

Pumping up the price for Sneakers War, 1D



Prep cage wrap, 1C

Library friends sell authors' cookbook, 3A

Farmington Observer

Volume 102 Number 20

Monday, December 10, 1990

Farmington, Michigan

46 Pages

Fifty Cents

1990 Suburban Communications Corporation

Botsford plans \$30 million expansion

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Think of it as retrofitting.

Cramped quarters and changes in health care are prompting a \$30 million, multi-phase expansion program that will add another 150,000 square feet to 25-year-old Botsford General Hospital.

"Now is the time. We feel it's quite essential to us that we retrofit similar to what the auto industry faced several years ago," said Peg Reihmer, vice president of planning, marketing and corporate development at the Farmington Hills hospital.

Expansion and renovation will be financed with a new public fund-raising campaign,

some of the hospital's own money and with tax-exempt bonds issued by the Farmington Hills Hospital Authority.

By 1993, two new buildings will be added to the medical complex and by 1994 areas of the existing hospital are expected to be renovated. No new beds will be added to the 336-bed hospital.

"Beds are not where it's at. There's a lot of indications there are a sufficient number of beds in the region," Reihmer said.

BOTSFORD IS retrofitting to meet increased emergency services and outpatient care. Technology changes, for example, have already made Botsford's operating rooms too small. "There's been phenomenal changes in medical

care: instruments, technology and economics," Reihmer said.

"Inpatient surgery is typically much longer than it used to be and on patients who are much sicker than they used to be," she said.

Emergency services and outpatient care are where it's at now and in the future.

The days of long hospital stays are over. Today, hospital patients generally are sicker and have shorter hospital stays. A lot of care, including diagnostic testing, surgery, rehabilitation, for example, is provided through outpatient services.

Because some people lack comprehensive health care insurance and others do not consistently visit a doctor, urgent care services — unscheduled, immediate need for health care

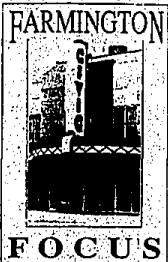
— has increased.

"Our emergency department is very busy. We want to meet all needs of these people. We are not meeting all these needs as we would like to and at a price structure where you recognize a trauma versus a sore throat," Reihmer said.

Botsford saw a big jump in emergency services when Redford Community Hospital on Grand River closed and expects more visits when Grace Hospital closes next year.

AN AVERAGE 30,000 visits are made to Botsford's emergency room annually. The expansion, Reihmer said, will accommodate an average 40,000 visits.

Please turn to Page 2



JUST GIVE him a shopping cart and turn him loose. Eldon Marwede, a 52-year-old Bloomfield Hills resident, won \$1,000 recently in a sweepstakes sponsored by Bausch & Lomb. Now he's going to have to work for his winnings.

On Thursday, as per contest rules, he'll attempt to gather \$1,000 worth of merchandise during a five-minute shopping spree at the F&M discount drug store on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

Is Marwede, a retiree advertising executive, excited about the prospect?

"Yeah, this is great," he said. "I haven't been so excited since I had 10 cents to spend in a candy store."

His wife and two grown children have given him a list of things to snatch from the shelves — hair dryer, video tapes, medicine, perfume.

"And I know I'll hit the nut counter and grab enough pistachio nuts to last the next five years," he said. "I love pistachio nuts."

"Really, in five minutes I don't think I'll have any trouble getting \$1,000 worth of goodies."

SMILE. SENIOR citizens of the Farmington area. An Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency photographer wants to snap your photographs.

The photographer will be at the Mercy Senior Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21. Call 478-9147 for a reservation.

Photographs of seniors (60 and above) will be used for identification cards needed for participation in the OLSHA senior discount program.

County residents may apply for the cards, which show photograph, name, address, birth date, Social Security number and signature. The laminated cards also carry the Oakland County seal.

The cards can be used for discounts offered both locally and nationwide. Discounts are available on prescription drugs, eyeglasses, auto parts, rustproofing, cleaning, hair care, clothing and restaurants.

Additional camera locations are being sought by the OLSHA. People interested in having their site considered should call 858-5193. Additional information may be obtained by calling OLSHA's toll-free number, 1-800-482-9250.

MEMORY LANE — From the Dec. 7, 1950 Farmington Enterprise:

The C.F. Smith grocery store in Farmington offered Florida oranges at 29 cents for 5 pounds and walnuts at 39 cents a pound. Classified ad: "FOR SALE — Year old Billy goat. Farm. 1329-1."

Attractions at the Civic Theater were "Back To Bataan" with John Wayne, and "Marine Raiders" with Pat O'Brien.

Several temporary employees were at work at the Farmington Post Office to help with the early rush of holiday mail, said Norman C. Lee, postmaster.

Under a new salary schedule, Farmington School District teachers with undergraduate degrees earned between \$2,700 and \$4,950.

Terms for Farmington Focus may be mailed to the Farmington Observer, 21888 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336, or dropped off at the newspaper office.



Santa's little girl

Sarah Dudas, a 6½-year-old Southfield girl, is no doubt reciting the list of presents she wants for Christmas as she has Santa's ear during the Old Fashioned Downtown Farmington Holiday celebration Dec. 1 in the Downtown Farmington Center. Santa arrived in style this year, landing in the center park-

ing lot in a helicopter and then moving to the nearby H&R Block office. Hundreds of youngsters attended the Saturday festivities. For a story and more photos showing how the holiday season started in Farmington, see Page 7A.

SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Sledding hill work to begin soon

By Casey Hans
staff writer

As the first snows of the year draw residents outdoors for winter recreation, plans are under way to make an area sited hill at Silvaswace and Farmington roads more safe.

The Farmington school board, which owns the hill, approved \$7,650 Dec. 4 to grade and reconstruct the

hill, while Farmington Area Jaycees are gearing up for a three-month program of daily hill checks and safety repairs to start Dec. 15.

Meanwhile, Farmington city officials are still awaiting word on when they can set up straw bales and other safety items on the hill, in light of the grading and improvement plans. And at least one Farmington City Council member said he is con-

cerned that work begin quickly so no one gets hurt.

EARL BAUMKUN, director of safety for the Farmington schools who heads a community sled hill committee, said he expects work on the hill to begin "as soon as possible," likely within the next few weeks. "We've contacted the earth-moving contractor to have them in-

clude it in our schedule," he said.

Work will include: removing the north/south berm on the hill's east side and eliminating the skating rink, building up the berm along Farmington road to protect sledders from entering the road, restoring washed-out areas, eliminating hazardous bumps, removing parking lot

Please turn to Page 2

Gifted planning upsets parents

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A proposal to revamp the Farmington schools gifted program over the next five years was met with some encouragement, but mostly frustration, from parents who want something done immediately.

"These kids do suffer — they suffer greatly," said parent Kim Dennis, who has a child in the gifted program at Hillside Elementary.

"Ordinary classes can destroy a gifted student's spirit. This 5-year plan is four years and six months too long. It's time to stop forming committees. We want action, and we'd like it now."

Farmington-area parents interested in gifted education filled the cafeteria at East Middle School Dec. 4, many telling the school board proposed changes would not come quickly enough to help their children.

The plan was proposed by a Gifted Study Committee after more than a year of study and debate.

The committee's goal was to define gifted education in the district and propose changes to the current program. The study was lengthy because people on the committee had differing ideas about gifted education.

Please turn to Page 4

what's inside

Achievers	5B
Around Farmington	5B
Building scene	1F
Classifieds	Sec. C,E,F
Index	8E
Auto	Sec. C,F
Real estate	Sec. E
Employment	Secs. E,F
Creative living	1E
Crossword puzzle	3E
Entertainment	5D
On the agenda	5A
Police, fire calls	3A
Sports	Sec. C
Street Scene	Sec. D
Taste	Sec. B

Look for the Farmington Suburban Cable Weekly



12 Mile boulevard opens

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

No ceremonies or drum rolls heralded the opening of the new mile-long boulevard on 12 Mile Road between Farmington and Drake roads.

But the roll of traffic today down the first stretch of the planned three-mile boulevard is nonetheless historic for Farmington Hills. "This will provide an outlet for businesses and residents with easier access because they won't have to make left turns and it will be safer," said Farmington Hills Assistant City Manager David Call, project coordinator.

After years of discussing the need for a boulevard, a failed attempt to finance a project with tax-increment financing and then more discussion, the opening of the first boulevard mile represents a major stepping stone in city history.

"This is the first time we have combined a state grant, city funding and cooperation with Oakland County on a county road. We've gone from a two-lane road to a four-lane boulevard," Call said. "We've never had a project like this."

goes for pedestrian lighting on the northern residential side of the boulevard, as well as the sidewalk and installation of benches and trash cans.

On the commercial south side, the benches and bike racks, sidewalk, and a majority of the sod and plantings have been completed.

Because the four lanes of traffic on the boulevard will squeeze back to the existing two lanes past the Drake-12 Mile intersection, signs are posted warning motorists of the change. Call said.

The approximately \$6-million first phase was completed before winter weather set in as city officials had hoped. The segment was financed with the help of a \$3.2-million grant from the Michigan Transportation Economic Development Fund.

About \$2.3 million in motor vehicle bonds were sold to pay Farmington Hills' share of the first segment. The Oakland County Road Commission contributed the engineering, environmental assessment, inspections and helped coordinate payments to the Novl contractor, American Construction & Management Co.

PERMANENT traffic signals will replace the temporary ones within three to four weeks. Landscaping will be completed in the median and on the northern residential side later. The same

Please turn to Page 2