

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.

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

answers.

"It'd 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 were only flooded once," Hadley said. "And now, it's happened three times in the last year."

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

when 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 overflow into the sewer system, and Gushman said it isn't particularly equipped to handle it.



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.

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The city's Gushman also is frustrated but said residents must be diligent and contact the DPS whenever there are early 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 are."

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."

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**The Farmington Observer**

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