

# Single parents face dilemmas



child care  
**Marcie Walker**

It is challenging enough for two working parents to make child-care arrangements for their preschool children. For a single parent, it is much more difficult. If a day-care provider or sitter, or even the child, is ill, the parent may have no choice but to use a sick day or personal day to stay home. Thus, in the mind of the employer, this employee may be viewed as "a problem."

Then, imagine life for the single parent of a school-age child. Since the school day is shorter than typical day-care hours, parents now must rely on "latch key" or school-age child-care programs.

A single father moving to the metro Detroit area in the near future asked me what the "latch key" programs were like here. I have previously researched before- and after-school child-care programs, and told him that I thought most districts in the area had very advanced programs.

"But do their programs cover snow days, conference days, winter break and spring break?" he asked. "And what about the two weeks between the end of school and the start of camp and the end of camp and the start of school?" Well, I hadn't thought about that, because I hadn't thought like a single parent. Even for two working parents this can present a serious dilemma. His situation is further aggravated because he will have no family in the area.

TO FIND some answers I called several Oakland County school districts. Each one surveyed provided school-age child care during school days, and each had a summer program with extended hours for the children of working parents; yet elaborate arrangements must still be made to cover all of the cases mentioned above.

In Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, each elementary school has a school-age child care program; during winter and spring breaks and conference days, programs are offered at a few of the schools, but all of the children in the districts are el-

igible for them. But, in some cases, parents would have to drive a considerable distance to take their children to a new location. While snow days are infrequent, no care is available. In the Birmingham district, there is a 10-day gap between the end of school and the start of camp, and camp ends in mid-August.

However, My Place, a drop-in child-care center in Birmingham, is geared toward handling these situations, and will take children for full days during these times. They also have a program called "My Club" which offers lower hourly rates.

West Bloomfield offers school-age child care, but none during winter and spring breaks. Similar problems with the start and end of camp exist there. And the extended day for the camp is 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., which could be cutting it close for working parents.

WHILE SCHOOL districts are continually improving programs to help care for the children of working parents, single parents won't find it easy.

Possible solutions include making arrangements in advance for these days with a licensed family day-care provider or with a high-school student within the same district. Another option is to locate a neighborhood child-care center with a "drop-in" program or a center specializing in such care.

Marcie Walker is a free-lance writer who has researched the subject of child care in the metro Detroit area. Write her at Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

## club circuit

### club circuit

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet at 8 p.m. Friday in Livonia Elks Club, Plymouth Road east of Merriman Road. The singles' hot line number is 562-3170.

FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONALS have scheduled a night of bowling, a morning of horseback riding, a hike in the deep woods, a night of dining and dancing in Mexican Village and a trip to Eastern Market's flower show in the next two weeks. Newcomers are invited to call the information line, 478-9181.

FRIDAY SUBURBAN SINGLES meet at 8 p.m. Friday in Bonnie Brook Country Club on Telegraph Road south of Eight Mile. Admission is \$3 at the door. The singles' hot line number is 842-0443.

FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB meets at 11 a.m. Monday, June 4 in The Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile for the annual Presidents Tea, which honors all past presidents of the club, and is the date for the installation of the new officers.

The program will be presented by Norma Peters. It is called "Gardens extraordinaire."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, Business and Professional Branch, meet for dinner and the installation of officers for the coming year Tuesday, June 5 in Glinopolis Restaurant, Farmington Hills. Rena Shanaman and Barbara Vorenberg will continue as co-presidents for the coming year. Reservations, at \$120, must be made by calling the council office, 258-6000.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN LUPUS CHAPTER meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 5 in Farmington Branch Library, State and Liberty streets. Speaker for the evening is Dr. Edward Haenke, an oral maxillofacial surgeon. His topic is "Lupus: How it Affects the Mouth." Questions are taken by Alele Wick, 626-5972.

FARMINGTON EXCHANGE CLUB meets for its "Old Timers Day" meeting at noon Wednesday, June 6 in Sveden House, in Uptown Center, Grand River west of Orchard Lake Road. Membership information is given by Jody Soronen, in Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 474-3440.

EMBROIDERS' GUILD OF AMERICA, Farmington Hills Chapter, meets at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 6 in Faith Covenant Church 14 Mile and Drake Road. Club members will be working on Victorian ornaments for the Farmington Historical Museum. Guests are welcome. Inquiries are taken by Linda Vedder, 553-3465.

THE COMMUNITY CENTER WOMEN'S CLUB meets for lunch

and a program at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, June 7.

Speaker for the day is Liz Mills, president of the American Association of Hand Writing Analysts. Guests are welcome. Reservations are necessary, made by calling the center, 477-8404.

AMERICAN LEGION, Groves Walker Unit and its auxiliary, meet at 7:30 p.m. in the post home, 31775 Grand River.

PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT TEENS AND ALCOHOL AND

OTHER DRUGS meet in a support group sponsored by Farmington Area Advisory Council, at 6:30 p.m. Fridays in the council offices, 2340 Middlebelt. Open to all interested parents.

Inquiries are taken by Laurie Finn, 477-6767.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

## Community women offer scholarship

The Farmington Area Community Women are offering a \$400 Returning Women's Scholarship.

The scholarship is designed to assist the woman who has returned to school after a passage of time, rather than following the traditional pattern of college immediately after high school.

Eligibility: Must be a Farmington or Farmington Hills resident; mini-

mum age 25; must be enrolled in a degree program; minimum lapse of four years between high school completion and enrollment in a degree program.

For an application, write to: Farmington Area Community Women, 3231 Tareyton, Farmington Hills 48018.

Completed applications must be received by July 31, 1990.



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**B R E A S T S U R G E R Y**

## KNOWING YOUR OPTIONS IS THE FIRST STEP

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David B. Hawtof, M.D., will discuss the latest techniques in breast reduction surgery and the remarkable progress made in this area.

Hashim M. Alanti, M.D., will address the area of breast augmentation and discuss the latest medical advancements.

If you are interested in attending our free lecture, please call 424-3068

to register. Seats are limited. After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to ask questions confidentially and privately.

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Free Breast Surgery Lecture  
Wednesday, June 6th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
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