



Changes stem from benefits of the Village's Flood Mitigation Plan

New FEMA map removes 64 Elmwood Park homes from floodplain

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ELMWOOD PARK – Flood protection benefits of the Thatcher Avenue floodwall have resulted in the removal of 64 Elmwood Park homes from a revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Affected homeowners with a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender would no longer be required by Federal law to maintain flood insurance when the flood maps become effective.

"This is tremendous news for these homeowners and a recognition of how effective our Flood Mitigation Plan has been," said Village President Angelo "Skip" Saviano. "We're notifying the residents of this change so that they can check into whether they might qualify for a lower-cost insurance plan."

The Thatcher Avenue floodwall prevents Des Plaines River floodwaters from inundating the southwest portion of the Village. It was one of the key components of the Village's Flood Mitigation Plan which has been under construction since 2013.

The revised FIRM shows the removal of the Des Plaines River 100-year floodplain within the Village, including the removal of 64 homes. There are 137 other adjacent properties which may or may not be required to purchase flood insurance.

"We need to stress that while the risk of flooding is reduced, it has not been removed," Saviano said. "If not mandated by your lender, flood insurance is optional, but recommended. We urge affected homeowners to contact their insurance agent to see if they are eligible for the lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy (PRP)."

Existing policyholders can easily convert their policy to a PRP back to its last effective date and receive a refund for the difference in premiums, avoiding any gaps in flood coverage. The new FIRM is preliminary and will go through a 90-day notice. After the public notice, the updated FIRM becomes effective September 28, 2016.

Anyone with questions should call Village Hall at 708-452-7300