

Update

Flood Recovery and Buyout Information



September 3, 2008

The City is collecting information for the Notice of Interest (NOI) buyout application which is due to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management office on September 12, 2008. Within two months from the date of submission of the NOI, the City will be invited to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. It may take another six months after the submission of the HMGP application before the City will know which properties qualify for buyout funds.

The City Council determined that the neighborhoods of Park View Terrace, Idyllwild, Taft Speedway and Showers Addition should be included in the NOI. Please keep in mind that the buyout program is completely voluntary and you can change your mind up until the date of deed transfer, which may be many months away. It is also important to note that there is no guarantee that the City will be awarded funds to acquire properties or that, if awarded, all property owners who express interest in being bought out, will be bought out.

The City will be periodically updating the website (www.icgov.org/buyout) and mailing and emailing flood recovery information to all flood affected property owners in the four neighborhoods.

Flood Recovery/Buyout Web Page & E-Subscribe to Recovery News

Please check www.icgov.org/buyout for current flood recovery and buyout information and updates. You can also subscribe to City news releases regarding recovery and buyouts. To subscribe, click on www.icgov.org/subscribe and look for the new "Buyout" category under the "Media Release" category of e-news.

Winterizing of Structures

For dwelling units that will not be repaired or occupied prior to winter conditions occurring, it is important to make sure precautions are made to prevent freezing of drain pipes and water lines and to prevent structural damage that could be caused by the cold environment.

Suggested precautions to prevent winter damage:

1. Drain all pipes. If pipes are not drained, minimal heat should be maintained to prevent freezing.
2. If minimal heat is not maintained, concrete floors and foundations should be protected with some type of insulating blanket to prevent frost heaving.

Please refer to your private contractor(s) for specific questions on winterizing your structure.

3. The Water Division requires the water service line be shut off at the stop box to avoid frozen pipes and meter damage if the structure is not occupied prior to cold weather. Please contact the Water Division at 319-356-5160 to schedule a water shut-off.

Please call 319-356-5120 (City Housing & Inspection Services) with questions regarding winterizing.

(see reverse side)

Demolition

If a property owner wants to demolish a house, the owner must apply for a demolition permit from the City Housing and Inspection Services Department. The \$50 fee is waived until July 1, 2009. Staff at the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management has informed City staff that if a house is demolished before the City receives HMGP funds, the owner will not be eligible for a buyout of the structure unless the City demolishes the home for health and safety reasons.

Flood Insurance Policy Numbers Requested

For those who had flood insurance in force during the flood, City staff is required to compile policy numbers as part of the buyout application. If you have not already supplied your policy number, please contact Abbie Yoder (see contact information below).

Attached Informational Documents

1. Memo from City Attorney Eleanor Dilkes to City Council dated 8/20/08, "Buyout/Purchase Price/Duplication of Benefits"
2. "Frequently Asked Questions concerning the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program" (Source: FEMA 8/6/08).
3. "Purchasing Flood-Prone Property" (FEMA, 8/28/08)

Please feel free to contact either Steve Long or Abbie Yoder if you have any questions about the flood recovery or buyout process.

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