

## COMMUNITY LIFE

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1995



BEVERLY CORNELL

## Things turn out ducky for orphans

**S**pringtime! It's time for green grass, buds on the trees and baby animals starting to be born.

Pairs of ducks are wandering around our subdivision looking lost. In truth, each mallard pair is looking for a great nesting place.

Once a suitable nesting area is found, they start preparing a saucer-shaped nesting area with sticks and grass. Once the female duck starts laying eggs, she adds some of her own feathers to the nest to insulate the eggs.

She will only lay one egg every day or every other day. She will not sit on the eggs until they are all laid. Depending on how many eggs she will lay, this may take several days to accomplish. After she has laid all her eggs, she will sit on the nest to incubate the eggs. The word incubate means that eggs are maintained at a temperature favorable to growth. It usually takes 21 days to incubate the eggs before hatching.

Don't be alarmed if you see that an egg or some eggs have been removed from the main part of the nest during incubation. Those are bad eggs, according to the parent duck. Do not tamper with those eggs. It's nature's way of making room for only the healthy. Within 24 hours of hatching, the parents will take the cute ducklings to water, although ducklings are self-feeding, they need their parents to help show them what foods to eat.

Ducklings can swim; however, only the parents know how long they can be in the water without risking the danger of getting too wet. The ducklings have a waxy layer on their backs that does not have the water repellent oils that feathers do. For this reason, if you find a lone duckling, do not put it into water. We humans do not

See CORNELL, 12A

## Baby on board

### Botsford program stresses car seat safety

■ The statistics are alarming. Most of the people putting their children in car seats are securing them incorrectly. Botsford Hospital rents car seats and makes sure parents know how to use them.

By BETTI SUNDRLA JACHMAN  
STAFF WRITER



Take good care of your babies.

That's the advice given by Botsford Hospital through its car seat rental program. The Farmington Hills hospital rents seats to all who want them. And the rentals come with 30-minute lessons on how to use them.

Infants need car seats from the time they leave the hospital. If a mother-to-be arrives at the hospital in labor without a car seat it's almost a crisis situation, according to Debbie Wozniak, community relations assistant at Botsford.

Because seats can be expensive and because infant seats often are outgrown in a few months, many parents buy them used, or buy a seat that converts from use for infants to toddlers.

If a new mom receives a toddler seat as a shower gift, she can rent an infant seat at Botsford.

"We do have indigent clients, but we also have grandparents who don't want to purchase a seat," Wozniak said.

The program is popular, with between 400 and 500 seats rented a year. The program is open to the entire community and currently has clients from all over including Farm-



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Precious cargo: Margie Maria, car seat assistant at Botsford Hospital, shows Julie Wagner how to strap in her infant daughter Hannah.

ington Hills, Redford, West Bloomfield and Detroit.

"We try to make it as easy as we possibly can," Wozniak said. "When they leave here they know how to use the seat," she said.

The costs are: \$5 per year for a baby up to 20 pounds, plus a refund-

able deposit of \$15; and \$10 per year for toddlers 20-40 pounds, plus a refundable deposit of \$20. The training session is by appointment only.

Toddler seats are often re-rented annually, but the renter must repeat the training program for an update.

It's amazing how many people forget things after a year, Wozniak said. For people without the training the statistics are grim. There are still people who think it's safe to hold a baby in their laps in the car.

See SAFETY, 12A



## LIVING TRUST SEMINAR

How to avoid probate, how to reduce taxes to your heirs, the advantages of a Living Trust - Question and Answer Session to follow.

Presented by Financial Expert

**Paul Leduc**

Reg. Representative Sigma Financial Corp.

<b>ROCHESTER</b> Tuesday, April 25th, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Older Persons Commission CPC 312 Woodward St., Rochester (810) 656-1403	<b>LIVONIA</b> Thursday, April 27th, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Livonia Public Library 32777 Five Mile Rd. (810) 540-8710	<b>TROY</b> Tuesday, May 2, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Troy Senior Center 770 Dag Beaver (810) 524-3484	<b>WATERFORD</b> Thursday, May 4, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Waterford Senior Center 6475 Harten (810) 623-4500
<b>WEST BLOOMFIELD</b> Wednesday, April 26th, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. West Bloomfield Public Library - Main Branch 4400 Walnut Lake Rd. (810) 682-2120	<b>PLYMOUTH/NORTHVILLE</b> Monday, May 1, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Plymouth Cultural Center 313 Farmer Rd. (313) 455-6623	<b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Wednesday, May 3, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Longacre House 24175 Farmington Rd. (810) 540-8710	<b>WEST BLOOMFIELD</b> Thursday, May 11, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. First Baptist Church 4000 Orchard Lake Rd. (West Green Rd.) (810) 334-5660

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - ALL SEMINARS FREE OF CHARGE

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April 29, 1:30 & 7:30 p.m. • Sun., April 30, 1:30 & 5:30 p.m.\*

TICKETS: \$7.00 inside • \$6.50 upper/inside  
Discounts for seniors 65 & older and children under 12

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STEVEN COUSINS**

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