

Botsford Hospital sprouted from a dream

Wall, chapel dedicated to Botsford's founder

And when our day's work is done, we come to the realization that our accomplishments of today represent but the starting point of tomorrow.

— Dr. Allen Zieger

By Amy Rauch
staff writer

THE LATE Dr. Allen Zieger was remembered as a man of dreams and visions, many that became reality. "He came to this country at age 10 from Poland, a stranger in a strange land with a strange language," said Rabbi M. Robert Syme of Temple Israel, West Bloomfield. "He was a dreamer of dreams. He dreamed the impossible dream and that dream became a reality. Botsford General Hospital is the result of that dream."

More than 200 people crowded the lobby of the 300-bed Farmington

Hills hospital Sunday afternoon to dedicate a travertine marble memorial wall and a non-denominational chapel in memory of the Zieger Health Care Corp.'s founder.

"My father had a dream and many helped that dream become a reality," said Zieger's daughter, Carol Zieger Cooper. "What a wonderful day today is in my father's memory."

ZIEGER, WHO died in 1984, founded Zieger Osteopathic Hospital in Detroit in 1944. That hospital grew from 19 beds to 165. Zieger expanded to Farmington Hills in 1965, opening Botsford General Hospital with 200 beds. In 1982, the Detroit hospital became part of the Michigan Osteopathic Medical Center.

A graduate of Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery, Zieger was president and chief executive officer of Botsford for 19 years. In 1982, he received the Walter F. Patenger Medal of Public Service from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Gerson Cooper, Zieger Health Care Corp. president, began the dedication Sunday. He is standing next to the covered sculpture

of Dr. Allen Zieger, which was unveiled later in the ceremonies by members of his family.

American Osteopathic Hospital Association Award of Merit.

Gerson Cooper, Botsford president and chief executive officer, remembered Zieger as a dreamer whose "unique relationship with employees was special also."

Cooper joined Dr. Zieger at Zieger Osteopathic Hospital as business manager in 1959. A West Bloomfield resident, Cooper played a major role in recruiting and orienting the original staff that opened Botsford six years later.

The wall dedicated to Zieger, designed by sculptor Mark Shwayder of Franklin, shows Zieger's profile, the ever-present cigar in hand. Just below the bas relief sculpture is a poem written by Zieger (excerpted above).

The chapel adjacent to the lobby in Botsford's new six-level tower was also dedicated in Zieger's memory. A \$100,000 donation from the Botsford Guild helped build the chapel, complete with two large stained glass windows. Eleanor Simula said the chapel was an idea the Botsford Guild broached to Zieger and one he supported. "This dream became a reality," she said.

DR. DAVID SUSER, who first began to work with Dr. Zieger in 1959, described him as an intellectual who loved beauty.

"He was a very unusual and complex man. Those of us who knew him only knew part of him," Suser said. "He was humble, yet proud. He was an extremely intellectual man, he read avidly."

"He attempted to bring beauty into his surroundings," Suser said, referring to the atrium Zieger built in the hospital.

Zieger was ahead of his time, Suser said. "He was a man of vision. He created what Botsford became and what it is today. Every person who works or is cared for (at the hospital) today is touched by Mr. Zieger."

One of Zieger's ambitions was seeing hospices, which provide a caring environment for terminally ill patients and their families. He was on the Southeastern Michigan Hospice Corp. board.

Zieger would want his dreams to continue, said Steve Barnaby, managing editor of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers, Botsford General Hospital Board of Trustees member and a long-time friend. "Allen would want us to talk about the future. His dreams were his sustenance... cold, hard determination made his dreams come true."

Zieger had dreams that "the able take care of the aged, the mature take care of the young; of health care for everyone," Barnaby said. "In these challenging times, we must double our efforts to make his dreams come true. To honor Allen is to reach out to the youth, the next generation."

"Don't say, 'Thank you,' he'd say. No, he'd hesitate, light his cigar, smile at you with that twinkle in his eye and say, 'Just pass it on.' Thank you, Allen, we shall pass it on."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Steve Barnaby, a Botsford General Hospital Board of Trustees member, gave a tribute to Dr. Allen Zieger during the dedication.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Members of Dr. Allen Zieger's family who were present at the dedication Sunday included (from left) his daughter, Carol Zieger Cooper;

his son, Ari Zieger; and his widow, Marga Zieger. At left is the sculpture of Allen Zieger.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Work crews were out on Springbrook, between Nine Mile and Grand River, Friday. Street paving and storm drainage improvements in Regal Orchards subdivision — on Cora, Haynes and

Springbrook, between Grand River and Nine Mile — are under way, thanks to a \$370,000 HUD grant.

Hills subdivision gets road improvements

By Susan Buck
staff writer

When the construction dust in Regal Orchards subdivision clears, 53 of those Farmington Hills residents will have paved streets and storm drainage improvements.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) authorized \$370,000 through its discretionary fund.

Residents on Cora, Haynes and Springbrook, between Grand River and Nine Mile, will see improvements.

In addition, paving extensions are proposed north of Nine Mile. All improvements will be in the existing road right-of-way.

"Construction began a month a half ago and paving should be done in 30 days," said Jim Cubera, a

Farmington Hills senior engineer.

After a conference in Chicago a year ago, councilman Ben Marks made the initial contacts with HUD officials, said Richard Lampi, community development coordinator, who prepared the grant application.

Last October, the city was informed that HUD would accept such an application.

"The grant is fairly unique," said Lampi. "This is the first one like this that we have gotten. This was a competitive type of situation. I think the people will be real happy when we're done."

THE PROJECT area, which meets federal Community Development and Block Grant criteria, has poor drainage because of its flatness and it contains gravel roads.

To properly drain standing water and provide an adequate base for roads, the area will be reditched. Also, the entire street system must be drained by an enclosed system because the area is flat.

This includes the installation of 3,800 linear feet of 12-inch and 18-inch stormsewer with catch basins.

An informational meeting with property owners was held Jan. 11.

Meanwhile, residents are trying to cope with the inconvenience of getting in an out of their driveways, said Betty Gillette, who lives on Haynes.

"They seem to be making quite a lot of progress," she said Friday. "After the construction is over, it will be quite nice. I'll be glad when they start paving. There was 10 feet of dirt standing in my ditch last night."

Child Abuse Prevention Month coming

October is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. To observe the month, Farmington Hills Council adopted a proclamation that states: "Once again we are asked to take

time to love our children; a love which our children need.

"If one dies from child abuse, we as adults suffer."

"Our children must come first,

above all else," said Farmington Hills resident Vernon Kielbaso, who suggested the city adopt the proclamation. "To show its concern about its children."



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Floor Planning. You and your instructor will work with your floor plan to achieve a workable, livable room, taking into account traffic patterns, conversation areas and natural focal points.

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Accessories. Putting it all together. A quilt. An antique chest with a high tech vase. Artwork you've acquired over the years. Learn how accents can bring a room to life. And finally you'll get to see an empty room furnished in logical stages. From furniture and rugs to valances and chandeliers.

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