

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008

# The Courier

## Forums scheduled on flood reduction

### Findlay, Ottawa sessions planned

Public forums to explain possible flood-reduction projects will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2 in Findlay, and Thursday, April 3 in Ottawa.

The forums are being put together by a group of local corporations that are trying to speed up efforts to reduce flooding in Findlay and the surrounding area.

The group, called the Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership, will introduce itself and its plans April 2 at Winebrenner Theological Seminary Convocation Center, 950 N. Main St., Findlay; and April 3 at Ottawa-Glandorf High School Auditorium, 630 Glendale Ave., Ottawa.

The Army Corps of Engineers and local officials will share information about the process for devel-

oping a flood mitigation plan.

Findlay, Ottawa and Hancock County officials have endorsed the partnership's efforts. Putnam County officials also are expected to sign an agreement to support the partnership.

Former Findlay Mayor Anthony Iriti is leading the group.

"I have been responding to the devastating impact of area flooding for more than a year and recognize that a solution will take time," Iriti said. "I look forward to bringing the right resources together to develop a major flood remediation project."

Support for the effort has already been pledged by Cooper Tire & Rubber Co., Marathon Oil Corp., Blanchard Valley Health System, Fifth Third Bank, P&G Pet Care, National Lime & Stone Co., Pro-Tec Coating Co., Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, W.C. Wood Corp. and Whirlpool Corp.