Flooded - again

Farmington homeowners ask when they'll get some relief

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER

For the first 11 years Don Hadley lived in his Valley View Circle home, his basement flooded once.

Desement 10000ed once.

Over the past year, sewer water has seeped into his basement three times — twice within a four-day span Aug. 6-9, when two massive rainstorms fell on

the area.
The Farmington resident wants

Innswers.

"I'dd be helpful for me to have a better understanding of why, if this was just a case of heavy rain, that for the first 11 years we over only floaded once," Hadley said. "And new, it's happened three times in the last year."

The back-to-back downpours, on Thursday, Aug. 6, and Sunday, Aug. 9, were blanded for the estimated two dozen basement floodings reported in Farmington.

SECTURE The Propagate, and Edition of Hills was hit harder with about 250-2618 habeted \$1100.

Mad Debroy. SSSSO.

Mad Debroy. SSSSO.

Residents

Residents Residents
also began
the process
of filing a
class action
lawsuit
against irmington

Hills for damages caused to their homes. Kovin Gushman, director of the Farming to n Department of Public Sorvices Department, explained last week that the rain-scaked ground had not sufficient if the rain-scaked ground had not for the form the f

the next morning.

"It just comes up from underneath,"
he said. "It's kind of frustrating." first storm

whon the second one hit.

Compounding problems, particularly in older portions of the city, is the fact some residents do not have downspouts extending far enough away from their houses. Because of that, water pools up and doesn't evaporate quickly.

Heavy rains in short periods of time also cause the nearby Rouge to overflew into the sewer system, and Gushman said it isn't particularly equipped to handle it.

The vast majority of Farmington was built before sump pumps became part of the required plumbing code, Gushman stressed.

For the Hadleys, signs of the floodings romain.

Many of their priceless personal belongings were damaged, including family photographs, cherished newspaper clippings and his Fordson High School diploma.

"Look at this," Hadley said. This is my third grade picture. It's curing up. And it has that musty smell that you can't do anything about."

The cleanup has been extensive, and costly. Hadley and his wife, Jac, spent \$150 on plastic containers, to store retrievable items; and no bottles of Clorox, to scrub water darkened floor tiles and walls.

They siphoned 150-200 gallons of water out of the basement and hauled 14 garbage bags of destroyed books and pictures to the curb. In the basement, a mark on the wall indicates the level of flooding; tiles had two different shades—those still darkened and others whitened from recent scrubbings.

Hadley said he won't get over the two floodings anytime soon. Whenever there is a forecast for rain, he'll wonder what will await him down in the basement the next morning.

"It is comes up from underneath," he said. "It's kind of frustrating."

Cleaning up: Don Hadley and his wife, Jac, used gallons of bleach to clean their basement following a series of floods. The couple lost books and photographs in the floods.

The city's Gushman also is frustrated but said residents must be diligent and contact the DPS whenever there are carly signs of trouble.

If they are having a chronic problem, such as with water around their floor drains, they should give us a call, Gushman said. "We'd assist them in troubleshooting what their problems aro."

Gushman added that the DPS went out following the storms and completed visual inspections of sewer lines to make sure they continue performing to full capacity.

Meanwhile, Hadley wasn't kidding when he said he won't ever again buy a home with the word valley in it. "That's a cinch."

CHAMP GOES TO CAMP

Farmington Observer

With the summer coming to an end, many pet owners have faced the difficulty of finding a sultable kennel for their pet suitable kennel for their per while they are away on vacation. Before leaving a pet at a kennel, it is a good idea to visit. Midweek is the best time to show you

around.

Trust your own Instincts, the boarding area should be clean and smell fresh. All boarding areas should be cleaned with a disinfectant daily. Other basics are a caring staff, emergency medical care, daily walks, and all pets current on immunizations. If the kennel meets these around.

If the kennel meets these basic requirements and you feel good about the facility, make reservations early. If the kennel is already full,

leave your name on a walting list as reservations often change. Make sure to notify the kennel if your plans change.

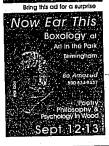
At Small Animal Hospital At Small Animal Hospital our primary concern Is your pet's health. We offer boarding, house calls, and a 24 hour emergency service. For questions concerning your pet or to schedule an appointment, call our

Look for our next article in two weeks.

"Serving the community for over forty-one years."

SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL, P.C.

TOO CHEZ The New England Steamer Menu



Beanie Heaven GRAND DPENING Sat. Sept. 5- 10 a.m. BEANIE BABIES RELEASES IN STOCKS PLUS RETIREDS & CURRENTS!
Come Join the Funi
FREE Desnie Baby Drawings
Refreshments Will Be Served
GALL HOTELS!
(313) 438-3815











The Farmington Observer

