



BEVERLY C

#### Things turn out ducky for orphans

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 proparing 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 accompliab. 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 east hat 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. Wiltim 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 cute fuzzy down which 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

ing. 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 BETH 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.

who want them. And the rentals come with 30-minute lessons on how to use them.

Infants need car sents 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 sents 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 taddlers.

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 popular in the community and currently has clients from all over including Farm-



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 Bloom-field and Detroit.
"We try to make it as easy as we possibly can," Wornink said. "When they leave here they know how to use the scat," 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 seasion 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 train-ing the statistics are grim. There are still people who think it's safe to hold a baby in their laps in the car.



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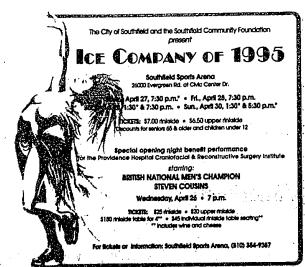
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