

# Transitions from page A1

were not ready," he says. "I remind people that you marry potential. At first, love sustains the marriage. Later marriage sustains love."

## Independence day: smiles, tears

Young children feel the anticipation their parents have as they get ready for their first day of school or day care, and they know well if a parent is having trouble letting go.

"For the majority of children, going to day care has been much exciting and they've gotten encouragement," said Kathy Benton, co-owner of the Art Start Preschool and Kindergarten on 13 Mile. "The parent's attitude has a lot to do with how that transition will go."

Benton said the initial separation can be anxiety-filled, sometimes prompted by the parent.

"But by the time the parent has pulled out of the parking lot, the child has usually settled in," she said.

Benton said her staff tells parents to expect some adjustment time.

"For the first two weeks, it will be OK," she said. "Then in the third week the child realizes that mom doesn't stay."

In Art Start, and most day cares or preschool programs, diversions keep youngsters occupied and involved with staff and

each other.

"The child begins to look forward to a familiar face," Benton said. "And we know what special activity that child likes."

"There are a lot more fathers who are involved with their young children than in 1979, when Art Start opened. And corporations are beginning to provide day care or allow flexible scheduling for parents of young children."

"I think people just find that this works out for their family," she said.

## First bell, hormones, home room

In the 1996 movie "Welcome to the Doll House," the young middle school student asks her high-school age brother if school will get easier any time soon. "It gets better in high school," he says as she looks down, realizing that will be in three more years.

"A lot of students aren't ready for a different, structured environment," says Sharon McConaghie, East Middle School counselor.

"They are used to that nurturing mama or sometimes daddy and the family feeling of a self-contained elementary room."

"All of a sudden they're out there, fumbling at their locker," she said. "Sometimes during the first week of school their hands are just soaking wet."

Then there is the wide development gap between some sixth graders who still resemble children and some eighth graders who may already shave.

Girls become more verbal and peer pressure becomes a big factor in the student's lives, with pressures to smoke or drink.

"They see more violence, which is a big concern of mine," McConaghie said.

Most middle school teachers are at that level because that is the age they want to teach, she said, but whatever nurturing affect a good teacher can have is limited.

"There are just so many hours in the day," she said. "As much as they want to, teachers have only so much influence."

"There are plenty of students who adjust well in sixth grade, making the honor roll, participating in sports and finding outside interests," she said.

"They've got the system down," she said. "But some kids just don't know what day it is."

It can be easier if they have older siblings who've gone through middle school or find something in middle school to motivate them.

"Middle school is such a transition stage," she said. "It's where kids can begin to find themselves."

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## OBITUARIES

### BERYL MAIFERT

Beryl Maifert, 93, died Jan. 29 at Hartland Health Care Center in Livonia.

Formerly of Detroit, Ms. Maifert was a homemaker and the mother of three.

Survivors include her son, Ross Maifert of Farmington Hills; sister, Dora Roschowski of Calif. and many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 1 at Nardin Park United Methodist in Farmington.

Donations can be made to a charity of choice.

### VIRGINIA F. HUTCHINGS

Virginia Hutchings, 80, died Jan. 30 at Huron Valley Hospital in Commerce Township.

A resident of Farmington for 29 years, Mrs. Hutchings was known as the historian of her family. She loved cooking, shopping and traveling.

She is survived by son, Richard of Lapeer, and three grandchildren, Airen, Matthew, and Bret.

Funeral services were Feb. 3 at First Baptist Church of Lapeer. Donations can be sent to the Michigan Cancer Society or the Michigan Heart Association.

### THOMAS R. SULLIVAN SR.

Thomas Sullivan Sr., 75, died Jan. 30 at his home in Farmington Hills.

A resident of Farmington Hills, Mr. Sullivan was born in Gault, Ontario. He earned a doctorate from U of D Law School, was self employed as a lawyer and also served in the military as a member of the 10th Airborne division in WWII. He was also a member of the Farmington Elks, the Monaghan K of C and Special Assistant Attorney General.

Survivors include two sons; two brothers; one sister, and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Feb. 5 at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington. Contributions can be made to the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

### VICTOR B. SMALIS

Victor Smalis, 84, died Feb. 1 at his Farmington Hills home.

### YOUR ATTIC OF FARMINGTON HILLS SALE

Your Attic of Farmington Hills, located at 38876 Grand River, Farmington Hills, MI 48331, will hold a public sale on March 5, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. to satisfy the lien against the following tenants unless the liens are satisfied before the sale date:

The Bumsteer, Unit B-41, Restaurant/Disco, \$298.54  
Georgia Mantle, Unit # C-48/49, A-38H, Household, \$1,451.94  
Clifford Holdampf, C-230, Household, \$330.94

The contents of these units will be available for inspection the day prior to the sale and will be sold to the highest bidder. Sale will be held at Your Attic of Farmington Hills, telephone 478-0111.

BILL & BETTY FISCHER  
Manager

Publish: February 6, 1997

### A resident of Farmington Hills

for 60 years, Mr. Smalis was an electrician for Ford Motor Co. and a decorated war veteran.

He was a 2nd Lt. Flight Instructor in WWII and was presented the China War Memorial Medal by Chinese President Chou Kai Shek. The medal salutes the valor of Americans who flew over the peaks of the Himalayas while fighting in the China-Burma-India Theater.

Mr. Smalis' other decorations include The American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal and American Theater Ribbon.

He was also an amateur radio operator and an avid roller-skater.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia, and daughter, Laurie.

A memorial Mass was held on Feb. 4 at St. Priscilla Catholic Church in Livonia. Contributions to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

### MARY F. HOSTETTER

Mary Hostetter, 92, died Feb. 1 at Botsford Continuing Care in Farmington Hills.

Born in Blantyre, Scotland, Mrs. Hostetter retired from Wayne County Department of Social Welfare-Aid to Dependent Parents Division in 1966 to pursue a career in Nursing Home Administration. She also volunteered as a senior helping seniors for Harper Hospital.

Survivors include daughter, Elizabeth Wilde of Birmingham; 10 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; and three great great grandchildren.

Funeral services were Feb. 4 at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home.

### GEORGE H. RUSSELL

George Russell died on Jan. 29, in Salem S.C.

Formerly of Farmington, Mr. Russell graduated from Wayne State University and worked for the Detroit Board of Education. He served as Lt. for the U.S. Navy during WWII, and was a lifetime member of Masonic Lodge 468.

Survivors include wife, Virginia; daughters, Leslie Westbury of Ann Arbor, Susan Russell of Detroit; son, Scott Russell of Greensboro, N.C. and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Feb. 1. Contributions can be made to a charity of choice.

### BONNIE J. STEFFEN

Bonnie Steffen, 44, died Feb. 2 in Farmington Hills.

A resident of Farmington Hills for 25 years, Ms. Steffen attended the Detroit School for the Deaf and worked for Henry Ford Hospital.

Survivors include father, Harold; brothers, Harold H. of Wash. and Brian of S.C., and two nieces Heather and Dawn.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m., today, Feb. 6, at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington Hills. Memorials can be sent to Leader Dogs for the Blind.



Mr. Smalis

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Join Us For Our Other February Events:

**FEB. 19, 9 A.M.**

**"WALKER'S CLUB"**

Sandy Baumann with Botsford Hospital will speak on "Putting More Pleasure in Your Life". Free refreshments & blood pressure screenings.

**"THE VOGUES"**

**Saturday, February 15th**

**4 & 7:30 P.M.**

Stage near Crowley's

A top name act from the 1960's with many top 40 hits including:

- My Special Angel
- Turn Around, Look At Me
- 5 O'Clock World

**FEB. 22, 11 A.M.**

**SPELLING CONTEST**

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