


Evidence of possible water damage in 8030 Riverwalk



Suburban Life

Brookfield • Lyons • McCook

Volume 58 No. 28 A2 www.libertysuburban.com Wednesday, February 14, 2007



www.libertysuburban.com/images/061229702 Staff photo by Sidney Thomas

Police officials investigate where a man was hit by a freight train at about 2:15 p.m. Feb. 12. Police are not releasing the man's name or how he got on the track.

Man killed by train

Witness: Man walked onto track
By Robert Carr
News editor

A man was hit and killed by a westbound Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train just after 2:15 p.m. Monday near Berwyn's Harlem Avenue Metra train station.

Police had not determined by this newspaper's press time why the man was on the tracks. Officials are not commenting on how the man, believed to have been in his 50s, got in front of the train on the south side of the tracks.

Ales Kubecka, a bartender at the James Joyce bar across from the train station, said he saw

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100 residents without a home after pipe bursts

By Dan Petrella
Staff writer

About 100 Lyons residents still couldn't return home Monday after a sprinkler pipe burst in the ceiling of a condominium building at about 3 p.m. Saturday and damaged units on all six floors, according to officials and residents.

3 weeks
Residents said they have been told it could be that long before they are allowed to move back in.

The pipe froze and broke in the attic space above a sixth-floor unit in the southeast corner of the building at 8030 River Walk Drive, causing "considerable damage" to all six floors, Lyons Fire Chief Gordon Nord said. Firefighters shut off the water and evacuated the building, Nord said.

Second-floor resident Joan Schwingel said she arrived home shortly after the pipe burst and was forced to stay in a motel Saturday night. Schwingel said the water damaged her floor and soaked her furniture and some personal papers.

"We're hoping it won't turn into mildew," she said.

Tasha Chretien, a fourth-floor resident, said the ceiling collapsed in her kitchen, and her bathroom, her carpeting and hardwood floors were damaged, and her furniture was ruined.

"Everything that isn't wet is dirty," said Chretien, who is staying with relatives until she can move back home.

The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago set up a warming center at Lyons Village Hall while they found places to stay the night, spokesman Josh Morton said.

Front page of Suburban Life on February 14, 2007

Available online: <http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/lyons/archive/x1730861797>

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Follow up article from March 11, 2007

Returning to normal?

Residents come home to condo repairs

By Dan Petrella

dpetrella@libertysuburban.com

One month after the building had to be evacuated due to flooding caused by a burst sprinkler pipe, most residents have moved back into a Lyons condominium complex.

About 100 residents were forced to relocate Feb. 10 after a pipe froze and broke in the attic space above a sixth-floor unit in the southeast corner of the building at 8030 River Walk Drive, damaging units on all six floors.

Residents were forced to stay at hotels and with friends and family while the damage was repaired. Damage ranged from what some residents called severe to minor water stains.

Fifth-floor resident Bruce Vonohlen said he and his wife stayed at the Hampton Inn in Countryside for six nights while dehumidifiers were used to dry moisture in the ceiling and water-damaged walls were repainted.

"You kind of roll with the punches," Vonohlen said. "It's something you don't plan on."

Other residents fared much worse.

Second-floor resident Joan Schwingel said in February that the water damaged her floor and soaked her furniture and

Red Cross responds

The American Red Cross of Greater Chicago set up a warming center at Lyons Village Hall while residents found places to stay the night the pipe burst, Spokesman Josh Morton said.

some personal papers.

She said Thursday that she stayed at the Hampton Inn in Countryside for two and a half weeks before moving back home Feb. 26.

"It's always better to be back in your own digs," Schwingel said. "But the way they've done the repairs, these aren't my digs."

She said her damaged floors were repaired with inferior materials and building management refused to repair part of the floor in her bedroom, because they say the damage wasn't caused by the burst pipe.

A few residents still haven't been able to move back into their condos, according to Schwingel and Vonohlen.

Tasha Chretien, a fourth-floor resident, said in February the ceiling collapsed in her kitchen and bathroom, her carpeting and hardwood floors were damaged, and her furniture was ruined.

Chretien is staying with family while the damage is repaired and could not be reached for comment.

Building managers, Winfield-based Village Property management, did not return calls.

Further, two letters to the editor, available at

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/brookfield/archive/x145142441>

Condo manager responds to story

I am writing you in response to an article published in the Suburban Chicago newspaper on Sunday, March 11, 2007 titled Returning to Normal. I represent Village Property Management as the property manager of the Lyons Riverwalk Condominiums. I would like to issue a response to the above-mentioned article.

As in the case of any major emergency, our main focus is that of ensuring the safety and welfare of the homeowners and residents. As stated in the prior articles, the damage to the building was extensive and the damage to the individual units ranged from very minimal to extreme.

Each unit and the common areas of the building must be thoroughly inspected prior to allowing any one to return to their homes. This is a time consuming but necessary process to ensure the well-being of the homeowners. As units are inspected and the habitation of any particular unit is established, the development company has thus far offered the homeowners the option of returning home with the additional repairs be done while occupied or waiting until the repairs are complete. It helps alleviate the stresses of having to be away from home for any additional time.

SKS, Skydan Realty and Village Property Management have all worked diligently since the incident to ensure the safety and security of the homeowners and the building. Both are acting in the best interest of the residents and remain focused on the restoration. To date, 90 percent of the homeowners are back in their homes; restored to the condition prior to the burst. The 10 percent still displaced are the homes that suffered the most damage and required extensive repairs. SKS, Skydan and Village Property

Management are continuously working toward the completion of the repairs and 100 percent reoccupancy.

This incident is unfortunate, unforeseen and everyone involved has been exceptionally understanding in the time consuming process of getting the building back to its original condition and safe for all the residents.

Kelly Alberti
Vice President,
Village Property Management

Developer defends repair work at condo

I would like an opportunity — in the paper — to publicly respond to false allegations made in the paper ("Returning to Normal?" March 11 issue) by resident Joan Schwingel.

Her statement, "damaged floors were repaired with inferior materials" is absolutely not true.

Why don't you poll the residents and ask them how they've been treated? We have received numerous thank you calls for going above and beyond to make things right in their units. I'll bet you will get greater than 80 percent more than satisfied residents.

At the end of the day, all we have is our reputation.

Mike Slinkman
President SKS Partners
Developer, Riverwalk Condominiums