

Date: June 6, 2011

From: Honorable Tom O'Neill, Chairman  
Peoria County Board

Dear Property Owner:

Peoria County has determined that your property is located in or near a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and may be affected during a flood event. The following information is being forwarded to the owners of all property which is located in or near a federally designated SFHA.

Peoria County wants to make you aware of the potential flood hazards that may threaten your property and the problems associated with flooding in this area. As many of you are aware, significant flooding events have occurred in September 2008 and March 2009. As a result, several homes along the Illinois River have been mitigated from the harsh impacts of flooding by elevating, demolishing, or relocating their structures, many with federal aid. As flooding events become more severe and more frequent, it is important for property owners' review their own emergency preparedness plans so that they may react accordingly in case of disaster.

Flooding is a natural hazard occurring in Peoria County due to the Illinois River's vast watershed containing many tributaries. Your property may be located high enough that it has not been inundated by previous floods; however, it can still be flooded in the future from more serious flood events. The spring season is naturally conducive for flooding in the Midwest due to the combination of seasonal snowmelt and rainfall accumulation.

The Peoria County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was adopted by the County Board in 1985, identifies various techniques the County is taking in order to reduce flood damages. Peoria County, with the aid of State and Federal agencies, has spent over 3 million dollars acquiring flood-prone properties as well as implementing various flood mitigation activities.

As a result of Peoria County's participation in the Community Rating System program (CRS) and the floodplain management activities implemented by Peoria County, most residents qualify for a twenty-five percent (25%) discount in the premium cost of flood insurance for National Flood Insurance Program policies issued or renewed in Special Flood Hazard Areas on or after May 1, 2009. Please discuss this discount with your insurance provider to ensure you are receiving the discounts Peoria County has worked hard to get for our residents. Please be advised that the best and most efficient way to reduce flood insurance premiums is to mitigate your structure.

In addition to the plans and programs currently being implemented by Peoria County, please be aware that the new FEMA issued Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps will be adopted in the near future. While you may have missed out of previous public hearings regarding these maps and the changes they may bring, understand that additional opportunities to view and comment on these changes will arise. Individual property owners will be notified in the event your property will be placed into a more restrictive classification.

Peoria County is also in the process of transferring several publically owned properties in the Chillicothe/Rome area to the Chillicothe Park District. This will allow for increased and timelier property maintenance so that the areas along the Illinois River continue to stay beautiful for public benefit.

Working together with property owners, we will help keep the flood related problems from becoming more serious. We would appreciate your cooperation in reviewing the enclosed brochure titled "Peoria County - Flood Hazard Area - Outreach Project".

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed information, or any other inquiries regarding floodplain management in Peoria County, please free to contact the Department of Planning & Zoning at (309) 672-6915.

Thank you for cooperation and time.

Sincerely,

Honorable Tom O'Neill, Chairperson  
Peoria County Board

Enclosures