

# Providence Hospital marks 25th birthday

As the Daughters of the Charity of St. Vincent de Paul was considering moving from Detroit to the growing suburb of Southfield to build Providence Hospital at the beginning of the 1960s, President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy lost a newborn son to a disease of prematurity.

Today, because of advances in technology, the disease is not considered life-threatening. "Then, a two-or-three-pound baby had little chance of survival," said Brian Connolly, president and chief executive officer of Providence. "Today, infants as tiny as 1.1 pounds have a fighting chance."

Connolly and others associated with the hospital are taking a special look backward as Providence marks its 25th anniversary this year. Patients and staff moved in on March 31, 1965.

Anniversary banners went up throughout the Southfield complex recently and the staff quietly marked the birthday with programs and punch. "We're also working on a

history wall for the main lobby," said Carol Jonson, manager of community relations for the hospital. Expansion to meet the needs of a growing population and continuing advances in technology are keys to Providence's past, present and future, according to Connolly.

**THE HOSPITAL** today "can help people to hear who 25 years ago would have been condemned to a life of silence," he continued. "We can restore faces ravaged by disease, trauma or birth defects."

"Advances in technology have been monumental. We don't know what technology this decade will bring."

The hospital has brought 75,000 babies into the world since 1965 and treated more than 200,000 people in its emergency department.

The first of several major additions to the Southfield campus was completed in 1978. That same year Providence began to address the northwest movement and opened its first satellite unit for family care in South Lyon.

Today, it operates three sites on campus in Southfield and eight locations northwest of the hospital — in Southfield, Novi, Millford, Farmington Hills, Livonia and South Lyon.

**THE HOSPITAL'S** plan for future expansion — to build a full-scale satellite hospital in Novi and move 188 beds to there from Providence in Southfield — have met with strong objections from Southfield officials, other hospitals and also the Michigan Department of Health. The health department rejected Providence's certificate of need request earlier this year.

"At this point we have no intention of abandoning these plans," Connolly said recently. The hospital has filed an appeal with the health department, but a decision isn't expected for a year or two.

Providence has acquired a 150-acre site, currently the Westbrook Golf Course at 12 Mile and Beck, for the facility. "It's already been rezoned to allow the building of a hospital," Connolly said — although Novi officials are considering rescinding that zoning in the wake of the certificate-of-need denial.

Those objecting to Providence moving its beds from Southfield to Novi maintained at a public hearing that the move would increase medical costs and hamper services to the poor and elderly.

"We have a strong commitment to serve the Southfield community," Connolly said. "We have no intention of abandoning the Southfield campus. It's only 25 years old and much of it is new."

He said Providence plans to spend \$20 million in the next 10 years at its Southfield hospital adding a new surgical intensive care unit and renovating the main bed tower. Other expansions in Southfield are in the discussion stages, he added.

**THE HOSPITAL** also is seeking to rezone 15.5 acres of a 21.3-acre parcel at Inkster Road and Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills for a proposed 90,000-square-foot office building and outpatient clinic. The city denied rezoning and Providence filed suit in circuit court.

The hospital had its beginning in

1869 when it was founded by the Daughters of Charity as the House of Providence on Adams Street in Detroit. A series of moves and expansions led it to Providence Hospital on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit.

In 1954, the search began for an entirely new location because the West Grand Boulevard site had no room for expansion and could not be economically updated for modern medical practice. At the time, the mid-town area had about 1,000 more beds than needed.

Since the suburban areas had a demand for more beds and offered space, the Daughters bought a 22-acre tract in Southfield on the south side of Nine Mile west of Greenfield from the J.L. Hudson Co. which had recently opened the nearby Northland Shopping Center. Ground was broken in 1962.

## Schools to honor retirees

Farmington Public Schools will honor these retiring individuals at the Recognition Dinner, along with 85-year employees, at Vladimirs on Friday, June 1.

Mildred Batts, teacher/Larkshire; Gladys Beall, custodian/F.T.C.; Richard Blue, maintenance; Phyllis Bothwell, media specialist/Gill; Kathryn Bush, secretary/transportation; Will Chlissan, adm. assistant/N.F.H.S.; Venus Cole, custodian/F.T.C.; Richard Dewater, mechanic/transportation; Bernice Doll, custodian/F.T.C.; Dorothy Donaldson, paraprofessional/Larkshire; Kathleen Endress, teacher/Wooddale; Mary Jo Fiedler, paraprofessional/Forest; Wilma Gummors, teacher/F.H.S.; Al Judge, teacher/F.H.S.; Frank Kasun, principal/Eagle June; Lesk, teacher/Larkshire; Marilyn Lockwood, teacher/Longacre; Margaret Love, paraprofessional/Wooddale; Emma Jagielky.

Other honorees were: Gale Lower, maintenance/O.E.D.; Rebecca Mahoney, food service/Warner; Jeanne Marshall, teacher/Wooddale; Connie Mason, teacher/Gill; Lynn Nutter, assistant superintendent; Betty Patterson, paraprofessional/H.H.S.; Rosalie Perry, teacher/Wm. Grace; Eleanor Radabaugh, paraprofessional/O.E.D.; Virginia Roberts, teacher/Larkshire; Patricia Rowe, secretary/N.F.H.S.; Shirley Sirokin, teacher/Larkshire; Douglas Smith, supervisor/Cleveland; Eugene Smith, pool utility/F.H.S.; Nancy Stroh, teacher/Wm. Grace; Clifford Trotter, head custodian/F.H.S.; Mary Trotter, bus driver/transportation; Jean Tyler, teacher/Boschview and Anna Wood, teacher/Wm. Grace.

## Police applaud seniors

Farmington Hills Police Department, for National Volunteer Week, recently recognized the volunteer staff by providing a luncheon honoring the 15 senior volunteers.

Two volunteers, Frances Manning and Doris Zook, who have each provided five years of service, were presented with a plaque in thanks for their contribution to the department and to the community.

Zook has been working for the Crime Prevention Section on an average of five hours per week. "She is thorough, accurate and conscientious, as well as being a joy to work with," said Kim Devroy, crime prevention technician.

Manning has provided supportive clerical assistance to the Crime Prevention Section for 1 1/2 hours every week. "She is a pleasure to work with and has exceptional typing skills and a willingness to work hard, and to the extra mile," said Devroy.

"The department appreciates the dedication and enthusiasm of each volunteer and thanks each for their contribution to the productivity of the department and the city as a whole," said Sgt. James Whitcomb.



# MEMORIAL DAY SPECIALS

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