## Conference's aim is to ease family pressures

"Families need up-to-date informa-tion and activities to aid them in coping with their lives more effectively," said family therapist Chip Drotos. The coordinator of "Family Day," a community-wide program scheduled to

community-wide program scheduled to take place at Seaholm High School on Oct. 25, Drotos said he believes the day-long program of workshops and family activities will provide 300 area families with information and incen-tives to help them cope with today's

pressures.

The youthful-looking therapist said that some of the prevailing concerns are coping as a single parent and com-munication between husband and wife when a job has been lost.

Coping with less, and figuring how to stretch time between work and family responsibilities are also major concerns, he said.

The increased need on the part of families to find answers to these problems is due, in part, he said, to the transient nature of our society. The rising cost of living and the resulting heightened pressures are other factors.

cost of living and the restituting neight-ened pressures are other factors.

Families are becoming more aware that it is a do-li-now or we'll never do it situation, he said. Parents and children allke are seeking better ways to enjoy the time they spend together.

SUE MARIANOVICH, who works in the Oakland County Home Start pro-gram, and Lynn Hirschelman of South-field, are typical of the persons who

have signed up for the Family Day, he said.

"I want a sharing experience with my children," said Mrs. Marianovich.
"It was really neat watching my daughters (Holly, 9, and Lias, 12) look over the list of courses. They really worked to make sure that they can get in all the things they want to get in."

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over the list of courses. They really worked to make sure that they can get in all the things they want to get in." When setting up her own schedule for Family Day, Mrs. Marianovich said she made her choices based on "dividing my time between things I want to do and things I can take back with me professionally."

tynn Hirschelman also picked areas of interest to herself, her husband Mike and their children, Wendy, 7, and Evan,

and their children, Wendy, 7, and Evan, 3 ¼.

"All this stuff is right up my alley," she said looking over the list of topics. "They get me at every turn. Basically, I've got a lot of areas I'm interested in, but I'm contemplating going back to work and I've really got to prepare myself. My degree is in education, art education, of which there are about two iob openines in the country." job openings in the country.

DROTOS said he first got the idea for a Family Day five years ago when he decided that he wanted to work with

and the Michigan State University Co-operative Extension Services, Family Day has also received much support from other agencies and organizations. Many of the supporting agencies, he added, will set up booths to distribute information about their services and

programs.

Registration is being handled by the Michigan State Cooperative Extension Service, 858-0895.

and work for the iterated presentation was intensified during the past wo mouths.

The preparing the Family Day proposal, he said, the planning group opted for an upbeat program, one which would be fun as well as provide solid information that participants could ake home with them.

"Then we looked for a central location," he said." I realized that this area would be ideal because people here are very active and involved. Seabolm offers a good location and ideal facilities for such a program." The program's offerings include 42 workshops and activities for adults, and another 26 for children, he added.
"The response we have gotten has been remarkable," he said. Both families and community agencies have re-"THEYTRE ALL going to be there on one day," he said. "In a time of beit-lightening the said with a time of beit-lightening, afts chance for a family to great the day together and have some fun together at the same time."

Well, not totally together, said Mrs. Marianovich. While she attends workshops on reducing stress through relaxation, weapons to fight inflation, and the impact of unemployment on families, her daughters will be busy learning how to create a Halloween costume, attending a Detroit Pistons' basketball clinic, as well as attending a workshop on woodcarving and another

"The response we have gotten has basketball clinic, as well as attending a been remarkable," he said. Both families and community agencies have reacted with more enthusiasm than the committee could have hoped for, he said. Primarily co-sponsored by Families and Children Services of Oakland a chuckle. "Considering what we'll be

getting for our time it's an awful lot for the \$5 family registration fee.

The Hirschelman family will also divide its time between family activities and individual workshops. Mrs. Hirschelman and her husband Mike plan to attend together workshops that deal with parenting. Then they will go their separate ways when she attends a workshop on coping with transition and he attends a presentation on stocks.

While their parents are involved Evan is signed up for a pupper presentation and Wendy will pursue her interest in arts and crafts.

"There will be plenty of activity for

"There will be plenty of activity for the children while their parents are in their own workshops," Drotos said. Other activities for children, he added, include a magic show and a presenta-tion by the Common Ground theater group.

"Then we will bring them all back together for a brown-bag lunch, or they can buy a lunch in the cafeteria," he

added.

The sponsors, he said, are interested in reaching all families in the Oakland County, not just those who are experiencing extreme degrees of pressure or

## Semivan-

## Funcannon

Kathryn Elaine Funcannon and Andrew John Semivan were mar-ried Oct. 4 at Lawrence United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Ind. A reception followed the church

ind. A reception followed the church ceremony.

Parents of the newlyweds are Mr. and Mrs. John Semivan of Southfield and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Funcannon of Indianapolis.

The new Mrs. Semivan was grad-

uated from Indiana University. Her husband, a graduate of Groves High School in Birmingham and Kalama-zoo College is employed by Aetna Life and Casualty Co.

on in the Baha-After a honeymoon in the Baha-mas, the couple will reside in Indi-

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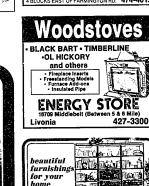
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