



Young-Foxen

Mr. and Mrs. William Young of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Diane Ellen, to Gene L. Foxen of Chicago, Ill.

A May wedding is planned in Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

A training program for adult sitters will run from 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, May 12-16, in Detroit Baptist Manor, 20201 13 Mile.

An adult sitter is a companion or caretaker who provides, on a short-term basis, care for a person who is unable to function independently. "Adult sitters who have been properly trained can assist families in caring for their dependent members, particularly the elderly, and may even make it possible for some elderly persons to remain living in their own homes," said Bobbie McQuaid, resident services director of Baptist Manor.

The adult sitter is a paid non-professional who offers respite or supportive care to those dependent on others, and many are themselves older people living on fixed incomes. The training they are offered in-

cludes human relationship skills, physical care of the client, home management skills and the responsibility of being a sitter.

The symposium is sponsored by Baptist Manor in cooperation with Providence Hospital, Tri-County Home Health Care Inc., Oakland County Public Health Division, Hospital of Southeastern Michigan and Continuum Center of Oakland University.

Fee for the five-day training is \$50, which includes all materials necessary and lunches. Registration deadline is Thursday, May 8. Registrations are taken by calling McQuaid at 626-6100.

"ELDERLY PERSONS constitute one of the largest growing segments of our population," McQuaid said. "Last year, for the first time, the number of Americans over age 65

exceeded that of teenagers. Currently 11 percent of the population, which is about 28 million people, are now 65 or older.

"There is soon going to be a significant change in the age distribution of older Americans. Those who are 75 or older will increase 71 percent by the year 2000."

The combined factors of declining health and decreased economic resources make it necessary for many of those 28 million to receive support and care from others.

In recent years much of this support and care has been provided through government services, but current economic conditions, plus the growing numbers of the frail and elderly has limited the discretionary funds available for those services.

"Increased mobility, the number of women in the labor force, a decrease in government funds, a de-

cline in the birth rate caused many families to transfer care and support of their elderly outside the home.

"But now it is imperative that the family reassume primary care and support of its elderly as policymakers are now examining alternatives to government-funded services," she said.

McQUAID BELIEVES one of the most viable alternatives to government support and care is a support system where primary care of the elderly is assumed by the family but supplemental services, such as housework, shopping, transportation, counseling and home health care are provided by the community.

"We," she says, speaking of the combined sponsors of the symposium, "are promoting the type of home care that utilizes the adult sitter."

Piche-Cunningham

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shondor of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Catherine Piche, to Richard Cunningham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cunningham of Bloomfield Hills. A July wedding is planned.



Summertime poses threats to pets

The warm summer climate brings with it many health hazards for pets. During National Pet Week, May 4-10, the Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association urges pet owners to protect their pet from these risks by taking a few simple precautions.

Canine heartworm disease, rabies, canine distemper, canine parvovirus, feline panleukopenia, and feline leukemia can be prevented through vaccination or medication. "Pets are outdoors more during the warm weather. This exposes

them to other animals and possible carriers of contagious diseases," said Dr. David Carron, president of the association.

"These diseases are preventable but if untreated they may be fatal," he said.

An examination by a veterinarian may detect heartworm disease, which is transmitted from dog to dog by mosquitoes. A dog must be tested for the disease before preventive medication can be started. "A blood test will determine if the

dog has already contracted heartworm disease. If the test is positive, it may be possible to treat the dog providing the disease has not already caused serious damage to the dog's heart, liver, lungs or kidney's," Carron said. "It isn't necessary to ever let it get to that stage with the preventative medication available."

Summer is also a time when pets are kept waiting in closed, parked cars. Carron cautioned against this practice for even a few minutes. Pets overheat quickly and may suf-

fer a heatstroke. This can result in brain damage or death. He advised to leave your pets at home with plenty of water and shade.

new voices

MR. AND MRS. KEVIN EDWARDS, formerly of Farmington Hills and now residents of Sterling Heights, announce the birth of their daughter, Riley Michele, born Jan. 28 in William Beaumont Hospital.

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