

His doctor can still see him in hospice

ON AGING



RENEE MAHLER

to a hospice, do we have to give up our doctor for one of theirs?

A. If your personal physician will continue to take care of your husband, it should be perfectly fine with your hospice program. The doctor who services the hospice program would serve as an advisor to your own doctor. If your husband is staying at home and your personal physician does not make house calls, the hospice physician will. All patients have rights. That includes those in a hospice program, whether it is in a facility or at home. Patients also have the right to stop the hospice program or to change to a different one if they are not pleased with the program they have selected.

Q. My neighbor gets some kind of tax credit for her heating bills. How do I find out if I can get some help too?

A. I think you are talking about the Home Heating Credit program that is run by the Michigan Department of Treasury. You can apply for this tax credit if you are low income, receiving public assistance, or are unemployed and receiving unemployment benefits. Eligible persons must meet the standard credit income guidelines that are based on household income, exemptions and heating costs.

If you wish to make a Home Heating Credit claim, for the 1997 tax year, you must file your

claim, with the Michigan Department of Treasury, before Sept. 30, 1998. To receive the forms and for additional information, call the Michigan Department of Treasury, toll free, at 1-800-487-7000.

Q. My mother has arthritis in her feet. She says that she is always in pain. Is there any type of treatment that might help her?

A. Hopefully, your mother has been to her doctor or podiatrist and discussed treatment with them. If not, that would be the first thing to do. According to a physician I talked with, treatment may include medication, exercise or physical therapy, and wearing special shoes or shoe inserts. Even surgery may be considered. I do, however, strongly

Q. My husband is hard of hearing. He has always loved movies but with his hearing problem he no longer enjoys going to a movie theater. I know there are some television programs that are captioned for the deaf but are there movies as well?

A. The Office of Special Education, a part of the U.S. Department of Education, captions commercial feature films and documentaries. Hearing-impaired viewers can read the dialogue that is spoken by the actors and actresses. The films are loaned to groups of hearing-impaired people at no charge. You can get information on these films by writing to: Captioned Films for the Deaf, Distribution Center, 5034 Wisconsin Ave., NW1, Washington, D.C. 20016. In addition, you may want to check for captioned films at your local library.

To leave a message for Mahler, from a touch-tone phone, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1869. Send your questions to her at The Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Benefit raising money for Oakland family programs

Catholic Social Services of Oakland County will hold its annual fund-raiser, Monte Carlo Night, at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Birmingham Athletic Club in Bloomfield Hills.

Attendees will dance to the

Chateau Band, play Las Vegas Party games, bid on items in live and silent auctions and purchase raffle tickets to possibly win \$4,000.

Event tickets are \$100 per person and include dinner and an

open bar. Proceeds go toward programs that strengthen families and children. For ticket information, call Kent Van Zant at (248) 659-2362.

CSSOC offers foster care, adoption, older adult day care, a

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Weight loss program to begin

Orientation sessions for the Beaumont Hospital Weight Loss Program will be held in May at Beaumont's Division of Preventive and Nutritional Medicine,

390 Park, Birmingham. The division treats patients who are obese and have accompanying risk factors. For more information, call (248) 646-6500.



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