

## Child care challenge open to creative ideas

The "Michigan Child Care Challenge," organized by the House Republican Task Force on Child Care, is a statewide competition for creative ideas to solve the state's child care needs. Awards ceremonies and press conferences were held in Grand Rapids and Livonia in August to honor these businesses.

Many area businesses were among award recipients. Of those, two serve to demonstrate that the size of the company need not be a factor when considering child-care benefits.

Chiropractic Federal Credit Union, of Farmington, received honorable mention in the "New Kid on the Block" category for their recently implemented child-care benefit. They now offer a pre-tax dollar, or flexible spending, account for child-care expenses.

With this benefit, the employee

has a specified amount of money withheld from his paycheck before taxes (up to an annual maximum of \$5,500) for child/dependent care.

THE CREDIT UNION reimburses employees on a weekly basis, while many businesses only reimburse annually. With only five employees, and president/CEO Bill Garrison, the group boasts 20 percent enrollment.

"But, we save several hundred dollars per year by doing this, because we don't have to pay the FICA on that portion of the employees' earnings," he said.

Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Company, Farmington Hills, also received a "New Kid on the Block" award for the same child-care option, implemented in June for 650 employees.

"We use the voucher system," said benefits administrator Cynthia Martin. With this system, the employees

receive weekly vouchers on the first of each month, which they pay for during the course of the month through payroll deductions.

"The employees receive a listing of child-care referrals who will accept the vouchers as payment," said Martin. "The child-care provider then submits the voucher for payment."

THIS SYSTEM is administered by a California company, Voucher Care Corp. The insurance company pays them an administrative fee to handle virtually all aspects of the program, including providing referrals.

"It's really not so complicated," said Martin. "The provider is paid in about a week, but if they don't want to use the voucher, the employee can also sign them over to himself and pay the provider cash."

While Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance doesn't benefit financially from the program, due to their ad-



child care  
Marcie Walker

ministrative costs, Martin estimates that they come out "about even." While enrollment is currently low, she expects close to 10 percent participation by November's open enrollment.

Marcie Walker, free lance writer, welcomes your input-questions, suggestions for columns, examples of good child care. Write her in care of the Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

## Writer nominated for Emmy Award

Todd Langen, who grew up in Farmington Township, has been nominated for an Emmy Award. He is a staff writer for "The Wonder Years" produced by New World Television for ABC.

The series has been nominated for an Emmy, and Langen is one of the series' four writers that have been nominated for an award.

Langen is the son of Norman and Irene Langen of Farmington Hills. He attended Bond Elementary School, O.E. Dunkel and Warner Middle Schools and graduated from

North Farmington High School. He majored in aerospace engineering when he attended the University of Michigan and moved to California when he took a job as a space engineer with Hughes Aircraft.

He wrote periodically from 1953 to 1955 when he took a full time job as a writer. His first assignment was a short-lived situation comedy, but that job led to the one with New World Television. He is now a resident of North Hollywood.

## Activities Fair is for newcomers

A Women's Activities Fair will be hosted by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Welcome Wagon Club 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18 in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road.

Area newcomers are welcome to attend this first meeting of the se-

son to preview and sign up for more than 20 diverse interest groups offered through club membership.

Groups include antiques, crafts, gourmet foods and dining out, a variety of sports, couples activities, baby-sitting co-op and toddler program, mothers discussion group,

bridge, euchre and buncie, stitchery and quilting, book discussion, day trips and coupon exchange.

The club also offers monthly coffee socials and general meetings with guest speakers or special programs. Daytime and evening meetings accommodate members' sched-

ules.

Membership is open to women who have moved into the area during the past six months, have become newly engaged, are mothers-to-be or have a baby less than three months old. For further information, call Vickie Hickman, 553-8826.

## Fashion Extravaganza opens season for ORT

The Michigan Region of Women's American ORT will host its annual membership event beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, in Adat Shalom Synagogue, Farmington Hills. Open to all new and re-

rolled members, the highlight of the day will be a fashion show produced by Leah Marx.

"Fashion Extravaganza" will feature a full range of designs, from daytime to evening, from full-fig-

ured to cruiserwear, from maternity to children's fashions. Models will also show off the latest in jewelry and optical wear.

Participating merchants are Sally's Design Boutique and Lone Pine Vision, both at Crosswinds in West Bloomfield; The Maternity Corner at La Mirage in Southfield; Beach Bound Ltd. at Hunters Square in Farmington Hills; Tapper's in Franklin Savings Centre in South-

field; Elaine B's at Sugar Tree in West Bloomfield and Kiddly Winks in Birmingham.

In addition to the luncheon and fashion show, an avenue of boutiques will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for shoppers.

Cost for this all-chapter event is \$14 for new members and \$18 for re-enrolled members.

Women's American ORT is part of the world's largest non-government-

al voluntary system of vocational and technical education. For more than a century, ORT schools around the world have been helping people help themselves by providing the kind of education that makes the difference between dependence and independence.

For other information regarding the ORT program and this membership event, contact the ORT office at 855-9820.

## Beauty consultant wins Mary Kay car

Patricia Richardson of Farmington is the latest to win the use of a Pontiac Grand Am for her accomplishments as an independent Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc. beauty consultant.

Richardson joins more than 1,500

Mary Kay independent businesswomen who are members of the company's VIP Club. VIP means Very Important Performer.

The VIP program, which began in February 1984, marked the first time Mary Kay offered the use of a

car as incentive to beauty consultants. Traditionally, famous Mary Kay pink Buick Regals and Cadillacs were awarded only to sales directors.

Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc. manufactures premium skin, hair,

nail and body care products including cosmetics, toiletries and fragrances. The personal care products are sold through a worldwide sales force of 185,000 independent beauty consultants. The company was founded in 1953 by Mary Kay Ash.

## Choosing housing for aging parents

"Meeting the Housing Needs of the Aged" is the theme of a dialogue at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19 in Farmington Hills Inn.

Billed as "a conference for adult sons and daughters who must take charge," its aim is to help people decide what to do about aging relatives.

Penny Conn of Farmington Hills Counseling Services, will explore many facets of the aging process which are important in deciding where an aged person will live.

People attending the conference will be told everything they must consider before making a decision. Prime considerations are the aged person's health, mental alertness, nutritional and emotional needs, and ability to do for himself or herself.

Also to be discussed are the best ways of helping aged parents adjust to new surroundings and how to maintain good relationships with the family. Other topics deal with reintroducing aged people to social activity in a different setting and keeping the elderly in the mainstream of life.

Not to overlook the families of the aged, discussions will be dealing with support groups for adult chil-



Penny Conn

dren of the aged and ways of relieving their guilt feelings.

The conference, which is designed for anyone facing the aged-parent syndrome, is open to the public, but the number of people who may attend is limited. Information may be obtained by telephoning the inn at 851-9640. Farmington Hills Inn is at 30350 12 Mile Road.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

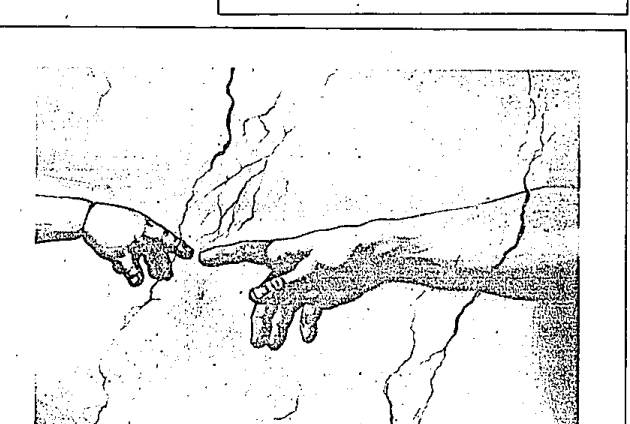
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Temple Beth El is a good place to start. Rabbis Daniel Polish and Julian Cook, along with Cantor Gail Hirschman, are heartily committed to helping our children make the right connections.

What are those connections? Children need to connect with themselves and who they are. And who they are in their families, their community and the world. And they need to connect with God.

We give them the time, opportunity and spiritual guidance to explore and discover our heritage and our faith. They learn to pray and talk to God. They learn to read the Bible and study with their parents. And with other parents. They learn what it is to be part of a community. With time, they'll feel the comfort of being part of our extended family. We'll celebrate Holidays together. We'll rejoice in Shabbat together. We'll applaud their performances in plays together. And we'll sing together.

Our older children are encouraged to look at what it means to lead a life of goodness. We help them see that part of this is to give something back to the community and they go out to become involved and lend a hand.

We also take a look at morals, ethics, love, history, our heritage and a lot of other topics that our kids want and need to know about. We talk. We listen. We connect. And we have a lot of fun.

If you wish only the best for your child, help him or her to make the right connections.

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