

# Providence applies for facility in Novi

By Tim Smith  
staff writer

Providence Hospital won't abandon Southfield or reduce its ability to treat patients at the Nine Mile Road hospital, its president said July 26, despite application with the state to transfer 188 of 462 in-patient beds to a Novi satellite facility, perhaps as soon as 1993.

According to president Brian Connolly, the hospital has submitted an initial planning document, known as a certificate-of-need, to the state in order to open the Novi satellite at Grand River and Deek. Connolly said

such approval would take four to 10 years.

Hospital spokeswoman Carol Jonson said that Providence is planning to invest \$80 million over the next 10 years into its Southfield facility, which indicates that it will remain committed to the city.

Southfield city administrator Robert Block admitted he is "heifish" about wanting all Providence beds to remain in Southfield. But he wanted to meet with hospital officials before commenting further.

The hospital is the largest employer in the city of Southfield.

"Providence clearly is an institution that is important to Southfield," Block said. "Basically, we are selfish in terms of Providence remaining unique to Southfield. We don't necessarily want to see them become contributors to urban fringe development."

CONNOLLY SAID the satellite hospital is being pursued because about 40 percent of its 20,000 annual total admissions to the Southfield hospital and several ambulatory care centers combined — is from that growth area.

But Connolly stressed that Providence intends to "retain a strong presence here in Southfield," citing a \$100 million investment at the main campus.

"Our intent is to continue to grow and develop here at this campus," Connolly said, adding that, over the past six months, the hospital has opened plastic and open-heart surgery programs.

Also, Connolly said Providence opened in 1988 the New Life Center, one of Michigan's largest facilities for newborn care.

Plans also will be discussed to further upgrade existing programs in Southfield and introduce new ones, Connolly said. He would not be specific.

However, transferring beds to Novi should not be viewed as a reduction of in-patient care at Southfield, Connolly said. He cited decreasing length of stay by patients.

"HOSPITAL LENGTH of stay is decreasing significantly, by 25 to 30 percent over the last three or four years," Connolly said. "We expect to see that continue to fall."

Because patients are not staying as long in the hospital, Connolly said Providence "can see as many patients today, in fewer beds" as it did several years ago.

A mother who just delivered a newborn stays in the hospital about 2 1/2 days, compared to 4 1/2 to 5 days, in the past, Connolly said.

Connolly estimated the main hospital's occupancy rate at 80 percent.

Providence already has an outpatient center in Novi, which now includes emergency care. Other satellite ambulatory stations are located in Livonia, Milford and South Lyons, the president said.

The main hospital and the satellite centers handle a total 500,000 outpatients a year, according to Connolly.

## Liquor license for Musicafe approved by Hills Council

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

The Farmington Hills City Council has granted a full-year Class C liquor-by-the-glass license to Nino Cutraro, owner of the planned Metropolitan Musicafe restaurant.

A \$500,000 investment, the restaurant is projected to gross up to \$2 million in its first year of operation. It isn't built yet, but is expected to open by the end-of-the-year holiday season.

The nearly 9,000-square-foot restaurant will feature musical entertainment, including local live talent, in an exterior courtyard immediately adjacent to the Musicafe.

The restaurant, Cutraro's third, will be in the Arborum Office Park on 12 Mile, west of Farmington Road, just north of I-96.

"It has taken many years for us to find what we consider the proper operation," said Peter Burton, Arborum Properties, a Birmingham-based development firm.

CUTRARO, 35, also owns the Metropolitan Musicafe on Fourth Street in Royal Oak, which opened last year. The Bloomfield Hills resident has been co-owner of Taboo Nightclub on Woodbridge in Detroit since 1985.

No state Liquor Control Commission (LCC) violations or warnings have been issued against the Metropolitan Musicafe in Royal Oak.

But the Taboo Nightclub logged three LCC violations in 1987. Fines of \$300 were imposed when people younger than 21 were discovered drinking in February and March. Also in March, a \$200 fine was imposed for serving alcohol to an intoxicated person, Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer said.

ACCORDING TO a July 20 letter from Dwyer to the city council, Cutraro and partner Robert Zankl have had major business conflicts and declining business. Cutraro plans to sell his partnership.

"By the end of the year, I will be out of there," Cutraro told the council.

He assured councilman Ben Marks he will have adequate security in the Farmington Hills restaurant.

A doorman will start at 8 p.m. Two more doormen will begin work at 9 p.m. People younger than age 21 will be prohibited from entering after 8 p.m. Those in attendance before 8 p.m. will have to leave after dinner. There will be no cover charge. Valet service will be available.

Cutraro also plans to open a nightclub in Pontiac, called Vis-A-Vis on Pike Street. The nightclub will be in a renovated Buick dealership by early next year.

Cutraro is also planning a Musicafe in Columbus, Ohio, and possibly others across the country.

BY GRANTING approval of the liquor license to Cutraro, Arborum Properties forfeited rights to a liquor license reserved in its name since 1984.

The Metropolitan Musicafe in Farmington Hills will employ 100 people and cost \$200. It will be open seven days a week, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Lunches and dinners will be served until 10:30 p.m. A full-course menu will be available. An average meal will be \$5.

Cutraro plans to attract an upscale crowd. The restaurant will be decorated with rock and roll memorabilia from famous musicians and personalities. It will have a disc jockey playing classical and rock-oldie records Tuesday through Saturday. A live band will entertain Monday.

Cutraro will be in charge of the Farmington Hills Musicafe for the first three months. A manager then will run the daily operation, Dwyer said.

A native of Sicily, Cutraro came to the United States in 1975 at age 21. He became a naturalized citizen in 1983.

His first venture into the entertainment business was a lounge called La Notte, which he ran in his uncle's Fountain View Lakes, a bowling establishment in Fraser.

## recreation news

Each week, the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services Recreation Division presents a synopsis of upcoming activities. For more information about programs, call the recreation office, 473-9570. For matters regarding city council agenda items, call Neustine at 476-3338.

**CONCERT SERIES**  
Bring lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy the show of shows. You will enjoy the sounds of big bands, jazz and contemporary music. The next concert in the series will feature the Spirit of Detroit at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, in Heritage Park. No charge.

**PARKEY SERIES**  
Parkey the Panda, the lovable mascot of the Recreation Division, is inviting children ages 5-8 to join him 9:10-30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at Heritage Park for a teddy bear breakfast. For information, children can tell everyone about their teddy bear, enjoy games and visit with Parkey. Fee is \$5 per child.

**SOCCER REGISTRATION**  
Registration for children going into kindergarten through third grade is being accepted for the five-week fall session. Practices begin the week of Sept. 11 and are held once a week for an hour. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning Sept. 16. If you would like to establish a neighborhood team for your children, you must provide your own coach and then register the team all at the same time (15 minimum, 15 maximum). Fee is \$17 per child.

**NATURE SERIES**  
Explore the sights and sounds of a late summer evening 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, at Heritage Park. You'll listen to insect calls, observe animal behavior and watch the ever-changing sky. Fee is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Classes will meet at the Speer House before journeying out into the 211-acre park.

**CAMP COM-ON-A-WONNA**  
Heritage Park provides an educational and recreational background for day campers ages 9-12 to explore animal and plant life, insects and geology. Camp crafts, nature lore, sports, archery, campfire programs and a field trip are also planned. One-week sessions are held Aug. 7-11 and Aug. 14-18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. except Thursday, 2-7:30 p.m. Fee is \$45 a person.

**PARK TICKETS**  
Tickets for your favorite amusement park may still be bought at a discounted rate at the Recreation Division. If you're going to Bobo, Cedar Point, Detroit Zoo, Four Bears Water Park, Greenfield Village, Kings Island, Sea World, Great America or Crossroads Village, stop and see us first.

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