

The Farmington Observer

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Botsford from page A1

worked with the consortium to develop and design the report for consumers.

"The purpose of this report is to (provide) ... a useful tool in making health-care choices," said Dr. Woodrow Myers, director of health care management at Ford Motor Co. and a member of the consortium. "The report also provides information to hospitals that can be used for continuous improvement of both the cost and the quality of health care in the Detroit area."

The report is entitled "South-east Michigan Hospital Profile: Special Edition on Emergency and Cardiac Care."

Comprising the consortium are: Ford; General Motors Corp.; DaimlerChrysler; the International Union, UAW; Delphi Automotive Systems; Detroit

Edison; the Michigan Education Special Services Association; the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System; and the state of Michigan.

Working as consultants were: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan; Market Insights; Michigan Health & Hospital Association; Michigan Peer Review Organization; Southeast Michigan Health & Hospital Council; the Picker Institute; and Towers Perrin.

The report used patient surveys conducted by the Picker Institute this year. Surveyed for the emergency care section were patients who were treated in local emergency departments but weren't admitted directly to the hospital. For the cardiac care section, congestive heart failure patients were studied.

Y2K from page A1

identified 236 areas of concern.

Each area was assigned a priority, and plans were made to deal with each item, said Director of Central Services Michael Lasley. City officials also asked the people with whom they do business to submit letters about their Y2K status.

"Much of the focus now is on utilities," Lasley said. "City services are highly dependent on these utilities. They assure us they are Y2K ready."

On New Year's Eve, residents can expect additional staffing at the police and fire departments, as well as the Department of Public Works, in the event problems occur. Even at this late date, Lasley said, residents can take some precautions.

He recommended learning as much as possible about potential effects. Detroit Edison, Consumer's Energy and Ameritech all have Y2K information posted on their Web sites. Brochures entitled "Personal Planning for the Year 2000" and "The Year 2000 problem-frequently asked questions" are available at city

hall. Residents can turn to channels 8 and 12 for information over the New Year's holiday. Brock said. He and Police Chief Bill Dwyer urged residents not to call 911 to check whether their phones were working.

"Don't flood 911 unless you have a true emergency," Brock said. "There are places to go first. Be judicious."

The larger question looming, Lasley believes, is whether people are ready. The unpredictable human factor could create more problems than the so-called "bug" itself.

Some who claim to know the truth about the issue are actually scam artists, Lasley said. "There are many Y2K experts. We find a number of them with criminal backgrounds."

Residents can mitigate potential problems by keeping paper records of bank transactions for two months prior to Jan. 1, refilling prescriptions early and having a family contingency plan similar to winter storm plans, he said.

Arthritis Today

JAMES J. WELLS, M.D. BOARD CERTIFIED
18629 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 378-7860

BEING OLD WITH ARTHRITIC PAIN

Being old and experiencing arthritis pain presents a difficult problem both for you and your doctor. For you, the difficulty is getting to the doctor when you need him.

For your physician the problem is one of prescribing appropriate medication. What he does not want to do is give you something that will make you dizzy, dizzy, or sleepy. That is why he is reluctant to order narcotic medications.

If you live alone, such medications are risky. A fall induced by narcotics could go unnoted for hours. Since arthritis can last for years, the need for pain relief may last just as long. Reliance on narcotics brings tolerance if not addiction. In time, a greater amount of drug is needed for pain relief, while the side effects remain a risk.

Use of medications such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen, often proves insufficient to relieve the pain you experience. Heat helps, but its effect is short lived.

If the pain comes from a joint, an injection of excess fluid in the joint and injection of a steroid preparation may help for days to weeks. However obtaining the injection necessitates an office visit, and delay in getting to the office brings up the need for interim relief.

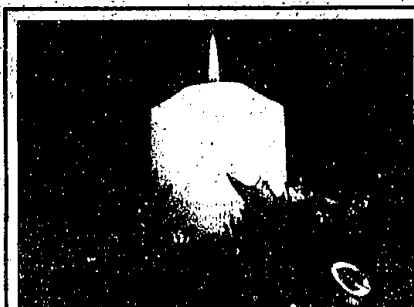
The reality is that no physician can turn to a text or article for a formula that outlines a reliable solution. What doctors search for is a combination of medications that you tolerate well, are not addictive, and which relieve your pain consistently.

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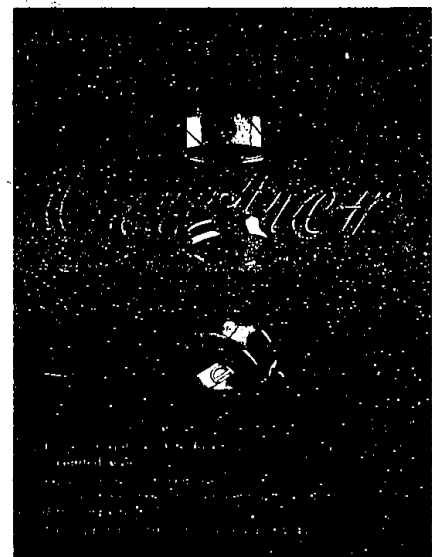
LIGHT A CANDLE OF LOVE.

Since Christmas is a time for remembering, we are lighting a candle in our funeral home for all the families we have served this past year.

As you enjoy this Christmas season, we hope this gesture will serve to remind you of Holidays past and the importance of family. May the quiet peace of Christmas fill your heart and home.

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- 6:00 pm Christmas celebration with youth choirs, bells and lyrical dance.
- 8:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve service, featuring the Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs.
- 11:00 pm Contemporary Sounds of Christmas, with communion.

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