

Moving ahead

Sewer study ordered following Rouge report

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington city officials are trying to stay one step ahead of federal or state edicts that could mandate the city to spend millions in sewer system upgrades.

Last week, the city council ordered a \$15,000 engineering study of the city's entire sewer system. The 12-week study will include a review of combined sewer overflows, which dump a combination of untreated human waste and storm water into an already polluted Rouge River during the rainy season.

"I believe it won't be too long . . . before we receive an order of abatement," said city manager Robert Deadman, in recommending the study. An abatement order from the federal government could force the

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Robert Deadman
Farmington city manager

city, and others in the Rouge watershed basin, to take action to clean up the river.

"It's going to contain some regulations that will cost communities . . . a great deal of money," he added. "I would like to get ahead of that."

THE CITY action comes on the heels of a regional study by the Southeast Michigan Council of Gov-

ernments, which estimates it will cost between \$900 million and \$1.8 billion in the next 20 years to clean up the polluted river and store and treat the combined overflow waters.

Farmington's price tag alone totaled \$77 million, a figure denounced by Deadman who said there were other, less-costly alternatives, including separating the sanitary sewers from the storm sewers. He estimates this would cost the city between \$6 and \$10 million — considerably less than the numbers offered in SEMCOG's Remedial Action Plan.

The city of Farmington has a partially separated sewer system with about 400 acres of the city served by a combined sanitary/storm sewer system.

Deadman said he wants to get details on alternatives so the council can make some decisions.

THE FIRM of Black and Veatch was retained to do the study, which will:

- review past studies and previous sewer projects.
- look at drainage overflows and the status of overflow permits.
- review SEMTA's Rouge strategy study.

- observe combined sewer overflow areas and look at the city's total system.
- give a preliminary cost analysis and a suggested, staged plan of improvements for Farmington.

City officials are concerned not only with federal clean water edicts, but with the state Department of Natural Resources. Deadman said the DNR is expected to request a workable sewer maintenance program before renewing permits for combined sewer overflows.

"I believe it is essential that we develop a comprehensive approach which includes the evaluation of the system, the development of improvement options, and financing of the recommended improvements," Deadman added.

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road watch

This column was prepared by Farmington Hills city manager William Costick's staff.

This summer promises to be as busy as last summer with many road construction projects planned throughout the city. As a result, motorists will find road conditions varying from day to day.

This space will list current conditions in a "no surprises" campaign to inform motorists of the road improvements under way. Additional repairs and improvements will continue for the next two years; the city administration asks for your patience. The end result will be less congestion, better traffic capacity

and improved road safety in the community.

- Construction will begin July 11 to widen I-698 to eight lanes. Construction on the Orchard Lake Road bridge will begin in early August.
- Construction will begin in early July to widen the 11 Mile Road-Middlebelt intersection to five lanes on all legs. Most of the work will be completed by Sept. 1.
- Drake Road between 11 Mile and 12 Mile will be closed to through traffic during construction for paving beginning in early July.
- The intersection of Nine Mile and Farmington will be widened on the east and west legs. Construction will begin in mid-July.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

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Festival finale planned

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Stand by for Flight One. Flight One propels you through a fast-paced, high-energy sound show piloted by U.S. Air Corps Master Sgt. James Robinson and his crew for the 34th annual Farmington/Farmington Hills Founder's Festival grand finale Saturday night.

Flight One joins the U.S. Air Force Airmen of Note, the U.S. Air Corps Show Band, the Detroit Music Company, the Chet Brogan Dixieland Jazz Band with Dixielite, and J.C. Heard for continuous jazz sounds from 5:30-11 p.m. Saturday, on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-698, Farmington Hills.

Admission is free. There is a \$2 charge for parking. The U.S. Air Force groups were founded in 1942 at Wright Field near Dayton, Ohio. They travel 50,000 miles each year for performances.

ON SATURDAY morning, the

Founders Festival parade processions will step off at 10 a.m. from the drive-in theater on Grand River near Orchard Lake Road and go eastward to Farmington Road.

Sponsored by Botford General Hospital, the hour-long parade will feature bands, floats and other vehicles. Floats will depict the community's ethnic diversity through the festival theme, "Kaleidoscope of the World." Many marchers will wear ethnic costumes and carry flags of the countries to which they trace their heritage.

There will be trophies and cash prizes for floats in several categories, including most original and best depiction of the festival theme.

THE DETROIT Police Blue Pigs musical group will perform from 2-5 p.m. Saturday at the Farmington Community Library's Farmington Branch on Liberty and State.

Arts and crafts sales, ethnic foods, showmobile entertainment and kiddie rides continue through Saturday in the Downtown Farmington Center.

Farmington Historical Museum tours are scheduled at the Warner Mansion on Grand River from 1-8 p.m. Friday and 1-5 Saturday.

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