

Single parent by choice

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semination almost seven years ago as an option to having a child without a partner before her biological clock stopped ticking.

"Artificial insemination had been my choice all along," she said. "If there had been a man in my life, I would have gone that route."

But she worries that a future marriage may cause problems because of the strong bond between her and her son.

"I had a few people ask why I didn't just find a man and get pregnant," she said. "That would have been uncomfortable for me. It's using someone."

PRIOR to joining SMC four years ago, Brandt lived, ate and drank literature on single parenting by choice, particularly before the birth of her child. The only contact she had had with another woman in a similar circumstance was a client of the physician who performed her artificial insemination.

"She was having problems related to church and what she did," Brandt said. "We had contact on the phone but actually met at the (SMC) group."

"There were days when I came to meetings when there were problems. I was frustrated because Billy wouldn't go to sleep or he was hitting the kids next door."

"I would talk to these women who became my friends and found that their children were doing the same kind of things," the Ferndale resident said. "When you're by yourself with that child and something goes wrong, your first reaction is to blame yourself."

"You find it's just a developmental thing."

THE OTHER positive aspect of the organization that drew Brandt into the organization was that it provided a peer group for her son.

"The majority of the activities that we do turn out to be more social than a heavy duty meeting," Clements said. "It usually ends up being a planning time about what we are going to do with the kids. And then we speak in one or two we can do something for the moms."

Children's activities have included Christmas, Halloween and pizza parties, weekend trips, short stays at beach cottages and a couple of brunches scheduled just for moms during the year.

Bingo games return to festival

Farmington High School Music Patrons will be back again with Bingo games under a big tent during Founder's Festival days Thursday through Saturday, July 11-13.

Games run from 4-10 p.m. Thursday, 4-11 p.m. Friday, and from noon to 11 p.m. Saturday. The tent will be on Grand River, east of Farmington Road. The final game every night is Winner Take All.

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FUN ASIDE, there also are guest speakers and discussions on stress and financial management for the single mother.

Issues addressed at the monthly meetings pertain to child rearing and "the same problems every parent has raising a child."

One area of research data still in the making and of concern to single mothers is how the children will turn out and be able to handle things.

"That just hasn't come up a lot because it's (single mothers by choice) new, it's different," Clements said. "We haven't run into a lot of problems with people not accepting our kids or not accepting us for what we have done."

AS FOR such comments as "You don't have a daddy," "most women have elected to be very open and honest with their children — appropriate information at the proper age," Clements said. "There isn't a set answer (on how to explain to a child) that there is no father."

Clements relies on her daughter to bring up the subject.

"When she was 2 years old, she said to me 'I don't have a daddy but I have two kitties,'" Clements said. "I thought here it comes, but I didn't have to give any explanation. That's all she wanted to say."

FARMINGTON HILLS sales representative Charise Fulton is expecting her second child through artificial insemination. Two-year-old son Andrew was her first.

"I was getting older with no prospects of getting married and I always wanted a child," the 38-year-old Fulton said. "I had the financial means to have a child and take care of him."

Fulton boasts that Andrew gets all the attention and they do mother-son things whenever they want. She doesn't try to overcompensate for a lack of a second parent.

"Andrew has a godfather and a grandfather who play men sport activities with him," she said.

BOTH SHE and Brandt cite the same philosophy and facts when people question their motives, raise eyebrows or accuse them of being selfish.

"I don't expect anybody to do anything for me," Brandt said. "When it comes to raising my child, I raise him the way I think is appropriate."

Single Mothers by Choice meet at 7 p.m. once a month on a Sunday either in St. or the Farmington Hills Advisory Council Building, 23450 Middlebelt. For information, call 788-0038 (east area) or 549-2328 (west area).



A lesson in planting

Youngsters who attend Mayfair Co-op Preschool get a lesson in planting trees, and in the value of trees to the environment, from their teacher, Maxine Flagg. At the close of the day each child got a six-inch pine sapling to plant in his or her own back yard. The nursery is at 30450 Farmington Road.

Scholarships available

The Farmington Area Community Women are offering a \$250 Returning Women's Scholarship, designed to assist a woman who has returned to school after a passage of time, rather than following the traditional pattern of college immediately after high school.

To be eligible the woman must be a Farmington or Farmington Hills resident, a minimum of 25 years old, and must be enrolled in a degree program. She can be a full or part time student with a minimum lapse of four years between high school completion and college enrollment.

For an application write to Farmington Area Community Women, 36315 Fox Glen, Farmington Hills 48331. Completed applications must be received by July 31, 1991.

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VOYAGERS, a group for singles over 45, meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday in St. Paul Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Linda Mitchell will talk on topics related to communication, building and rebuilding relationships, and self-esteem.

The meeting is open to interested singles. Inquiries are taken by Ann Anderson, 591-1350.

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet for a dance party at 8 p.m. Friday in Roma's of Livonia, on Schoolcraft Service Drive, west of Inkster Road. Admission asked at the door. Budget bar. No jeans.

TRI COUNTY SINGLES meet at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 29, in Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph Road south of Eight Mile. Admission is \$4 at the door.

FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONALS host their monthly Single Mingle from 8-11 p.m. Friday in the Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. The event introduces newcomers to the members as well as the activities the club has to offer. Admission for guests is \$5. Golfers among the singles will tee off at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 29, in Kensington Metropark.

For a complimentary newsletter listing scheduled events for the next month, call the group's information line, 478-9181.

MICHIGAN PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK kicks off the first part of a six-session network series beginning with a 6 p.m. dinner Monday, July 8, in Ramada Hotel, 28225 Telegraph, Southfield. The session is called Networking Power.

Fee for non-members is \$23. Reservations must be made on or before Wednesday, July 3, with Sally Pemberton, during the day, 835-1510.

SINGLE PLACE SINGLES meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, in First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St. for an outdoor picnic on the terrace, followed by an old-fashioned folk festival with Tom Rice, owner of Giffelder Music Store.

Admission is \$5.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

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The Windemere Alzheimer's Special Care Unit is scheduled to open at the end of June, 1991. For information and a private tour, please contact Kathy Harpell at 661-1201.

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Windemere is located at 6950 Farmington Road, just south of Maple Road, in West Bloomfield