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## Council accepts low bid for Main Street water main project

The low bidder on a project to install a new water main to the site of a new nursing home is expected to start construction in the near future.

Cross Construction of Urbana was the low bidder, said project engineer Greg Gustafson of Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC.

Cross' bid of \$595,000 was "significantly less than" the project estimate of \$900,00, Gustafson told the council, adding "That raises our eyebrows initially."

Gustafson said Cross officials stand by their numbers, have met bidding criteria and are ready to tackle the project.

At a time when most construction crews are winding down for the winter, the Cross crew will be gearing up to meet the project's estimated May 12, 2012 completion date.

"We're poised and ready to go on this," said Alderman Bill McElhaney, water/sewer committee chairman.

While ready to go, McElhaney admitted getting the project done is going to be "an inconvenience for us." Winter work will create "a big mess on top of what's normally going on."

Gustafson agreed. "We're going to be working next to See MAIN on other side

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*Photo contributed by Fran Smith*  
**Team Divas, a group of local women participated in the Jingle Bell 5k race Saturday in Champaign. Pictured are, from left, Jill Cade, Linda VanBurk, Sally Birch, Raeanne Harvey, Kellie Sheppard, Angie Stock and Tammy Wisdom Ravens.**

## Dance class turns into 5k running for group of local women

A Zumba Dance class was the kickoff that led to a group of women competing in 5k races.

Team Divas - Sally Birch, Linda Vanburk, Kellie Sheppard, Jill Cade, Angie Stock, Tammy Ravens and Raeanne Harvey - were all part of the Zumba class in Rossville.

Then-group leader Cara Garmon Silver challenged the women to join her in a 5k. "Several of us took her up on it and, need I say more, we all just loved how

running has made us feel," said Birch.

Saturday, the group was in Champaign for the Kingle Bell 5k in Urbana's Centennial Park, to raise money for the Arthritis Foundation.

With most team members wearing green t-shirts that read "chilling with my snowmies," the group was awarded a team trophy for having the most members and Vanburk won first place in her age division.

## Main continued from other side

100-year-old water main. That makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up just thinking about it."

The project will run a new 10" line from the water department building on West Main westward across Route 1, then north to the site of the new nursing home.

The project was estimated at almost \$1.1 million. Of that, \$750,000 will be paid with a Community Development Assistance Program grant. The remainder will come from Tax Increment Financing and depreciation funds.

While the project is being done to accommodate the \$6 million nursing home project, the work is expected to boost water pressure for residents and businesses on the city's northwest side.

In unrelated business, the council approved purchasing a new and a used pumper fire truck, replacing existing 1978 and 79 pumpers.

The 1991 Pierce will be purchased from Sheffield Township for \$34,000.

A 2012 pumper will be purchased from Ohio-based

## Obituaries

**MERTZ** - Brandy Sue Mertz, 38, of Rossville, died at 2:54 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, at home. Funeral service will be at 6 p.m. Friday at Rossville United Methodist Church. Burial will be at a later date at Man's Chapel Cemetery. Visitation will be 3-6 p.m. Friday at the church. Memorials are suggested to a charity of the donor's choice. Wolfe Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Hoopeston, coordinated the service.

**NEASE** - C. Louise (Smith) Nease, 95, of Rankin, died Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Rankin United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery. Visitation will be 9-11 a.m. Monday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church or Rankin Library. Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin, is in charge of arrangements.

## Weather

Cloudy today. High 36. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 26. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 29, low 15.

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

Sutphen Corporation for \$223,726. The new truck, expected to be delivered in mid-April 2012, will have a pumping rate of 1,250 gallons per minute, 250 gallons per minute better than current trucks, said Alderman Brandon Hamilton, fire committee chairman.

While many new fire trucks run upwards of \$400,000, the city will receive a "bare bones" version that will meet the needs of the fire department while fitting in its budget.

The department has \$247,000 in accrual funds, to which \$20,000 more will be added in the new fiscal year, and an additional \$10,000 for maintenance and upkeep that can be used, Hamilton said.

## Police News

William Wilkerson, 50, of Hoopeston, was arrested for domestic battery after an incident at 9:16 p.m. Tuesday in the 800 block of Wyman. Arrested on a complaint from a 53-year-old Hoopeston woman, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Avon Sale, 1027 W. Thompson, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., 9-5

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Clean, quiet 2 BR, 1 bath apt. 723 W. Orange. \$385.00/month + utilities. Security deposit and application required. Available 12/1. Mike 312-371-8585

### HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has an opening for a Full-time Special Education Classroom Aide at John Greer. Applications are available online only on Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, [www.hoopeston.k12.il.us](http://www.hoopeston.k12.il.us) Applications will be accepted through Friday, December 9th.

### HOUSES FOR RENT

2 BR duplex. Stove, fridge provided. No pets. Deposit, references required. \$400/mo. Call (217) 304-6547 for application.

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