

Botsford will feel effect of hospital closing

Redford hospital
officially closes, 11A

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills is one of several medical facilities certain to feel the effects of the demise of Redford Community Hospital, as patients of the latter seek new health care facilities.

But while Steve Simmons of the Southfield-based Southeast Hospital Council says patients of the defunct Redford hospital will be taken care of in the short term, darker clouds loom for other area independents —

now being shortchanged by the Medicare and Medicaid programs. "There are a number of small hospitals in southeast Michigan on the brink of closing," because of Medicare and Medicaid and low reimbursement to hospitals, Simmons said, referring to those with less than 200 beds.

"Hopefully, something is going to be changed in (reimbursement) policies to support hospitals. Otherwise, Redford is one of several hospitals that will be closing during the next couple years," Simmons said.

Simmons explained that Medicare and Medicaid now pay less than the cost for health care.

MEANWHILE, ALL of the 68-bed Redford hospital's patients have ei-

ther been transferred or discharged. None were hospitalized there when it officially closed Aug. 1.

"It (shutdown) could increase the numbers of patients coming to Providence Hospital," said Carol Jonson, spokeswoman for the Southfield hospital. "But it's clearly the patient's choice and the physician's choice."

Besides Providence, residents formerly served at Redford Community may now seek health care at other nearby hospitals, such as Botsford, Livonia St. Mary's and Garden City Osteopathic, Simmons said.

Most physicians of smaller hospitals are affiliated with larger, better-equipped facilities, which allows their patients to be admitted there, Simmons said.

"At small hospitals, they don't

have the top-level technology that another (larger) facility would have," Simmons said.

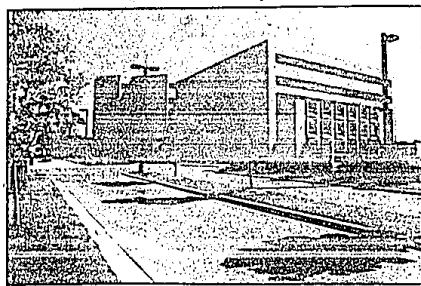
SIMMONS NOTED that "there are ways to provide care."

The closing of Redford Community followed the failure of a recently attempted merger with Botsford. In 1988, a possible working relationship with Providence also failed to elicit, Jonson said.

"We had signed a letter of affiliation to provide services to their (emergency room) and to examine other ways of working together," Jonson said.

But upon further evaluation, Providence "didn't find any other viable ways that were mutually beneficial to continue the affiliation." She would not be specific.

Two weeks ago, Providence announced it had applied with the state to transfer 188 of 462 in-patient beds to a Novi satellite facility, perhaps as soon as 1993.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Botsford General Hospital is on Grand River, north of Eight Mile, in Farmington Hills.

School's opening could be delayed

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Farmington High on time, he said. If construction slows but could be

March planned

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"I have a real hard time with everything they've had to put up with," Geraelyn said. "I don't understand the negative attitudes in today's society. I thought people had better sense, were better educated."

A seventh grade teacher at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington, Geraelyn spends six weeks in class work on justice and peace. "A lot of the kids find it hard to believe something like this could happen here," she said.

THE HARASSMENT the Successes face has left a lasting imprint on the Milwaukee. "It's really affected our family," Geraelyn said. "My older boys, 12 and 9, really feel for Matt and Sarah."

This summer, Success installed a ball stockade fence around his backyard to keep out vandals, deter burglars and make his family more secure.

The police have increased patrols and city leaders have vowed to aggressively prosecute anyone who harasses the family.

Success "has as much right to live in Farmington as anybody else," Mayor Richard Tupper told the Observer after plans for the local peace march were unveiled in July.

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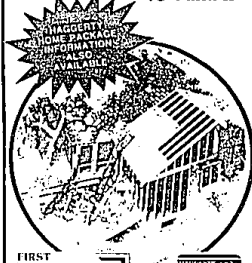
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