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Lake Zurich residents along rail line eligible for \$7K to cut noise

By: Laura Pavin | For Sun-Times Media | @LauraPavinNews Lake Zurich Courier

More than 100 Lake Zurich residents can be reimbursed by the village for any work they do to mitigate the noise that comes from the Canadian National Railway.

Between March 15 and Dec. 1, the village will accept applications from eligible residents detailing the noise mitigation work they plan to have done. If the village deems the work sufficient, it will reimburse them for 75 percent of the cost, up to \$7,000.

Village officials identified about 156 eligible residences along the rail line: Nine from the Wicklow Village subdivision; eight from Carolyn Court and the Landings of Lake Zurich; 101 from the Concord Village and Terrace Lane townhomes; 27 in the Braemar subdivision along Braemar Lane, Dunwick Court and Berkshire Lane; and 11 residences along Mionske Drive and Park Avenue.

Noise mitigation projects that qualify for reimbursement include windows, sliding glass doors, entry doors, dense landscaping and building insulation.

Dan Peterson, the village's director of building and zoning, said the new windows must have a minimum sound transmission class of 32, which is typically a high-quality construction grade, double-pane, argon-filled window.

"The biggest issue will be the proper installation, proper foaming, taking out the rattling, the noise, making sure that it's installed [correctly]," Peterson said. "These will not apply to less-expensive window inserts that are very popular right now."

Depending on when residents get the work done, officials said they could be reimbursed before the end of the year.

Property owners who have paid for improvements prior to the approval of their application will not be reimbursed; however, the village manager's office could make adjustments to the program's parameters at any point.

The village entered into an agreement with the Canadian National Railroad in 2009 that provided for a \$2 million Noise and Safety Mitigation Program.

In 2011, the village hired Ciorba Group to assess certain areas identified in an Environmental Impact Statement, a study that was required when Canadian National purchased EJ&E.

Some of Ciorba Group's mitigation improvement recommendations have already been implemented. A noise wall was built on the east side of the tracks along Carolyn Court, and a safety fence was added on both sides of the tracks to prevent students from crossing.

About \$1.1 million remains for the home reimbursement program.

For more information about the program, contact Lake Zurich's Building and Zoning Division at the Community Services Department at (847) 540-1696 or email permit coordinator Carol Lustig at carol.lustig@lakezurich.org.