

Merger fails; hospital closes

By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

Redford Township's supervisor would like to see an investor buy the now-closed Redford Community Hospital and turn it into a senior citizens' apartment complex.

The hospital, after recently failing to affiliate with Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills and earlier with Providence Hospital in Southfield, officially closed Aug. 1, according to Frank Buttler, hospital spokesman.

Redford Community Hospital is about one mile south of the Southfield limit, between Telegraph and Besch.

Buttler said no patients were in the hospital when it closed. He said less than 100 full-time employees will receive their full pay and will be paid for accrued vacation time; their

health care benefits will be extended through the end of this month.

Low reimbursement rates from Medicare and Medicaid, the most common types of insurance for patients of the hospital, were cited as a primary, if not the primary, reason for the closing.

"It's a tremendous loss to Redford," said James Kelly, township supervisor. Kelly worked as chairman of the negotiating team when the hospital tried to merge with Providence. He said he still thinks Redford needs a hospital of its own.

"It's very advantageous to have your own hospital. I would have liked to see some affiliation" with Botsford or Providence because the community would have benefited from having those doctors on staff, Kelly said.

However, Kelly said he notified Redford's Chamber of Commerce of the closing Aug. 1, and added that he saw some support for turning the hospital into a senior citizens' complex.

"We can't dictate to whoever buys it, but that's what I'd like to see it used for," Kelly said. He added it would be a good use for the hospital because each room already has its own adjoining bath and already is built apartment-style. Kelly also said it's larger than the planned 55-room senior complex being built.

Marilyn Heldenbrand, township clerk, served on the hospital's board for eight years, six of them as chairwoman.

"WE TRIED for a long time to find a suitable partner. A small hospital is going to be quite a luxury in the future," she said. Heldenbrand said the hospital closed voluntarily and did not go bankrupt, although she added it was operating at a deficit.

"There's money left to maintain the building until something can be done with it," Heldenbrand said. Buttler also said the hospital, by closing now, will be able to meet its financial obligations.

Heldenbrand said the "patient census" largely was responsible for closing the hospital. She said ideally, most hospitals receive patients with a variety of health care insurance that eventually balance out.

However, she said most of the patients at Redford Community Hospital were on either Medicare or Medicaid.

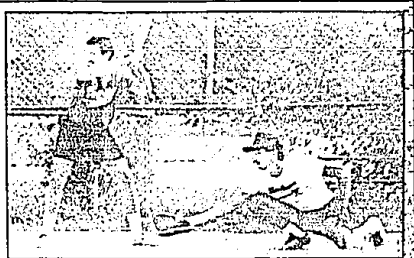
"They don't reimburse at the level of expenses," Heldenbrand said.

The hospital opened in 1956 and in recent years had adopted cost-cutting moves such as shifting several types of surgery to outpatient procedures.

BUTTLER REFUSED to name the most recent potential partners approached to affiliate with Redford Community. "We just couldn't make a fit between the duplication of services and cost efficiencies. There wasn't any one single factor for the closing," Buttler said.

"We've had no mention of buyers, but we've had several calls regarding it," he added.

Even though the hospital is closed, Buttler said department administrators are in and the finance, personnel and medical records areas will stay open for the immediate future.



Batter up!

Farmington Hills firefighter Marty Knorp (left) is up to bat while Charles Wolf of the Metro Airport firefighters catches in last year's benefit softball tournament for the National Institute for Burn Medicine. This year's event will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at Pioneer Park, Farmington Road, north of 13 Mile, Farmington Hills. Play will continue through the day; the final game will start at 6 p.m. Six teams from around the metro area will compete. Proceeds will go to the NIBM to promote burn safety. To donate, call firefighter Denny Hughes, 553-0740, or NIBM official Lisa Parker, 769-9000.

Paving of driveway approaches affirmed

Driveway approaches must be paved where required in Farmington. Waivers will not be granted, the city council affirmed Monday.

The council refused to waive the requirement for a Moore Drive resident. Granting the waiver wouldn't be fair to other residents who have already complied with the requirement, the council said.

For many years, the city has ordered sidewalks to be installed and driveway approaches to be improved if not done at the time the property was developed.

Last year, the city ordered driveway approaches and missing side-

walks to be installed on properties north of Grand River. This year, the order was extended to south of Grand River.

Property owners are required to install concrete-type approaches between the curb cut and the sidewalk.

The ordinance was adopted to keep loose debris from gravel driveways off paved roads and also to improve drainage.

"Perhaps more important, it reduces both the property owner's and the city's concern over the injury of persons caused by the loose gravel," City Manager Robert Deadman said.

ANNOUNCING THE RE-OPENING
OF

HERC'S
BEEF BUFFET
SELECTIVE BUFFET
MENU
477-5845


The Herc Family is Looking Forward to Serving You Again

Monday-Saturday 11-9
Sunday 11-8

28975 Grand River
Farmington Hills
477-5845

Gigantic SALE
MOST ITEMS
40%, 50% & 75% OFF
Steiff, Alexander, Brio,
Playmobile, Etc.
Everything Must Go!

THE TOY SHOP
21917 Garrison • Dearborn, Michigan 48124
All Sales Final **278-7500** Cash Only



OPHTHALMOLOGY ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Leonard H. Lerner, M.D. Gary D. Bergman, M.D.
Robert I. Gans, M.D. Jeffrey S. Katz, M.D.

proudly announces the association of
David S. Grey, M.D.
26615 Greenfield Rd., Southfield, MI 48075
(313) 557-1070

And also announces our second office location
7001 Orchard Lake Rd.
Suite 320C
West Bloomfield, MI 48332
(313) 932-3990


Our physicians participate in the Medicare program for covered services.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

It's quick. It's easy.
And it's the law.

BRICKSCAPING

with help from
BRICKSCAPE, INC.
INSTALL YOUR OWN
• PATIO • WALK
• DRIVEWAY




VISIT OUR
BRICK PAVING
DISPLAY TODAY!

BRICKSCAPE™
Brick Paving Systems

New Hours
M-T-Th 9-8
W-F 9-8
Sat. 9-6

21099 OLD NOVI ROAD
NORTHVILLE, MI 48167
348-2500

We need more of your type.



No matter what kind of type you are, if you're a donor, you're the type this world can't live without. Please give.

American Red Cross

***200 REBATE AIR CONDITIONING SALE**

Installed For As Low As **\$1195⁰⁰**
City Permits Extra



38 THDL 018 Shown
Our Engineers Arrive Comfortable Until You Do.

TRU TEMP
Heating & Cooling, Inc.
Garden City Canton Township
427-8612 981-5800

Please my little girl needs blood!

Imagine if you had to ask for blood to save the life of someone you love. Next time the American Red Cross asks, give blood, please.

GIVE BLOOD, PLEASE

AMHERST CHERRY KITCHEN CABINETS

SALE 60% OFF LIST PRICE



Available in regular and Cathedral styles.

The best of real cherry has been chosen for this elegant cabinetry. Merillat quality is evident in the solid cherry front frames, drawer fronts, and door frames.

Merillat's exclusive WhisperGlide™ side-mounted roller guide system, easy-clean laminated vinyl interiors, and durable furniture finish will increase your satisfaction with your Amherst Cherry cabinets.

Sale Ends Sept. 2, 1989

Prior Sales and Builder Charge Accounts Excluded.

ANN ARBOR 1952 S. Industrial 769-7669	BRIGHTON 9325 Malby Rd. 229-9554	LIVONIA 34724 Plymouth Rd. 261-6960	MT. CLEMENS 36549 Grapet 791-7405	WATERFORD 5770 Dixie Hwy 623-2333
--	---	--	--	--

Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Thursday 9-8