

## 'Families by choice' is new trend in living

Longer life spans and a rapidly increasing population of elderly citizens — including many who choose to pursue "independent lifestyles" away from their families — will combine to create tremendous demand for housing in the U.S. in coming decades, a University of Michigan study suggests.

Some experts say that the nation will need as many as 235,000 units of new housing each year over the next 20 years to meet this demand. Such a goal will be difficult to fulfill, considering the current economy and the depressed housing industry.

As an alternative, U-M researchers suggest that the government should officially sanction "shared living" arrangements for the elderly in which two or more unrelated persons share facilities. Restrictive community zoning ordinances and other prohibitions should be cleared away to make such housing alternatives possible, say the researchers.

**THIS RECOMMENDATION** is one of many in a far-reaching series of U-M studies examining needs and problems of housing for the elderly up to the year 2000.

The studies were carried out by the National Policy Center on Housing and Living Arrangements for Older Americans, which is located at the U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning. The studies were submitted to the U.S. Administration on Aging, which supports the U-M center.

Here are some of the other U-M recommendations on meeting the projected increase in the demand for housing for citizens 65 and older:

• The manufactured housing industry ought to be granted the same

legal and financial status as builders of conventional homes, allowing a "proved low cost housing product" to be more widely available to the elderly.

• The federal government ought to specifically target more rehabilitation subsidy programs for elderly housing. These subsidies would provide more incentive for private builders to become involved in rehabilitation of existing housing, an unprofitable undertaking for them in the past.

• Recent federal action allowing pension fund managers to invest in residential mortgages is a step in the right direction.

A major finding in the U-M research is a large projected increase in the demand for "single-person" housing for citizens age 65 and over, reflecting a continuing trend toward "independent lifestyles" among the elderly.

**"RECENT DECADES** have seen a remarkable surge of independent living arrangements among the elderly. In 1960, the number of non-family (overwhelmingly single persons) elderly households was only half as great as the number of elderly family households; by 1990 the two are expected to be about equal in number," says the study.

"The evidence indicates that, when they can afford it, large segments of the elderly population opt to live independently from other members of their families.

U-M researchers say one way to meet the need for independent living arrangements, without creating so many new housing units, is through shared or group housing arrangements.

## At Providence Hospital

# Alcoholism conference planned

**"Networking: Bridges for a Better System,"** the seventh annual conference of the National Council on Alcoholism — Greater Detroit Area is scheduled for May 6 at the Michigan Inn, Southfield.

Networking, interaction to achieve a goal, was specifically chosen as the theme of this year's conference.

The field of substance abuse needs to reinvest its energy in communication," said Molly Hunt, consultant and a conference planner.

The day will be divided into the various systems making up the network of our society. The legal system, the health system, educational system and others will all be discussed; as well as how

those concerned with substance abuse can best use a particular system.

Dr. Arthur Jefferson, superintendent of Detroit Public Schools, will address the educational system; Dr. Gail Parker will represent the media and UAW vice president Marc Stepp will talk about the business community.

Others featured are the Rev. Jack Boland, who will deal with the religious community; Jan Christensen, deputy administrator of the Office of Substance Abuse Services, who will talk about legislative action; Judge Robert Evans on the legal system and Dr. John Vivasaker, general surgeon on the health sys-

tems. Cost of the conference, including lunch, is \$20. Student and group rates are available.

The annual "Recovery with Dignity" Candlelight Banquet will be at 7 p.m.

at the Michigan Inn. Cost is \$18 per person. For information, call Kaye Riggs at 963-0581.

## Alumnae host fund-raiser to aid scholarship fund

St. Mary's College Detroit Alumnae Club has set its fund-raiser for the Detroit Scholarship Fund for Saturday, May 21, in the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Shores. Honored guest for the evening will be Dr. John M. Duggan, president of St. Mary's.

The charge of \$30 per person entitles the purchaser to a sit-down dinner beginning at 8:30 p.m., followed by an extensive tour of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, hors d'oeuvres and a

champagne reception, and live music for dancing.

The fee of \$20 per person entitles the purchaser to a tour of the house at 8 p.m., followed by hors d'oeuvres, the champagne reception, and dancing.

St. Mary's Detroit Alumnae Club has exclusive use of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House and its grounds for the evening.

For reservations, call Judy Gavor, 851-0692.

## Exhibit ready

The Farmington Artists Club Spring Art Exhibit will be held through May 1 in the formal lounge of the Mercury Center on 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. There is no admission charge and complimentary refreshments will be served.

The exhibit will feature two galleries, one juried and one open as well as an informal picture section where original works of art may be purchased for prices starting at \$1.

The juror of this year's show is Carol Schler-Goodale, the Pontiac Art Center's assistant director.

Show goers are invited to purchase raffie tickets for works of art that have been donated by member artists. This year's donors are Lois Bro, Caroline Dunphy, Sue Ebel, Xanthippe George, Gert Grisham, Tom Hale, Frank Lohan, Kaaren Peters, Pat Putanus, Jane Rocheteau and Donna Vogelheim. Also, a painting by the late Lillian Kortulla will be raffied.

Tickets are available from club members at the exhibit for 50 cents or three for \$1. All proceeds support the Farmington Artists Foundation, a service arm of the Farmington Artists Club.

The exhibition is made possible through a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

## Child abuse workshop set

People who work with children can investigate the problem of child abuse, and public and private services offered to these children, in the workshop, "The Impact of the Present Recession on Child Abuse," during May at Madonna College.

Students can receive college credit or continuing education units. The classes will meet May 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28.

Faculty member Mary Newman will teach the course, focusing on how stress caused by unemployment frequently leads to family-unit breakdown.

For information, call Newman at 591-5160. To register, call the continuing education office, 591-5019.

Madonna College is at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia.



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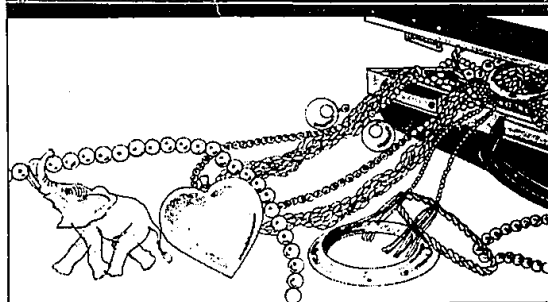


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