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CITY OF NILES

Press Release

Efforts to Help Flood Victims Appreciated

NILES, March 8, 2018 16:00 hours – For Immediate Release

We want to thank our community and area agencies, churches, hospitals and organizations for pulling together and helping the victims of the flooding. At this time the City of Niles cannot accept donations of clothing, food, cleaning supplies or other ancillary items on behalf of our residents. Residents are still working on getting back in their homes and are in the process of identifying their needs. We appreciate everyone's patience and generosity. Please watch your local media and the United Way of Southwest Michigan Facebook page. If any items are needed, they will post that information right away.

The Berrien County EOC in coordination with the United Way are working with national relief organizations like Team Rubicon, Crisis Clean Up and International Disaster Emergency Service to start providing **no cost assistance** to homeowners needing assistance with additional abatement and muck out needs in the affected homes. These entities can be reached by calling the United Way 211 help line. Team Rubicon can be reached directly, by calling 269-224-0310.

As you begin to repair your homes and businesses from the devastating damage, please remember to get your building, electrical, and mechanical permits from the City's Building Safety Division located at 1345 E. Main St. Niles, MI 49120. Varying permits may be required and are necessary to ensure that the work performed is done within the limitations of the building code for the safety of the residents.

Continue to beware of contractor scams, price gouging and charity scams- the Attorney General, the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) recommend that residents affected by the flooding should be alert for scam artists using new and old tricks to obtain vital information or take advantage of disaster-weary survivors. Be cautious of door-to-door solicitors who hand out flyers and promise to speed up the insurance or contracting process and those who ask for large cash deposits or advance payments in full.

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