

# Angry residents recount rain storm's havoc

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valuables stored in boxes sitting in his garage. "I feel like somebody should have told me it was on a flood plain," he said, adding that it will cost \$10,000-\$15,000 to replace what he lost.

"I think it's really unfair you don't tell your people about it (flooding)," Caru continued. "I think the city should provide some relief to families who lost items such as us."

Those who survived the city's 1988 and 1981 floods asked city officials why nothing has changed, why nothing has improved and why all promises made following those downpours were never kept.

"There's a sense of deja vu. I heard exactly the same thing. I went through the same things, eight years ago," Simon said.

**RESIDENTS DEMANDED** an end to continuing city studies on drain-

age and sewage problems. They urged immediate action.

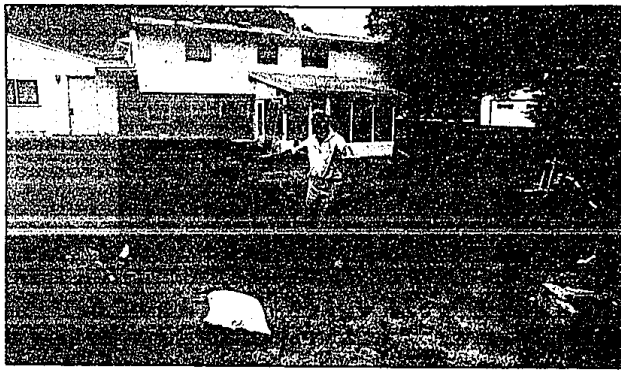
"No more studies," said Franklin Knolls resident Jonathan Landsman. "What have you got for storm plans? We will always have rain."

Another Franklin Knolls resident added: "All we've heard is promises, promises." Yet another Kendallwood resident asked who will provide homeowners with assistance. "I'm not interested in what's going to happen 5 years from now. It's happened now."

Residents asked for immediate action, such as cleaning out storm drains that appear to have been ignored. They demanded at least sandbags to protect their homes from the deluge. And they asked for suggestions on items they can install to protect their homes.

Residents made it clear to the city council and staff that last week's downpour — and the lack of protection provided by the city in improved storm and sanitary sewer systems — forced them to lose some faith and trust in the city.

"I trusted my city to do something. I'm really surprised," said one resident, who called the city engineering department and was told no, the city never did make the improvements it had promised following the last two major storms.



Soeren Gozmanlan, who lives on Brandywine in Kendallwood subdivision in Farmington Hills, explains how the water from the Rouge rose over the berm in his back yard and entered his kitchen and basement. The pump visible at right was used to clear the water from the yard.



**"I am 20 yards from the creek that smashed through my plate-glass window. And I had five feet of water. I have no family room, no study, no bathroom, no laundry room."**

— Max Simon  
Dunford resident

## Drainage projects outlined

By Joanne Malczewski  
staff writer

Action will begin on improvements to the drainage, storm and sanitary sewer systems in Farmington Hills to alleviate some of the causes of yard, street and basement flooding in the aftermath of last week's downpour.

Though city manager William Costick expects to present a more detailed plan, including financing mechanisms, within 45 days some plans are only waiting for engineering designs.

Among the improvements Costick plans to accomplish are:

- Improved detention facilities near both Halsted and Drake.
- Construction of a detention facility on 19 acres of city-owned

property at 13 Mile and Farmington Road. "This will hold storm (water) back and allow the water to go through the stream," Costick said.

- Work with West Bloomfield Township through the Oakland County drain office to address drainage running into Farmington Hills from upstream.

- Construction of an earth dike at the south end of Heritage Park. This will restrain water and slow its flow into Farmington.

- Construction of an outlet to Glen Oaks Country Club, where a retention pond will be enlarged.

These improvements are expected to help flooding in the Franklin Knolls subdivision, 14 Mile and Midland. A storm sewer also would be built from this area down

Northwestern Highway.

- Rebuild sanitary sewers in the Kendallwood and Westbrook Manor subdivisions. Storm water enters the deteriorating sewers and causes backup and flooding.

- The \$85 million Evergreen-Farmington sanitary sewer system project is expected to begin in 1990. An underground holding tank at O.E. Dunckel Middle School is expected to be one of the first improvements.

- For the often-flooded Lincolnshire subdivision, south of 11 Mile, east of Midland, Costick is expected to provide some short-term answers within two weeks. Other improvements affecting the neighborhood are included in the second phase of the Evergreen-Farmington project.

## Agreement reached on holding tank at Dunckel

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Officials from Farmington schools and Oakland County have reached a financial agreement that will allow the building of a four million-gallon underground wastewater holding tank at the O.E. Dunckel Middle School on 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road.

Work on the project is expected to begin this August and take approximately two years to complete.

"We think from where we started, we're very pleased with the final number," said school attorney J. Kingsley Cotton, who negotiated the agreement with the help of Farmington Hills city officials.

The Oakland County Drain Commission will pay Farmington Public Schools \$175,000 to relocate a storage building, air condition 17 classrooms and upgrade the school's electrical power to handle the new air conditioning.

School officials estimate they will have to pay an additional \$100,000 to do the work, but realize there will be

long-term benefits to the district, they said.

The school board voted unanimously June 29 to approve the agreement.

THE CEMENT holding tank is part of the \$85 million Evergreen/Farmington Interceptor sewer project, a multi-city effort to alleviate sewerage overflows into the storm water system and the nearby Rouge River.

Some school trustees became upset last December as the project became closer to fruition, saying they had not been kept informed about details by city and county officials.

Things became more complicated in recent months when the county hedged on the value of the easement required for the project, agreeing to pay only \$114,000.

School officials lauded the efforts of Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick, who finally helped walk the agreement through to completion, so the first phase of the project could get under way.

"He's been very active for us,"

deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan said in recommending the agreement.

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders attend Dunckel, which is on the north side of 12 Mile between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads. The school storage building is expected to cost \$95,000, the electrical upgrades for the school \$100,000 and the air conditioning \$275,000, according to figures given by Cotton.

IN ADDITION to approving the easement, school officials have decided to notify nearby neighbors about the project, either in conjunction with the city of Farmington Hills or on their own.

"Somebody has to notify them. I think it should be a joint effort," trustee Helen Prulow said.

The school district was first approached about the plan in 1983, when the board approved the concept. The Evergreen/Farmington project is one of three certified by the state Department of Natural Resources that received federal financing through the Environmental Protection Agency.

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