### Factors abound in finding cause for child abuse

It's difficult to point to any one cause for child abuse and neglect. But the symptoms are plentiful. "It's a whole variety of factors," said officer Sandie Rochford of the

said officer Sandie Rochford of the Farmington Hills Police Depart-ment's juvenile section. Marital problems, occupational stress (particularly in two-income families), financial difficulties and lock of parental education can prompt the frustration and anger that often lead to abuse and neglect. Problems 426.

"A lot of times, the female is the perpetrator . . . often single parents," she said.

Statistically, most victims of child abuse and neglect are 5 years old or younger. "They cry a lot. They can't communicate and they do things that are frustrating," Rochford said.

are trustrating," Rochlord said.
Adults that work with children are
required by law to report suspected
child abuse and neglect. They include teachers, physicians, dentists,
police, social workers, medical examiners and child-care providers.
"Cilizens have a moral responsibility
to report abuse," she said.

STILL, MANY are confused about what they are witnessing or what they suspect is bappening to a child. "All I need is a phone call."

Farmington Training Center
 O.E. Dunckel Middle School
 Warner Middle School

Warrier Middle School
 East Middle School
 Absentee Votes

Precincts:

Farmington Public Schools miliage renewal election, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1988

"Before, it was either Ignored or not talked about. It was embarrass-ing to the family. But people are more aware now that it must be talked about," Farmington Public Services Director Frank Lauhoff

If through investigation it's determined a child is abused or neglected, the family can be helped and further abuse prevented, Rochford sald. The most obvious signs of abuse are injuries, particularly repeat injuries. Often to cover the injuries, inappropriate clothing will be worn, such as long sleeves and pants during hot weather.

"Another sign is the child who wants to assume the blame for what appears to be an abusive-type injury," Rochford said.

OTHER TELLTALE signs that a child is being abused or neglected in-clude:

- clude:

   Extreme behavior, either overly passive or aggressive. This also includes a drastic change in behavior such as thumb sucking or bed-wetting that wasn't part of the child's previous behavior.

   An unusual amount of fear in the child toward a parent.

   A short attention span or learning problem in school that can't be diagnosed.

   Unsoclability of the child or the

635



Farmington Hills officer Sandie Rochford is assigned to investigating juvenile-related com-

family.

Often, parents' expectations of their chief of the working parents or sinwheir children will provide a foundation for trouble. Parents often have works prompts trouble. Parents often have works prompts trouble. Parents often have works prompts trouble. Parents often chief chief or their children to be. "Kitis don't always fit into that pattern," Rochlord said.

Many parents who don't intend to surt their own anger and frustration. "Be wary when you spank your often or disting children with their own anger. You may get occurred." Said Meg Mittel, Oakland their own unique problems, Rochsaid.

## Schools' voters back tax renewal proposal

Continued from Page 1

facility usage plan is slated for the regular school board meeting March

1.
Predictably, the largest numbers of votes came from Precincts 1 and 2 at Farmington Training Center and O.E. Dunckel Middle School, which cover most of the area between Orchard Lake and Haggerty coads, and 14 Mile and Eight Mile. Votes totaled 232 and 287 respectively. The smaller Precinct 4 at East Middle School had 203 votes and absortee votes totaled 232. The closest contest came with ab-

Tuesday's results follow the trend in Farmington school miliage elections over the years; voters have never defeated a miliage renewal effort.

sentee voters, who cast 39 ballots in favor and 33 against the miliage re-newal.

Despite Tuesday's low turnout, the number of voters was up slightly

from last year, when a 4-mill opera-ting renewal was approved by little more than 1 percent of the 57,979 registered voters.

The number of registered voters in this election was down significant-ly, about 10,000 since the last school election. The Farmington Hills clerk's office reviewed their records and recently placed these voters in an "inactive" lile because they have not been active for the past four years.

years.
According to Howard Altman of
the Gakland County Elections Division, this review and "purging" of
election records is required by law
each December. These inactive voiers are kept on file for another is
years when their names will be removed if not reactivated before that
time.

with information on abuse or neglect is ensured.

"Hopfully, by educating the public, we'll get more people reporting their observations," Rochard said. "If people ever have questions, doubts or suspicions, they can just call up here. Sometimes, people don't know what they're seeing."

Abuse and neglect aren't just escrious and often well-publicized cases of injury, mainting and some times death. Abuse and neglect include leaving a child unattended car and dressing him or her improerly for the weather.

Calls

fight

abuse

tragedy

"it's really an under-reported crime," she said. "Generally because it's committed by family members, it's so hard to get it reported."

UNDER STATE Child Protection

Laws, anonymity for those who call with information on abuse or neglect

erly for the weather.

FOR THOSE who might believe that child abuse and neglect can't happen in an upwardly mobile community such as Farmingion Hills, they're kidding themselves.

"Abuse knows no bounds of economics or education," Rochford said, "Yes, the upper end has a better ability to conceal the problems. A lot of times, they can seek out their own treatment for their own problems." Prosecution does occur but isn't always the ultimate goal of police in abuse and neglect cases. Rochford secures help for the family from the state Department of Social Services. The division of first counseling and referrals to other community agen.

Reports of suspected abuse or ne glect and requests for information can be made by calling either Roch-ford at 473-9667 or the Protective Services Division in Walled Lake at 624-8800.

Protective services also offers a 24-hour hot line, 858-1590.

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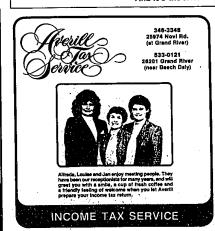
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