

# Patient decline hampers Botsford

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ple in the organization have use of company cars (Fords and Mercurys), Cooper said, and those drivers must pay a monthly fee.

An employee asked if pay concessions earlier could have avoided the layoffs.

"I DON'T think so," Cooper answered. "First of all, I don't think that what we're facing now is what we'll be facing in the future. Our wage and benefit system is one of the best around, and I'd hate to see that get screwed up by knee jerk reactions."

The expansion will add two additional floors and a net 36 beds (68 new beds will be added; 32 old ones removed) and provide additional space for surgical suits and visitor areas to make Botsford competitive, according to Cooper.

"These (the planned additions) are all deficits for us right now," he said. "This is probably the last major expansion we'll see."

"Once upon a time, when we went to the hospital, we went wherever our doctor told us to go. That isn't true anymore. We shop around."

PART OF the expansion plan — the extension of a tower to a maximum 85 feet — has been controversial because Farmington Hills zoning limits such structures to no more than 60 feet.

After months of wrangling, the city council last November voted 5-2 to amend the ordinance and enable Botsford to construct the tower. Councilwoman Jan Dolan, a Botsford trustee, voted for the measure, even though she usually abstains from voting on hospital-related issues under council consideration.

None of Botsford's employees is

represented by a labor union, although "four or five true organizing efforts" have been made since the hospital opened in 1985, Cooper said.

"WE HAVE an above-average rapport with our employees," he added.

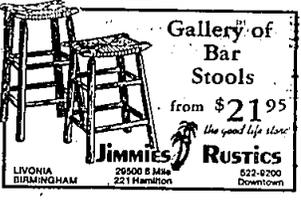
After the meeting, Cooper told a small group of employees, "It's a very painful thing we're doing. We realize that these decisions will have a profound effect on our employees and their families."

"We're not going to take any of these things lightly."



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# Big road widening set for summer

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findings regarding the thoroughfare's future.

In the next eight years, according to their findings, more than 2 million square feet of new office space is planned along 12 Mile, particularly at the western end. In addition, the 12 Mile corridor requires additional freeway access, particularly since the Orchard Lake-I-96 interchange is insuffi-

cient to meet future traffic needs.

While the widening of 12 Mile, as well as the resurfacing and traffic signals are planned for this year, traffic consultants also suggest future improvements could include a new interchange and constructing a boulevard between Farmington and Haggerty. Traffic consultants also suggest widening I-96 to six lanes between Northwestern Highways and I-275.




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