



NEWS RELEASE

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

TO: The Republic
QMIx News
White River Broadcasting
WHIUM News
Hope Star Journal

FROM: Cory Fischer

DATE: September 27, 2018

RE: City of Columbus Qualifies for Additional Flood Insurance Discount

City of Columbus Residents Qualify for Additional 5% Flood Insurance Discount

City of Columbus property owners should see an additional 5 percent reduction in their premiums for flood insurance policies that are issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2018. Both the City of Columbus and Bartholomew County had held a Community Rating System (CRS) Class 8 since 2013, which provides those with federally backed flood insurance a 10 percent savings on their premiums.

The City has exceeded the minimum standards of the NFIP and now meets the criteria for a Class 7 rating in the CRS program. For advancing to a CRS Class 7 Rating, City of Columbus property owners will now save a total of 15 percent on their flood insurance policies (issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2018). Bartholomew County residents will remain at a CRS Class 8 Rating and maintain the 10 percent savings on their premiums.

The Community Rating System is a voluntary program for local communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. The goals of the program are to reduce flood losses; facilitate accurate insurance ratings; and to promote the awareness of flood insurance. Under the CRS, the flood insurance premiums (of federally backed flood insurance) for a community's residents and businesses are discounted to reflect that community's work to reduce flood damage to existing buildings, manage development in areas not mapped by the NFIP, protect new buildings beyond the minimum NFIP protection level, preserve/restore natural functions of floodplains, help insurance agents obtain flood data, and help people obtain flood insurance.

Activities that contributed to the Class 7 rating include the City's Comprehensive Flood Risk Management Plan and Flood Response & Evacuation Plan, heightened development standards extending into the 500-Year Floodway Fringe Area, and preservation of open space in the Special Flood Hazard Area. Credit is also provided for conducting and adopting additional flood studies for areas not included on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps in the Haw Creek Watershed.

Data provided by FEMA's CRS Specialist indicates that the Class 7 rating results in an average additional \$40 savings per policy and a total savings of \$46,722 on flood insurance premiums annually for the 374 policies currently in place throughout the City of Columbus.

The City of Columbus and Bartholomew County's continued commitment to floodplain management regulations enhances public safety, property protection, and protects the natural functions of floodplains, and reduces flood insurance premiums.

For additional information please contact the City of Columbus – Bartholomew County Floodplain Manager Cory Fischer at 812-376-2550 or cfischer@columbus.in.gov.