



Contact:
City Administrator Richard A. Huff
Email: CityAdministrator@nilesmi.org
Phone: 269.683-4700 ext. 3011
Fax: 269.684.3930
333 N. Second Street
Niles, Michigan 49120

CITY OF NILES

Press Release

City of Niles Flood Update

NILES, February 26, 2018 18:00 hours – For Immediate Release

Today the St. Joseph River measured 14.41 feet at 3:00pm. The river forecast model continues to show that the river will remain above flood stage until March 2nd at 6:00am. While the floodwaters continue to recess, the City urges ongoing caution in and around the flooded areas. City staff ask that people remember that floodwaters conceal hazards and are often deep with swift currents. Floodwaters also contain contaminants and debris which can be dangerous and harmful to your health. Do not approach downed powerlines, flood debris or other potentially dangerous obstacles.

City leaders are working with Berrien County Emergency Operations Management on flood remediation efforts. Emergency Management Teams are currently deployed throughout the County, including the City of Niles, and are assessing flooded areas for emergencies, infrastructure, property, building and other damage.

In coordination with the Southeast Berrien County Landfill, the City will be providing trash dumpsters throughout the impacted neighborhoods. We expect to offer this service at no cost on Friday March 1 between 9am and 4pm and Saturday March 2 between 8am and noon. Prohibited Materials include: free liquids, paints or solvents, cement, bricks or concrete, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners (refrigerants), household or outside chemicals. There will be a special dumpster in each neighborhood for vegetation including brush, leaves, grass or dirt. Anyone wishing to help on dumpster days should call or email Sanya Vitale at 269-683-4700 ext 3020 communitydevelopment@nilesmi.org.

City staff met today to discuss municipal services and buildings that were affected and damaged as part of this record flooding. Affected municipally owned areas include Riverfront Park between the YMCA and Fort Street, including the IN-MI Rivervalley Trail, Island Park, Pucker Street Dam Park, the City's Waste Water Plant which continues to operate at full capacity and the City's bus system, the Dial-A-Ride, which is temporarily operating out of City's Law Enforcement Complex as well as a number of local roads and sidewalks.

Until City engineers inspect for structural damage that could cause the roads and trails to collapse, please do not cross barriers and other road blocks. This process may take 7-14 days as it is important that we carefully inspect for the safety of our community and those traveling along our roads and trails.

Anyone that observes damage to a road in the flood zone or other municipal infrastructure is asked to please call the City of Niles and report your observations.

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