

Botsford patients get room service

What do hotels and Botsford General Hospital have in common? Patients at the Farmington Hills hospital may now call Volunteer Services for room service. Patients can request newspapers, desserts from the cafeteria (if within diet restrictions), wheelchair strolls or items from the gift shop. Hospital volunteers, who staff the new service, meet the patients' requests. Patients may also ask for volunteers to read to them, play cards or board games or just visit with them.

"This new program is similar to room service at a hotel," said Adele Emmer, director of volunteer services. "The patient calls with a request, and we do our best to meet it. The service can be a tremendous help to the nursing staff, as well as provide a good service for our patients."

JUST ASK Chris Rowland, a 21-year-old Farmington Hills resident and patient at Botsford General Hospital. He called Patient Room Service for someone to play Yahtzee with him. "A volunteer was here within minutes and stayed for 15 to 20 minutes," he said. Rowland won the game, but said the volunteers gave him a good run.

He plans to use the service again. He has quite a few cards to send and thank-you letters to write, he said. The volunteer will bring a selection of cards and stamps from the hospital's gift shop to his hospital room for him to purchase.

He believes the service is a plus to the hospital and to its patients.



Cathie Merritt, a Botsford volunteer, plays cards with a hospital patient as part of the new patient room service program.

"Many patients may not have family in town and might get lonely. The volunteers are someone they can talk to and help break the monotony."

CATHIE MERRITT, a volunteer

since February, is one of the 10 who currently staffs Patient Room Service. She volunteers because she likes meeting new people.

"Volunteering gives you the opportunity to meet new people and do a variety of things," she said. "Too, you get the reward of helping someone else and contributing something."

That's the way I was brought up. Patient Room Service at Botsford General Hospital began April 16 and is staffed with volunteers from 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Emmer expects to expand the program's hours to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. as demand for the service grows.

Volunteers throughout the country were recognized April 22-23 as National Volunteer Week was celebrated. Botsford has 271 volunteers who donate close to 5,000 hours of service per month at the hospital.

For more information about becoming a volunteer at Botsford General Hospital, call Volunteer Services at 471-8082.

Board hopefuls discuss issues

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ANOTHER QUESTION posed was how the school district can better accommodate dual-income families.

Myers said she supports improving the latchkey program as well as supports for other child care programs. "We (as parents) expect respect and accommodation from the school staff who, at times, does not give the special attention that parents need," she said.

Rands said that dual-income parents do not always have the time to share in day-time school activities. "I think that we need to take a look, as a school district, at the workforce, and we'd find that we have a large number of dual-income families that require parents to be away from home," Rands advocated studying timing of school activities and school conferences.

In addition to better scheduling of activities and parent conferences, Ranney recommended provision of child care during school conferences. "I think we should be receptive about having our buses drop children off at child care facilities," Ranney said.

Warner said single parents face similar problems. "We need to improve our support of both the children and the parents — for children, in the areas of latchkey and after-school activities, and consider a counseling aspect for children who are at risk for parents who

aren't at home," Warner said.

"As far as support of parents, we must schedule teachers and administrators when (parents) are available," Warner said.

Webb said she is working on a community education advisory council studying after-school enrichment classes for children of varying school ages. "We must continue to look at flexible scheduling of conferences and explore different options for transportation," Webb said.

DEVRIES SAID 60 percent of women with children under age 1 work. He took issue with what he called "openly hostile" previous statements by an assistant school superintendent — statements that, he said, equated dual-income families with drug abuse and dysfunction.

"I think we could cooperate further with the YWCA, which is willing to expand its latchkey program to all of our schools," DeVries said. He also advocated better transportation and flexible conferences.

Inch said consistency in school schedules is also a must. "The one greatest complaint I hear is days off. Half days are not particularly good to schedule."

Candidate Kim Jaske did not attend the forum. Another candidate, James Barnes, said he did not intend to actively campaign but missed the deadline to remove his name from the June 11 ballot.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES

The City Council of the City of Farmington Hills will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 30, 1990 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, on the levying in 1990 of an additional \$.6000 Mills (\$.6000 per \$1,000 SEV) over the base tax rate for storm drain construction purposes pursuant to Act 5, Public Acts of Michigan 1982 and on the proposed 1990-91 City Budgets.

The additional proposed millage rate (\$.6000 Mills) would increase revenues for storm drain construction purposes from ad valorem property taxes in 1990 otherwise permitted by Act 5, Public Acts of Michigan, 1982, by approximately 7.752% over the 1990 base tax rate of 7.7400 Mills. The City presently is authorized to levy \$8.7759 Mills for operating purposes.

The recommendation for 1990-91 levy is \$8.3400 Mills (\$8.3400 per \$1,000 SEV) for operating and capital improvement purposes. The amount actually levied during the past several years are listed below:

	Operating & Exempt Capital Millage	Debt Millage
1986-87	10.0251	.2916
1987-88	8.6055	.6527
1988-89	8.7049	.6951
1989-90	8.1896	.6406
1990-91 Proposed	8.3400	.5310

8.8710

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony and discuss the levy of the additional millage rate not less than seven (7) days following the public hearing, the City Council may approve all or any portion of the proposed additional millage rate. The City Council has proposed this millage to construct storm drain sewers in various areas of the City.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

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