

Farmington Observer

Volume 89 Number 66 Monday, June 5, 1978 Farmington, Michigan 36 Pages Twenty-Five Cents

1978 Suburban Communities Corporation, All Rights Reserved.

Child abuse

It happens even in best of homes

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Child abuse can happen in the suburbs. And few are willing to help its small victims, according to Farmington Hills police.

"People tell me when I talk to groups that we live in Farmington Hills and things like that don't happen here," said juvenile officer Richard Murphy.

In Oakland County, things like that do happen. During 1976, there were 477 cases of abuse reported. Neglect cases totaled 962.

Within the last year in Farmington Hills, a tiny 2-year-old girl was rescued by police from a mother who tied her hands with a rope so tightly that her hands were severely swollen and purple. She couldn't make a fist.

A helicopter took her to the University of Michigan Hospital because doctors feared her hands would have to be amputated. They were saved.

The middle sister of three daughters in a Farmington Hills family was made to do all of the housework while her mother was at work. If she failed to finish the tasks before her mother returned, she was beaten and left unfed. Her sisters helped to finish the tasks to save her from a beating.

Finally, they turned to police for help after teachers and a minister refused to believe them.

Children and their parents live in homes that are strewn with old, unwashed clothes, garbage, unstored food and dirty blankets. Stopped-up toilets, sinks, human and animal feces and rats can be found in homes of neglected children in some of the more affluent Farmington Hills subdivisions.

CHILD ABUSE is a reality in the affluent northern subdivisions as well as in the less privileged southern district of the city.

It has little respect for social position, education or economic level. And fear of becoming involved in unmaking abuse is equally spread.

Fear of being sued or making a mistake are reasons why neighbors suspecting child abuse fail to notify police, according to officers of the Farmington Hills Juvenile Bureau.

WHETHER it's physical abuse or emotional neglect, neighbors or friends of the family turn a blind eye to the clues of a child's abnormal treatment, according to police spokesmen.

Finally, they turned to police for help after teachers and a minister refused to believe them.

But fathers and neighbors who hesitate to act on the part of the abused child are joined by professionals who hesitate to get involved, according to the officers.

DOCTORS' faced with a battered child will avoid labeling an abuse case because they don't want to get involved. Hospitals tend to follow the pattern, according to Hills Officer Richard Murphy.

"You walk into a hospital with an abused child and watch the doctors run," he said.

While Pontiac General Hospital has a special room for examining abused children, other area hospitals make them wait for treatment, according to Murphy.

"They hope you'll leave," added Harris.

While a doctor at Pontiac General patiently performed yo-yo tricks to reassure a young battered boy, a doctor at another local hospital refused to label an abuse case because he didn't want to get involved.

A Farmington Hills police lieutenant called the doctor and convinced him to change the report from an accident to an abuse case.

Waiting for the doctor is hard on the children, too, according to Murphy.

"They don't know what's going to happen to them," Harris added.

By the time the police have the child in the hospital waiting room, the abuse is part of the home behavior.

"When we come into contact with the child, it's not the first time abuse has happened," Murphy said.

THE BUREAU handles about six child abuse cases a year. Some of them are repeaters.

A Farmington Hills mother will look on while her boyfriend grabs her sleeping child, throws him up in the air and drop kicks the boy in the face as he lands on the floor.

The mother blames the boyfriend. Police take the child to Oakland

(Continued on Page 3A)



Michael and Garth

If you've driven past Cranbrook lately, chances are your attention was snagged by "Garth," a bright orange sculpture resting comfortably in front of the administration building. "Garth" was created by Michael Hall, sculptor in residence at Cranbrook Hall, recently received an award from the Michigan Council for the Arts for his contributions to the art scene. "Garth" is made of aluminum, a metal Hall prefers because it doesn't rust. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

Hills seeks residents for home fix-up program

By STEVE BARNABY

Farmington editor

Don't wait until the winter to fix up your home.

That's the word from officials of the Farmington Hills Neighborhood Improvement Program.

The federally funded program is designed to aid residents in the city's south end who are unable to fully pay for the refurbishing themselves, according to Maureen Lowe, who administers the program.

Residents eligible for the program live in a region bounded by north by Ten Mile, the south by Eight Mile, the east by Inkster and the City of Farmington boundary on the west.

Funds are available either through an outright grant or a loan with three per cent interest. Maximum funding per household in this program is \$7,500.

Last week, city officials conducted two public hearings to explain the program.

Any home repairs qualify which will bring the home up to the standard city

building code.

The program is designed to assist persons living in homes which are unable to meet health, safety or welfare requirements of the family.

Some examples are sewer hookup, new electrical or plumbing installations, furnace repair or replacement, porch repair and roof repair or replacement.

Room additions and expansions are available only for large families with extreme need for increased space, according to city administrators.

Any Farmington Hills resident who has been an owner and occupant for no less than one year and who lives in the designated section is eligible to apply. Persons buying on land contracts or mortgages qualify as owning their own homes.

Room additions on fixed incomes are especially encouraged to apply," according to Mike Doran, assistant to the city manager.

This includes senior citizens, recipients of welfare programs, social security, disability or pensions, he says.

Application forms may be picked up or mailed by contacting the City of Farmington Hills, Neighborhood Improvement Program, 31585 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills 48018, or by calling 474-6115.

Doran urges all persons who think they may qualify to make an inquiry.

The loans will be repaid over a 12-year period at the three per cent rate. For instance, a \$5,000 loan taken for that period requires a \$1.50 monthly payment. The total finance charge for the length of the loan would be \$398.

After the application is approved, a city inspector will come to the applicant's home. Inspection should take about one hour, according to Dick Young, the city's building inspector.

After making the inspection, a determination will be made to assess work to be done to bring the home up to code. The first priority is repairing code violations. Other improvements would be approved after that, if sufficient funds are available, according to Young.

All authorized work is completed by a state licensed general contractor and will be inspected by the city after its completion.

Following is a list of basic guidelines for qualifying families, based on size of family and yearly income:

- A family of one making \$10,200 qualifies for a loan, a family of one to be done to bring the home up to code.
- Two-member family: \$11,700 for loan; \$7,300 for grant.
- Three-member family: \$13,100 for loan; \$8,200 for grant.
- Four-member family: \$14,600 for loan; \$9,100 for grant.
- Five-member family: \$15,500 for loan; \$9,800 for grant.
- Six-member family: \$16,400 for loan; \$10,600 for grant.
- Seven-member family: \$17,300 for loan; \$11,300 for grant.
- Eight-member family: \$18,300 for loan; \$12,000 for grant.

Female moves step closer in battle for police badge

By LYNN ORR

Bonnie Swadling wiped out another obstacle in the road to becoming a Farmington Hills police officer.

Ms. Swadling passed the patrol officers' test taken over Memorial Day weekend, thus qualifying her civil rights case against the city for further action.

"I think she did sufficiently well enough to be processed further," says James Mulvey, attorney for the city. "I presume she'll be processed with the other applicants who scored sufficiently well to warrant further consideration."

Ms. Swadling, 28, a Farmington Hills community service officer (CSO), agreed to take the test in an effort to settle her sex discrimination suit with the city.

More than nine months ago, Ms. Swadling filed charges with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, alleging that she was denied the opportunity to become a police officer because she is a woman.

Last March, she filed suit in federal court, charging sex discrimination and violation of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA). Ms. Swadling alleges that unlike three

other CSOs, she was denied promotion to be a police officer.

MS. SWADLING was hired as a CSO through the city's CETA program. Three former cadets, who became CSOs when the cadet program was dropped, became police officers for the city.

The agreement to take the patrol officers' test was reached after consultation with U.S. District Judge John Felkens, Ms. Swadling's attorney and the city attorney.

Judith Doran, Ms. Swadling's attorney, maintained that while her client did not score in the top 20 per cent, she passed the test, answering more than 90 per cent of the questions correctly. Out of 150 questions, Ms. Swadling scored on 14. The top 20 per cent of 300 candidates who took the test erred on seven questions or less.

"The other CSOs were accepted on scores similar to my client's," Ms. Doran said. She hopes the test score leads to a settlement of the case, she added.

Ms. Swadling was pleased, although she expressed disappointment.

"I wanted to be perfect," she said, admitting she felt "a lot of pressure" taking the test.

Scoring, however, does remain an issue. More than 300 applicants for six positions on the police force took the test. Police Director John Nichols had explained there would be a top 20

per cent cutoff for further processing. However, three of the patrol officers' positions are CETA funded, Mulvey explained.

The department may have to reach below the 20 per cent mark to find qualified CETA applicants, he added. Those qualifications, which might include Farmington Hills residency, are not available at this time, he said.

Ms. Swadling, however, does not want a CETA-funded job, she says. She believes her scores on the test are equivalent to the test scores of the other CSOs who became police officers.

Honors Night slated at FHS

Departmental honors and scholarship awards and announcements will be presented at 8 p.m. June 6 in the Farmington High School auditorium as the school celebrates Honors Night.

The program, along with a short assembly of "Senior Reflections," replaces the traditional Swing-Out ceremony at FHS. Smoke bombs, student skippings and other situations were responsible for the cancelling of Swing-Out, school officials say. The two programs were developed to replace the traditional pre- commencement program.

Meetings announced

- FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL**
8 p.m., June 5
2500 Liberty
- Petition from the Farmington Horseowners urging further hearings in regard to senior citizen housing in the city will be presented.
 - Petition in favor of senior citizen housing in the city will be presented.
 - Consideration of a warehouse in the central business district.
 - Progress report on Federal Department Store's compliance with city zoning law.
 - Report on finding alternative ways of funding the water improvement program.
 - Progress report concerning the Farmington Post Office.
 - Consideration of \$1 million in bonds for city's water improvement project.
 - Amending the school and sewer rates.
- FARMINGTON SCHOOL BOARD**
8 p.m., June 5
2500 Liberty
- Curriculum report concerning global education.
 - Employment of pink-slipped teachers will be considered.
 - Purchase of equipment for the Farmington Training Center will be considered.
- FARMINGTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**
Sale of the Farmington Junior High School site will be considered.
- FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL**
- Adoption of bond resolution.
 - Consideration of resolutions for adoption of 1978-79 annual budget.
 - Consideration of approval of extra costs to replace aboveground and underground water services for sewer pumping station 3 at Biddestone and Farmington Road.
 - Consideration of approval for contracts for Knights of Columbus baseball field.
 - Consideration of funding for Farmington Hills participation in Oakland County Task Force.
 - Consideration of resolution identifying Farmington Community Center as a tax-exempt nonprofit facility and giving permission to conduct a lottery during their ethnic festival, 6-10 p.m. June 24.
 - Consideration of approval of excess expenditures by Oakland County drain commissioner for cleaning and repair of Hazel Drain in Section 38.
 - Consideration of creating an easement for Ten Mile Rouge Arm within the San Marino Golf Course boundaries.
 - Consideration of request for approval to use property at Twelve Mile and Farmington Road for a four-wheel drive weight pulling contest in conjunction with the Farmington Founders Festival, July 22-23.

Reward doubled for child killer

The reward for the capture of the Oakland County child killer has been raised to \$50,000.

Investigators probing the Oakland County child slayings hope the increase will produce the information they've been seeking for more than a year.

We (Michigan State Police) had the money. It was appropriated to us and released for this particular purpose. We got Management and Budget to release \$50,000 for this, hoping the extra money would do some good. We

inside

Crackerbarrel Debate

Community Calendar	2B
Crackerbarrel Debate	6B
Inside Angles	3A
Obituaries	2A
Sports	Section B
Suburban Life	Section B

Farmington Editor Steve Barnaby believes an impasse has been reached between the city council and the city manager's office. To see what he has to say about the situation, turn to Page 8A.

(Continued on Page 4A)