

The Children's Tree

Anthony Corace, 4, and Anthony Read, 3, both residents of Farmington Hills, do their parts in decorating The Children's Tree in Kmart on Grand River and Haledale. The decorations are tags listing a name, clothing sizes and desired toys of the child. Shoppers are asked to take a tag, purchase gifts for the child and return the gifts to Kmart so they can be delivered in time for Christmas.



SHARON LAMIEUX/Kmart photographer

club circuit

FARMINGTON OLD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION meets 7:30 p.m. to night in Farmington City Council Chambers. City officials will give an update on the sewer situation. Other agenda items will be school re-districting, a traffic report and a caroling party. The meeting is open to all interested persons.

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet for a dance party 8 p.m. Friday in Roma's of Livonia. Schoolcraft Service Drive west of Inkster Road. Dressy attire requested. Admission asked at the door. The single hotline is 562-3160.

FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONALS host Single Mingle 8-10:30 p.m. Friday, in The Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. The event is designed for newcomers to learn about the offerings of the club. Semi-dressy attire is requested. Admission for non-members is \$5 at the door.

After 10:30 p.m. the group will be going dancing in Sheraton Oaks, Novi.

The club's information line is 478-9181.

TRI-COUNTY SINGLES meet for a dance party 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec.

1 in Monarchs Knights of Columbus Hall, 18001 Farmington Road, Livonia. The address is between Seven and Eight Mile Road. Admission is \$4 for men; \$2 for women at the door. Open to all singles over 21.

The group's hot line number is 842-7422.

ADAT SHALOM MEN'S CLUB meets for a 9:30 a.m. service Sunday, Dec. 2, followed by brunch and a program in the synagogue, 23901 Middlebelt Road.

Guest speaker is Rich Fisher, anchor for the 6 and 11 p.m. TV 2 Eyewitness News. He has received numerous awards, including a national award from the American Bar Association and a state commendation from Michigan Bar Association for a series on Michigan's jury system.

The members will pay a tribute to its past president, Carl Lichtenstein. In memory of his special contributions to the ideals and activities of the club's programming.

There is a \$10 brunch charge. Reservations are taken by the synagogue office, 851-5100.

MON AND TOTS PLAY ACTIVITY CLUB meets 9:45 a.m. Monday, Dec. 3 in Antioch Lutheran Church

parking lot, corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Road, to carpool for a children's tour of a local library. Advance reservations are requested by calling the church office, 626-7906.

FAMILY MEMBERS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS OF CHEMICAL ABUSERS meet 6:30 p.m. every Monday in the Farmington Area Advisory Council Office for participants to learn about the disease and recovery process.

Inquiries are taken by the council office, 477-6767.

FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB celebrates the holiday season with a luncheon at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 3 in The Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile Road. There will be a silent auction of items made by the members.

RAQUELA NADASSAH will tour the Holocaust Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4. Members will meet in the lobby of the Jewish Community Center.

Inquiries are taken by Ricki Herling, 332-0935, or Sherry Wolf, 683-4099.

ADOLESCENT RECOVERY GROUP meets at p.m. every Tuesday and is sponsored in Farmington Area Advisory Council. The meetings are open to adolescent working toward recovery from chemical dependency.

Inquiries taken by the council office, 477-6767.

FARMINGTON MUSICALS meets at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5 in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road.

Susan Nuckolls will present a mini-cantata called "Glad Tidings: Jesus is Born" accompanied by Marie Walck. Also on the program will be Melba Paul, flutist, soprano May Arne, and the Musicals Chorus. Light refreshments will be served. Baby-

sitting is available by calling 356-4758 and leaving a message on the machine.

The musical, a member of National and Michigan Federation of Music Clubs, has decorated one of the trees for the Heritage Tour in Heritage Park.

EMBROIDERERS' GUILD OF AMERICA, Farmington Hills Chapter, meets at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5 in Faith Covenant Church, corner of 14 Mile and Drake.

Following the general monthly meeting, the group will lunch at Oakland Community College, then tour the Farmington Historical Museum where the members' Victorian Christmas tree is on display.

Visitors are welcome. Inquiries are taken by Linda Vedder, 553-3465.

COMMUNITY CENTER WOMEN'S CLUB meet for a holiday luncheon at noon Thursday, Dec. 6 in the center, 24705 Farmington Road.

Program for the day is a make-over demonstrated by an Estee Lauder representative.

Cost is \$7 for members, or \$8 for non-members. Reservations taken by calling the center, 477-8404.

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP meets 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6 in Livonia Civic Center Library, Five Mile Road, east of Farmington Road.

Guest speaker for the evening is Paul Jacobs who will give an overview of the diagnosis, treatment and management of the problem.

A donation of \$5 is asked from non-members at the door.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

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Child Care Act finally approved



child care
Marcie Walker

For years, advocates have pressed Congress to pass major child care legislation. In November 1987, bills were introduced for the first time, but failed to gain support. In January 1989, they were reintroduced, and child care appeared to be at the top of the agenda. In March 1989, the Senate approved the Act for Better Child Care. But it wasn't until June of that H.R. 3, the Child Development and Education Act, was finally approved by the House.

Child care advocates were hopeful that House and Senate conferees would produce final legislation by mid-spring 1990. However, it wasn't until October of this year that Congress approved many of the measures proposed in the House and Senate bills within the Budget Reconciliation Act.

The child care elements of the new, five-year budget fall into three major categories:

I. Grants to states: States will receive \$300 million per year to provide child care to families who need it in order to work and would otherwise be at risk of becoming dependent on AFDC.

II. Tax Credits to Families: a. The Earned Income Tax Credit for Low-Income Working Families with Children will be substantially increased. The current credit will almost be doubled by 1994 to \$2,013 for families with two or more children. The cost of this program is by far the greatest, at about \$12 billion over a five-year period. b. A supplemental credit for newborns will also take effect. Low-income families who do not take advantage of the Dependent Care Tax Credit may qualify for this credit. c. A new tax credit for health insurance premiums for families with children will take effect.

The total cost for the above programs is \$19 billion over the five-year budget period.

III. Block Grants. Each state will receive a Child Development Block Grant. Michigan's share is \$22 million for fiscal year 1991, \$24.7 million for FY 1992 and \$27.7 million for FY 1993.

Now comes the task of interpreting the intention of the grant. Advocates anxiously wait to see whether the full amount for FY 1991 will be awarded, since it will be made available only in September. In October 1991, FY 1992 will begin.

According to Mark Sullivan, executive director of the Michigan 4C Association, it is the governor's job to select the department administering the grant. Currently, the Department of Social Services administers all child care financial support programs.

The language of the federal budget allows for a lot of flexibility for states to develop their own plans. According to Sullivan, 75 percent is for child care services, intended to primarily support low-income working parents in the form of certificates for parents to present to a provider or a direct contract between the state and a provider. However, it is not specified what percent of this money must be used for that purpose. Each state could determine that other child services were more pressing.

Only 25 percent of the grant has a very specific purpose and breakdown. Of this amount, 75 percent is for early childhood development and before and after school programs; 20 percent is for quality improvements, resource and referral, training and monitoring; and the remainder is at the discretion of the state.

Now we must wait and see. Will states receive the full amount for FY 1991? Which department in Michigan will be selected to administer the block grant? How will those funds be used?

And let's hope that existing funding isn't cut so that the grant will be used to enhance and not just replace programs already in place.

Marcie Walker is a free-lance writer who has researched the subject of a child care in the metro Detroit area.

Classical Bells in concert Dec. 14-15

Classical Bells of Metropolitan Detroit will be the featured performers for an athletic fund-raiser at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14-15. The two handbell concerts will be given in the Kresge Hall Auditorium of Madonna College, 36600 Schoolcraft Road, corner of Levan Road off the Jeffries Expressway in Livonia.

A reception for "Classical Bells' Christmas Concert" ticket holders follows the performance.

Proceeds from these concerts will be donated to the Girls Softball Team of Madonna College.

Ringling 60 English handbells,

chimes and related instruments, the Classical Bells will be presenting a variety of Christmas music from sacred, classical and jazz to marches and showtunes.

Since 1983 Classical Bells has been concerting throughout the Midwest. The ensemble is a nonprofit organization that also provides musical education to acquaint youngsters with handbells.

Tickets for "Classical Bells' Christmas Concert" are \$6 and may be obtained by calling Madonna College, 591-5163, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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HOLIDAY HOURS: Sundays • Noon - 5 p.m.
Weekdays • Dec. 18 - 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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