

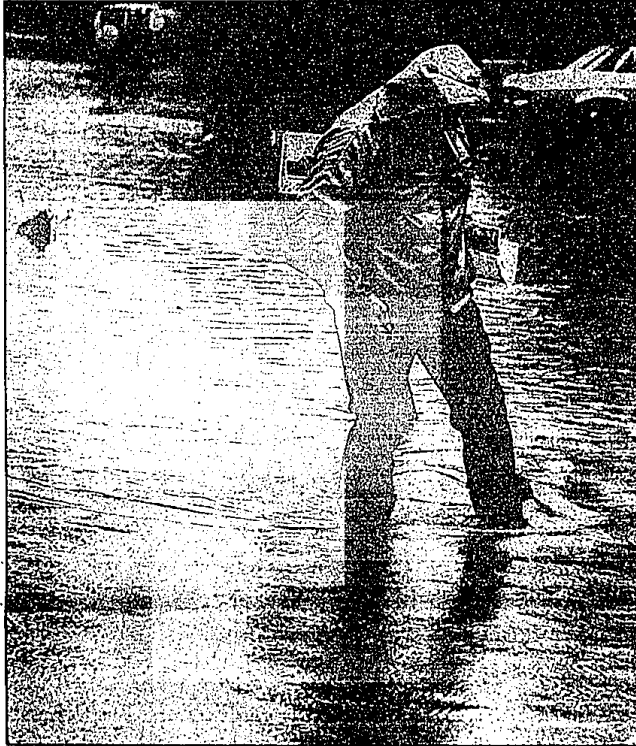
# Farmington Observer

**Farmington FOCUS**

1989 Farmington City Council Election

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## Flooded Hills residents rap drains



Monroe Trubley retrieves the mail Wednesday. He lives on Brandywine in the Kendallwood subdivision in Farmington Hills.

By Norreen Flack  
staff writer

Westbrooke Manor subdivision residents were angered by flood damage to their homes in Wednesday's downpour, claiming damage could have been avoided if the city of Farmington Hills had maintained a proper drainage system.

"Enough people have been affected by this, I think the city council is going to have to find an answer," said Jim Drake, who lives on Dunford. "Our assessments keep going up, but the value of our homes drops with this. They're going to have to get their priorities straight."

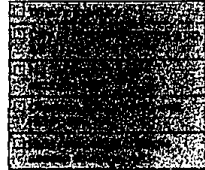
The subdivision is south of 13 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road. It abuts Kendallwood subdivision — two areas where flooding seemed to have hit the hardest.

Damage included walls covered with water residue, furniture and carpeting soaked, and floor tiles lifted. Many residents said damage topped \$10,000.

"We don't have a storm sewer out here, so the sanitation sewer backs up," said Larry Virtue, who lives on Dunford. "I guess this ends up being the retention pond."

Mayor Terry Sever, who visited Westbrooke Manor Thursday afternoon, said a retention system will be a priority for the city council.

"I will not let this issue die without getting an answer," he said. "I am going to recommend a fund for drainage and get the monies we need to solve the problem. We may ask residents to support a millage if necessary."



JOANN GRAVES and her Dunford neighbors are fed up with flooded basements and yards and overflowing sewage. "We feel now we're going down a one-way street. We're a little bit angry," she said.

"We invited the mayor to come out to see the emotional impact on the neighborhood," Graves said. "We had water from across the street to our front door Wednesday. It was waist deep. There are three tri-levels that the doorwalls blew in. There was six feet of water and sewer backups."

Graves has organized a group of residents who plan to ask the city council tonight to improve the water retention system in their neighborhood.

"Any improvement is going to depend on our consistent follow-up," Graves said. "We have to stay behind this until something is done."

"THEY WERE supposed to have done something in '81," said Virtue.

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## Floodwater could cause ailments

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Experts in the field of water quality and health say anyone frolicking or swimming in the floodwaters — which in the Farmington area came from an overflow of the Rouge — are at a high risk for such illnesses. Even those with limited exposure, such as wading in infected waters, may experience some symptoms if

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## Swept away

### Boy survives harrowing ride on raft

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

It was a ride Sarmad Soka couldn't duplicate at Cedar Point. That's how Denny Hughes, a Farmington Hills fire technician specialist, described the boy's rafting experience during Wednesday's downpour.

Sarmed, 13, who lives on Kendallwood Drive near 12 Mile, decided to take advantage of the rising waters. He got out his two-person rubber raft and, with a friend, jumped in for a joy ride along a creek. Then his friend got out, but Sarmed went back in "for the fun of it."

It was the ride of his life, first behind O.E. Dunckel Middle School, then toward 12 Mile.

Sometime after 5 p.m., Sarmed's raft tipped over and he was swept away by the current. He hit tree branches then went under water, through concrete drains, under five lanes of traffic — holding his breath.

"The water was knee high in parts and up to my shoulder in others, and I'm five feet one," Sarmed said. "The current was going the way I was swimming. I couldn't move. My head kept bouncing. I twisted my back. I ended up at the other side of 12 Mile (near Thompson-Brown Realtors)."

THE BOY was literally a buoy in the water.

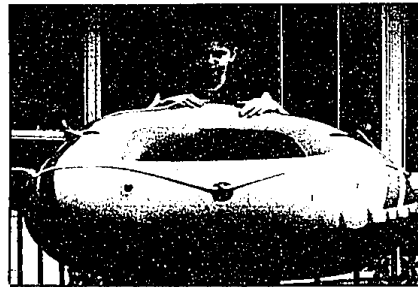
"I saw two older people and I called out for help, but they wouldn't help me. This guy came to help me. I walked back to my house. There was nobody home at my house," he said.

Hughes said nobody in the neighborhood actually witnessed Sarmed's submersion.

"It was like a block party out there," Hughes said. "People were playing games in rafts. I don't know how he got past the guardrails."

Hughes and his partner, firefighter Jeff Medbury, were

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Sarmed Soka, 13, rode this rubber raft through concrete drains under 12 Mile when the current of a creek near his home kicked up Wednesday night.

## Hearing begins on rape evidence

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Genetic tests by a Maryland laboratory on evidence gathered from victims of the Oakland County serial rapist meet accepted scientific standards, a Florida molecular biology and immunology expert testified in Oakland County Circuit Court Friday.

Dr. Bonnie Blomberg, an associate professor at the University of Miami, was the first of at least six experts expected to testify over several days before Circuit Judge Robert Tempkin in an evidentiary hearing

on sophisticated genetic tests.

The case against the suspected Oakland County serial rapist, former West Bloomfield resident Steven A. Suman Jr., 41, of Rocky River, Ohio, was combined with two others for purposes of the evidentiary hearing only.

Tempkin will hear arguments and testimony from experts flown in from around the country to determine the admissibility of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence gathered at crime scenes in the three cases.

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## Haggerty connector plan wins Novi Council's OK

By Philip Jerome  
staff writer

Plans for the Haggerty Road connector apparently will be able to move forward as the Novi City Council voted June 19 to endorse one of two alternatives for the road, designed to improve north-south traffic in western Oakland County and alleviate congestion on Haggerty Road.

The council decided to support one of the alternatives after hearing pleas from Farmington Hills

Mayor Terry Sever and county commissioner John Calandro.

"I don't envy your position, but this is an urgent concern. Don't leave us with the 'do nothing' alternative," Sever said.

Calandro told the Novi City Council of his concern in losing the project. "I'm deeply concerned that MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) will move the funds allocated for this project somewhere else if we do not move forward with this project," said Calandro. "We cannot afford to de-

lay any longer; you need to act on one of the proposals before you. Now is the time to act."

Specifically, the Novi council voted 5-3 to support either Alternative 3B or Alternative 4A pending analysis of the final Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Dissenting votes were cast by councilmen Joseph Toth and Hugh Crawford.

Alternative 3B would follow the existing Haggerty Road alignment and skirt the Black Spruce Bog

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**Spangled SOUTHFIELD FESTIVAL**

SPECIAL SECTION IN TODAY'S ISSUE