

Residents determined to prevent flooding

By Susan Duck
staff writer

In the wake of the June 21 downpour that flooded more than 100 Farmington Hills homes, the city will host a study/work session Wednesday, Aug. 16 for representatives of organized neighborhood groups.

The meeting, for examining engineering plans, will be at 7:30 p.m. in the city council chambers.

"We want to make sure that if (the city's drainage improvement program) stays on track," Dunford resident Max Simon told the city council

Monday, "We are determined that this time something be done. This matter will not die."

Simon said he had 5 1/4 feet of water in his house when the creek behind his house overflowed. "We saw that water rising and we were absolutely helpless."

Simon suggested emergency civil defense measures, such as sandbags should flooding recur. "Give us protection so the stream does not break through our doorwall again. Until the storm situation is alleviated, something has to be done to protect these homes."

Councilman Paul Sowerby agreed.

He called for a master disaster plan, which he felt wouldn't be costly.

ABOUT 30 people came from the Kendallwood and Westbrook Manor subdivisions, near 13 Mile and Farmington Road, to speak about the flooding at Monday's city council meeting.

Those two subdivisions will be topics of discussion Aug. 16 as will Franklin Knolls subdivision and homes served by the Farmington Interceptor along Middlebelt.

A general meeting, open to all residents, about sanitary sewer and storm water drainage improvements

In particular areas will be scheduled for North Farmington High School.

Roberta Abrams, a registered nurse who lives on Dunford, said she wanted to bring to the council's attention the time period in which raw sewage was present, creating a health hazard.

She said she took a water sample to test it for cultures and sensitivities. "In view of the fact we have a breach of public health, this needs to be dealt with very quickly," said Abrams.

City manager William Costick is working with the city's consulting engineers, Hubbell Roth & Clark of

Bloomfield Hills, the Oakland County Department of Public Works and the Oakland County Drain Commission to address major citywide drainage improvements — sanitary sewers, storm water drains, retention ponds, earthen dams.

The city's goal is to begin planned major neighborhood improvements by next spring. Stormwater flooding and sanitary sewer overloading are two key problems.

COSTICK AND drain commission representatives will meet with West Bloomfield Township officials next week to discuss possible upstream drainage improvements in an effort

to curtail the rush of water downstream in runoff situations.

Costick said major citywide drainage improvements will cost \$12-\$15 million. "But I'm not concerned that we can't finance these improvements," he said.

Funding sources include grants, bonding and the city's sanitary sewer fund, now up to \$9 million. "We have the ability to bond to raise money but in all likelihood, it's going to mean an increase in budget expenditures next year. And that's something residents are looking at, most of our commitment," Mayor Terry Sever said.

Group to dissolve C'ville schools meets Monday

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

Students are out of school in Clarencville but the consolidation issue has not gone away.

Susan Gonzales, who heads the group Community to Dissolve Clarencville, said the group has scheduled a meeting Monday, the place yet to be determined.

Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, who advocates consolidation of smaller school districts to save mon-

ey, is scheduled to attend, she said.

Also scheduled, Gonzales said, is William Harwood, once superintendent of the Cherry Hill schools, which consolidated with Wayne-Westland Community Schools a few years ago.

FAXON SAID he is not necessarily advocating that the Clarencville School District — which includes part of Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington Hills — dissolve.

"I support people having the right to make decisions to do what they

want to do with their schools.

"I support consolidation wherever it can occur... as a means of reducing the costs of education throughout the state."

Wilson "Butch" Bowden, president of the group Informed Residents for Clarencville, which opposes consolidation, said the group has not met since mid-June.

"We put the ball back in their hands and we'll see what they're (the pro-consolidation group) going to do next."

Nothing that new Superintendent Jerry Monticello has said he plans to meet with the pro-consolidation group, Bowden said. "We also want to meet with him and show our side."

Sparked by a suggestion by Informed Residents for Clarencville, the board of education unanimously passed a resolution last month against consolidation.

GONZALES CRITICIZED that action, saying, "The majority of the people in the district do want the

school district consolidated."

She said her group has collected more than 1,000 petition signatures supporting consolidation and is continuing to collect signatures.

Bowden said some who have signed pro-consolidation petitions have told his group they've since changed their minds.

According to the district's attorney, two-thirds of voters in each school district affected by a consolidation would have to approve it.

The state superintendent of public

instruction also would have to approve such a move, he said.

Gonzales said her group is examining other ways to dissolve the district.

Supporters of dissolving the district say Clarencville residents would pay lower taxes, and have access to better academic programs in the Livonia and Farmington school districts if consolidation happens.

Those against consolidation say taxes would not drop significantly if consolidation occurred.

Man killed, fiancée hurt as trailer hits car

Continued from Page 1

Cranston said.

Another westbound car behind Ofstedahl's, driven by a 68-year-old Pontiac man, sustained minor driv-

er's-door damage when hit by debris. Debris also damaged a lens shield on the traffic light at 12 Mile and Rollercrest.

ington Hills' fifth-worst for accidents in the past three years. "Most have been rear-enders or the result of lane changes," Cranston said.

"The county road commission is surveying the area for speed and for

site distances. But nothing associated with this accident is typical of those problems."

Lynch and Son Funeral Directors of Clawson is handling arrangements for Ofstedahl.

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