# County Considers Buying New Southfield Hospital Building

By EMORY DANIELS

PONTIAC

Oakland County Hospital may be relocated near Northland Center in Southfield if the county is successful in negotiating purchase of the Medicaid Center near Nine Mile and Greenfield.

If the decision to acquire is made and an offer accepted, the county would have a five-story building with basement opened in December 1971.

The building is conveniently located near Providence Hospital, surrounding medical facilities, and the John Lodge expressway.

Negotiations are off to a bad start, however. Some county officials are spreading the word that the Medicaid Corp. of American facility in Southfield is in financial difficulty and wants to unload.

Joseph Heller, Medicaid administrator, flatly denies that assessment but does admit the corporation is entertaining offers of purchase.

After moving into the building, Heller explains, it was discovered the facility is too large for an efficient operation. Because of this, he adds, the corporation is considering leasing a couple floors or selling the entire building.

The Oakland Board of Commissioners also remains undecided about which method it will use to improve the present county hospital in Pontiac.

Because of structural deficiencies in the present hospital, the state has threatened to close it if corrections aren't made.

**The board has appointed a subcommittee to investigate the alternatives of renovating the present hospital or relocating to the Medicaid site, providing a purchase can be negotiated.**

The board has received renovation drawings and specifications, at a cost of $25,000, from the architectural firm of Tarapata, McMahon and Paulsen, Inc.

Those plans were approved Tuesday by the board, subject to acceptance by the Michigan Dept. of Health. The county has been given a June 1 deadline from the state to show evidence that corrective steps will be taken.

The renovation plans will be used to make a cost comparision study to determine whether it is wiser to repair the existing hospital at $1.5 million or relocate.

James Brennan, member of the board of auditors, is chairman of the investigating subcommittee which includes physicians and medical experts.

The subcommittee plans to tour the Medicaid Center to determine if the building would be suitable for the county hospital.

The Medicenter building was valued at $2.6 million when construction plans were announced by Medicenters of America, Inc., of Memphis.

The center is designed and staffed for recuperation and rehabilitation of patients following illness or surgery. It provides care for recuperating patients as an alternative to an extended stay in a general hospital.

**Heller said the rumors of Medicenter's being in financial difficulty stemmed from the fact it has been filling only 30 to 40 beds for the past few months.**

"It is traditional to look at the number of beds filled to determine the success of hospitals or nursing homes," he remarked.

"We are in between a hospital and a nursing home, sort of a half-way house. Because of the nature of our business and federal policies regarding Medicaid patients, a 40-bed occupancy condition doesn't reflect serious financial problems."

Heller explained that last July, Medicenter quit accepting Blue Cross patients, and its occupancy has been running low ever since.

**An agreement has been renegotiated with Blue Cross, he adds, and Medicenter began accepting Blue Cross patients starting April 1.**

"Since then, our beds-filled have increased steadily, and we expect to move into the third floor in about two weeks."

Medicenter accepts patients, mostly auto workers, under the Blue Cross convalescent care clause, which was added a few years ago as result of a contract negotiated by UAW.

Presently, Medicenter is leasing its basement to Providence Hospital for its radiation therapy center. The corporation occupies the first floor as a service floor and has patients on the second floor.

The top two floors are expected to remain vacant, says Heller, and could be leased for medical care uses or as a clinic.

**Southfield is the northernmost point in which corporation has located a facility, Heller says. A 230-bed occupancy was originally planned, but after operations began, it was discovered such an occupancy rate was unrealistic and the building was too large.**

The corporation has turned down several firm bids to purchase in the past couple weeks, says Heller. "We haven't made a decision to sell, but are hearing offers. Instead of selling, we might lease a couple floors and keep our operation in the building."

The present Oakland County Hospital has a 160-bed occupancy. It has two stories on the old wing and four floors on the newer wing that was built sometime in the 1950s.

Estimated cost of renovation is $1.5 million for interior repairs plus expense of exterior improvements.

Brennan says that if the hospital is relocated, the present hospital won't be sold but will remain county property and probably be used for offices or storage.

JAYCEE AUXILIARY members Mardi Reichardt (left) and Judy Carr present a slide projector donated recently to the Farmington Community Center to Don MacKinnon, of the Community Center. (Evert photo)

# Seniors Collect Papers For Center

FARMINGTON

An ongoing project to make money to finance a new center for Farmington's senior citizen square dancers now uses help from local teenagers.

The square dancers, who meet regularly in the Livonia Senior Citizens Center, Five Mile and Farmington Roads, have a dream of building a home of their own in New Hudson, according to caller Fred W. Sheill, Farmington.

To this end, they have been collecting old newspapers, which are dropped off at the Federal department store in the downtown Farmington center.

Last year the project netted $1,000 for the seniors, Sheil said.

This year, they are enrolling the help of local teenagers.

Sheill also hopes to get the teens interested in the dancing, and is looking for space to give square dancing lessons locally.

"Paper is going into landfills, and money is going down the drain," Sheill said. "Help stop this waste and put the money earned to a good use of promoting square dancing for all."

## Pilkington Maneuvers

Army Pfc. Dennis J. Pilkington, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Pilkington, 30420 W. 12 Mile, Farmington, participated with some 15,000 American and Allied troops in maneuvers in Germany.

He regularly is assigned as an infantry supply clerk at Ft. Riley, Kan.

Pitted against the airlifted forces were Europe based elements of NATO forces of the U.S., Germany and Canada.

JOHN P. McBETH of Farmington has been named recipient of Detroit Edison's 1972 Alex Dow Award for solving a costly mechanical problem. The award is the highest offered by Edison to its employes. McBeth, of 28539 Kendallwood, is director of an equipment division.

## Students In Honor Society

FARMINGTON

Two Farmington students at Western Michigan University have been initiated into the Beta Iota chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, national honor society in education.

The initiates are J. Denise Dinan, 36154 Smithfield, and Lynn Kathryn LeClair, 23911 Jamestown.

Society members must have achieved high academic grades and demonstrated potential as leaders in the field of education.

# Tree Planting Program Starts

FARMINGTON

The Farmington Township Beautification Committee is sponsoring a spring tree-planting program.

Deadline for orders is April 20 and trees will be ready for pickup April 28 at the Township Hall parking lot.

Trees will be on display for viewing before the order deadline at Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road.

Trees will be delivered without charge on any order of five or more at one address. The charge will be $1.50 per tree on orders of fewer than five.

Trees being offered by the Beautification Committee are varieties which grow well in this area. There is no guarantee on the trees because of the low prices.

Shade trees being offered, all with a 1¼-inch trunk diameter and priced at $12 each, are silver maple, honey locust and green ash. A Norway maple will be offered at $14.

Ornamental trees available are a mountain ash with a 1¼-inch trunk diameter at $14; Klehm Bechtel and Hopa flowering crab, red silver flowering crab and Dolgo flowering crab, all with five to six-inch trunk diameter at $7.50; and Russian olive with three to four-inch trunk diameter at $4.50.

Checks should be made out to the Township of Farmington and addressed to Township Supervisor, Township of Farmington, 31555 W. 11 Mile, 48024.

A SMASHING SUCCESS was the audience verdict when grades one through six at Wood Creek Elementary School presented a musical melodrama, "Curses! Foiled Again." Marla Edgar as Little Nell reacted appropriately when Scott Litzenberg, as W. C. Fields, performed the "skunk trick." Twenty-five actors, a first and second grade chorus, a 68-voice school chorus and concert band were helped along by a student stage crew. (Evert photo)

## Tree Order Blank

*Farmington Township*

| | |
|---|---|
| Silver Maple | $12 |
| Honey Lucust | $12 |
| Green Ash | $12 |
| Norway Maple | $14 |
| Mountain Ash | $14 |
| Klehm Bechtel | $7.50 |
| Flowering Crab | $7.50 |
| Russian Olive | $4.50 |

Number of trees_____ Total cost_____

Delivery charge is $1.50 per tree if less than five are ordered.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Date_____

TREE ORDERS -- This blank must accompany orders for trees from the Township Beautification Committee.

## Shrub Order Blank

*City of Farmington*

| | |
|---|---|
| Small Spreading Yew | $3.95 |
| White Pine | $3.95 |
| Russian Olive | $2.95 |
| Persian Lilac | $2.95 |
| Burning Bush | $2.95 |

Order blank must accompany orders for shrubs.

SHRUB ORDERS -- Shrubs are also available through the City of Farmington Beautification Committee, using this blank.

MARK D. STEPHENSON, North Farmington High School junior, has attained the highest rank of Scoutdom, the Eagle rank. The award requires proven leadership, community service and the earning of 21 merit badges. Stephenson, 17, works part time at a service station and is active at Covenant Baptist Church. He also does volunteer work at the Detroit Baptist Children's home. His hobbies are camping, reading, bowling, cycling and conservation. (Evert photo)

## Ferris State Honor List Released

FARMINGTON

Ferris State College, Big Rapids has named four Farmington residents to its honors list.

To be named, a student must earn at least a 3.25 average on a 4.0 basis and carry a full academic load, defined as 14 quarter hours of credit.

Those from Farmington are: Mark Greiner, 24287 Buchanan; Gail Halava, 23095 Fleming; James Mitchell, 32273 Queensboro; and Alan Ross, 32433 Olde Franklin.

# Bulletin Board

**ARTISTS CLUB**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 13-15, at the Farmington Masonic Temple the Farmington Artists Club will exhibit works of its members. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Six paintings will be given away at 3 p.m. Sunday.

**BAKE SALE**

Saturday, April 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Exchange Club at Farmington High will hold a rummage and bake sale in the school cafeteria.

**"WIZARD OF OZ"**

Saturday, April 14, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. "The Wizard of Oz" will be presented at the Farmington Community Center in two performances by Ceci Orman's junior-senior high school dramatics class. Admission is 75 cents and reservations are desirable.

**FREE MOVIES FOR CHILDREN**

Saturday, April 14, at 2 p.m. three free movies for children will be shown in the auditorium of the Farmington Public Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile. Films will include "Anansi the Spider," "Make Way for Ducklings" and "I Know an Old Lady." The latter will be expanded into a sing group.

**PTA PANCAKE SUPPER**

Monday, April 16, from 5:30 to 8 p.m., the Flanders and Flanders Annex PTA will serve a pancake supper at the school, 32600 Flanders. Tickets will be available at the door.

**BAND CONCERT**

Wednesday, April 18, at 8 p.m. Harrison High School will present a spring concert by the concert band, women's ensemble, orchestra and stage band. Tickets are $1.25 for adults and 75 cents for students and will be available from performers or at the door.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Wednesday, April 18, at 8 p.m. the Farmington Township Parks and Recreation Commission will meet in Township Hall, Orchard Lake and 11 Mile.

**FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB**

Monday, May 7, at noon, the Farmington Garden Club will meet at the Farmington Community Center. Mrs. David McFeggan and Mrs. Stephen Blum will conduct a workshop on constructing terrariums.

## *Cary Dutcher Is Promoted*

LIVONIA

Cary A. Dutcher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene W. Dutcher, 29819 Buckingham, Livonia, has been promoted to airman first class in the U.S. Air Force.

His wife, Susan, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods, 35739 Congress, Farmington.

Dutcher, a communications analysis specialist, is assigned to a USAF support unit at Karamursel Air Force Station, Turkey. He is a 1970 graduate of Bentley High School and attended the University of Detroit.

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