

Water Overflow Forces Evacuation Of Homes In Quincy Street Area



JACKSON POND just couldn't handle the volume of water from melting snow and rain Monday and Tuesday. The result was flooded homes on Quincy Street (at left) between 43rd and 44th Avenues. One disgusted resident found his way out by boat.

"We are at the mercy of the weather at this time," said Columbia Heights city manager Malcolm Watson about mid-day Tuesday.

City crews, the Red Cross and Civil Defense had worked continuously since early the day before and the dreaded words, water and sewage, continued to spill from everyone's lips.

The area bounding Jackson Pond; Quincy 43d to 44th Ave., 43d and Quincy to Van Buren and the houses south of 43d on Quincy, Jackson and Van Buren were hardest hit by the mounting water.

Jackson Pond which serves as the drainage area for much of the northeast and north central part of Columbia Heights began to overflow its banks about 4:30 p.m. Monday.

By 10 p.m. many homes along the bounding streets were evacuated by the Red Cross and given help in relocating.

Watson directed the actions of the city crews by radio throughout the night, and civil defense director Walter Reinhart plus a crew of 30 helped to evacuate homes in the distressed areas and set up emergency facilities in the Fieldhouse.

Fire trucks with pumping facilities were called into action about 11:30 to assist in relieving the water pressure and flow along Jefferson St. 41st to 44th. The pumps, however, proved to be of little value.

Watson said four large pumps were operated throughout the night and the city was at this time (Tuesday morning) purchasing a huge pump that would be used to pump water out of the Jackson line system on Washington and Quincy streets between 43d and 44th.

The water, Watson said, would be pumped from this Jackson line system to the park property to the south.

With rain coming in the form of a downpour about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday morning assistant city engineer Gustafson said he could not imagine anything being any worse.

Several families along Quincy began to evacuate their homes late Monday night including the Guy Finch family at 4304 Quincy who were one of the first to be flooded out.

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