Kemp from page B1

tions. The combined rate for Medicare and Social Security taxes is 7.65 percent for an employee, which the employer matches, and 15.3 percent for references, and 15.3 percent for social Security and 1.4 for Medicare.

Depending on how much an individual has paid into the system over the years, the maximum benefit in 1995 is \$1,342 a month. Benefits rise annually with the cost of living index. The average Social Security benefit estimated for all retired workers in 1998 is \$765.

When one attains age 65, that person becomes eligible for Medicare benefits. This federal ficialth insurance program is broken down into parts A and B. Part A is free and pays towards hospital bills. Part B, which costs \$43.80 per month this year, pays toward doctor bills.

Medicare does not pay for prescription medications for outpatients, which happens to be a major cost for retirees. However, relief is on the way.

At least in the Detroit metro area, some HMOs are contracted with Medicare to avail themselves to senior retirees of their more comprehensive medical sevices, some with prescription benefits better than others.

more comprenensive inental services, some with prescription benefits better than others.

I've examined the senior plans of three major HMOs in the metro area, Health Alliance Plan, Blue Care Network and McCare.

Plan, Blue Care Network and M-Care.

"Since I'm a former HMO account executive – not with any of the above-mentioned HMOs – I have a degree of inside knowledge on the matter.

These HMOs provide more benefits with far less costs to the patient than does Medicare and in my opinion are well-worth looking into as a viable option for seniors on Medicare or about to go on Medicare.

They accept virtually all patients regardless of current health except for end-stage renal disease as the major exception. Usually, they require small copayments for doctor visits and varying co-payments for pre-Usually, they required payments for doctor visits and varying co-payments for preception medications. The co-payments for generic medicines are usually about half that for medicines or name patent medicines or name brands. Patents are good on medicines for 17 years. After that, any drug manufacturer can

OB The big hangup patients have with HMOs is the ability to get their primary care physician to allow them to see a specialist for their ailment.

make and sell them at less cost and they become categorized as

generic.
With an HMO, you have a

with an Imo, you nave a variety of primary care physi-cians from which to choose. They're listed in booklets provid-ed by the HMOs according to their locations and hospitals at which they have privileges to

which they have privileges to practice.
The charge to pay for using an HMO is \$43.80 a month, the same cost as Medicare part B. When you enroll with an HMO in their senior plan you assign your part B payment and Medicare pays th HMO. Medicare pays th HMO a substantial sum in addition to the \$3.80 per month you pay. That is what makes it so attractive to HMOs. The big hangup patients have with HMOs is the ability to get their primary care physician to allow them to see a specialist for their allment.

their ailment.
Most HMOs are paid a capita-

their ailment.

Most HMOs are paid a capitation fee -so much per month per patient assigned to them, and they have to pay the specialist to see their patient out of the capitation fees.

You can alleviate this problem by choosing an HMO which pays their doctors "fees for service" which makes them less reluctant to refer patients to a specialist because they don't have to pay for it out of their own pockets.

If the HMO you choose is not fee for service, you may want to consider choosing a specialty primary care physician or an internal medicine physician over a family practitioner.

Family practitioner.

Family practitioners tend to try to treat virtually everything themselves rather than refor, where internal medicine physicians are often quicker to refer a patient to a specialist.

Kenneth Kemp is a resident of

Kenneth Kemp is a resident of Farmington Hills.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

CHEAJUNGA
Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Chea
announce the engagement of
their daughter, Alicia, of Farmington Hills, to Bryan Junga, son
of Mr. and Mrs. John Junga Jr.
of Rochester Hills.
The bride-to-be is a graduate
of the University of Central
Florida and groom is a graduate
of Michigan State University.
An October wedding is
planned at St. James Cathedral
with a reception at the Walt Disney World Dolphin in Orlando,
Fla. A honeymoon 'a the
Caribbean will follow.

Kevin McFarland of Berkley and Valarie Welling of Farming-ton Hills were married May 9 at Our Lady of Lasalette in

Our Lady of Dasalette in Berkley.

The bride is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dale Welling and a graduate of Bentley High School. She is the owner of Planer Golf, Inc.

id Mrs. Harry McFarland of Plymouth and a graduate of Central Michigan University. He received an MBA from Wayne State University and is a commercial loan officer for Flagstar Bank in Bloomfield Hills.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Naples, Fla. and make their home in Berkley.

CAMPBELL-ORSUCCI

CAMPELLORSUCCI
Patricia and Donald Campbell
of Orchard Lake announce the
engogement of their daughter,
Sandra Lynn Compbell, to
Robert Konnedy Orsucci of
Farmington Hills, the son of
Dale and Sandra Orsucci of Livonia.

nia.

The bride-to-be attended the University of Michigan and is employed by OpenText in Livo-

nia.

Her fiance is a graduate of Kalamazoo College. He is employed by Captee in Ann Arbor. An August wedding is planned at St. Edith Church.



NEW VOICES

HELWIG BABY

HELWIG BABY
Stephen and Nora Helwig of
Farmington Hills announce the
birth of their daughter, Sydney
Yvonne on May 26.
Sydney Joins big sister Kelsey.
Grandparents are George and
Mary Helwig of St. Clair Shores
and Jerry and Kathy Remenapp
of Bradenton, Fla.



Botsford offers slate of free health $\overline{programs}$

Jewish identities talk planned at Hills home

"My Jewish Journey," a discussion by those in attendance of how they formed their individual Jewish identities and ways of life, will be this month's feature at "A Kumzitz - The Schmoeze Cafe, 9.45 a.m. to noon Sunday, July 19, at the Farmington Hills home of Jack and Gloria Hurwitz.

nome of Jack and Gloria Hurwitz.

Sponsored by Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring of Onk Park, the Kumzitz is an ongoing monthly discussion group featuring a different assigned topic, often with related reading material available before enhemeding. Upcoming topics will cover The Gift of the Jews' and "The Political Splintering of the Jews'sh Community." For Information, reservations or directions, call the WC/AR office, (248) 545-0985.

Some of the free programs being offered in July or August by Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills include:
Breather's Club:
A registered nurse will discuss indoor air pollution and what to do about it at the Thursdhy, July 16 meeting, 1 to 2:30 p.m., in the 2-East Classroom B at the hospital. The

club, which meets the third Thursday of each month, is a free support group for those with emphysema, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or other lung diseases. However, and the control of the Call (248) 477-6100.

HiM Support Group:
Viagra, the nation's No. 1 prescription treatment for sexual impotency, will be dis-



DESTINATION

Summer Fun at Cranbrook Institute of Science

The Robot Zoo

June 13 through September 7, 1998 Most zons only allow you to look at the animals. This exhibit allows you to interact with eight larger-than-life robotic beasts through computer interactive and hands-on displays. In addition to learning how real animals function, you can even see live animals at Cranbrook's Natura Place. This exhibit is sponsored by TIME, Silicon & Graphics and FANUC Robotics.

WOW! NEW FAMILY EVENING SHOWS

Looking for something different to do on Friday or Saturday night? Pack a picnic or purchase tasty dinners at Cronbrook Institute of Science. Sit back and relax in one of our new family shows. They are sure to excite and delight kids and grown-ups alike!

Laser Beatles

Friday & Saturday, 7pm (All ages) Enjoy the music of one of the greatest and most loved bands of all time, the Beatles, set to brilliant laser images! Fun for the entire family!

Secrets of the Summer Sky

Friday & Saturday, 8pm (Ages 5 and up)
Travel 9,000 miles in this indoor celestial voyage. From the North Pole
we travel south to Michigan to explore the stars and planets visible in our current night sky. The journey continues to the equ view night-time wonders not visible from Michigan. We return just in time to watch a beautiful sunrise.



There's more to explore at Cranbrookt Gardens, nature trails, Art Museum, historic homes and picnic sites.

1221 N Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills just north of downtown Birmingham 1-877-GO-CRANBrook

