Illinois and New Jersey have a problem in common: Flooding, and its devastation on communities. Here, the Illinois Answers Project examines why New Jersey’s work on this front is seen as a national model.
Resident leaders and even a member of the Chicago Housing Authority board called for CEO Tracey Scott to go, but some alderpeople praised “progress” at the agency.
A program called RainReady has proven to help mitigate flooding – so much so that there’s a waitlist in Oak Park. But despite Chicago’s promise to launch in 2019, it’s not yet off the ground.

For Many Illinoisans in Flood-Prone Areas, Buyouts Are the Only
A state government home buyout program has helped hundreds of people move out of harm’s way. But for many, it takes too long.

‘Green Alleys’ Help Prevent Flooding, But Vulnerable Neighborhoods Must Wait in Line

May 16, 2024
‘It’s a little bit of a shot-in-the-dark implementation strategy,’ a key City Council member said.

Mientras la ciudad batalla con una escasez de viviendas, la CHA deja que se deterioren cientos de casas vacías

May 16, 2024
Se supone que la Autoridad de Vivienda de Chicago está para ayudar a que las personas necesitadas puedan conseguir viviendas asequibles. Pero la agencia tiene casi 500 viviendas que están vacías – y muchas de ellas causan problemas a los vecinos.

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Evanston’s Streets Have Become Safer for Cyclists. What’s the Suburb Doing Right?

May 16, 2024
Chicago has seen traffic crashes, injuries and deaths increase in the past decade. As city leaders try to reverse the trend, Evanston has set a powerful example.

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How Black Investors are Taking Back a Legal Tool to Restore Affordable Housing on South, West Sides

May 16, 2024
For decades, big investors profited off neglected buildings at the expense of predominantly Black neighborhoods. Now, the Community Receiver Program is working to ‘right historical wrongs’ by empowering residents to use receivership in a new way.

Alderpeople Want Meetings With CHA Boss After Investigation Revealed Vacant, Decaying
City Council leaders, including the housing committee chair, renewed calls for CHA officials to attend regular hearings after an Illinois Answers/Block Club investigation found the agency is sitting on hundreds of vacant homes.

As City Battles Housing Shortage, CHA Lets Hundreds Of Empty Homes Decay

May 16, 2024
The Chicago Housing Authority is supposed to provide affordable homes for those in need. But the agency has nearly 500 scattered-site units that are vacant — many causing problems for their neighbors.