Single homeowners part of growing trend

n home, not an apart-ment,"

while being single and owning a home may have been considered strange decades ago, it's not uncommon today.

Todd Lipa, Youth and Family Services program director for Farmington Hills, said he has owned a home since he was 18.

"I am not a fan of apartment dwelling," he said. "I'd rather invest in my own property, It's the one smart investment to make."

Lipa is part of a slowly grow-ing national trend of more single men and women living in sub-urbs, which were once almost exclusively populated by two-parent families. He said his neighborhood is mostly families, but there are some single people but there are some single people

Some of his friends who are divorced singles own homes for

the same reason.
"They found it easier to live in



h e said. "They found homeowner-ship easi-er." er."

He agreed subdivision association events cater to families, but John Young, president of the Old Homestead subdivision association in Farmington Hills, said that trend is changing with the

times.
While most of his subdivision is made up of typical two-parent families, there are plenty of single parents scattered about, he

said.
"I would agree that census fig-ures of being single in a subdivi-sion is happening in Farmington

Hills," he said.
Social life
Young said while most social
events involve children's activities during the day, in the
evening adults can have some
time to spend together as a community.

munity,
"During our Octoberfest,
there's a time where a single
parent or a single person would
feel comfortable attending," he

said.
The sub president said events have to be catered to the growing trend of split families as well.
There's a greater period of tolerance on how to do events," he

said.
Cheryl Olivero, Hills city councilwoman is single and owns a home.
She said of her four children only one lives with her now, but she likes owning a home because he has two large dogs.
"I enjoy owning a home," she said.

The councilwoman said most

of her friends are married, but she does get out and socialize on occasion with friends.
Lipa knows a bit about the social scene for singles, because of his job.
"I can go to those with a friend or by myself," he said.
Single and goy.
Jan Stovenson, co-publisher of the goy and lesbian local newspaper Between the Lines, said the paper has a large circulation base in western Oakland County.

She said while most of the She said while most of the staff all have partners, the gay single scene is around, but just in a more subdued fashion. Socializing for gays is not just available in clubs in downtown Detroit and in Ferndale, she said.

said.
The publisher said some local
restaurants have a decent gay
clientele where people feel comfortable to socialize.
"There's a lot of gay couples in
Farmington," she said.

Internet resources

Solo Singles: www.solosingles.com/stml includes a listing of singles meeting places and activities, as well as personal ads and information and advice for single parents.

Metropolitan Single Professionals:

www.mspsc.com Lists a wide variety of activities held throughout the week all around the metropolitan area, including sports, euchre, fine dining, book discussions and trips.

Singles on the Go:

www.singlesonthego.com/detroit Lists singles activities and meeting places in the metropolitan

Sailing Singles of Southeast Michigan: www.graynwhite.com/ss/ Events and crewing opportunities for nautically minded singles

Single Place: www.singleplace.org

First Presbyterian Church of Northville singles group information, activities and volunteer opportunities; divorce recovery workshop

Single and Single Again: www.wardepc.org/singles.htm Ward Presbyterian Church's organization for singles

Table for Eight:

www.tableforeight.com/detroit/index.htm

A Detroit area dinner and social club

Catholic Alumni Club: http://cacd.hypermart.net/ An organization of single men and women who are Catholic and college graduates

Singles organizations/resources Metropolitan Single Professionals:

(248) 851-9160

Jewish Professional Singles: (248) 645-9160 Plymouth 1st Baptist Church: (313) 455-2300 Redford/Livonia Parents Without Partners: (734) 464-1969

Wayne/Westland Parents Without Partners: (734) 398-5135

Ward Evangelical Single Way

(Interdenominational): (248) 374-5920 Table for Eight: (248) 543-1000

West Side Singles: (734) 981-0909

Single Place/1st Presbyterian Church of

Northville: (248) 349-0911

Dancing Singles Square Dance Club: (248) 960-9982

Antioch Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills:

248-526-7906 Bethany Singles Suburban West: (313) 533-3041

Singles from page A1

"boom" in the burbs.
"First of all, looking at age distribution, you have widowers," he said, "I know when suburbanization really hit in the 1950s, there were a let of families. This is about the time where people would start dying off, so you'll have a single (widowed) homeowner."

He doesn't see divorce us a fac-

tor, however.
"The divorce rate has held "The divorce rate has held pretty constant. And they would have children and be considered a family household," Bouza explained.

A larger impact lies in the fact that young people are focusing more attention on education and careers he said.

more attention on education and careers, he said.

"People are going to school more and longer, and postponing having a family," he said. Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' data center man-

Governments' data center manager Jim Rogers agrees. He said SEMCOG has been examining the trend toward smaller households and its potential impacts on communities. He feels income and housing prices also play a role.

professional singles can afford to live by themselves more than in previous times," Rogers said. "Delayed marriage is more widespread. People are healthier and can live on their own for a longer time

Cities with more multi-family housing will likely be more impacted, as will cities built up 30 to 50 years ago, he said.

Impacts on cities, lives

The phenomenon creates a situation that most people don't recognize, one that can have significant impacts on city coming nificant impacts on city services and funding, as well as schools

and funding, as well as schools and businesses.

You have more households each year than you have population growth, he explained. Therefore, the population goes down while the number of housing units stays the same. Things may look very stable, but in fact, population numbers are going down.

down."
That can have a big impact on state revenue sharing funds, or any dollars that are tied to population. Demand for services might shift as well, Rogers said.

■ 'I think another factor is that professional singles can afford to live by themselves more than in previous times.

Jim Rogers SEMCOG

concerned with schools, they might be looking for senior cen-ters or community centers that are focused more on singles."

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An increasing emphasis on the single life has also shown up in the development of business and services that cater to a population of people who are looking for love. Bahama Breeze opened last year on Haggerty in Livonia and Plymouth is now home to a "piano bar" called 336 Main, where years are tagging the whose owners are targeting the single crowd.

single crowd.

In the last two years, more and more radio stations have been offering singles matching services that have been quite popular with their listeners. Generally, the station advertises a phone number that listeners

can call and answer questions about their interest. Matches are made electronically, and in some cases, partial, and in some cases, partial pants can hear a brief message from a potential match before answering their ad. While placing an ad is free of charge, a few and a partial place of their and a partial place of their advantage of their advantage of their advantage of their and has really taken off, according to Suzanne Bolinger, who works in the station's marketing department.

"We have a lot of single listeners, and we know it's tough to find ways to meet," she said. "This is something that gives people an opportunity to meet others with similar interests."

Not only has the program been a hit with listeners, it has also made a profound difference in at least two lives.

"We've had quite a few people enroll and participate," Bolinger said. "We had a couple that actually get married... although we know not everybody's looking for that. Some people just want to get out and date a little."

