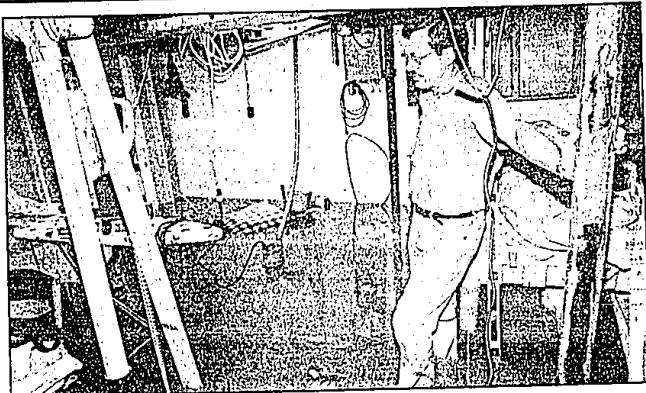


# City wants to hear from you

Residents who incurred damage to their property due to the flooding in Farmington Hills Aug. 6 and 9 can expect a visit from Farmington Hills city officials as part of the city's on-going investigation. On Friday, the city mailed out letters that acknowledged flooding inquiries in writing and requested appointments to evaluate the damage, determine any commonalities in each flooding situation, and also make recommendations to residents that may eliminate future flooding problems. City employees have been working closely with the Oakland County Drain Commission Sewer Operations Division to determine a possible cause and solution to the flooding.

In the past, Farmington Hills eliminated a flooding dilemma in the Kendallwood subdivision by installing a new bypass line. "With extreme rain storms, such as the ones that we experienced on Aug. 6 and 9, we can expect some street flooding and major yard ponding to occur," said Farmington Hills Public Services Director Tom Blasell. "However, we are very concerned about the flooding that resulted inside residences and it is imperative that we speak to everyone who had such a problem." Residents who have received flooding damage inside the home are asked to call the Department of Public Services at (248) 473-9521.



Upset: As Roger Trost waits for a pump to empty his basement following heavy rains in early August, his wife, Carol, sanitized everything tainted by the foot of sewage water. Residents Friday filed suit against Farmington Hills for damages.

## Bosch from page A1

With the existing 150,000-square-foot building, Bosch's facility will, when complete, cover 410,000 square feet. The 260,000-square-foot expansion includes the relocation of Bosch's braking division headquarters - which will bring 40 jobs with it - from South Bend, Ind. The three-story expansion will include labs, offices and a cafeteria. "This will keep the engineers close to the labs," said John Moulton, Bosch automotive group president. In 1983 when the company opened on Hills Tech Drive, 35 people were employed. The Farmington Hills site employs 640 and when the expansion is complete, 435 new jobs will have been added. "We will be able to increase our research and development abilities," Oswald said. According to an economic analysis by the University of Michigan, the Farmington Hills facility will generate an additional 350 jobs in the area in addition to Bosch's direct increased employment. Those are projected primarily from increased purchases from Michigan suppliers and spending by Bosch employees. When it was announced that Bosch wanted to expand, Indiana officials offered the company tax credits and incentives. The cost of doing business in Indiana over 20 years is \$40 million less than in Michigan, said Susan Shafer, Michigan Jobs Commission communications director. Michigan officials, including Gov. John Engler, determined that Bosch's plans would be eligible under MEGA. "It's a way of creating new jobs for the state," Shafer said. Bosch is now one of 50 projects that is taking advantage of MEGA, which allows credits against the Single Business Tax

on the business expansion. Bosch will receive \$20.8 million in tax credits, meaning the state loses that much. Over 20 years, however, it is expected that the Bosch expansion will provide net revenues of \$55 million to the state and more than \$71 million in personal income, Shafer said. The Farmington Hills city property tax break amounts to \$400,000 over six years. The abatement triggers participation by Oakland County and the schools of approximately \$1.5 million, for about \$2 million in abatements for Bosch from the locals, Arbenowski said. Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi and Hans Weckerle, Bosch Braking Systems president, also participated in the Thursday ceremonies. Oswald presented Vagnozzi with a \$5,000 check for the community's youth services.

## Flood from page A1

problem. If indeed it's the Farmington branch of the Farmington-Evergreen sewer... we need to ascertain what the problems are," Brock said. Liddle said residents, through the lawsuit, which has yet to be certified by a circuit judge as class action, are seeking damages for real and personal property damage and for "a diminution of market values." Under a 1994 law, home sellers must sign off on disclosure forms regarding problems with their houses. "One of the questions is, 'Have you ever had sewage in your basement?' That will obviously impact on the sale of these homes," Liddle said. A number of residents lodged complaints with the Farmington

**'I love Farmington Hills. But it is to the point you have to look at the health situation.'**  
Jeanne Jones  
-Resident

Damage to Jones' home is up to about \$15,000, plus she hired someone to clean her basement. The last time her basement flooded was four years ago. And before that, it flooded every six months, she said. Jones said she installed stop valves and a sump pump. "They never really worked." "I love Farmington Hills. But it is to the point you have to look at the health situation," Jones added. We had an impromptu meeting in the subdivision. Sixty people showed up. If we had planned for it, we could have had 200. The city has about one month to respond to the suit. Liddle said he will then file a motion requesting certification as a class action suit.

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