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that there have been plenty of opportunities to tell the city about this," said Max Simon, whose tri-level house had been flooded in 1981 and 1989, costing him thousands of dollars. "Only when they learned that the pipe was coming down

"They (Kendallwood Drive residents) were conspicuously absent when we had many meetings with the city about this," said Max Simon, whose tri-level house had been flooded in 1981 and 1989, costing him thousands of dollars. "Only when they learned that the pipe was coming down

their street did they raise a stink."

A tall order

The pipe, which had been planned to go under Farmington Road in the 1982 master flood plan, is part of a project designed to eliminate flooding in a flood plain, a tall order — and an expensive one.

Kendallwood Drive residents like John Dickson said the bid price tag, estimated to be around \$12 million and up to \$22 million including interest payments on 20-year sewer bonds, could doom other city infrastructure projects.

Dickson said subdivisions such as Quaker Valley and Colony Park, to the west of the north flooding, have a setback from natural drains. But Kendallwood subdivision, which extends west of Farmington Road, was built in the 1950s, before laws regarding flood plains were on the books.

City Manager Bill Costick said city, county and consulting engineers all agreed that something

that drastic was needed to stop serious flooding, like residents experienced in 1968, 1981 and 1989. "We looked at over 200 houses that had their lowest openings below flood levels," he said. "When you have a large storm, the effects are devastating."

Barb Crouse, whose house on Old Forge had flooded in 1968, 1981 and 1989, said it was only after the 1989 flood that residents collectively organized and spoke out to eliminate flood control.

"There are going to be disruptions," she said of the construction planned for Kendallwood Drive. "I sympathize with these people, but this has to be done or there'll be more flooding."

Grace Komaley, a Westbrooke resident, said the city had anticipated the "extreme cost" of the project, but added that because of additional development and filling in of areas in Farmington Hills and to the north and west, future flooding would only be worse if the project is not completed.

"Once the Haggerty Connector

goes through, there is even going to be more water to take care of," she said. "There'll be more development in Commerce Township, Novi and West Bloomfield."

Good time for bonds

The money for the project will come from sewer bonds, not tax dollars. Costick said low interest rates also make this a good time to sell bonds for the project. Morissette said she has spent money on a sump pump and other work to keep her property drained without city help.

"I don't ask the city to take care of our property," she said.

But Simon, who said fully a third of his house has been completely flooded in 1981 and 1989, said it goes beyond sump pumps.

"It has cost us thousands upon thousands of dollars each time," he said. "There are hundreds of homeowners affected."

City engineer Tom Biasell said the subdivision was built on a flood plain without consideration for setbacks from the natural

drains provided by the two branches of the Minnow Pond Drain, which converge within the area of Kendallwood and Westbrooke subdivisions.

"The area drains from north-west (West Bloomfield, Novi area) to the southeast," he said.

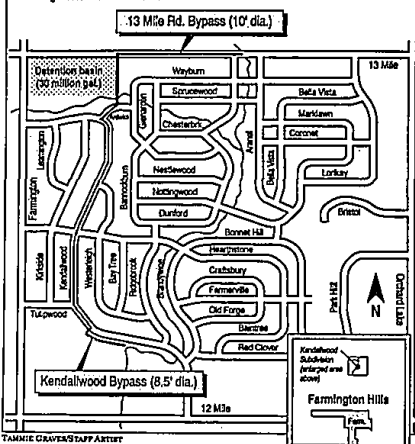
Tearing up Farmington Road would involve building a longer, more expensive pipe and tearing up gas, electric and sewer lines. Kendallwood Drive sewer leads are in the back of the properties, eliminating another impediment to the project, Biasell said.

In 1990 the city met with residents of the area on three occasions with about 400 residents showing up each time to support a flood relief project, Costick said.

The pipe project, which includes a 10-foot diameter line under 13 Mile to a retention basin that is already partially complete, will be built in sections so that only a part of Kendallwood Drive will be torn up at any given time. The project should be completed in the summer of 1994, he said.

Kendallwood/Westbrooke Storm Relief Program

The proposed Kendallwood Drive bypass will give flood relief to about 200 houses in the Kendallwood subdivision, especially along the flood plain that splits the subdivision from 13 Mile to 12 Mile north and south. The project, which includes a retention basin designed to hold 30 million gallons of water, will be cheaper than the design called for in the Farmington Hills master flood plan. That project would have had the bypass built under Farmington Road to the west of Kendallwood.



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