

## SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1992

## SOCIAL EYES



DENISE LUCAS

## Garden Party honors leader

To enlighten Social Eyes with information on upcoming events involving Greater West Bloomfield/Lakes, Farmington and Southfield area residents, call 442-2339 or mail information to Denise Lucas at The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48069.

**M**ore than 100 Project: HOPE members and their guests paid homage to their "outgoing" president Maggie Allouse. The vivacious leader, still grieving the loss of her mother just three weeks earlier, managed to fulfill her final presidential duties with annual reports and files in hand. Allouse's leadership and enthusiasm for this cause brought in the needed dollars to aid sick, homeless and abused children all over the world.

The Garden Party luncheon June 16 at Pine Lake Country Club was a benefit for the children of West Virginia. All the guests were given a helping hand (or glove, I should say). The fuchsia, purple and teal garden-glove favors is where the Garden Party theme originated," said luncheon chairwoman Rita Margherio of Orchard Lake. The theme continued with baskets of colorful fuchsia geraniums gracing the tables, as HOPE supporters were served Oriental-sauced chicken salad and an unbelievable dessert of

See SOCIAL EYES, 3C

## Teen didn't plan on pregnancy

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

**K**im Garant has all the hopes and aspirations anyone does and is receiving her high school diploma a few weeks ago.

The Farmington teen says she is going to Oakland Technical Center to study to become a dental assistant. Then Garant adds she'll be getting married in a couple years to her boyfriend Pat Gardner. There's even talk of a dream home in some place such as Brighton or Milford.

Once in awhile Garant while giving a step-by-step rundown of her future will let out a laugh to reveal her innocence, perhaps as a defense to the uncertainty of it all. Otherwise, she's quite serious. She has to be.

There is a reason her life is so well-planned — an unplanned pregnancy. "I wouldn't recommend getting pregnant this soon," said Garant, 19, who is five months along. "I would wait until I got married. If it happens to you, what are you going to do?"

In Garant's case, she's accepted impending motherhood and wants to make the best of the situation. By her side is Gardner, whom she has been going out with for 1½ years. Together, they have things figured out.

After Garant finishes at Oakland Technical Center, her boyfriend will then go back to school to get his degree. They want to be financially secure, have a nice house and then get married.

"She wants a big wedding," said Gardner, 20, who works in his father's construction business. "You can't have

a big wedding if you don't have any money."

At this stage, only worrying about money would be luxury. So much has to be worked out in the interim.

They'll both live with Garant's parents in Farmington, who appear to be very supportive of their daughter and her plight.

Cheryl Garant, her mother, has been busy buying things for the baby. She also took her daughter to the doctor for her ultrasound, helped her get on Medicaid and drives her to WIC, Women Infants and Children food supplement program for low-income families.

Her mother said she was shocked at first, but now she's excited. Then again, she understands perhaps better than anyone what her daughter is going through.

Cheryl Garant had her first child — Kim — when she was 16. She was unwed at the time and, as a result, didn't finish high school.

"I didn't want that for her," said Cheryl Garant, who is married and has five children. "I thought she learned from my experience, but accidents do happen."

One of the hardest parts after a teen finds out she is pregnant is telling her parents. For both Garant and Gardner, the reaction was one of disbelief.

"I told my mom when she was up north," Garant said. "I called to tell my cousin and when I heard my mother's voice I started to cry and she said, 'What's wrong?' I said I'll tell you now, but don't tell dad until you get home. She said all right."

See PREGNANCY, 2C



Teen mom: Kim Garant, 19, who is five months pregnant and unmarried, has the support of her mother Cheryl Garant, who went through the same predicament when she was 16.

## High school confidential: help for expectant moms

BY ETHEL SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Programs and policies vary among local school districts on how they help a teenage girl with her schooling and her care during pregnancy, and as a new mother.

Walled Lake Schools has one of the most complete programs, called Teen Mothers. "It's for teen-age girls who are expecting or do have babies," said Vickie Gibbons, adult education supervisor for the school district. "It's an academic program. They can complete their high school diploma requirements. They can complete it with us or mainstream through their traditional high school, although very few do that."

In the off-site program, expectant mothers have the support of other girls, along with counseling, plus support group counseling by outside organizations such as Catholic Social Services and the Department of Social Services. "And we refer them to Oakland Family Services," Gibbons said.

The program, moving to Walled Lake's old middle school, also includes a school nurse from the Oakland County Public Health Department who comes in once a week for two hours. A nursery for the babies is supervised by a social worker, nurse and two child care workers.

Twenty girls from 14-19, representing junior to senior high school, are currently in the program, which offers customized training for their schoolwork.

"I get quite a few West Bloomfield girls and Farmington girls," said Gibbons, who explained girls in the program don't have to reside in Walled Lake to be eligible. "Anyone can come to the program if they have their own transportation. You have to be a Walled Lake resident to have transportation provided."

## Farmington Hills facility

Another local facility is Marillac Hall, a residence for pregnant girls, in Farmington Hills. Don Cowan, director of building and student services for Farmington Schools, said, "It's a state institution in our boundary lines and is available for Oakland or Wayne County residents."

Referring to pregnancy to us, he said, "We have very few cases that I know of. One case did participate in our commencement." Helping an expectant mother is a team effort, with assistance from the counseling department and a nurse who is in the school one-half day a week and on call.

"By law, any student that is pregnant is entitled to education," pointed out Marilyn Aughenbaugh, chairwoman of the Counseling Department at Troy High School. "We facilitate that any way we can. We make them comfortable."

She said expectant moms may be referred to a program in Madison Heights called TIP, where they can take classes along with other pregnant students. Or,

**'It's an academic program. They can complete their high school diploma requirements.'**

Vickie Gibbons  
supervisor, Teen Mothers program

the girls may be directed to Marillac Hall. "It allows them to go to school there, to have an education, or residency if they don't want to be exposed to their friends."

## Alternative school

Attending an alternative school in Oxford and a Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rochester are options for pregnant girls in the Rochester Community Schools district, said Diane Iraz, public relations director. "Or students will consult a counselor at school, who would make referrals," she said.

In the Birmingham Public Schools, pregnant girls may be put in touch with the schools' counseling center, Dennis Rozema, a crisis intervention counselor at the center, said that in two cases the pregnant girls both dropped out of school. One is finishing at night school.

"Very seldom do girls choose to have the baby," he said. "In two cases in the last four or five years, the girls did have the babies. If pregnant teens seek referrals, 'We go through the county health department. It depends on what they are looking for.'"

Debbie Giltner, health teacher at Birmingham's Seaborn High School, who is also student assistance program coordinator, said, "In my six years at Seaborn only two girls have decided to have the baby and keep the baby."

They were referred to a program at Kimball High School in Royal Oak, where unwed mothers can go while pregnant. Because there is also child care, a girl can return to the program to earn high school credits, after having her baby."

## The girl's choice

The decision on whether to stay in school is left up to the girl in the Southfield Public Schools, said Ken Silver, director of information. "We allow pregnant girls to attend school, or they can request a program to go into. Times have changed, and there's no stigma."

Silver said a number of places are available as alternative settings. Lyle Pushman, director of pupil services, listed some of these, including Marillac Hall, Ferndale-Oak Park Adult Education, and the Lancaster and Gordon homes for young mothers.

See SCHOOLS, 2C

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