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Just the Facts

Thursday, October 6, 2016

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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Engineer outlines sewer fix plan; low rates nix grant chance

After months of study, a representative of a Danville engineering firm has made recommendations on how to ease flooding on Hoopeston's northeast side.

Sam Cole, of C2 Engineering, said 8,700 feet of storm sewers on Sixth St., between McCracken and Thompson were studied three ways: visual inspections of manholes, televising the entire length, and smoke testing - blowing smoke in storm sewers to look for cross connections with sanitary sewers or other problems.

Also, flow meters were installed in three locations in the sewer line, to set a baseline flow, flow during peak times and what happens as a result of a storm.

Normally flow meters are left in lines for 90 days, Cole said. Because of a dry spell, Mayor Bill Crusinberry asked that the monitors be left for an additional 30 days, during which time a storm provided the needed data.

Cole reported that city manholes in the area are 40 to 50 years old. Many pipe joints are poorly sealed, with 17 percent leaking water. Most pipes have joints every five feet, he said.

The smoke test showed 20-25 locations with at least some smoke coming out of a crawlspace or basement, which could indicate water could get in and sewer gas could get trapped in the buildings.

Flow tests showed an "extremely large spike" of water flow after the storm, Cole said, explaining that flow is

measured as "average daily" and "peak flow." The average is flow measured throughout the day and averaging it between high and low usage. Peak flow is times of day when flow is higher than average, such as around 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. when families are home from work and school and doing activities such as cooking, bathing and doing dishes.

Peak flow was about four times the average daily flow, he said, while during storms, flow was "probably on the order of several hundred times that."

One choice to fix the problem would be to dig up and replace sewer lines and manholes, which would come with about a \$2 million price tag.

What he recommends is lining sewers and sealing joints and manholes, at a cost of \$550,000. "It's a big chunk of money but your dollars go further that way."

Cole had looked into possible grants for the project, such as those offered by the USDA, which would have paid 30-40 percent of the project. However, Hoopeston's sewer rates would have to be raised to get the grant.

USDA bases needed rates based on 1.5 percent of a city's median household income. According to the 2010 census, Hoopeston's median income is \$38,500, which would result in a sewer rate of \$48 per month on average. "Until you hit that, there's not an opportunity for you," he said.

See SEWER on other side

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April Jones
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Rossville
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October 8-9 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Furniture • Purses
- Halloween Decorations
- Mary Kay • Jewelry
- Homemade Hot Pads, Blankets
- Bud's BBQ
- Homemade Lamps • Pumpkins

Sewer continued from other side

Ald. Bill McElhaney, water/sewer committee chairman, said "the torches and pitchforks come out when you talk about \$50."

Berns, Clancy and Associates of Urbana does a study of area rates. Hooperston's is close to the lowest of those rates, which is good for customers' checkbooks but "I sorta think if you're not in the top 10 percent, you're not keeping up with what needs to be done," he said.

The water/sewer committee will study Cole's results and make a recommendation to the full council.

In unrelated business, Crusinberry said street/alley employees have found a used bucket truck that they would like to have. The department has accrued money for the purchase, he said.

The truck, which would be used by multiple city departments, has a 70' reach and would allow workers to trim trees in the city.

In fact, Crusinberry said, it was employees who suggested getting a truck just so they could do that. "This is one place where our employees have stepped up and are willing to do more work," he said.

Hooperston pays \$250 per tree for work and have cut as many as 100 trees in a year. Workers already have chain saws and chaps and with a bucket truck, could take over tree work, saving money, he said.

The purchase is expected to be voted on at the October 18 meeting.

In other business, the council:

- Approved an \$11,399 bid from Birkey's for a new mower for the cemetery.

Ald. Chad Yaden said bids were also submitted by Meunch Service of Cissna Park, for \$11,737 and B and D Sales and Service of Danville, for \$12,000.

- Heard from Ald. Alex Houmes that Paul Tutwiler was named parks superintendent, effective October 1, after former superintendent Eugene Warner resigned. Roger Uden was promoted to parks lead, Tutwiler's former

Weather

Slight chance of thunderstorms today. High 82. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 61. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 75, low 47.

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position.

- Learned McFerren Park will be closed from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday for Learn and Lead Academy's Color Walk/Run.

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RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPERSTON: 713 E. Honeywell. Sat., 7-4. Petites, men's large; men's pants 33-29

HOOPERSTON: 921 E. Main. Sat., 8-? Name brand clothes for girls, boys, men, women, Halloween costumes, toys, movies, games & much more. Rain or shine!

HOOPERSTON: in alley behind post office. Fri., 8-noon. Doors, lumber pieces, electrical items, barber chair, Jazzy battery powered chair and LOTS of miscellaneous items.

ROSSVILLE: 351 N. Chicago. Fri. & Sat. 8-5. Mustard Seed Christian Daycare Fundraiser Rummage Sale. Part of the Rossville Fall Festival. Help us raise money to get computers and smart boards in our classrooms!

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