

Flood relief plan approved for subdivisions

Flooding in the Kendallwood and Westbrook subdivisions in Farmington Hills "is a situation that has to be solved now. It can't sit on a shelf any longer."

Ralph Magid, the city's former public works director, made that statement in August 1976.

Eight years later, the 14-year-old battle with sanitary sewer back-up rages on for both residents and the city. Nearly \$40,000 recently was allocated by council members to automate the currently operating portable pump facility.

The move is intended to temporarily alleviate flooding.

"The pumps that are there now are manual, and the time at which they are turned on is rather critical," said Thomas Biasell, director of public services.

"If they're turned on at the right time, flooding is reduced substantially."

But delayed manual start-up of the pumps has subjected homeowners to continued basement flooding. Mechanical foul-ups and pump failures also have caused flooding.

Complicating the system's efficiency is the necessary visual inspection of the facility — which is subject to the judgment and response time of residents, the Department of Public Works and the Fire Department, Biasell said.

"This has led to instances where the pumps were not turned on in time to prevent basement flooding," he added.

The installation of an electrical pump, a machine to provide a temporary overflow point and a buried discharge line by the Oakland County Department of Public Works will cost the city approximately \$36,000. Scheduled improvements also include the addition of a signaling device which will notify the Fire Department and/or the Department of Public Works that a pump has been activated.

The work should take two months to complete, Biasell said.

Laurence Pate, an engineer contracted by the city, emphasized the city's expenditure does not provide a long-term solution to the flooding problem.

"This will not absolve the flooding. But it will increase the reliability of the temporary system," Pate said.

City officials intend to eliminate flooding in the subdivisions eventually through a federal grant applied for by Farmington Hills and 15 other communities.

"It's a program through the Environmental Protection Agency that ultimately will improve downstream sewers all the way into Detroit," said Biasell.

"But we've come to the conclusion it's not going to be done immediately. We have to provide relief by maximizing what we've got now."

National president will attend parade

Michigan's national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Romaine Roethel, will participate in the Farmington-Hills Memorial Day parade.

Roethel will fly home from the Indianapolis national headquarters to attend the pre-parade dinner dance at the Northwest Post 189 Home on May 30 and the parade on Monday, May 31.

She is a member of the Northwest 190 Unit of the Auxiliary, located in Farmington Hills. She is also a member of the American Legion Post 19 of Novi, through her own service in the Navy in World War II.

Romaine has just returned to the United States from trips to Europe and the Far East in connection with her responsibilities as national president.

Her theme for this year is "Democracy in Action." As she tours the country working with local and state groups

she is urging members of the auxiliary to become more active in community affairs.

She has served her home community for four years as a member of the Novi City Council and for four years as mayor.

Romaine served as state president of the American Legion Auxiliary of Michigan in 1979-80. She has served as national chairman of important com-

mittees including legislation, Poppy Day, communications, leadership and Girl's and Boys' Nation in Washington, D.C.

At the 1980 National Convention in Boston, Romaine was elected national vice president of the auxiliary. At the 1981 national convention in Hawaii she was unanimously elected as national president.



Romaine Roethel

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