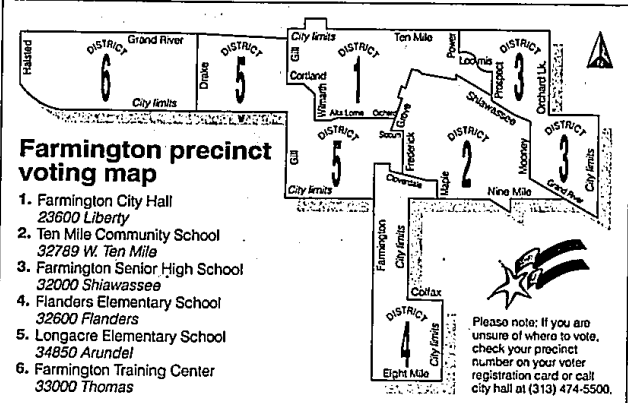


Library from page 1A



Some 160 AVs (absentee voters) have been processed, she said, compared with 585 for the Proposal A election in June. In a population of 10,170 Farmington residents, 8,154 are registered voters, Cantrell said.

In the more populous Farmington Hills, though, there might be a heavy turnout.

"We've done a lot more AVs than usual," Farmington Hills city clerk Kathryn Dorman said.

Dorman's office processed about 7,000 absentee ballots for the Proposal A election in June. Some 52,000 Hills residents are registered voters in a city with about 75,000 residents, she said.

There's been an important change in a voting precinct in Farmington Hills, Dorman said.

Persons in Precinct 12 on the east side of the city will continue to vote at the Mercy Center, 11 Mile east of Middlebelt Road. But for Tuesday's election, they should park in front of the building and enter through the front door.



Taking a walk: Joe Schornack, a Farmington public safety officer, walks Crystal down the hall last Wednesday.

Foster from page 1A

lowed. The home on Wesley Street is less than 100 yards from Grand River Avenue, according to Harold Poindexter.

Experienced parents

The Poindexters have been foster parents for 10 years, caring for "20 to 30" children. They have raised four children of their own and have adopted three others.

"It's scary," Harold Poindexter said. "It's the kind of thing probably every parent, who's had one or two kids, has had it happen before. It's unfortunate, but it does happen."

"Everybody goes out the door for the first time. That's what happened. The 4-year old girl was able to turn the door. I was right here at the time."

The oldest child has been with the Poindexters since she was four months old. She was born premature and weighed only four pounds when she arrived at their home, according to Poindexter.

Poindexter said he understands why the kids were taken away during the investigation.

"You don't like it," he said, "but the authorities have to evaluate the situation until they make a determination. That is the kind of thing you have to expect."

No comment

Penny Thomas, who is director of foster care at Orchard's Children's Services in Southfield, would not comment on the Poindexters, the children

or the investigation. She said such matters are confidential.

Harold Poindexter said the family has been with the agency for seven years.

Said Thomas: "I want to assure you we took appropriate action to protect the kids. When we became aware of the situation, we took action appropriately and quickly."

A neighbor of the Poindexters said she was surprised to hear about the incident.

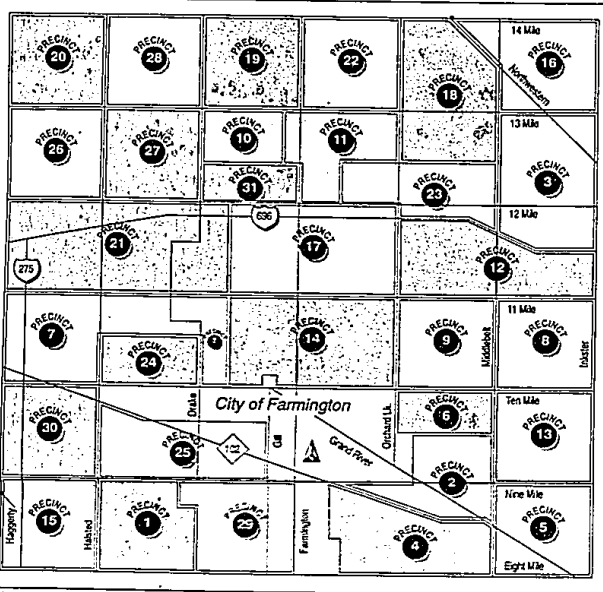
"I have seen them (the children) outside, but they always had good supervision," said a Wesley resident, who asked that her name not be used. "They (the children) were always nice and clean and had very nice toys and beautiful clothes."

"These kids must've really sneaked out of the house because... I've seen them from across the street and there was always someone watching them."

Lauffhoff was on his way to work when he stopped. He took the children to Indian Village Cleaners and called police.

"It looked like they were heading to the fountain (in front of Hitachi)," Lauffhoff said.

While waiting for police, the two were given bagels and orange juice from Farmington Deli nearby. The kids also had cereal at the police station while public safety officer Joe Schornack, records supervisors Laura Harper and Karen Sutherland cared for the two until child protective services arrived.



Hoedown aids Spectrum

The Spectrum Motown Hoedown will be held Friday as a fund-raiser for the Livonia-based human services agency.

Motown Hoedown will begin 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13, in the Roostertail Banquet Hall on the

Detroit River.

All proceeds will benefit Spectrum, 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, a non-profit agency serving children and adults with mental, emotional and physical handicaps.

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