



**LARUE** — With floodwaters still visible, a flurry of activity settled upon Kiwanis Village on Friday as the cleanup began.

A flooded Scioto River left more than a foot of water behind in apartments at the retirement community, forcing residents to move so restoration efforts can begin. It's a scene similar to one in the March 2011 flood, but an area pastor who lives nearby is hopeful that advance notice this time helped residents prepare.

Kiwanis Village manager Pam Clawson said Friday that cleanup work will begin soon. She said a majority of its residents will stay with family and friends, while a few will stay in a motel in Kenton.

She is hopeful that the work, which will be covered by flood insurance, will be completed within 90 days.

"The sooner we get started, the sooner we can get them back in," Clawson said.

A heavy weekend rainfall coupled with recent snow raised the river's water level beyond flood stage, first flooding areas of LaRue then Green Camp and Prospect. It forced residents to leave their homes Sunday. Clawson said apartments had about 13.5 inches of water in them from the flood.

Maverick Restoration of Richfield, which specializes in water, fire and mold restoration, started preparing Friday to repair the damage.

"They will be ripping out carpets and drywall," Clawson said. She's hopeful they will be able to save items such as countertops, toilets and bath tubs.

She expects many residents to return after repairs are done.

The water had receded from the area of the apartments, but standing water could be seen nearby on Friday, still covered with ice from when temperatures dipped into the teens after the flooding. The impact of the flooding was still evident by scenes like a nearby mobile home totally surrounded by standing water.

Vehicles parked along Kiwanis Drive, still iced over in places, as volunteers from area churches and elsewhere joined family members in helping residents move.

A group of children set up boxes donated by International Paper while volunteers tossed couches, end tables and other items that couldn't be salvaged into trash bins.

Sims Bros. supplied trucks to transport boxes from Marion's Kroger stores to the cleanup effort.

Both LaRue Baptist and LaRue United Methodist churches sent volunteers. Along with volunteers, LaRue United Methodist Pastor Ed Fugate said the church let American Red Cross workers set up to help volunteers and supplied flood cleanup kits.

Scioto Valley firefighters warned Kiwanis Village and other residences around the village over the weekend the river was about to flood.

Fugate, who lives adjacent to Kiwanis Village, said water seemed to get into more areas of the community this time.

He said, though, that residents had more advance notice compared to 2011 so they could put some items up high or remove belongings so they wouldn't be damaged.

He pointed to the furniture and other items in the trash bins and said that, in 2011, there were enough discarded items that they piled up on the sidewalks and in front of the apartments.

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