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## **Flood proofing assistance expanded in Elmwood Park**

*Centennial Park contract awarded*

ELMWOOD PARK – Homeowners in Elmwood Park will get additional help in flood proofing their homes under an expanded grant assistance program approved by the Village Board. The board amended the existing program to include installation of new glass block windows, retaining walls or other related work deemed necessary to prevent flood damage.

"It can be expensive to flood proof a home, and this is a way for the Village to help," Village President Pete Silvestri said. "We are still in the beginning stages of our flood mitigation plan, so any steps homeowners take now will help."

The grant program had previously helped single family homeowners defray a portion of the cost of protecting their homes with the installation of overhead sewers, backflow prevention valves or new drain tiles next to the house foundation, among other remedies. Now, the additional measures such as glass block windows will be included.

The program reimburses homeowners for the work performed on their homes up to 50 percent of the cost to a maximum grant of \$1,500 per home. Quotes are required, and no work can begin until the Village approves and signs off on the application.

The Board also approved awarding a contract for the rehabilitation of the new Centennial Park. The park is being developed on the former site of the Elmwood Park Presbyterian Church at 7600 W. Armitage Avenue. Copenhaver Construction of Gilberts, Illinois, was the low bidder at just over \$269,000. Completion of the new park is expected by mid 2013. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources awarded the Village \$163,000 to assist with development and had earlier provided \$427,000 for acquisition of the property.

In other action, Village board members approved an ordinance authorizing the purchase of the property at 7209 West Grand Avenue. The property is located within the Elmwood Park TIF Redevelopment Project Area of the Village and is another step forward in revitalizing that once historic retail district.

"This is an important action that the board has taken," Silvestri said. "We are excited to see this district come alive again and bring more jobs and shoppers to the area."