

Police confiscated 392 tires in a prearranged deal with Ackers. He was accompanied by the other defendants at a site in the Farmington Industrial Park where all the arrests were made, after an undercover officer purchased the cache of tires.

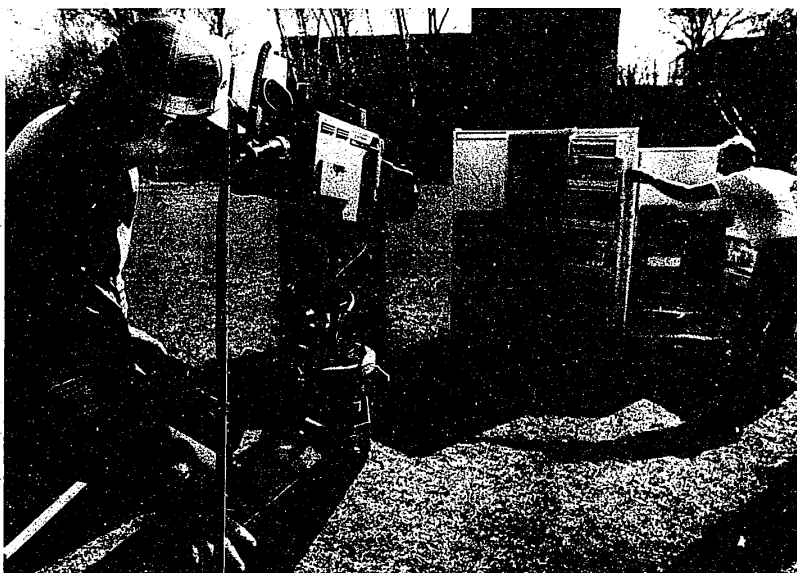
The tires dot number identifications match the series of an 1,800-tire load stolen from a boxcar in a Hamtramck rail yard last year.

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## Commercial for export

The tranquility of Farmington City Park was interrupted with some excitement for a day last week as a commercial filming crew came to ply its trade. To see why Dan Reardon (on camera) and Tom Smart

are videotaping refrigerators in the park, turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)