

# Offer withdrawn for medical center

By Teri Banas  
staff writer

The Sisters of Mercy Health Care Corp. withdrew its offer to take over management of Westland Medical Center Tuesday after directors of Southwest Detroit Hospital Corp. decided to pursue another offer.

"I was under the impression that they would accept the offer until 2:55 p.m. today (Tuesday)," said spokeswoman Leila Fable, Mercy's chief executive in charge of Mount Carmel Hospital in Detroit.

Serious negotiations between the two corporations had been ongoing for months with Mercy's board of di-

rectors approving an intent to manage and purchase the hospital on Dec. 9.

Those plans apparently fell through after Southwest decided to review an 11th-hour proposal from a coalition of three area hospital groups, including Garden City Osteopathic Hospital, Dearborn's Oakwood Hospital and the People's Community Hospital Authority.

SOUTHWEST's executive director, Reginald P. Ayala said this week he was not "prepared to discuss" the other proposal at this time.

"We hope to have a public announcement in the very, very near

## Negotiations halted

future. Probably, if not for the holidays we'd have something within two weeks.

"We're on a very rapid track in making final arrangements," he said. "Our board has given us direction on this. It's our direction to develop this other alternative."

Southwest Trustee Charles Arnold called the offer "seemingly more beneficial if it comes to fruition. It just isn't in a complete, finalized version — or it may not hap-

pen at all."

According to Arnold, the three area hospitals have discussed forming a separate entity to buy the financially ailing Westland facility. Last year, Southwest lost over \$1 million in its operation of Westland Medical Center. Particularly troublesome has been a low occupancy rate at the 310-bed facility of about 30 percent. In recent years, its 85-member physician staff had slipped in numbers from a one-time average

of 125 doctors.

For years as a county-operated facility, the center, then called Wayne County General Hospital, recorded annual deficits of \$15-\$18 million.

Arnold said no action has been taken by the three interested organizations at this time.

"There will be continued negotiations to determine specifically what the proposal entails," Arnold said.

ARNOLD, WHO said he learned of the coalition's interest for the first time at Tuesday's board meeting, said: "Well, things change from time to time. The board attempts to do what is in the best interest of the hospital. The new proposal, even though submitted in the 11th hour,

appears that it might be in the best interest of the hospital to pursue."

Neither Arnold or Ayala would discuss specifically what caused the change of plans with Mercy, but Mercy officials expressed disappointment.

"We are very disappointed," said Fable. "We really felt we had something to offer . . ."

"I expected to be celebrating in the hospital (Mount Carmel) this afternoon, but it didn't work out that way."

He said the Farmington Hills-based Catholic hospital group's offer, to Southwest included: "Enough to, clear up their bills and debt obligations, a substantial dollar amount that's a moot question right now."

## police/fire calls

Listed are some of the Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week:

### CARS ATTACKED

Two cars cascaded on Grand River near Power were struck by pellets about 4:35 p.m. Dec. 15, according to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports.

Damage — to one car's driver's window and to the other car's hood — was estimated at \$123. No one was injured.

### CAR TARGETED

Damage was estimated at \$100 when a 1987 Chevrolet Blazer parked at Fairmont Apartments was broken into at 3:55 a.m. Dec. 8.

The thief punched a hole into the driver's door lock but apparently was scared off after opening the door and an alarm sounded. The alarm awakened the homeowner, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### CAR RECOVERED

A car reported stolen from Troy was recovered parked on the Camerico driveway easement on Tulane near Grand River Dec. 18.

The 1986 Chevrolet Chevette was valued at \$6,000, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

### DAMAGE REPORTED

Damage was estimated at \$50

when a hood piece of a car parked in a driveway on Fink was damaged

Dec. 13-14.

Damage was estimated at \$100 during an attempted break-in at a house on Herndonwood Dec. 13-20.

Damage was estimated at \$400 during the attempted theft of a 1984 pickup truck parked at Gateway Apartments Dec. 14-15.

Damage was estimated at \$250 when the point of a car parked on Tuck was scratched Dec. 16.

Damage was estimated at \$250 when a window was smashed in a 1986 Porsche parked in a carport at Beechwood Condos Dec. 20.

Damage was estimated at \$300 when the trunk of a 1984 Oldsmobile Toronado parked at Muirwood Apartments was spray painted green Dec. 20-21.

Damage was estimated at \$500 when a woman-owned wood fence at the Orchard-10 Medical Building, 24343 Orchard Lake, was kicked down Dec. 20-22.

Damage was estimated at \$101 when Christmas decorations were vandalized at a house on Carla Court Dec. 22.

Damage was estimated at \$75 when the hood and trunk of a car parked in a driveway on Arden Park Drive were sprayed with red paint Dec. 22.

Damage was estimated at \$400

when the rear window of a car parked on Shawansee was shattered Dec. 23.

### THEFTS REPORTED

Appliances valued at more than \$550 were reported stolen from Farmington Square Condominiums Dec. 11-22. Taken were a color TV, a microwave and several other items.

A drill motor valued at \$165 was reported stolen from a construction site at Buford General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, Dec. 12-15.

An in-dash radio valued at \$450 was reported stolen from a car parked at Tom Holzer Ford, 39300 10 Mile, Dec. 12-16.

A picture on a gold frame, valued at \$105, was reported stolen from a wall of a room at the Envoy Inn, 38300 Grand River, Dec. 13-14.

A 1980 Toyota valued at \$3,000 was reported stolen from Atlas Copco Inc., 24404 Indopex, Dec. 15.

Jewelry, bedding, a VCR, a cable TV box, a color TV and a cassette player valued at \$2,391 were reported stolen from an apartment on Timberidge Circle Dec. 15.

A 1986 Pontiac valued at \$16,000 was reported stolen from Country Glen Condos Dec. 15-16.

About \$500 in a bank envelope was reported stolen from an apartment at Polo Club Apartments Dec. 15-16.

A color TV, microwave oven, jewelry and camera equipment val-

ued at \$1,450 were reported stolen from an apartment at Cordoba Apartments Dec. 17.

About \$100 in cash was reported stolen from a house on Glenview Dec. 17-18.

A 1983 Plymouth Reliant valued at \$3,000 — with \$25,000 in miscellaneous pipes and tobacco — was reported stolen from the parking lot of Dunleavy's Pub and Grub, 34505 Grand River Dec. 18.

A coyote fur coat valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a car parked at Muirwood Apartments Dec. 18-19.

A radar detector and a citizens band radio valued at \$500 were reported stolen from a car parked at the Red Roof Inn, 24300 Sinacola Court, Dec. 18-19.

Two wheel caps valued at \$50 were reported stolen from a car parked on Lesscock Dec. 19.

Jewelry and a radar detector valued at \$1,266 were reported stolen from a car parked at Muirwood Apartments Dec. 19.

A 1986 Pontiac Trans-Am valued at \$12,000 was reported stolen from outside Tally Hall, 31005 Orchard Lake, Dec. 19.

A color TV and a pedestal valued at \$275 were reported stolen from a room at Red Roof Inn, 24300 Sinacola Court, Dec. 19-20.

A radar detector valued at \$130 was reported stolen from a car

parked at Polo Club Apartments Dec. 19-21.

An in-dash radio valued at \$300 was reported stolen from a car parked at Gateway Apartments Dec. 19-21.

A water pump, a pool cover and a toolbox valued at \$1,380 were reported stolen from a garage on Raleigh Dec. 20.

A 1980 Ford Pinto valued at \$2,000 was reported stolen from a car parked in a driveway on Lamar Dec. 20. It was recovered in Redford Township.

Cigarettes of undetermined value were reported stolen from the Speedway gas station, 29434 Orchard Lake, Dec. 21.

A radar detector valued at \$100 was reported stolen from a car parked at Buddy's Pizzeria, 31646 Northwestern, Dec. 21.

A radar detector and other items

valued at \$385 were reported stolen from a car parked at County Glen Apartments Dec. 21.

A VCR, a personal computer and video cassettes valued at \$6,000 were reported stolen from a house on Fink Dec. 21-22.

Tops valued at \$1,100 were reported stolen from a car parked at Diamond Forest Apartments, 23290 Halsted, Dec. 21-22.

A 1987 Cadillac Brougham valued at \$30,130 was reported stolen from the side of westbound Northwestern Highway near 14 Mile Dec. 22.

A wallet and contents valued at \$1,710 was reported taken at Clancy's Bar & Grill, 23250 Elmer Mile, Dec. 22.

A 1986 Mazda RX-7 valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from the Glenopsis Restaurant parking lot Dec. 22-23.

## clarification

Those wishing copies of two Michigan Department of Public Health publications explaining the new Michigan Clean Indoor Air Act should call (517) 335-6396 — the de-

partment's education section in Lansing. Information given to the Observer for an article that ran Monday, Dec. 22, omitted the area code.



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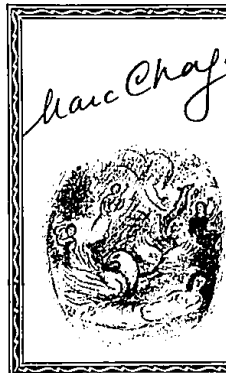
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