

Advice on Saving Money

By Donna Bishop

If you were to ask my advice about something, I would try to be helpful within the range of my knowledge or experience. I would be reluctant to advise you on a specific course of action since I do not want to be held responsible for the consequences.

Having said that I will share a recent discovery that may indeed be helpful to you. I'm saving money with the new washers and dryers recently installed at Windsor Gardens.

These commercial machines are not a good choice for the way I was taught to do laundry by my mother. At that time my mother had a new wringer machine. The wash tub was filled with hot water and clothes were sorted into four or five piles in the order they would be washed. Lighter colors first and dark clothes last. Over the years I pretty much followed that pattern each week washing at least four separate loads of wash and drying each load separately. It cost me about \$4.00 a week to do my laundry here at Windsor Gardens.

The new commercial machines installed this past year use a computer technology that forced the transformation of washday into the twenty-first century. The younger generations love them. Two weeks of laundry in one load and you are done. Along comes the average single occupant of Windsor Gardens with six pieces of underwear, three or four blouses and a couple of pairs of slacks, a few towels and maybe a set of sheets divided into four loads and the fancy computer can't figure out what to do with these small loads. The machine tries to follow the prescribed wash cycle but the computer stops the machine while attempting to make adjustments to fit the computer programming to the load size. This results in the machine wash time being off schedule which causes mayhem with building laundry times. The machines are here to stay and in a few years there will again be advancing technology.

Now to my discovery. With the larger capacity laundry machines I can put all my lighter colored clothes along with my whites in one machine and all my darker colored clothes in a second machine and use one dryer for both loads and my weekly cost is reduced to \$2.00.

You can continue to do your laundry exactly as you have always done it but my advice would be to try to "load up" and see what you think. You might even consider buying some extra underwear and only wash every other week. Imagine the savings!