

Hospital Hearings Scheduled

Hornell — A public hearing on the merger of St. James Mercy and Bethesda hospitals has been scheduled for Monday, March 22, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Hornell High School auditorium.

The hearing is being conducted as part of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency's (FLHSA) review process.

In preparation for the hearing, the FLHSA has issued a summary of the merger application and the resulting impact on the health care of the community. The document, titled "Bethesda Mercy Health-Center Issues Identification Paper," is now available to the public at either hospital or at the Hornell city clerk's office.

Ed Lane, director of review for FLHSA, said, "This process is directed toward enabling the Health Systems Agency to make a recommendation to the New York State Health Department as to whether the two hospitals' request to consolidate should be approved or disapproved. In addition to examining the request to consolidate, the Health Systems Agency will also be making recommendations to the State Health Department on the two hospitals' request for approval to embark on a renovation and new construction program involving \$26 million in capital cost."

One major aspect of the proposal calls for the construction of a new 60-bed nursing home which would be built on the Bethesda (Northern Division) site.

Under the consolidation plan other services at the Northern site would include maternity, pediatrics, an alcoholism rehabilitation program, psychiatric services and most hospital outpatient services, including an expanded ambulatory surgery program.

Hospital services which would be located at the St. James (Southern Division) site include emergency room services, the medical and surgical units, and the coronary and intensive care units. New operating room suites, a laboratory, laundry, dietary, pharmacy and x-ray and emergency room facilities would be constructed. The two oldest wings of the hospital would be demolished.

Lane said, "The agency's review of the application will

focus on several review criteria which include community need, financial feasibility and financial cost to the community." He added that several review task forces currently are being organized to look at various aspects of the proposal.

Among the issues the review will study is the community need for the proposed acute care beds. Lane said, Agency and state estimates of bed need indicate there is an excess of acute care beds in the three-county planning area. The amount of new space to be constructed at each site also will be examined.

"I would encourage any person who intends to testify at the hearing to become familiar with the application and the issues we have identified," Lane said. To help that process, the agency is supplying the summaries which are being distributed by the hospitals and at the city clerk's office.

Any person can sign up to testify at the hearing by writing to the agency's Corning or Rochester office. Speakers will be scheduled in the order in which requests are received.

The Corning office is at 3 1/2 Bridge St., 14830; the Rochester address is 360 East Ave., 14604.

Speakers may be limited to three minutes if a substantial number wish to speak. Speakers are asked to make a written copy of their remarks available for the record.

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'Going, Going, Gone' Will Be Cry at McQuaid

More than 500 unique services and types of merchandise will be auctioned at the ninth annual BASH fundraising event at McQuaid Jesuit High School on Friday, March 26, and Saturday, March 27.

The Friday auction will begin at 7:30 p.m., with Harris Wilcox, auctioneer. Refreshments will be available; reservations are

requested, but not required. Admission is \$5 per person.

Saturday, the school will be transformed into a combined auction house and gracious dining room. The silent auction will begin at 5:30 p.m., and continue throughout the evening. Complimentary refreshments will be available all evening. A gourmet dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Wilcox will conduct the auction, starting at 8:30

p.m. The evening will end at 12:30 a.m. with pastries and champagne.

Those involved in the 1982 BASH include: Dick and Pat Rohrer, chairmen-elect; Anne Guzzetta, executive secretary; Audrey Gehan, decorations; Mark Greisberger, silent auction; Mike McConville, general gifts; Tom Neintemp and Tom Clement, special gifts; Elie Rohrer, arrangements; Dave Melroy, logistics; Bill Norton, operations; Barry and Kathy Palum, art preview and auction; Marian Wilmot, antiques and collectibles; Barbara Samper and Judy Soha, parties chairmen; Jackie DeMaria and Margo Vinci, dinner co-chairmen; Beverly Tomaino, catalog; Tom Schiller, hospitality; Marion Clement, invitations; Lu Frisina and Vicky Ciaccia, reservations; Wee and Lydie Wilmot, reception; and Pat Hammele and Maureen Lerch, publicity.

Anyone interested in receiving an invitation or willing to help in any way should contact the BASH office at 473-9058.

Telethon To Aid Seal Drive

The Easter Sale Telethon is scheduled March 27-28 over WROC-TV, Channel 8.

John and Nancy Swett are the co-chairmen and television hosts will be Mark Wolf and Jacque Walker.

Last year, the telethon raised \$140,000 for the society which supports Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp, Camp Haccamo, Birth Defects Center, School of the Holy Childhood, Rochester Wheels and the Center for Independent Living.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Octopus Again Rears Its Ugly Head

Three of us in the house are on a diet. We have eaten so much fish, chicken and veggies in the past three weeks that the very sight of something that once swam, cackled or is green tends to turn us the same color.

The younger two, non-dieting members of the family, unwittingly, are driving us crazy.

Decidedly dissatisfied with the diet style meals that are forthcoming nightly, they make regular forays to the cupboard and refrigerator. Sometimes they supplement their rations with such simple repasts as Cheerios and bananas (doesn't that sound wonderful?) and at other times they become very creative and build "sandwiches" with Ragu sauce, two or three kinds of cheese, black olives, etc., and then put the whole thing in the microwave. The extra minimeal, of course, needs a minidesert and they keep popping Bits o' Honey, adding insult to injury by leaving papers scattered on the carpet, the sofa, the stairs and their beds. (The oldest also reports that she was able to trail her brother's path through the school corridors by the same telltale wrappers.)

We three musketeers pretend not to notice all the eating that is taking place, but I, for one, am now able to detect by smell alone whether the culprit who is eating out of turn is dining on Wheat Chex or Grapenuts.

In a weak moment, one of the dieters confesses that the only thing he is really pining for is a plate of pasta. "Not even meat," he adds self-righteously.

"No, no," protests another. "Bread — the whole wheat, chewy, crusty kind from our favorite Italian bakery."

"Here's something called Mud Pie," says the third dieter who is reading from a woman's magazine. "It calls for chocolate wafer crust, coffee ice cream filling topped with fudge sauce, slivered almonds and whipped cream."

The collective groans die down and somebody asks, "What's for supper tomorrow night?"

Thinking quickly, I roll out the words with a flourish. "Calamari Florentine."

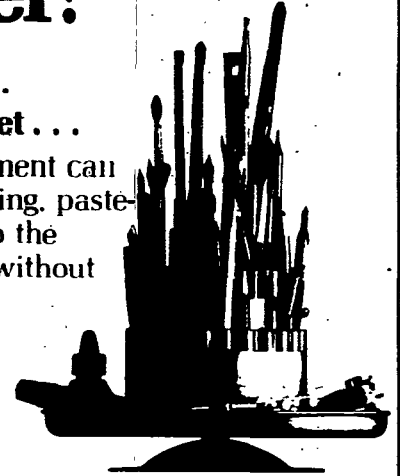
"Oh yeah?" Interest perks up. "What's that?"

"Octopus," I say, "on a bed of spinach."

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