

Evergreen-Farmington

Long-awaited improvements on tap for major sewer system

By Joanna Maliszowski
staff writer

A \$44 MILLION sanitary sewer project will at long last pull the plug on Oakland County basements flooded with raw sewage that slowly drains into the polluted Rouge River.

Long-awaited improvements to the deteriorating Evergreen-Farmington sewerage system will add capacity and stop sewage overflow spilling into residents' basements and the Rouge.

Planned for 12 years, improvements will benefit 16 communities, including the Oakland County communities of Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield, Troy, Birmingham, Franklin, Beverly Hills, Birmingham Farms, Southfield and Farmington Hills.

Despite far-reaching benefits for the system's participating communities, Southfield and Farmington Hills will receive the greatest direct benefit and pay the biggest bill for the improvements.

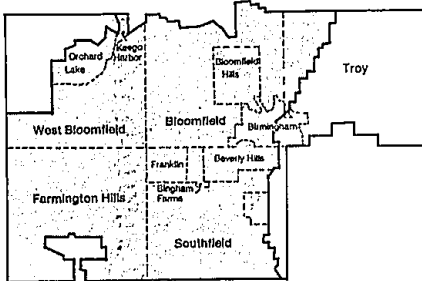
The two downtown communities have had the biggest problems. The basic problem is overloaded sewage lines in certain areas of the two cities. Because there has been nowhere to put the overflow, the diluted sewage has seeped into homeowners' basements, backyards and eventually into the Rouge River.

COSTLY Evergreen-Farmington sewer improvements will not entirely fall to the local communities.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has all but signed to help pay for the \$44 million project. Financing comes through the federal Clean Water Act.

The EPA's interest in the project and willingness to provide 55 percent in matching grants has been sparked by environmental damage caused to the Rouge by the overflowing sewage, Farmington Hills public services director Thomas Blaisell said.

In Farmington Hills, the Kendallwood subdivision, along 12 Mile between Orchard Lake Road and Farmington Road, has had its share of sewage problems. Sanitary sewer lines are overloaded and don't have capacity for the



This is the study area of the Evergreen-Farmington Sewer System District.

amount of sewage pumped through the lines on the way to the Detroit Department of Water and Sewerage System for treatment, Blaisell said.

To ease the problem, Oakland County pumps overflowing sewage into the Minnow Pond Drain, which empties into the Rouge. "Though it is highly diluted, it's still polluted," Blaisell said.

A SIMILAR problem exists in Southfield. Sewer lines empty in Detroit-owned lines along Eight Mile and Southfield. Detroit can shut off the pipe anytime it gets full. And they do," Southfield public services director Roger Smith said.

Sewage in these Southfield lines — when Detroit turns the valve off — overflows and runs into the Rouge, along Berg and Eight Mile. "Plus, the Evergreen-Farmington starts to back up and goes into basements," Smith said.

It's because sewage is running into the Rouge that the Evergreen-Farmington Improvements are listed by the EPA as second in priority for federal money. The well-publicized North Huron Valley Canton Township sewage problems are first on the EPA's priority list.

Oakland County will serve as the grantee and coordinating agency for the Evergreen-Farmington sewer project, and will operate the system, said Frank Naglich, Oak-

land County assistant chief engineer for the project.

The EPA will pay 55 percent or about \$22 million (though not all improvements in the project are grant eligible) of the total \$44 million improvements. Southfield and Farmington Hills will pay the remaining share.

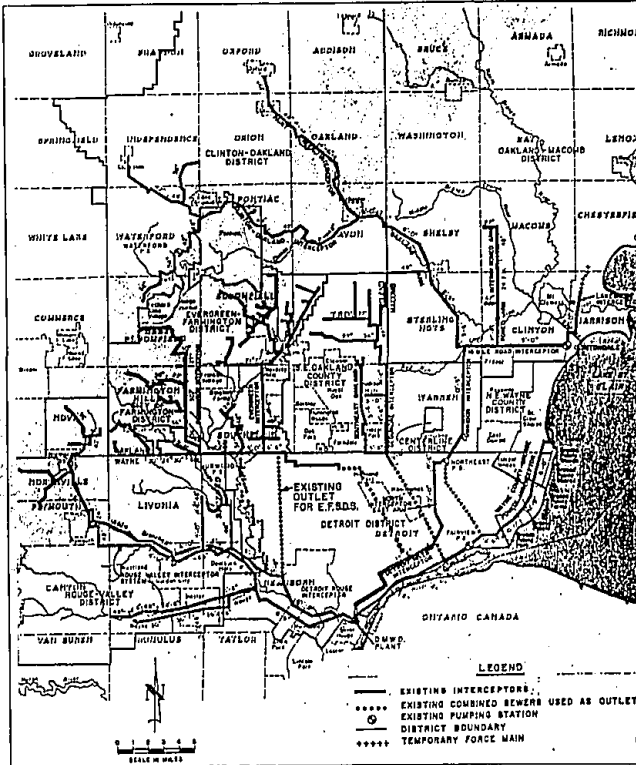
OTHER OAKLAND County communities — Birmingham and West Bloomfield Township, for example — will pay Southfield and Farmington Hills as they take advantage of additional capacity created by improvements to the Evergreen-Farmington system. Other communities must make local improvements, Naglich said.

Evergreen-Farmington improvements will be constructed in two segments:

"The first is predominantly in Farmington Hills. For this segment, Farmington Hills will pay \$7.7 million and Southfield \$4.5 million.

Financing is in place for the first segment and Oakland County has applied for the matching grant. Financing for the second segment is still in question.

"That is a little more questionable as far as dollars go. We would anticipate there will be an alternative that comes out of this," Blaisell said.



Shown is the Evergreen-Farmington Pollution Control Facilities of the Existing Detroit-Metropolitan Wastewater Collection System's Comprehensive Facilities Plan for Oakland County, Hubbell, Roth & Clark Inc. of Bloomfield Hills prepared the map. The map shows the various districts within the collection system, which stretches from western Wayne County to northern Oakland County to eastern Macomb County.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

HE'S PROMOTED
Robert Tompson of Farmington Hills was named an associate at Albert Kahn Associates, Inc., Architects and Engineers, Detroit.

Tompson, a registered architect, joined AKA in 1985. Shortly after, he was named chief estimator. Before joining the firm, he had 30 years of experience in estimating.



RATES PLUNGE
The "Big Chill" of December's temperature will cause room rates to plunge to record lows at the Novi Hilton Dec. 20-30.

To launch the season's "Big Chill," the Novi Hilton is offering a special on daily guest room rates based on two times the previous day's temperature. If the temperature on one day is 10 degrees, the room rate the next day is \$20.

The average temperature during the "Big Chill" is estimated to range from 19-34 degrees, according to the National Weather Bureau. Nevertheless, experts say this is going to be a cold winter.

"The low rates generated by the Novi Hilton's Big Chill is our way of saying happy holidays to the community and our business travelers," said General manager Gary Seibert.

The Novi Hilton has an indoor swimming pool, a hot tub, a sauna and an exercise room. There are the Orchard Cafe and Crystal Swan restaurants as well as Whispers Lounge with nightly entertainment.

The Novi Hilton is at I-275 and Eight Mile. For reservations or information about the "Big Chill," call 349-4000.

ants were Kimberly Comer, John Foster, Michael Lacusta and John Wel. Terry Wajda was promoted to supervisor in the firm's audit department.

Comer received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Michigan State University and a master's degree in international management from the American Graduate School of International Management.

Foster earned his bachelor's degree at Northern Michigan University and his master's degree in business administration at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Lacusta received his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan and his master's degree in business administration from Marquette University.

Wel, with a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, also holds a master's degree in engineering from the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago.

Wajda, a certified public accountant, and Debs both received bachelor's degrees in business administration from Western Michigan University.

Touche Ross, founded in Detroit in 1947, provides accounting and auditing, tax advisory and management consulting services throughout the United States.

SHOP AND FLY
The frequent flyer concept is now available to the frequent shopper.

Great Scott! Supermarkets announces a new incentive offering customers the opportunity to fly to any of 74 major cities across the United States for \$89.90 one way on Continental Airlines or New York Air.

Now through Dec. 31, Great Scott! shoppers will be able to buy up to four one-way flight certificates for each \$100 of grocery register receipts: no 30-day advance requirement, no round-trip purchase required; no penalty or loss for changing flight time or day of departure; no minimum or maximum stay required and prices not affected by airfare increases.

"The more you buy, the more you fly," said Paul Coleman, Great Scott! corporate communications director. "In other words, we have taken advantage of an important promotional opportunity and are passing it on to our shoppers. We have arranged with Continental Airlines and

New York Air to provide the above mentioned flight certificates."

Allied Supermarkets operates 22 Great Scott! supermarkets in the Detroit metropolitan area including Farmington Hills, 25780 Middlebelt and 29555 Orchard Lake.

EASTER SEAL
Help yourself to hairstyling while helping people with disabilities. Fantastic Sam's, the original family haircutters, will sell coupon books containing nine coupons for "Dollars Off" hair care services. The booklets will sell for \$4 each and are valued at \$40.

Proceeds from the sale of the booklets will help support the Easter Seal Society. Last year, 14,000 children and adults in Oakland County received Easter Seal services.

"This is the third year that Fantastic Sam's has supported our work with the disabled. We are very grateful for their enthusiastic support and consider them important partners on our rehabilitation team," said Susan Beauvais, executive director of the Easter Seal Society of Oakland County.

Booklets are available through Jan. 31 at all Fantastic Sam's salons in the Detroit area, including 24109 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills.

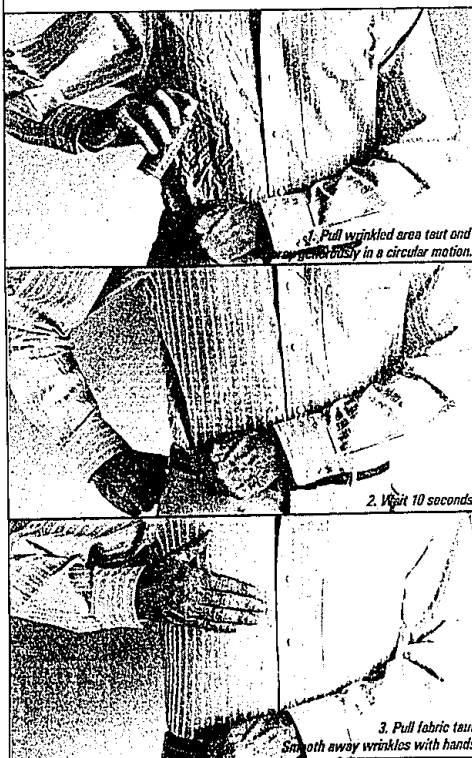
OU suicide workshop aids nurses

A workshop to assist professional nurses in helping potential suicide victims will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, by the School of Nursing, in cooperation with the Division of Continuing Education, at Oakland University, Rochester, Tullion is \$25.

"Suicide: the Cry for Help: Therapeutic Nursing Intervention," for nurses practicing in any setting, is designed to increase understanding of factors contributory to suicide and identification of methods of intervention. Continuing education units are applied for.

Andrea R. Lindell, dean and professor of the Oakland University School of Nursing, will conduct the workshop. For registration information, call the Continuing Education office, 370-3120, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., weekdays. Deadline is Dec. 3.

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