Farmington Observer

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Duncket holding tank, 2A Ope-third of Max Simon's living space was under water. Joseph Brin-caf had tollet paper and spaghetti pouring into his basement. And Jean-nio Jones has to leave her dream nie Jones has to leave her dream house three times a year because of

Simon, who lives on Dunford in Weathrooke Manor.

As heavy rains best down again on the Farmington Hills City Hail Monday night, about 20 angry and disillusioned residents told of the destruction and havoc the June 21 downpour vreaked.

"When you're in your basement and you have tollet paper and spahouse three times a year occasion of flooding.
"I am 20 yards from the creek that smashed through my plate-glass window. And I had five feet of water. I have no family room, no study, no bathroom, no laundry room," said

Résidents recount

ghetii coming through the sanitary sewer and you're looking out on the street and the manhole cover on the sanitary is dancing about 18 inches on a column of drainage . . . that's what washed out Eldon Street," Brincat said.
While describing their losses, residents demanded action from city of includa, who, residents claimed, have long-failed to address drainage and flooding problems in the city, Subdivisions hit hardest by the June 21 downpour were Rendallwood, Westbrooke Manor, Lincolnshire, Frank-

storm woes

RESIDENTS COMPLAINED about the lack of warning from city officials and real estate agent that certain neighborhoods in Farmington Hills flood and have drainage problems. They demanded not only immediate help but solutions for which they don't have to wait another 10 years. Some residents demanded some type of financial relief for their damages and inconvenience.

"You owe it to the people to let them know their bouses fill with other people's sewage," a tearful Jones said. "You wouldn't allow your families to go through what I do. If I could sell my house and move to Brighton right now, I would. You have a beginh hazard, raw sewage in my bassment. My children are breathing that stuff."

Greg Carns, who moved to Brandywind'n Kendaliwoof four days before the flood, lost keepsakes and

Angry residents gain promises from city

By Joanne Maliszewski stalf writer

Dy Joanne Maliszewskil stalf writer

Farmington Hills city manager William Costick said be's committed to fixing what's wrong with sewer and drainage systems to prevent, as best as possible, the type of damage sustained by residents in last week's downpour.

"We recognize the problem. We don't have to study the problem anymore. We will find the money. We will foot the problem anymore. The weight of the city council Monday that within \$9 days he would have a plan of action to improve storm and sanitary sewer and improve the filow of drainage, particularly during storms.

Improvements would be made to sanitary sewers and storm sewers, as well as investigating the possibility of working with West; Some of the flooding problem is attributable in the city, Costick said.

Costick estimated storm sewer improvements at \$10-\$15 million. Some sanitary sewer improvements are part of the long-planned \$50 million Evergence-Parmington sewer system project, scheduled in phases to begin next year. "We've been saving for that for years," Costick said. The city share is \$27 million.

EVEN TRIOUGH the city is gatting federal grants for the Evergreen-Parmington project, it must address boys from sewer improvements, for example, would be fissanced.

While some council members suggested reviewing the recently adopted 1959-90 budget, others suggested a

We recognize the problem. We don't have to study the problem anymore. We will find the money. We will do the engineering.'

Farmington Hills city manager

drain millage or a bond proposal through the Oakland County Drain Commission to finance improvements. Costick's report of what will be improved, both in the short-term and long-term, is expected to include financing suggestions. "It's up to this council to find the monsy." councilman Aldo Vagnorri said.

Mayor Terry Sever said fit it's necessary to raise tarces to pay for drainage improvements, he wouldn't bestiate. But others eyed the new \$2.6 million badget as at least part of a solution to paying for immediate, smaller improvements.

"Ibelieve the council should revisit the budget. There are some items in the budget that aren't quite as important today as they were two months ago," councilman Ben Marks said. He referred to the \$100,000 budgeted to buy trees to beautify the city.

Councilman Paul Sowerby agreed. He said he felt foolish two weeks ago spending \$200,000 on new sidewalts in light of residents' flooding danage. "I don't recall drains or storm drains coming up in all the budget discussions we had."



knee-high water, soults tried to keep the rising waters of the Rouge out of their houses.



Robby Sands found the going alow as he made his way through the intersection of Old Forge and Brandywine in the Kendaliwood subdivision of Farmington Hills during the June 21 downpour.

Mayor eyes strong role, longer term

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Contractors protest bid awards

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