

Hospitals appeal state ruling on new sites

By Karen Hermes Smith
Staff writer

All five major Detroit-area hospital groups wanting to build facilities in West Bloomfield are appealing the state health department's across-the-board rejection of their applications. Appeals were received by Friday's

deadline from William Beaumont; Ford and Sinai hospitals, which jointly propose to build a 200-bed facility; Sisters of Mercy; Harper-Grace; and Huron Valley.

The health department is expected to set a date within 30 days for the first hearing in the appeal process.

The health department ruled last month that hospital backers did not demonstrate in their applications a need for added hospital beds in western Oakland County. It also ruled that their proposals would drive up health care costs and take away patients from existing hospitals. The decision was consistent with a recommendation by the

regional health planning agency for southeastern Michigan.

BEAUMONT'S appeal came as a surprise because a spokesman for that hospital, in an interview after the health department announced its ruling, said Beaumont "understood" why the decision was reached and had be-

gun to question the need for a hospital as well.

The spokesman, Mike Killian, was out of town early this week, but left the following statement to be read by his public relations staff: "We feel the planning for hospitals in western Oakland County is very important to us, and we want to remain part of that process."

Ford-Sinai announced that it would appeal within a week after the decision was reached. "In our opinion, the health department hasn't accurately assessed what we said (about) our argument for a need for a hospital and our proposal specifically," said Arnold Kimmel, di-

rector of Ford-Sinai's proposed West Bloomfield Hospital.

FORD-SINAI believes there is a need for added hospital beds, based on its projections for population growth and increased usage, Kimmel said. Attorney Pat Kennedy, spokeswoman for Harper-Grace, said her clients are appealing the decision, in part, because the health department never has made clear the rules hospital groups must follow when applying for a certificate-of-need or being reviewed with other applications in a "comparative review" format. Previously, the department reviewed hospitals on a one-by-one basis, she said.

Peafowl killing ruffles feathers

By Karen Hermes Smith
Staff writer

Oakland County Circuit Judge Robert C. Anderson is being asked to smooth some ruffled feathers in a case involving the killing of peafowls by two Siberian huskies.

Peafowl-breeder Irene Bartholomew of West Bloomfield said the big flap began when she arrived home Christmas Eve day, 1982 to find 19 of her 24 birds dead. They included a pair of rare white peacocks she'd bought that summer and her "best breeding hens."

The culprits, two huskies belonging to neighbor Barry S. Cohen, had found a

"weak spot" in the protective screening enclosing their coop, she said. The only birds spared were those usually allowed out. They had flown to the roof for safety.

COHEN OFFERED to pay her at the time, but Bartholomew said she was too upset to discuss it with him. Later, when she sent him a statement, he never responded. Bartholomew called an attorney who filed suit last month, seeking \$10,000 damages for his client. The attorney, William M. Renwick of Pontiac, said Cohen's insurance company "dragged their feet" on the claim.

THE DAMAGES include the cost for

replacing the birds, as well as loss of income, Bartholomew said. Her 20-year breeding business supplemented her main business (selling fire extinguishers) and was helping her pay off two mortgage payments and a \$12,000 hospital bill resulting from her partial paralysis.

"I didn't have the money or time to replenish (the birds following the incident)," she told a reporter last week. Rare white peacocks are difficult and expensive to get. She bought her pair from another Michigan breeder who was leaving the state. "It was the only pair he had," she said.

Judge Anderson's job will be sorting through the facts, without going cuckoo.

Cohen has a different version of what occurred. His dogs attacked only four to five birds, he said. And all of them were peahens, not peacocks. The peahens are the female version of the bird and their worth is chicken feed compared to the males which don't have the beautiful feathers, he said.

Cohen said his dogs are "most gentle" by nature, but their natural instinct is to chase birds. Bartholomew has a "habit" of letting her birds "roam," he added. His dogs got loose that day from his daughter, while she was taking them for a walk, Cohen said.

ALTHOUGH HE wasn't there when it happened, Cohen said he believes the dogs attacked the birds loose in the yard. The coop, made of insecure chicken wire, was intact "though it wouldn't be difficult for any dog to get in," he added.

"I never had any problem with my dogs before or since," he said. Cohen said he turned Bartholomew's statement over to his insurance company, but it was Bartholomew's attorney who dragged his feet. "My insurance company sent several letters to her attorney, but he never made any response to their request (for verification for damages)."

Cohen was unaware he was being sued until last week when a reporter called him.

October is stamp month

October has been designated as National Stamp Collecting Month by the U.S. Postal Service, Farmington Postmaster Kenneth B. Harris announced. Centering around the theme, "Fall in Love with Stamp Collecting," the month-long observance is being sponsored in cooperation with the Council of Philatelic Organizations (CPO). The Council's membership includes national, regional and local organizations involved in various aspects of stamp collecting.

Throughout October, post offices and local CPO organizations across the

country will sponsor various activities calling attention to stamp collecting, the world's most popular hobby.

"Millions of Americans recognize that stamp collecting can increase one's knowledge of geography, biography, history and science," Harris said. "For example, students who engage in this hobby have a good time acquiring new or used stamps, and the hobby stimulates their intellectual growth. Any adult who introduces a youngster to the hobby of stamp collecting is giving that child an interesting leisure avocation that can last a lifetime."

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