

How your tax dollars work at Oakland health clinic

By Neal Haldane
staff writer

OAKLAND COUNTY residents would be foolish not to take advantage of the services offered at the Southfield branch of the Oakland County Health Department.

That is the advice of Julie Sochalski, the nurse in charge of the general clinic at 27725 Greenfield. The walk-in clinic provides a number of free services to county residents.

"We provide excellent services which your tax dollars fund," she said. "The health department has a bad reputation that it is just for people on welfare because most of the services are free. We are here for all Oakland County residents."

People are concerned about paying taxes and not getting anything in return. We give you something for your tax money.

Immunization is a major function of the clinic. More than 35,000 people have visited the Southfield branch and the Poletic clinic for shots, Sochalski said.

"About 60 percent of them came here," she said. "Our access is much greater because we are located right here in a population center. In Pontiac, they are located in that county complex and it is difficult to find your way."

The free immunization covers diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, mumps and rubella, along with tuberculosis skin testing.

"MOST PEDIATRICIANS do charge for immunization services because they have to pay for the vaccine," she said. "We also pay for the vaccine but we get it at a huge discount. We are not here to replace a pediatrician but we do provide immunization services for free."

A majority of the vaccine recipients are children, but adults and senior citizens can take advantage of the services, too. In fact, she said, adults should have a tetanus shot every 10 years.

"But we no longer immunize people for travel to other countries," she said. "But we can tell you what shots you need and where you can get them."

Another major service offered free

to Oakland County residents is the treatment of nuisance diseases.

"Those are things like head lice, scabies and crab lice," she said. "We do the diagnosis and treatment but we also provide education for people. We tell parents how to prevent head lice, safeguard a house and what to look for. Education is a big part of what we do. We like to give our clients information so they can choose what to do when they leave here."

The diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases is the third major free service at the clinic.

"We perform the diagnosis and treatment of the sexually transmitted diseases," Sochalski said. "That includes syphilis and gonorrhea and the non-specific VD."

IN ADDITION, the clinic is working with Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak to test a new diagnostic device for chlamydia, another sexually transmitted disease.

"There is no quick way to diagnose this disease," she said. "Normally, it takes six days to diagnose and now we are testing to see if we can incorporate this new, quicker method. Chlamydia is the organism for the '80s. In Seattle, they have discovered that it is three times as prevalent as gonorrhea. It is frightening we don't have a quick way to diagnose it."

The clinic, which is in its busiest season, is staffed completely by nurses.

"This is a nurse-run clinic," Sochalski said. "A physician oversees our procedures but he is not physically in the clinic."

Besides the general clinic, the Southfield branch offers a wide range of services and programs including a breast cancer detection and education center, a dental clinic, family planning, nutrition advice, substance abuse control and other offerings.

"I'm very proud of the services we have here," Sochalski said. "We are a good place to start for people with questions and concerns. We can help you figure out what it is or what it isn't. And if we can't help, we can refer you. Plus we offer a lot of free services. Why pay \$15 for a tetanus shot at a private office? Save that money for a dinner or an evening out."

Area pupils honored

Two local high school juniors were recently honored for outstanding achievements in the study of mathematics and science from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. Rajesh Suresh Mangrulkar, a student at Farmington Hills Catholic Central and David Cunningham, a student at Farmington High School, were awarded the 1984 Rensselaer Medal given annually by the Institute.

One junior from approximately 1,700 high schools is selected annually by the

school to receive this award based on the person's high achievement in mathematics and science.

The Institute is a university recognized for its strength in aeronautics, engineering, robotics and computer science in addition to architecture, humanities and the social sciences.

A coeducational, independent, non-sectarian university, the Institute has approximately 4,500 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students.

Blanchard stumps for more business

Continued from Page 1

stores, Macy's and the Emporium, were taking strikes and being picketed during the convention. A Macy's official said the labor contract expired six months ago, but the union chose not to walk out until now, when it would be most embarrassing to the store.

A bookstore almost next door to the Meridian Hotel, where the Michigan delegation is staying, is also being picketed by striking employees.

ALTHOUGH NATIONAL conventions don't need four days to conduct their relatively brief agendas, Blanchard said, they serve other purposes.

Besides business recruiting, they are social and psychological. They bring together people to reaffirm their commitment. It's a way for an awful lot of active people to write a platform — people who might not otherwise have an opportunity to serve in Congress, a legislature or a city council."

Boundary unsettled

Continued from Page 1

THE TRANSFER is requested by 24 of 27 residents in Section 6 of the Walled Lake School District. The section consists of approximately one square mile of property in Farmington Hills.

Two subdivisions, Country Ridge and Farmington Ridge, occupy more than half of Section 6. Although largely undeveloped, the two subdivisions together contain more than 800 single-family residential lots. When fully developed, it is estimated the section might yield as much as \$4 million in school taxes.

"Currently, there are only about 15 school children in the area. The transfer has been pending since 1982 when the Section 6 homeowners petitioned the Oakland Intermediate School Board for the transfer. The county board denied the request, but the homeowners appealed the decision to the state board. The decision has been pending since the board held its hearing on the request in February, 1983.

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we presented the story."

The film was shot at three locations: a field near 12 Mile and Haggerty roads, scene of the spaceship crash; Detroit's Rouge River Park, the exterior of the cabin and a house in Livonia.

Belling claims credit for the story line, and he and fellow Omega-man Jeff McGowan wrote the script.

"The big thing that helped us was our script," Belling said. "We wrote a very concrete, coherent script."

But production wasn't without its problems. "Getting everyone together was a real pain," said Belling, who works at an area Hardee's when he isn't making movies or going to school. "With six different people working on this thing, it was tough to coordinate. I think that's what took most of the time."

SOUND WAS ANOTHER big problem for the amateur film makers.

"We wanted to record all the dialog live while we were acting," Belling said. "We have a few problems with

that. The camera batteries would run low... still enough power to run the camera but not the phone."

"And we were filming right by a freeway. You could hear the sounds of traffic — there was a big truck making all kinds of noise — when the setting was supposed to be in the middle of nowhere."

This particular problem was solved, although not without even more scheduling problems, by overdubbing the actors' voices onto the film after production.

In addition to those already mentioned, the film crew included Jim Rennell, Rick Delonis, Dave Navarro and Mark White. All are Farmington-area residents.

Philpott, a 1983 graduate of Livonia Stevens, now is studying theater at Wayne State University. Come fall, Belling hopes to be studying the same subject at the same school.

Coming attractions? Omega Films will turn to comedy in the style of "Monty Python's Flying Circus," a

British television series which is seen occasionally on U.S. public television.

"It's unofficial title right now is 'Rubber Chicken's Flying Circus,'" Belling said, "but we'll probably give it a title that's less like Monty Python's."

The production should be ready by Christmas, Belling said.



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