

Frank Wsol
1411 S Grove Park ridge IL 60068
frankwsol@juno.com

July 6, 2009

Finance & Budget / Public Works issues

Move the City Council approve an immediate suspension of permit fees for owners of "existing" single family homes adopting flood mitigation/prevention projects performed on a single-family residences (Townhouses included).

The temporary suspension of this specific permit fee will not alter an applicants responsibility to secure a valid Park Ridge building permit nor will it alter any required inspections and adjustments needed as a result of such examinations.

15-1-6 BUILDING PERMITS

11. Addition to, alteration of, replacement or relocation of any standpipe system, water supply, plumbing, sewer, drainage, gas, soil waste, vent or similar piping, electrical wiring, heating, air conditioning, water heater or other mechanical components.

15-1-7 REQUIRED INSPECTIONS

After issuing a building permit, the code official shall conduct inspections from time to time during and upon completion of the work for which a permit has been issued. The Building Official shall maintain a record of all such examinations, inspections and any other record of violations of this code. Required inspections shall be requested, performed and approved prior to concealment of any work, and/or receiving a Certificate of Occupancy. It is the responsibility of the applicant to request the required inspections.

Move the City Council immediately adopt a Flood Rebate Program. This program will allow for flood rebates to owners of "existing" single family homes up to a maximum of a \$2,500.00 rebate based on 25% of the actual cost of the verifiable construction of flood mitigation/prevention projects performed on a single-family residence, dating back to January 1, 2008. Only existing single-family homes (and townhouses) will be eligible whether owner occupied or not. Landlords may apply.

All new construction is required to meet all appropriate building codes and is specifically excluded from this program.

Projects covered by the program will include improvements for: overhead sewers; backwater valves in basements or yards; lift stations in yards; glass block basement windows in cases where a home is subject to flooding through window wells; drain tile with sump pumps; backup battery sump pumps; emergency generators for flood control systems, "French drains" which can demonstrate their effectiveness at retaining significant rainwater that causes home flooding and sump pump connections to storm sewers.

The type of projects not covered include maintenance items such as normal plumbing repairs, sump pump replacements, valve replacements, sewer clean-outs and repairs.

Funding for this program will be from General Fund property tax reserves in an amount of \$420,000 through April 30, 2010.

The goal of the program is to provide Park Ridge homeowners of existing single family residences who have had flood mitigation/prevention construction work performed on their dwelling or those adopting such improvements an opportunity to address the new issue of "100 year flooding" rainfall that has become all too "normal."

In the City of Park Ridge "2008 Flood Report" Staff estimated the cost to taxpayers for that one event in excess of \$250,000 of which nearly half was for garbage collection and landfill charges.

Minimizing these expenses will save the taxpayers not only unsafe and unhealthy basement flooding but may lower our operating expenses for garbage collections. Additionally, every home protected with such devices may see a property value increase and some corresponding increase in real estate transfer fees as well as property taxes collected.
