

## Juvenile rights caught in hazy legal system

**Editor's note:** Following is the first in a series on children's rights. This segment deals with the overall obstacles a child meets when running up against the legal system. The next segment will tell of some legislators' attempts to change the juvenile court system.

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

He's a kid at odds with the adult world surrounding him. His parents don't know what to do with him. His teachers are at a loss on

how to deal with him. He slides into the juvenile justice system.

He's a status offender. Truancy, running away from home, swearing and associating with persons of bad character are his crimes.

He enters a juvenile justice system where his rights are overlooked. He's shuttled between foster homes. If he has a lawyer, his legal counsel isn't sure about how to approach this young client.

Juvenile offenders are caught in a morass of attitudes and laws which

were once deemed beneficial to the young.

It doesn't work that way anymore. The juvenile court judge was once viewed as a nice fatherly type, who would ever pat a troubled child on the head, according to Wayne State University Law School instructor Frederick Lombard.

But that sort of child isn't present in the courts any longer.

"Have you ever been to juvenile court? Some of those lads you wouldn't want to come near you," she said.

STATUS OFFENSES were included in juvenile law during the turn of the century, a time when lawmakers were optimistic about the abilities of the state.

They were originally thought of as warning signs for trouble in a child's future. If the state heeded these warnings, the child could be helped.

But today that optimistic mood has turned to one of frustration.

Status offenders appear in juvenile court when the system can't handle the children any longer.

"Judges are used by the school districts that dump their problems on them," said Ed Overstreet, an administrative officer of Boysville in Farmington Hills.

School officials hope that the judge will scare the youngster into good behavior.

"A lot of kids aren't scared anymore," he said.

Parents join school administrators in their frustration. Poor families who are unable to afford professional help take their problem youngsters into ju-

venile court hoping a judge's lecture will make them change their ways.

Once involved in court proceedings a child has some rights in dealing with the adult world. Children have the right to due process, the right to obtain counsel and the right to be informed of charges against them.

THEY HAVE the right to confront the witnesses against them. During cross-examination they have the right

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## Incumbents win seats on Farmington Board

By MARY GNIEWEK

Incumbent James McGlincy topped a field of four candidates to win a one-year seat on the Farmington Board of Education Monday and board veteran Michael Spiece, who ran unopposed, garnered another four-year term in the annual school election.

In the smallest voter turnout in recent school history, only 1,016 persons

cast ballots in the district that includes Farmington, most of Farmington Hills and a portion of West Bloomfield.

Spiece was the top vote-getter with 821. There was one write-in vote for the four-year term for Marshall Solomon.

McGlincy won by a large margin — 427 votes. He captured 614 to challenger William Gravius' 197 votes. Gravius completed a four-year term on the

board last June but did not seek re-election then.

Megan Saunders received 78 votes and Michael Breckenridge 72.

"I put a lot of effort into the campaign, I was determined to win and I did," said McGlincy, who conducted a door-to-door campaign at 700 houses in the district.

"Mr. Gravius is well-known in the community and I began as the underdog," he continued. "I probably wouldn't have made such an effort if that wasn't the case."

"I think the lack of issues that stir people to the polls was missing in this election. It would be more encouraging if more people took advantage of their democratic right to vote."

MOGLINCY WAS APPOINTED to the board last July to fill the post of resigning trustee Dr. Mervyn Ross. He was elected to serve the final year of Ross's term.

"Next year, we'll spend more time on the curriculum. We'll see that the middle school program is implemented and look at the four-year high school, too."

"Win or lose, this was an educational experience. It was the first time I ran a political campaign, and I enjoyed it."

Spiece, who also campaigned throughout the district, said he found a great deal of confidence in the community for the Farmington education system.

"This is a different era. The first time I was elected, it was the tail end of confrontation politics — of 2 a.m. board meetings and recall campaigns."

"At this point, things have calmed down. There is a consensus in the community and on the board. In that sense, it's going to be different."

"We ought to take a look at some of the things we're doing: re-examine programs at the local level and take an in-depth look at the curriculum."

Even running unopposed, Spiece peddled his campaign literature to 10,000 households.

Just 2.1 percent of all the registered voters (48,403) in the district turned out at the polls. That's 3.4 percent of the list of active voters (29,832) in the district.

Voter turnout was heaviest in Precinct 1, Farmington Junior High, where 344 persons voted. That was followed by Precinct 2, Dunckel Junior High, where 296 voted; Precinct 4, East Junior High, where 169 cast ballots; and Precinct 3, Warner Junior High where 63 voted.

From all precincts combined, 144 absentee ballots were collected.

## Clarenceville pair win posts by a landslide

It was a landslide victory in the Clarenceville Board of Education election. Actually, it was a case of "no contest" as Samuel J. Prisk and Barry M. Sherman were re-elected Monday without competition.

With 259 voters, a little more than 3 percent, of the registered voters going to the polls, Prisk had 146 votes, Sherman 135. Both are for four-year terms.

This was the first time in the history of the school district that there were no challengers for the board posts.

Clarenceville district voters went along with other districts in defeating both Schoolcraft College millage proposals, which lost by 3-2 margins.

Proposal 1 to provide funds for a culinary arts program expansion had 92 yes votes with 111 opposed. Proposal 2, to generate funds for maintenance and equipment, had 95 yes and 107 no votes.

In the Clarenceville election, Prisk will be heading for his 21st year on the board. Sherman was re-elected for a second term.



Jennifer Tobel, 4, has some dedicated friends who in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area as they are more than willing to share a few pieces of bread make summer homes out of the many ponds in the with her. Ducks have become something of a legend area. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)

## Bank offers shelter Ducks waddle around town

Life in a duck pond isn't always what it's cracked up to be.

True, waddling around the pond at Independence Green Apartments had its peaceful moments. Ducks frantically move their tiny legs in the water, trying to keep up with mother duck.

A few old timers loll along the bank, receptive to pieces of bread of corn thrown their way by excited children and bemused adults.

Even the muskrat which shares the pond along with the ducks took time out to enjoy the afternoon sunshine on the banks, oblivious to golfers walking to their next tee.

But when wanderlust moves the ducks to seek other areas to mooch



which waddled along their driveway.

They decided to be kind to their web-footed friends. Bank manager John Gazette was searching for a community project when the plight of the ducks came to his attention.

AFTER CHECKING WITH THE bank's main office, the Farmington Hills branch was off its duck-saving mission.

Signs warning motorists of the paddle of duck feet across the road went up around the pond. A canister of corn appeared in the vestibule of the bank, inviting customers to feed the ducks.

"It's nice," said administrative assistant and duck fan, Nora Fix. "You hate to see them get hit."



## A winning smile

This blond and blue-eyed charmer has been declared "Most Beautiful Baby" by a panel of Farmington area Jaycees. The story of Sara Marie Flutur and the contest she won to promote child safety in automobiles is in today's suburban life section. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)

## Pilot won't land in field again

A Farmington Hills man walked away unscathed after his single engine plane flipped over in a field in Brownstown Township Saturday. But he received a stern warning from township officials.

Pilot LaVern Loyer, 46, owns the 250-yard field which is zoned for residential use.

Township officials are checking the legality of using the property as a landing field for aircraft.

"I don't think he can do it," said Township Supervisor Curt Bolter this week. "But I don't think Mr. Loyer will try to do it again."

Bolter said the township is investigating the matter at the request of nearby residents in the Telegraph — Sibley area where the field is located.

A school and apartment complex are nearby.

"It wasn't a big issue here. People went away satisfied that we'll look into it and do something about it," he said.

Loyer, who was not available for comment, owns the Loyer Construction Co. adjacent to the field.

According to an eyewitness, Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy Charles Spratt, Loyer circled above the tree tops for

three or four passes, then came in and hit a deep rut made by a dune buggy.

"The propeller caught in the mud, the nose went down and the plane flipped over," he said. "He wasn't

injured. He just walked out of the plane."

Loyer was alone in the Piper Super Cub two-seater. The front of the plane and the propeller were damaged, Spratt said.

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