

**Seminar is free**

## Panel to discuss alcohol abuse

"I started using pot and booze when I was 11½. By my 16th birthday, I had tried to kill myself, and I knew I had a serious drinking problem. By 17, the world was closing in on me."

These are the words of a 22-year-old recovering alcoholic named Karen, who in talks in West Bloomfield and Green Pointe, her service and her principles, fears and appliances from the audience.

On Tuesday at Schoolcraft College, the will join five other panelists to discuss "alcohol abuse in the family and community."

On Tuesday, May 25, Karen will join five other panel members for a seminar on "alcohol abuse in the family and the community" scheduled for the convenience of residents in the Livonia, Northville, Farmington and Plymouth communities.

The seminar will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Schoolcraft College's Waterman Center, 18600 Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile roads. Anyone may attend free.

**THE THIRD** in a series, the seminar was begun by Maplegrove (Henry Ford Hospital's non-profit center for the treatment of alcoholism and chemical dependency) and the Junior League of Birmingham. Co-sponsoring organizations include: Farmington Youth Assistance, Farmington Woods of Plymouth, Livonia PTA Council, Livonia Youth Assistance, Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Plymouth Family Service and Women's Resource Center of Schoolcraft College.

Information on the seminar is available from Maplegrove, 661-6100.

Speakers will include a recovering alcoholic who is a Livonia probation officer, another who has been alcohol-free for 10 years, Richard Morris, M.D., a clinical supervisor of Brighton Hospital, Jeanne Knopf DeLoche, family therapist, Maplegrove, and Sis Wenger, co-founder of the Maplegrove Junior League of Birmingham alcohol awareness community education project.

**MIKE WHORF** of WRJ-Radio's "Kaleidoscope" will moderate. Whorf will field questions from the audience for the second hour of the program.

"We are seeing an increase of alcohol by adolescents now as compared with the early 1970s," said Jane Reiser, Wilmette of the Farmington Area Advisory Council.

As education director for the council, Williams has taken alcohol education to 2,000 Farmington Area youth through classroom presentations during the past year.

She sees the May 25 seminar as another step in heightening awareness of alcoholism.

"You have to be aware of the problem to identify it, and you have to identify it to start getting help for it," Williams said.

What if you give them enough good education, even if they're already involved, they can make the decision to get off drugs and alcohol," said seminar panel member Wayne Templeton.

He refers to the 17-25 year-olds with

whom he works as probation officer for the 16th District Court, Templeton coordinates a youth substance abuse program two nights a week. Education helps him maintain contact with those "real true feelings," he said.

"They haven't developed coping mechanisms because they have used drugs and alcohol instead of coping."

"WE'RE DEVOTED" to making Plymouth a healthy community to live and work in," said Chamber of Commerce executive board member Betty Stremlich. Owner of the Hillside Inn, Stremlich feels that "the food service industry also has a commitment to understanding alcoholism."

"Since I've been made aware of the extent of the problem of alcoholism, I've realized it's important it's for a restaurant to serve acceptable substitutes for alcoholic beverages. Sparkling Catawba makes as good a toast as champagne and a piña colada can taste."

The Michigan Department of Commerce will hold a series of public meetings to inform local officials about the guidelines for getting money through the Small Cities Community Block Grant Program.

The Detroit area meeting will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 19 at Ypsilanti Township Hall, 7200 S. Huron River Drive.

Commerce Department representatives will explain how municipalities in Wayne and Oakland counties can receive money for economic development and housing and public works projects.

good without liquor," she said.

The May 25 seminar is part of a long-term commitment to community education by Maplegrove which also includes a joint alcohol awareness project with the Junior League of Birmingham. Through that project 30 volunteers are now trained to take information on alcohol abuse and alcoholism to school and community groups throughout the Detroit metropolitan area.

Thursday, May 20, 1982 O&E

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