

# MP: We Have Our Own Property To Protect

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Gap or no gap, Mt. Prospect will do whatever it takes to protect its residents and property owners from the harmful effects of flooding from the Des Plaines River, according to Village Manager Mike Janonis.

Janonis' comments were in response to a call from a Des Plaines alderman, who this week asked that the city's Legal department take action to halt work on the Levee 37 flood protection project until a planned water holding reservoir can become operational. The alderman, John Robinson (2d), said work on the Levee 37 floodwall should stop and that a 500-ft. gap in the wall, approved by Mt. Prospect, not be allowed to be filled with sandbags in the case of heavy rainfall. Large sections of the 2d ward are located adjacent to the river.

Levee 37 is a project that calls for construction of a floodwall along the Des Plaines River from a point near Chicago Executive Airport on the north to Euclid Avenue on the south.

near Dundee and Wolf roads.

An agreement for the reservoir has yet to be inked and until that time, in the case of heavy rainfall, the overflow of water from the river has no place to be held. The 500-ft. gap in the wall, however, would serve as a drain to allow floodwater to seep west onto River Road. However, said Janonis yesterday (Thursday), if homes and businesses west of River Road become threatened, the village will move to sandbag the gap. That would result in water flowing to the south toward Des Plaines where property could become threatened.

Janonis said the only time in recent memory where homes west of River Road were threatened with flooding from the river was during last September's major rainstorm. He added that it's his understanding that an agreement for the Heritage Park reservoir is near completion.

"We're not looking to cause problems in Des Plaines," said Janonis, "but we want to protect property in Mt. Prospect. It's like when Des Plaines sandbags property there. That pushes