

Water wonderland

Catfish, minnows swamp disgruntled resident

Obscured by eight inches of water and surrounded by a thousand dead catfish and minnows, Mrs. Paula Pigula's fruit trees are struggling for existence in her Farmington Hills backyard.

"A friend of mine told me that they won't bear fruit if they're covered up with water like that," she said.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pigula and their neighbors Dan and Jo Sheehy are trying to find someone in the Hills administration who will help rid them of their waterlogged backyards.

"People laugh when you tell them you have a thousand dead minnows and catfish in your backyard. And we're getting shuffled around by bureaucrats. We pay our taxes, we deserve some respect," Pigula told the council at its May 10 meeting.

Pigula and Sheehy say that their problems began Feb. 25, when the city put in two culverts to drain water from the south end of their development.

The culverts may have damaged a part of a farmer's drain tile which had kept the area dry, said City Manager George Majors.

which helped alter the flow of water in the area.

"When Bell built that building, they regraded the whole area," Sheehy said.

"Bell assured us that the building would be landscaped to fit in with the area. They said it would be a colonial building keeping with the style of the other buildings in the area," Mrs. Jo Sheehy said.

"The building was built 12 feet higher than Thirteen Mile and there isn't much landscaping. And it's a modern building. They brought loads and loads of dirt in, she continued.

"An old farmer's drain tile runs diagonally from the southwest corner of Drake at Thirteen and at one time, ran to the Minnow Pond drain, east of Muir Cove," Majors explained.

"We can talk to Michigan Bell and ask them to improve the tile. There's no way we can require Bell to tear out the old tile and put in a new drain. We can require maintenance," he said.

"In February, after the contractor installed the water main in the area, he may have destroyed the tiles. The heavy rains we've had this year had damaged the road. To alleviate the flooding, we installed two culverts on Thirteen west of Drake and on Thirteen north of Drake," Majors said.

The neighbors said that the Hills administration hasn't paid attention to their plight. They have been shuffled from one office to another.

"I believe I've talked to you about this before," Majors said.

"We think you ought to know about the attitude of those under you," Pigula said.

Mrs. Pigula said that after the meeting she got the city manager's attention by leaving a cooler full of dead fish in his office.

"I've called so many times, they know who it was from and I didn't put my name on it," she said.

The water should have been retained by a retention pond on the Bell property, according to city officials.

"The retention pond is as dry as a bone everytime you look at it," Sheehy said.

"That could be the problem," councilmen Fred Lichtman and Robert McConnell said in unison.

C'ville chorus to sing Friday

The Farmington High School special glee chorus will join the Catholic Central mens' glee club for an "Encores '76" concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, in Louis Schmidt Auditorium, 20150 Middle Bell, north of Seven Mile.

The Clarenceville chorus, formed for Friday's concert, will sing selections from the 1920s and 1930s made popular by the Goldiggers singing group. Miss Carol Hornung will direct the chorus.

The Catholic Central glee club will be directed by Donald Zielinski and sing selections from "Porgy and Bess," and later join the Clarenceville chorus in George M. Cohan and "Oliver" medleys.

Tickets are \$1 and proceeds will be used to support the choral departments from the two high schools. Tickets are available from chorus members or at the door.

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail subscriptions change of address, Form 3579 to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 361-2888.

Co-Publishers
Henry M. Hogan, Jr. Philip H. Power

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Newsstand per copy, 25c
Carrier monthly, \$1.00

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10:30 A.M. - AT FEDERAL'S 14 MILE - VAN DYKE STORE AND 10 1/2 MILE - GRATIOT STORE

1:30 P.M. - AT FEDERAL'S GRAND RIVER - FARMINGTON STORE AND TRENTON - EUREKA STORE

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Map: 10 MILE ROAD, 12 MILE ROAD, 14 MILE ROAD, 16 MILE ROAD, 18 MILE ROAD, 20 MILE ROAD, 22 MILE ROAD, 24 MILE ROAD, 26 MILE ROAD, 28 MILE ROAD, 30 MILE ROAD, 32 MILE ROAD, 34 MILE ROAD, 36 MILE ROAD, 38 MILE ROAD, 40 MILE ROAD, 42 MILE ROAD, 44 MILE ROAD, 46 MILE ROAD, 48 MILE ROAD, 50 MILE ROAD, 52 MILE ROAD, 54 MILE ROAD, 56 MILE ROAD, 58 MILE ROAD, 60 MILE ROAD, 62 MILE ROAD, 64 MILE ROAD, 66 MILE ROAD, 68 MILE ROAD, 70 MILE ROAD, 72 MILE ROAD, 74 MILE ROAD, 76 MILE ROAD, 78 MILE ROAD, 80 MILE ROAD, 82 MILE ROAD, 84 MILE ROAD, 86 MILE ROAD, 88 MILE ROAD, 90 MILE ROAD, 92 MILE ROAD, 94 MILE ROAD, 96 MILE ROAD, 98 MILE ROAD, 100 MILE ROAD.