



A Cub Scout den from Detroit is invited to follow Evan Schumacher (lower right) of Southfield as he goes through his orientation before becoming a patient in Children's Hospital. Nurse Kathy Surowiec,

a Farmington resident who initiated the hospital's orientation program for children, explains how Evan's blood test will be given to him when he is admitted.

Children's Hospital Kids' orientation takes mystery out of hospital

When Jimmy had his tonsils out at Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM) a few years ago, he knew what to expect because his mother, nurse Kathy Surowiec, gave him a personal pre-operation hospital tour.

Now, all children who have elective, or non-emergency, surgery at Children's, located in the Detroit Medical Center, have the same preparation to help them cope with their hospital stay.

Mrs. Surowiec, a Farmington Hills resident who has been a nursing supervisor at CHM for 14 years, said, "When you begin a new job or enter a new school, you learn what to expect in an orientation session. But children usually go to the hospital with no preparation."

"Jimmy felt more comfortable about the whole experience because he knew what the hospital looked like and had met some of the people who would take care of him."

THE UNIQUE pre-admission program which Mrs. Surowiec initiated at CHM reduces the psychological trauma that may develop from inadequate preparation.

"The program takes away the mystery of the hospital and makes coping easier," said Dr. David Faigenbaum, a Southfield resident and director of psychological services at CHM.

"It minimizes the psychological side effects so recovery is hastened."

Dr. Faigenbaum, a consultant to the children's orientation program, said children often react to fear of the unknown by elaboration and fantasy, to the point of distorting reality. Sometimes their anxiety even produces new physical or psychological symptoms which reduce their ability to deal with the major problem.

The child is invited to come to a session at the hospital, with his or her family, on a Saturday prior to surgery.

The patient is encouraged to bring brothers and sisters who will also learn more about the hospital and be better prepared to handle any temporary disruption of family life which may result.

A nurse meets the child in the admitting playroom, a room separate from the adult visitors' lobby, where the toys and brightly painted murals immediately put him or her at ease. THE TOUR includes a visit to the admitting laboratory where blood tests are given.

"We're only talking about it today," Mrs. Surowiec usually has to remind some worried youngsters.

Other familiar sounds and sights of the hospital are shown to the child in a slide show that tells about a five-year-old's tonsillectomy. The presentation points out, "Your throat may be sore after surgery, or it may hurt where the bandages are."

Dr. Faigenbaum says, "Seeing these things gives the child an opportunity to work out his or her fears and achieve a sense of mastery over the situation." While the children visit the master playroom with milk and cookies and see a typical patient room, the parents have their own orientation session.

"Parents also have fears and concerns to be allayed," said Mrs. Surowiec. "Preparing parents properly helps them to prepare the child."

PARENTS learn about hospital procedures so they can anticipate problems and also get a chance to ask questions about their child's reactions to surgery.

To quote one relieved parent, "It's comforting to know his reactions are common."

Children's Hospital encourages parents to become involved in caring for their child in the hospital.

"Separation from the parent is the most stressful time for pre-school children," said Dr. Faigenbaum. Parents may stay overnight if they choose to do so.

"It is important to be concerned with what the child thinks is happening as much as with what is actually happening," Dr. Faigenbaum added.

The program is held each Saturday morning in the Admitting Department at 11 a.m. for patients scheduled for surgery.

Groups of nursery school or elementary school students, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, or the like are invited to do an orientation tour by calling the hospital at 494-5383.

Club Circuit

DIVORCED OR SEPERATEDCatholics may attend a mass and a Sunday afternoon of recollection, Dec. 11 from 1-6 p.m. at Mercy Center. Eleven Mile between Middle Belt and Inkster Road, Farmington Hills. Coffee and rolls will be served. Registration is \$3 and the deadline is Dec. 9. Reservations can be made by contacting Jean Feteri, 2860 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills, 48018. For further information, call her at 476-8018. The mass will be celebrated by Rev. Cornelius van der Poel of the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Detroit and Sr. Donna Hart, IHM, chaplain of Bethany Northwest, 28600 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills.

SENIOR CITIZEN DROP IN CENTER Club will meet each Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to play pinchle and bridge at the Masonic Temple, Grand River and Farmington Road. Bring a sack lunch. Coffee and tea are available.

SISTERHOOD OF THE LIVONIA Jewish Congregation will have its next meeting on Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. in the synagogue. A child abuse prevention program will follow. Featured will be the film "War of the Eggs." For further information call Jean Alspector, 475-6099.

WELCOME WAGON CLUB OF FARMINGTON will host its annual Christmas party at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 13 in the Farmington Library, 23550 Liberty.

The meeting will feature exercises for a slim holiday. A silent auction will follow and all are asked to bring small items as homemade bread, jam, tree ornaments. A Christmas cookie and recipe exchange is scheduled. The meeting is open to residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills who have lived in the area for less than one year. For further information, call Jean Chapin, 477-5288.

TWELVE OAKS CHAPTER of the American Business Women's Association will have its Christmas dinner meeting at Ted's Restaurant, Bloomfield Hills, Dec. 13. Members and guests will exchange gifts. For reservations, call Kay Latta, 547-6294.

NORTH FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB will meet at noon, Dec. 13 in the Farmington Hills Community Library, Twelve Mile, Dottie Vickland of Hill and Dale Garden Club will give a demonstration of luminary making. Bring a one-half inch paint brush, three screw can lids and pressed flowers.

new voices

MR. and MRS. THOMAS STONER JR., of Battle Creek, announce the birth of their first child, a son, Jeremy Howard, born Nov. 12 weighing 6 pounds.

Mrs. Stoner is the former Gale Aldrich of Farmington.

The infant's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Aldrich of Farmington and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stoner Sr., of Battle Creek.

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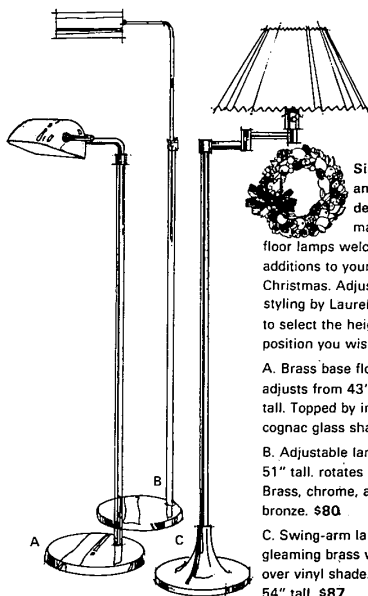
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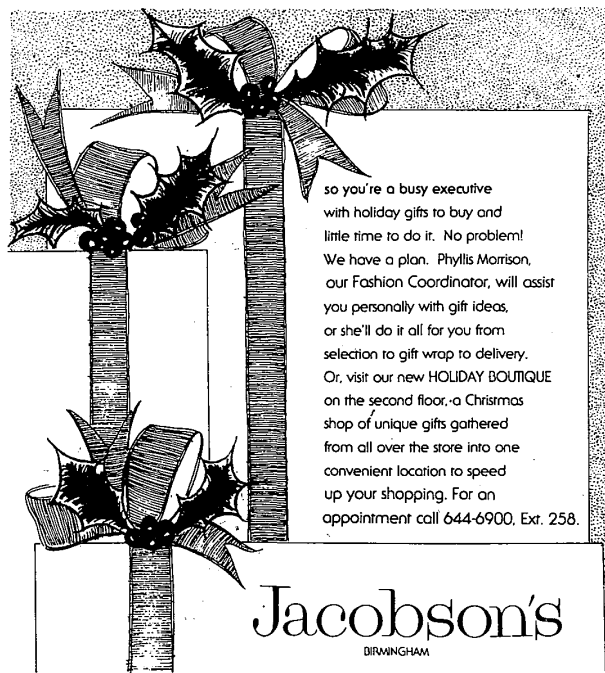
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