

COMMUNITY LIFE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1996

Page B1



ELEANOR BLUM

Home schooling experience works for this Hills family

On a late summer morning, I was invited to visit Kim Dennis and her four delightful children in their Farmington Hills home.

All the youngsters are home schooled. Their basement recreation room has been made into a warm classroom where books, maps and all kinds of learning tools are plentiful.

The Dennis children are Kate, 16, Andrew, 12, Matthew, 9, and Timothy, 6. They are so enthusiastic and eager about learning that I wanted to find out more about children schooled at home. Andrew, Matthew and Timothy were working on a geography lesson when I arrived. They were listing all the oceans, since they already had completed the mountains and deserts. With smiles on their faces and a light in their eyes, they told how they attended school at home. It was wonderful to see such a zest for learning.

Timothy read to me the names of the states from his map. He is in first grade. Last year, he was taught phonics without using pictures, then he was taught blends. Andrew can teach himself math.

Kim has her children use journals, writing down things they do each day, their thoughts, a poem, or an interesting experience and writing book reports. The Farmington Library has been a wonderful resource.

See HOME SCHOOLING, B2

'Tis the season to lend a hand

■ Many agencies are asking for help this holiday season.

What gifts do you want for the holidays? Some of us might have to reflect awhile because we aren't really needy.

But every year there are people who can't afford to buy presents for their families, or who find the cost of holiday meals beyond their means. They have long lists that may not be filled.

Each season, The Observer & Eccentric asks nonprofit organizations to send us their wish lists for charitable donations. Food, clothing, cash and other items collected will be distributed by these groups.

If you want to help, select from the list below. Someone in need will have a happier holiday because of you.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING 1-8
29100 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 400
Department M
Southfield 48034
(810) 948-1640 or 1-800-852-7795

Purpose is to maintain the health and independence of the more than 390,000 older adults in Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties. Financial donations go toward the organization's Eldercare Programs, which include: Holiday Meals on Wheels and Emergency Meals, providing nutritious meals and companionship to frail, homebound older adults; Information and Referral & Community Care Management, linking senior citizens and their



PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

Meals on wheels: Farmington resident Estelle Richards is quite pleased to receive her Meals on Wheels delivered from Christine Koski.

family members with the services they need; and Medicare Medical Assistance Program, providing the elderly with greater access to health care benefits.

BALDWIN CHURCH AND CENTER
P.O. Box 420700
212 Baldwin
Pontiac 48342-0700
(810) 332-6101

Provides 455 meals, five days a week, throughout the year. Other programs: clothing closet, hygiene assistance, tutoring, prescriptions, youth groups and homeless breakfast and shower. Programs assist the working poor, disadvantaged families, single others, homeless, elderly and mentally and physically challenged.

Needs financial assistance, canned and boxed goods, turkeys and hams,

laundry soap, personal hygiene items, blankets, children's jackets (especially boys), warm clothing (XL, XXL), sneakers (size 10 and up), new toys and gift items, outdoor salt, Apple computers, duplicating paper, and arts and crafts, by Dec. 24. One dollar feeds one person one meal.

See CHARITIES, B2

POINSETTIA SHOW

and SALE!

Dec. 7th & 8th

- Musical Entertainment
- Refreshments

- Thousands of Poinsettias in every color imaginable!
- Ongoing Demonstrations including...

Bowmaking in the Christmas Store:

Learn how to make beautiful bows for gifts and decorating.

Holiday Baskets in the Greenhouse:

Baskets filled with flowering and foliage plants with added bows and holiday greens make festive gifts and table pieces.

Outdoor Holiday Decorating in the Greenhouse:

Enjoy watching creative ideas unfold for the exterior of your home. These ideas include hanging baskets, containers, wreaths and more!

Holiday Silk Arranging in the Christmas Store:

Watch our designers create beautiful wreaths and arrangements from our fine selection of silk stems.

4 1/2" Poinsettia
\$5.98 each or
2 for \$9.99

8" Poinsettia
Reg. \$34.98
NOW \$29.99

6 1/2" Poinsettia
Reg. \$17.98
NOW \$14.99

4 1/2" Christmas Cactus
Reg. \$4.98
NOW \$3.99

Bordine Nursery Inc.
The Plant Place

ROCHESTER HILLS

CLARKSTON

Our Christmas Stores are OPEN Monday thru Saturday 9 to 6 and Sunday 9 to 5

Magic and merriment,
and festive fashions,

kids' crafts and photos with

Santa, sweet holiday treats

and the Ging Family Players.

All of this, plus gift ideas galore

await you at our Nordstrom

Holiday Family Night

Saturday, December 7 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Join us!

For more information or special accommodations,
call our Concierge at (810) 816-5100, ext. 1690.

NORDSTROM

Somerset Collection, (810) 816-5100, Open Thursday and Friday 10:00-9:00, Saturday 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00-7:00 p.m.