



Photos by RANDY ROBERTS / The Courier

FINDLAY DOWNTOWN Area Association President Warren Krout outside his business, Sour-Flower Trading Post. "Downtown Findlay is alive," he said. "We may not be 100 percent well, but we're alive."

Businesses near river find flood recovery is a slow process

Some report customer shortage; others say downtown is changing

By LOU WILIN
STAFF WRITER

Talking about recovering from the 2007 flood, Findlay Downtown Area Association President Warren Krout kept a brave face for nearly 20 minutes.

"Downtown Findlay is alive," he said. "We may not be 100 percent well, but we're alive."

Then his eyes welled up with tears.

Krout, who owns Sour-Flower Trading Post, 204 N. Main St., lost \$200,000 in inventory and office equipment in the flood.

"It's really heartbreaking when these people come and want to spend money with you and you don't have anything to sell them," he said.

Krout said he has increased his inventory and things are better now.

For other merchants, the concern has not been a shortage of inventory, but a shortage of customers.

"I think people don't know we're back in business," said Cathy Linhart, owner of House of Awards & Shoes, 209 N. Main St.

Bindel's Appliance, 214 S. Main St., still gets phone calls asking whether it has reopened, though it did so three days after the flood.

What downtown needs, mer-

chants agree, is more businesses to join them. They would bring more people, who would do more browsing and buying.

"We miss Miller's (Luncheonette)," Mike Evanoff, owner of Star Pawn Shop, said with pain in his voice. "I used to get a lot of business from Miller's Luncheonette."

Miller's has been closed since the flood. But Greg Miller is "optimistic" he eventually will reopen at the old location, 203 N. Main St. He still needs approval for a federal Small Business Administration loan

to restore the building.

Miller's, the two pawn shops, Bindel's and Linhart's business are located in Main Street's most flood-prone area, which extends two blocks north and two blocks south of the Blanchard River.

Along that stretch, from Center Street to Main Cross, about 20 storefronts are vacant while about 30 others are occupied.

Here's the rub: About half those vacancies were there before the flood. Among the businesses still there, two plan to move out of downtown soon. Another is considering moving if things do not pick up in the next few months.

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SOME OBSERVERS say downtown Findlay is changing to a mix of restaurants, coffee shops and specialty stores. Among the successful new restaurants is Revolver on East Sandusky Street.

WORLD

Russia recognizes independence of Georgian regions | A10



SPECIAL SECTION

College football

Gridiron info on your college teams | Friday

\$1.4 million grant awarded to raze damaged houses

3 more grants being sought

By JIM MAURER
STAFF WRITER

Findlay has been awarded a \$1.4 million federal grant by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to purchase and demolish 16 residences near the Blanchard River which were heavily damaged in the August 2007 flood.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, announced the grant Tuesday.

"These funds will protect the health and safety of Hancock County residents," Brown said.

"This project helps everybody in the Findlay community reduce their losses from repeated flooding of the Blanchard River."

The money will be used to buy and demolish up to 16 "substantially damaged" residences which have been repeatedly flooded, if the property owners decide to participate.

The \$1.428 million grant is less than the \$1.575 million requested by the city, because the state contributed more funds to the city, reducing the federal government's share, according to Brown.

The city will contribute \$525,000 toward the project, which is expected to cost a total of \$2.1 million.

"We're pretty excited about it," Mayor Pete Sehnert said Tuesday. "It's been slow going, I know some people are frustrated. But we're turning the corner and hopefully this is the first installment" of grant money being sought by the city.

The city has three other grant requests pending. If approved, an additional 55 properties would be purchased. Total cost of those projects is estimated at \$5.28 million.

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Birchaven fires 8 nurses for overlooking injury

Three state agencies investigating nursing home incident

By MARY KATE MALONE
STAFF WRITER

Birchaven Retirement Village has fired eight nurses who did not provide adequate care for an Alzheimer's unit resident with an open wound, officials said Tuesday.

The incident has prompted investigations by the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Board of Nursing and the state attorney general, the officials said.

The nurses should have addressed a contracture in a female patient which caused her left fist to tightly clench, said Birchaven Administrator Bridgett Mundy. But the condition went untreated for four to six weeks, causing the patient's nails to grow into the palm of her hand and create an open wound, she said.

Seven licensed practical nurses and one registered nurse overlooked the injury until a supervisor noticed it June 19, Mundy said. False information was entered into medical charts, indicating that the contracture had been cared for when it had not, she said.

"We're not sure why they didn't (assess the injury)," Mundy said. "It was supposed to be part of the daily care; it was supposed to be documented daily."

The nurses were placed on administrative leave June 20 and fired in early July after an internal investigation, Mundy said. Mundy would not say how many nurses staff the 73-bed Alzheimer's unit. Neither the nurses nor the resident were identified.

The resident was evaluated at Blanchard Valley Hospital with her family, and later released,

Mundy said. She was admitted to Birchaven in January 2004 and has late-stage dementia, according to the state health department.

The health department has issued three citations to the nursing home. They are: failure to accurately assess four residents for range of motion limitations, failure to develop care plans for four residents with range of motion limitations, and failure to ensure four residents with hand contractures received appropriate care and services.

Mundy said the three additional patients did not have injuries related to the contractures, and were evaluated randomly by the health department during its investigation.

When asked if the problem

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THE FLOOD

ONE YEAR LATER

National flood insurance available for businesses, homes in most of Hancock County | A8

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Remember? Aug. 27, 2007 events recounted | A8

Multimedia on the "Flood Portal" link at www.thecourier.com:

- Hear Arlington Mayor Ed Solt describe the village's community spirit.
- Findlay Downtown Area Association: Warren Krout and Lynn Child discuss the downtown.
- Disaster preparedness resources for children.
- Audio interviews with rescuers, relief workers, city officials and flood victims.
- Slide shows.
- Coverage of memorial events.
- Links to resources.
- Real-time data of river levels and weather forecasts, and charts of historical flooding.
- Public forums on the blog "At the Fencepost."
- The WFIN series, "Shining the Floodlight on the Blanchard."
- Archives of coverage from the August 2007 and February 2008 floods.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Clinton: It's not about me

Former candidate urges party to support Obama

By NEDRA PICKLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DENVER — Hillary Rodham Clinton had a simple message Tuesday for her still-loyal supporters: This election isn't about her any more.

The former first lady ceded the nomination that was almost hers in a prime-time speech to Democratic delegates, closing another chapter in a long, improbable political career that took her from supportive spouse to political powerhouse.

She was warmly embraced by delegates split between herself and

Barack Obama in the primary. Any who were still angry over her loss were drowned out in applause when she opened her speech by declaring herself "a proud supporter of Barack Obama."

She exhorted her backers — "my sisterhood of the traveling pantsuits," she called them — to remember who was most important in this campaign.

"I want you to ask yourselves: Were you in this campaign just for me?" she said. She urged them instead to remember Marines who have served their country, single mothers, families barely getting by on minimum wage and other struggling Americans.

"You haven't worked so hard over the last 18 months, or endured the last eight years, to suffer through more failed leadership," Clinton told the delegates. "No way. No how. No McCain."

The line drew applause from Obama, who was watching from Billings, Mont.

Clinton spoke on the eve of the delegate roll call in which both she and Obama will be nominated

for president. But under a deal between the two camps, only some delegates will get the opportunity to cast a historic vote for either a woman or a black man before the split decision will be cut off in favor of unanimous consent for

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