

Para-medics help out mom in delivering twins



Donald Curtis looks into the St. Mary Hospital nursery where his twin sons sleep after being delivered in the front seat of his car. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

By MARGARET MILLER

Twin boys were born in the front seat of their parents' car making an interrupted trip from Milford to St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

They were delivered shortly before noon Friday in front of the Novi Ambulance Co. by William Rogers of Troy, an emergency medical technician who only a couple of weeks ago completed paramedic training.

Neither Rogers nor the young parents, Donald and Janine Curtis, formerly of Farmington, realized more than one baby was coming.

"He thought there was just one, and then five minutes later the second popped out," said the father after everyone had arrived safely at St. Mary.

State Trooper Dorothy Brown, stationed at the Plymouth post and on patrol in her squad car, happened by just before Baby No. 2 arrived. She got into the act by holding the first arrival while EMT Rogers went to work delivering the second.

in the care of a cousin he and Janine started for St. Mary.

By the time we were approaching Novi my wife knew we wouldn't make it," Curtis said. "So I got off I-8 because I knew there was an ambulance service in Novi."

ROGERS WAS alone at the company and the rescue truck was out when he reported a car pulled up and a man came running in and said his wife was having a baby.

"I got out to the car where the mother told me the head was already delivered," he said. "I went, the father across the street to the Novi police station to get me some help and then helped the mother."

The delivery went well, and the baby was crying up a storm, and we all were congratulating each other when we realized another baby was coming.

By that time, Rogers said, the rescue unit was back, a couple more police officers had arrived, the pretrial state trooper I've seen showed up, and there was plenty of help and equipment for the second birth.

THE FATHER also was able to be of assistance, having had Lamaze classes and witnessed the birth of his first two sons.

Rogers said it was his first emergency experience, but he felt the basic and advanced training he had received at Oakland Community College had prepared him well.

We had gone through it with maneuvers," he said.

Curtis and his two new sons went to the hospital by ambulance and the mother and a couple of police officers followed in a second ambulance.

The babies were placed in an isolated nursery where they had to stay for two days because they were born outside the hospital.

THE NEW FATHER said his wife's physician, Dr. O.J. Devby, with offices in Livonia, had thought at one time the birth might be a multiple one.

But they took X-rays and they showed only one baby, he said. This time the X-rays were wrong.

Boy A Curtis, as St. Mary records describe him, weighed in at six pounds 11 ounces and is 19 1/2 inches long. His name is Jeremy. Anxious.

We only had one name picked out," Curtis said. "But I guess we know what to do about the second name. It's William Rogers."



Trouble with a capital 'T' is coming to Farmington High School, as the students present the Meredith Wilson musical, "Music Man." Here Rob Stormont plays Harold, singing a tune with the chorus. Presented at 8 p.m. May 6, 7 and 8 in the Farmington auditorium. admission is \$2 in advance and \$2.50 at the door. Groups of 10 or more will be charged \$1.75 per person. Those interested in group rates should call the Farmington High office at 474-6156. (Photo by Cyd Abatti)

Sewer proposal to aid Kendellwood flooding

By RON GARRINSKI

When the Farmington Hills City Council considers a proposal at its May 10 meeting to prohibit storm sewers from draining into sanitary sewers, it also will offer residents the least expensive method for complying with the law if it is approved.

For the past several years, residents of the Kendellwood subdivision have been experiencing problems with back flooding in their basements, and this prompted the city to seek a solution.

The new ordinance is designed to eliminate this problem by prohibiting the discharge of storm drainoffs into sanitary sewers.

If the city council approves this proposal, it means more than 800 residents in Farmington Hills will be forced to alter their present drainage system to meet the new code.

That means homeowners must either crack up their basements and plug storm drains leading to sanitary sewers or install some type of pump that will drain storm water outside.

"APPARENTLY THE problem in the Kendellwood subdivision is that sanitary sewers get too much of the storm water drain off, and the system can't handle all that water," City Manager George Majoros says.

"So the water backs up into home owners' basements and causes problems for most residents in that area. Most of the homes in Kendellwood were built about 20 years ago, so they aren't equipped with sump pumps or other drains that will carry storm water elsewhere besides into the sanitary sewers."

Many residents have taken precautions around the back flooding, but these methods just don't work effectively, the city manager says.

"So the city council will consider an amendment to our code that will prevent storm water from being drained into the sanitary sewers."

And this ordinance hopefully will eliminate the problem of back flooding in the city," Majoros explains.

Majoros says that his staff has found an easy way for residents in the Kendellwood subdivision to solve their problem.

Instead of having everyone go their own way, the city has found an inexpensive solution to homeowners don't have to crack up the concrete in their basements.

The city can take the lead in this problem by trying to get contractors to bid on doing the cleanup throughout the entire city," Majoros continues.

"THIS WAY the city will be able to get homeowners a discount when buying new pumps for their basements."

The city's plan is that residents in order to comply with the new proposal should

purchase a pump that connects to the clean out opening for the storm sewers in their basements.

This pump would discharge the storm water before it mixes with sanitary sewage," Majoros says.

By purchasing this type of pump, homeowners would comply with the law. The load on the sanitary sewers would be reduced. This probably would eliminate back flooding in the Kendellwood subdivision for good," he explains.

At least 800 homes in the Kendellwood area have their storm drains connected to sanitary sewers so that both drain into the city sewer line.

Most other homes in the city are equipped with sump pumps or some other method of discharging storm water.

Sump pumps collect storm water in a reservoir in the basement. When water level reaches a certain point, it is pumped outside the basement and not into sanitary sewers.

"The city is offering homeowners an alternative, or they can do it themselves by having their own plumbers to do the job. At least the city is trying to provide a cheaper way of complying with the proposed law," Majoros says.

"Generally, this procedure of installing new pumps is for the Kendellwood residents, but anyone in the city can take advantage of it if their sewers drain together."

"THIS PROPOSED ordinance would cover everyone in town. We are not aware of any other area in the city that is experiencing the same type of problem as Kendellwood, but I'm sure there are other homes that are discharging sanitary and storm water together," he adds.

"The proposal hasn't been adopted yet, but we have to inform residents of our plans. This will require everyone to remove storm water from sanitary sewers."

Several studies have been conducted on the back flooding problem in the Kendellwood Subdivision and the results have been the same. Storm water must be eliminated from sanitary sewer.

"The city has had several meetings with Kendellwood homeowners and they know the problem. What the city has to do now is eliminate that problem and this is the best way we think we can do it," the city manager adds.

"We don't know for sure how many people are discharging the sewers together, but we eventually will make checks of all homes in the city."

"Actually, this law isn't anything new," he says. "We just would be putting teeth into regulations that have been enforced in our codes all along."

"SOONER OR later Detroit will force us to get the storm water out of the sanitary sewers. The city provides us with sewage disposal, and it doesn't want all that extra water reaching the treatment plants."

"The City of Detroit doesn't want its sewage plants overloaded because it is only designed for a certain flow," Majoros explains.

"If it gets too much, then the sewage is not treated properly and water is discharged back into the lakes and rivers without proper or healthy treatment."

Installing pumps in homeowners' basements will have an added benefit for the city in the future because Detroit charges Farmington Hills for all the water that passes through the sanitary sewers, regardless if it is sanitary or storm flow.

"So the savings will show in residents' water bills because we will send less water to Detroit to be treated when those new pumps are installed in everyone's basement and the law is enforced," Majoros concluded.



Do I love you? That's the question Steve Combs, as Teyve and Sarah Mistle, as Golda, ask each other in the North Farmington High School production of "Fiddler on the Roof." The production will be presented on May 6, 7 and 8 in the school's theater at 8 p.m. (Evert photo)

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