Proposed hospital faces many obstacles

Joint plans by Henry Ford and Sinai Hospitals for a community hospital in West Bloomfield are just that — plans. Reality is that regional and state health agencies denied the last two applications for an Oakland County hospital — a 153-bed facility known as Huron Valley Hospital, proposed for Commerce Township, and its second applications for another 153 beds, The reason — western Oakland County has too many hospital beds, according to state health agencies.

However, Huron Valley proponents didn't take no for an apwer. The headed for court, which overruled headed for court, which overruled hospital significant proposed for court, which overruled hospital hospital to his board.

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THE GTATE remains sitent, but the call of the regional health planning council raid we have, there is no such need," said Terence Carroll, exceptions.

in court, while waste disposal and in-surance questions also must be re-solved before that hospital breaks ground.

utive director of the regional council— a federally designated, non-profit, waterdog agency charged with assur-ing equal access to quality health care at a reasonable cost to southeast Michi-gan residents.

at a reasonable cost to southeast Michigan residents.

A state health department spokesman sald it would not be firl to comment during the review process.

"We'll] sust take a look (at \cdot\): application) and make the best possl. le decision we can," said Keith Raphbun, state
director of planning and construction.

A 25-member executive committee
will decide the need for the proposed
hospital and make a recommendation
to the state health department. The
state had final authority — until the
fluron Valley case.

"The Huron Valley case is the only
time that a court has overruled the

state on the need for a new hospital,"
Carroll said.

THE STATE considers the regional agency's recommendation, but doesn't always follow it, Raphbun said.

Carroll acknowledges market demand for a West Bloomfield hospital, but says that's not his top concern.

"We have to differentiate between 'need' and 'market demand' for medical care," he said.

"Sinal and Ford are casting sheep's eyes at what they believe is a good market," he said. "Many of the people in West diomfield are employed—and some people out there are ill. Why should Bea-mont (Royal Oak's William Beaumont isospital) get them?"

Carroll has two concerns:

Oakland County already has 24 more beds than needed, (not including

Huron Valley) based on 1970 census fig-ures projected through 1982.

• And Detrolt — where both Ford and Sinai are located — has 200 more

and Sinal are located — has 200 more beds than the population warrants. He agrees that updated population projections are needed, but said they are the responsibility of the state De-partment of Management and Budget.

SOUP Light Treasure Winter Melon

of intent.
"We feel we can demonstrate a need.
The West Bloomfield area ham't been identified as an overbedded area and hasn't been included in a bed reduction plan," said a Slinai spokeswoman.
Detroit counts 80.4 percent of its beds filled, according to a 1884 American Hospital Association survey. Perdellent beds filled, according to a 1884 and the production of the pr

SINAI officials said a full certificate of need will follow the December letter of need will follow the December letter

\$20

Metro asks for flat rate in Livonia

Even before the first cable shows have been aired in Livonia, MetroVision, the city's cable company, continues to juggle its fees.

First, it asked for — and got — a 6.5 percent raise in lis fee for basic cable service in the city.

Then, in a Dec. 29 letter to the city's cable commission, MetroVision asked that it be allowed to charge the same rate — 47.95 — for all pay services instead of charging feer ranging from 36 to 49.95. The commission has recommended the city approve the rate change. The council, however, has asked city attorney Harry Tatigan to find out if a public bearing is needed before it acts on the recommendation. MetroVision won the 6.5 percent increase witkout having to get the city's OK because the company tied the hike to cett increase witkout having to get the city's OK because the company tied the hike to cett increase as season by seatellite.

crease without having to get the city?

OK because the company tied the hike
to cost increases passed on by satellite
subscriber services. Cable customers
will now pay \$8.25 a month for the basic Tier II service, instead of the \$7.75
once quoted by MetroVision. The new

price amounts to a 50-cent per month increase.

Increase.

Increase an pass on cost increases as long as we verify documentation (of the increases), "said either the city are commission had asked Tatigian to review the city's cable contract with MetroVision to see if the increase is legal under the city's cable contract with MetroVision in see if the increase is legal and the city's cable contract with MetroVision was the company. To increase is legal, Tatigian confirmed.

MetroVision valued it's fee hike, consing before the first cable hook-ups in the city, unpreceded in the commission. However, and the Metropolitan Detroit Sports Channel in the Channel was the commission. However, these are not normal times in the Carlot News (ESPN), the Weather Channel, Nickelodeon and Cable News Network.

METROVISION also callet, unprecessing the contract of the contraction of the contraction of the contraction of the contraction of the commission. However, these are not normal times in the Carlot News Network.

METROVISION also callet, unprecessing the contraction of the c

METROVISION also callet, unprece-

charging one across-the-board rate.

MetroVision, he added, could also offer cut-rate packages to subscribers so
that they wouldn't be tempted to
"switch around" from service to service. For example, Tier II service
(\$8.25) plus three pay services (at \$7.95
each), could be packaged at \$29.95 instead of at \$32.10.

At council's Monday study session, cable commission chairman Lowell Peterson said charging the same rate would benefit the city's cable subscribers.

"This is more favorable to the public because more services would decrease (in cost) than increase," he said.

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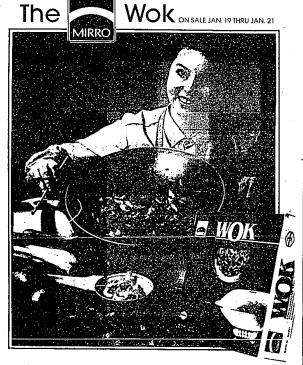




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DEMONSTRATION TIMES: Friday, Jan. 20, 12-3; Salurday, Jan. 21, 1-4.

HANDOUTS provided feature the stir-fry vegetable recipe from the

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