

# Nursery caters to special needs

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**REVERI SCRUBS** and puts on a gown before making daily rounds. It's important that anyone, including parents, scrub and wear a hospital gown before entering the unit.

The unit is wide and airy with bright yellow striped walls, rocking chairs, and a special room for nursing mothers. It's divided into two parts: intensive and moderate care.

The ratio between patient and staff is two to one. In some cases, the ratio is one to one.

"They need very close observation because they can't complain to us," Reveri says. "These babies need medical care and tender loving care." Parents are encouraged to provide as much input as possible.

"Having a baby that ends up in intensive care is a frightening experience," says Jennifer LoPatin, a Southfield social worker assigned to the obstetrics and special care units.

"For one thing, there's a lot of guilt. The mother thinks, 'Did I do something wrong during my pregnancy?'"

Mrs. LoPatin's job is helping parents cope with having a sick baby. Part of that is encouraging parents to have as much physical contact with their babies — despite tubes and machinery — as possible.

Reveri touches the tiny fingers and toes and coos encouraging words to her tiny patients.

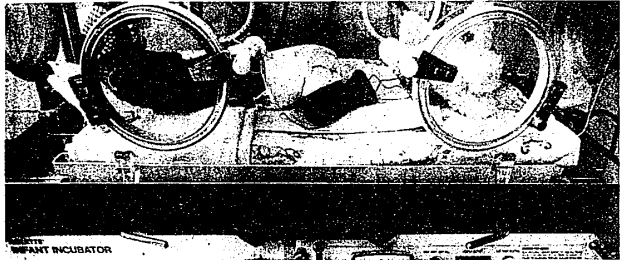
"It's reassuring to them," she says. She knows each baby's problems, progress and family.

"Patient care is the number one part of my job," she says. "I'm not research-oriented. I'm a clinician. Intensive care takes a lot of time."

"IN SOME CASES, it will be months before they can go home." Babies are discharged when they reach a weight of four pounds, four ounces. Most of the premature babies were born at 26 to 28 weeks gestation.

Reveri came to the U.S. 10 years ago from New Delhi, India, because, she said, "I wanted post graduate work where medicine is more advanced." She was always drawn to infant care. After training at Chicago's Children's Hospital, she joined the Ford Hospital staff.

The critical care pace is hectic.



A premature baby sleeps amidst the gadgetry.



Pearlite Louie, senior licensed practical nurse, rocks a young child in the 'moderate care' ward. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

# Tax plan unveiled

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 property-tax plan. He added that the freeze would affect the 1981-82 fiscal year.

"We'll have to work with Democrats and Republicans alike if we're going to pass it," Ross said. "I'm not worried about (another Tisch proposal) — he's failed twice already. I'm worried about

my constituency."

Although Gov. William Milliken has announced other budget cuts in the past three months, Ross said the state may have to "squeeze programs even more."

"I think the people have spoken," Ross said. "What we have done in the short run is make inflation work for the property owners."

# Local buildings called safe

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 main water line, according to Anhut.

He admits that the cost of installing such a system today would be prohibitive.

The system had its last extensive use about 24 years ago when sparks from the inn's fireplaces set the roof on fire. Besides damage to the roof, the hotel suffered water damage from the sprinkler system.

Another building which has more than the required amount of fire safety devices is the Farmington senior citizens' apartment complex built on the site of old Farmington Junior High School.

The 35-foot-high building is protected with a sprinkler system and smoke control systems. The building is constructed with such details as pressurized stairwells in which smoke is pushed out of the building through air pressure, according to Maddison.

In addition, the Farmington Hills Fire Department owns an 85-foot aerial tower which offers access to the top floor of the building.

In spite of mechanical protection, vigilance against fire is still necessary, Maddison cautions. There is always the possibility of human error and mechanical failure.

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