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# Pernick Drain study completed

An environmental impact study commissioned by Southfield officials last year has recommended open waterways and retention ponds be used in the Pernick Drain area rather than enclosed storm drains.

The study by Dr. Clifford Humphrys of Michigan State University was given to city officials Friday, Nov. 3.

The study examined the values of findings by 10 graduate research students at MSU's water resources department, and an environmental impact statement and summary by Dr. Humphrys, a professor in the resource development department at MSU.

The \$1,000 study, financed by the City of Southfield, researched plans for storm drainage in the Northwestern-Telegraph-Twelve Mile area including sections of Franklin Village and Farmington Hills.

The study has been forwarded to Jim Henrich, chairman of the Pernick Alternative Citizen Team (PACT) for review prior to the Southfield City Council's study and recommendations to the Oakland Drain Commission.

**FACT CONSISTS:** If home owners and contractors which have been critical of proposals to construct enclosed storm drains.

Copies of the study have also been given to Mayor Donald Fracassi and the city's engineering consultant Frank Burn of Hubbs, Rich and Clark. Both men said the proposal appears to put the ball in their court.

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cluding both environmental and engineering concerns.

Council President Martin Hollander said he was sure the study will be helpful in arriving at a decision about the drain.

"A number of concerns have been taken into consideration," Hollander said, "including engineering, safety, the environment, aesthetics and financing. I fully expect the solution to be in the best interest of the citizens of Southfield."

History of the controversial Pernick Drain dates back to 1969 when a master drain plan for Southfield was completed. The plan included recommendations for about 22 drains, a number of which have since been completed.

The Pernick Drain was proposed in 1969 and soon became the center of attention. Public information meetings were conducted by the city, and Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn agreed to study the drain. A preliminary study was made by Dr. Humphrys.

Humphrys reported that the major objections to the proposed enclosed drain included:

- Cost.
- Possible threat to groundwater rock formations currently used by the Franklin village area.
- Loss of wetlands associated with Pernick Creek.

• Loss of certain natural sections of Pernick Creek.  
 • Possible threat to existing artificial or ornamental ponds in Pernick Creek watershed.

Humphrys added the Franklin residents objected to the inclusion of their community in the assessment district. However, Franklin is in the Pernick Creek watershed.

Humphrys said and cannot escape involvement in the drain project legally, economically and politically.

**BEFORE MAKING** its recommendations, the university group studied various aspects of the drainage area. The study centered on water flow and acreage in the area, problems of flooding, caused by roads, parking lots and other types of construction, and soil surveys in the area.

In a study of water content, the group found that Pernick Creek is unfit for par-

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The meandering Rouge River in Southfield is periodically overrun by flash floods. Construction of a drain upstream may be the answer, but a recent environmental impact study of Pernick Creek and the surrounding watershed suggests that an underground drain may not be needed.

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**JWV honors WW I veteran**  
 One of the fundamental reasons for the formation of the Jewish War Veterans was to preserve the memories of Jewish heroes who fell in every American war in the nation's history.

Members of the Sgt. Charles Shapiro Post 510 of JWV who meet in the Jewish War Veterans Memorial Home in Southfield have recently had a chance to reflect on that purpose.

Last Memorial Day, while decorating veteran's graves at Clover Hill Cemetery in Royal Oak, members of our post found the grave of Samuel Frazer, a World War I

**Coed travels, another on list**  
 Two Southfield students are making advances in their college careers.

Ann H. Andrews of 1630 Crescent in Southfield was named to the academic honors list at Ferris State College. She was one of 480 students to achieve scholastic excellence during the summer quarter.

Debra A. Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Glen Miller of 1861 Cherry Hill Lane, Southfield is spending her junior year fall semester at Denison University in Granville, Ohio at the University of Syracuse in Strasbourg, France. She is a graduate of Groves High School in Birmingham.

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