



For Immediate Release

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City of Lowell February 24, 2018 2PM Flood Update

Lowell, Michigan, February 24, 2018 – As of 7:00 AM, our flood stage level is 18.2 feet and is in moderate flood status. We anticipate our flood level to reach 18.3 ft. around 1:00 PM and at that level until approximately 1:00 AM tomorrow before we see a reduction in elevation. This is now the fourth highest elevation flood in City of Lowell history.

City staff along with the Lowell Area Fire Department has worked very hard to manage this event. The only incident to report was an arrest of a male subject for Operating While Impaired as this individual tried to bypass a barricade into the flooded zone and was found to be over two times the legal limit.

Road closures at this time are the following: Jackson St. from Main Street to Grand River Dr. in Lowell Township is closed, all streets south of Main St. east of Monroe and west of Division are closed, and Bowes Rd. from Fulton Street (M-21) in Lowell Township to west of Valley Vista and then between Pleasant and Hudson St. At this time, we do not anticipate the need to close Hudson St. but do ask drivers to be mindful and use caution when crossing over the Grand River. We continue to ask drivers to avoid going past the barricades and for people not to attempt any recreational kayaking in the area.

Our biggest concern has been over taxation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Those issues have been mitigated as a result of the bypass pumping and the Plant is operating as normal. We anticipate having to continue to bypass pump the sanitary and storm sewer into the Grand River for the next few days to alleviate sewer backups as best as possible.

Businesses normally open on Saturday in the Downtown are currently open. Some properties have water in their basements and that is somewhere between 6 to 10 inches depending on which side of Main Street they reside.

The Lowell Area Fire Department asks that for those who are using gas power ditch pumps to release water from their homes, to ensure that the pumps are clear from the entrances to their home and locate them as far away as possible.

Lowell Light and Power is also asking for people to not remove their electric meters on their own. Please call Lowell Light and Power at 616-897-8402 and they will address this for those interested.

There was a news report last evening indicating that the City declared a State of Emergency. The City nor has Kent County done that at this time. State and Federal Assistance can only be provided to us if the Governor declares a State of Emergency for Lowell and/or Kent County.

As the water recedes and clean up begins, the Lowell United Methodist Church will assist those affected by the flooding and provide cleaning supplies and proper cleaning steps when dealing with flooded homes. The City will share more information as this continues.

The most up to date information for residents will be available via Facebook pages on the City of Lowell, Lowell Police Department and Lowell Area Fire Department.