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## Ameren project expected to alleviate north side flooding

A plan by AmerenCIPS may help ease flooding on Hoopeston's north side.

At Wednesday night's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Mike Streff of Foth Engineering, said Ameren's cleanup of the company's former gas manufacturing area on Front St., led to efforts by the company to stem flooding.

Streff said a 16" storm sewer pipe that runs from the area to under the CSX Railroad track, collapsed under the track, leaving only a small percentage of space through which storm water may flow. Ameren wants to repair the pipe at its expense, as well as create a dry detention basin in the Y - land between existing CSX tracks and where the former Nickelplate tracks were.

Plans include for the Y area to be lowered at the bottom, allowing water to drain down the sides and into a concrete trough, then flow from the trough into the storm sewer and away from the area. The detention basin will be dry unless the city receives a heavy rainfall, he said.

Ameren will pay fees associated with the project, included a \$4,000 license fee, \$750 each for an application fee and liability coverage, contract work and Streff's salary. The company has already paid for televising sewer lines and some cleaning, Streff said.

Ameren's willingness to pay will save the city several thousand dollars. Just jacking and boring along the rail line is expected to cost \$15,000 to \$20,000, Streff said. "I think Ameren is really stepping up to the plate when it comes to covering the costs," he said.

The project thus far has proven to be "like a Geraldo Rivera discovery thing," Streff said. Water superintendent Steve Baker found a 1931 agreement between the city and CSX's predecessor, the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad, allowing the storm sewer line to be placed under the tracks. Then there was the televising of

the line, which led to unused lines being found. Those are expected to be permanently closed off.

While Streff said the project is "not a total panacea for all the flooding that occurs in that northeast area," Mayor Bill DeWitt said the work will make a "big, big difference to people who live on Honeywell, Seminary and McCracken. We're definitely going to have some relieve from flooding."

Hoopeston resident Jean Minick said she's "excited" about the project. Minick, who owns the former Lester's Drugstore building on Main, said heavy rains have flooded the building's basement since the 1970s, causing her to have to repair the structure's furnace. The addition of the detention pond may mean less flooding at her building and others in the downtown.

Also, Minick said, Ameren has offered to televise sewer tiles going from each business in the area to determine where each goes. "They're being good neighbors," she said.

The council voted 5-0 to allow the project. Voting were aldermen Charles Davis, Jerry Yonkers, Bill Crusinberry, Bill Goodwine and Brandon Hamilton. Absent were Ed Lotz, Carl Ankenbrand and Nancy Stipp.

See FLOODING on other side

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## Lunch Menus



### Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, green beans, applesauce, cookie

TUESDAY: Mini corn dog, baked beans, pears

WEDNESDAY: Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, peaches, bread/butter, cheese stick

THURSDAY: Biscuit/gravy, sausage patty, tri-tater, orange

FRIDAY: Fish nuggets, macaroni & cheese, corn, mixed fruit, apple juice

### Hoopeston Area Middle/High School

MONDAY: Chicken strips or ham & cheese/bun, tri-tater, applesauce, pudding

TUESDAY: Twisted edge 3 meat pizza or BBQ rib/bun, salad, pears

WEDNESDAY: Biscuit/gravy or pancake & sausage/stick, tri-tater, orange

THURSDAY: Chicken & noodles or sub sandwich, mashed potatoes, corn, pineapple, hot roll/butter

FRIDAY: Grilled cheese or fish sandwich,

chili/crackers, mixed fruit, apple juice

### CRIS/SAMS meals

MONDAY: Meatloaf/tomato sauce, mashed potatoes,

## Briefly

### Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots story program will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

### Scholarships available

Applications are currently being accepted for more than 250 scholarships offered by the Danville Area Community College Foundation for the 2008-09 school year.

DACC Foundation Scholarship applications allow students to complete one form to be considered for all Foundation scholarships. Part- and full-time students who will attend DACC are eligible. First-time DACC students, recent high school graduates, and current DACC students are encouraged to apply.

Scholarship applications can also be completed at [www.dacc.edu/foundation](http://www.dacc.edu/foundation). Click on the "Foundation" tab on the homepage, then on the "Scholarships" link to access the application. Paper copies are available in the DACC Foundation, Information, Registration, Counseling, Financial Aid, and Division offices, and the DACC Library, area high school counselors, at the Danville Public Library, and the Village Mall.

## Obituaries

**CRAWFORD** - Marvin Crawford 48, of Hoopeston, died at 2:20 p.m. Wednesday Jan. 2, 2008, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston.

## Weather



Sunny today. High 34. Tonight, chance of wintry mix. Low 28. Tomorrow, chance of freezing rain. High 42, low 39. Sunday, mostly cloudy. High 53, low 46.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

## Police News



A **49-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 2:32 p.m. Wednesday that someone stole his bicycle from the 200 block of West Chestnut.

**William R. Gossett**, 38, of Hoopeston was arrested at 4:19 p.m. Wednesday in the 900 block of West Main. Gossett, wanted on a Vermilion County felony warrant for a family offense, was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, in lieu of \$4,255.14 bond.

**Timothy R. Nosler**, 24, of Hoopeston was arrested at 7:31 p.m. Wednesday in the 400 block of West Elm. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear for arraignment/residential arson, Nosler was taken to the Public Safety Building for arraignment.

**Lucia M. Ortiz**, 36, of Hoopeston was arrested at 9:52 p.m. Wednesday at Bank and Penn. She was charged with driving while license suspended and was released on a notice to appear.

## Flooding continued from other side

Also by a 5-0 vote, the city approved allowing Ameren to seek an EPA permit for the city to treat up to \$250,000 gallons of wastewater. If rainwater collects in the excavation, it will have to be treated because it will be in contact with low levels of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminants, Streff said.

At most, Ameren will send 10,000 gallons per day, 100 gallons a minute to the treatment plant. The plan is temporary, "if they even do it at all," he said.

Currently, Ameren is paying a private company to pump water from the site.



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Friday  
5:30-8 p.m.  
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## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Countryside Mall open Jan. 5. One Day Only, 5-3. 1 rack hand-quilted quilts & craft supplies 50% off. Table of Christmas ceramics at garage sale prices. Open 1 day in January, 1 day in February. Making room for new dealers & new beginnings!

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### CHILD CARE

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### HELP WANTED

School Nurse needed at Rossville-Alvin School District. RN, LPN applications accepted. Part time position, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. each school day. Phone (217) 748-6666 for application/information. Application Deadline 1/15/08. EOE

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