



Young patient: Judy Hawk of Livonia was the youngest patient on the Botsford Hospital rehabilitation floor.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIEUX



Let there be music: Betty and Bob Zimmer provide musical accompaniment for Christmas carolers. Betty's mother recovered from her stroke in the care of the Botsford rehabilitation staff.

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going on at work. That's when I realized that I was worrying about things that weren't that important."

Rehab staff praised
Like Lipinski before her, Hawk is making great gains and has nothing but praise for the rehab staff.

"They're upbeat," she said. "They're more like friends than nurses."

Plymouth resident George Kippola said he was happy as an electrician at the Ford Motor plant in Livonia when he suffered a stroke in 1988 at age 62.

"I liked my job," he said. "I didn't feel stressed. But it happened right on the job. I had a cerebral hemorrhage. There was no indication of trouble. I just heard a snap and fell."

Like others who've gone from an active life to seemingly complete helplessness and frustration, Kippola was worried about his future.

"I wondered if I'd ever walk again," he said. "But I was determined to walk out of here. I decided that vegetables are for salads. Six weeks later I walked out of here. When I had come here, I had no feeling over my whole left side."

Klein said the philosophy of the rehab unit is the emphasis on leaving the unit and becoming



Members of the club: Stanley Lipinski (left) of Detroit and George Kippola of Plymouth belong to the Stroke Club, a support group that meets monthly at Botsford.

more independent, even if the patient goes to an assisted living arrangement, such as a nursing home.

"We emphasize wellness instead of sickness," she said. "The patients wear clothes and receive their visitors in here (dining area). Otherwise it's like having someone visit you in your bedroom."

Betty Zimmerman, a retired music therapist who volunteers her talents to Botsford and to the Stroke Club, said she has been

amazed at the progress patients make in the unit.

"I'll see them one week and they will say that they don't think they're progressing," she said. "I'll come in a week later and ask them if they remember how they were doing a week ago."

At their Christmas party last week, members of the Stroke Club raised their glasses of punch (dietetic) and sang Christmas carols with the knowledge that they'll enjoy many happy returns of the day.

2 in critical condition after head-on accident

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

An accident that has put three people in the hospital, two of them in critical condition, should be a reminder to take extra care while driving during the holidays, police said.

At about 5:10 p.m. Dec. 16, a 1983 Chevy Citation driven by Donald Allen, 19, of Detroit crashed head-on into a car driven by John Serb Jr., 72, of Farmington Hills.

Both men were listed in critical condition at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills Friday afternoon.

Farmington Hills police said Allen's Citation was westbound on 10 Mile just west of Haynes near Cafe Cortina when the car drifted across the left turn lane and struck Serb's 1986 Mercury.

Another car, a 1993 Pontiac driven by Danielle Phelps, 22, of

Oak Park, struck the Mercury from behind.

Phelps was not seriously injured. Elvira Serb, 73, wife of John Serb Jr., was a passenger and is listed in good condition at Botsford.

The two cars that crashed head-on were going about the listed speed limit of 45 mph, said Sgt. Ray Cranston, Hills police traffic supervisor. All four people were wearing seat belts and alcohol was not involved, Cranston said. The Jaws of Life had to be used to remove the roof of Allen's car to extract him.

In another head-on crash, the people involved were luckier.

In that accident, on Orchard Lake near Springland, between 11 and 12 Mile roads, a 1981 Chevy driven by Bobby Louis Neal, 25, of Detroit crossed the center line of Orchard Lake heading north, hit two cars that tried to swerve

out of the way, and then hit another car head-on.

The accident took place Dec. 14 at 6:25 p.m.

The drivers of the two cars that were hit on the side, Vittoria Dizazzo, 52, driving a yellow 1989 Ford pickup, and Brian James Tait, 39 of Farmington Hills, driving a 1993 Ford, were not injured. Charles Wesley Williams, 35, whose 1986 silver Ford pickup was struck head-on by Neal's car, was not injured. Neal is listed in good condition at Botsford. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

Although the cause of both accidents is undetermined, the increase in holiday traffic has kept the police busy, Cranston said.

Cranston said Hills police have seen about a 25 percent increase in accidents since Nov. 15 from the same period last year.

City, county see warning signs in plans to ease traffic backups

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Fizing a couple of Farmington Hills' traffic backups could lead to another problem.

City and county engineers looked into two busy intersections with the idea of putting in a left-turn lane and found that solution a problematical one.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi asked engineers to look into the problem at 12 Mile and Middlebelt and at 11 Mile and Middlebelt. Traffic backups in the left lane of Middlebelt have made it hard for motorists to find a gap on the Mile roads.

"This creates a problem on Kiltartan, that famous intersection," Vagnozzi quipped at the Dec. 13

city council meeting. Kiltartan is just north of 11 mile on the west side of Middlebelt.

But Tom Bissell, director of public services, said that putting in a left turn lane on Middlebelt might solve one problem only to create another.

"When you put in a left-turn lane, you sacrifice through traffic," he said. "It's a delicate balance."

Not allowing right turns on southbound Middlebelt at 12 Mile could allow for more gaps in traffic, giving motorists coming onto 12 Mile near the intersection more time to turn onto the street, Bissell said.

"That is exactly why you plan a restricted signal (such as no right

turn on a red light)," he said. "If there aren't enough gaps, it restricts traffic."

Councilman Terry Sever said some "very creative drivers" at 12 Mile and Middlebelt and the large amount of pedestrian traffic at 11 and Middlebelt, including students from Mercy High School, were problems.

Sever added that some other streets in the city, like Freedom Road, had gaps between residential areas, subdivisions and business entrances where there was only two-lane traffic.

"Where we can, we should connect those," he said.

City manager Bill Costick said he would come back with some proposals for alleviating traffic problems at the two intersections.

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