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EPA phosphorus level change could cost Hoopeston millions

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) policy to decrease the amount of phosphorus in water supplies may costing Hoopeston millions of dollars.

Hoopeston hired Champaign-based engineering firm Fehr-Graham to conduct a study to determine Hoopeston's phosphorus rate. That was followed by a plan to lower the level by basically building a new plant with a \$24 million price tag, Wise said.

If Hoopeston would move forward with the recommendation, a \$5 million grant would be given and the remaining \$19 million financed at .67 percent for 30 years.

"That's the best-case scenario," Wise said. "It gets worse from here." Since the EPA has not set a final percentage of allowed phosphorus, if the agency lowers the amount, of allowable phosphorus, costs will go up. If they set the level at .5 mg/liter, "add another \$5 million, Wise said. "If they drop it down to .1 mg. add another \$5 on top of that."

On the plus side, Wise said Hoopeston's current water treatment plant is outdated and needs modernization. "The one thing about this is we'd basically have a new water treatment plant," he said.

The Fehr-Graham proposal calls for a new system but Wise has talked to another engineering firm that will retrofit parts of Hoopeston's existing system with new requirements. He did not release the name of the second

firm.

"Obviously the goal is to get the price down as much as possible," he said, adding, "even if we get better numbers, we're still talking millions."

Wise stressed that the phosphorus level does not make the water bad. Residents can rest assured that Hoopeston's water is safe to drink. "Our water, in my opinion, is some of the best you'll ever find," he said. "This is the EPA trying to solve a problem in the Mississippi River Basin."

Wise said he did not want to "bring (the issue) to the public's attention too soon because we don't need everybody freaking out," but wanted to let people know it

See PHOSPHORUS on other side

Adecco
 Adecco Staffing has opened a NEW location in Hoopeston at 206 South 1st Ave Hoopeston Adecco is hiring immediately for Assembly, Clerical, Forklift Drivers, Maintenance Mechanics, Production, Warehouse and several other positions for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd shift in Hoopeston, Milford, Rantoul, and Champaign. Pay rate \$13 - \$24/hr depending on position. Please apply online at adeccousa.com or call/text 217-355-2342 ASAP.

Call us today at 855-692-7824 to get water delivered to your home or business or visit our office at 102 N 1st Ave. in Hoopeston to pick up your water!

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 CBUS-150-HEXN - Business Computer Systems; Thurs. 6PM-7:50PM; Web TBA
 ENGL-101-HEXG1 - Rhetoric and Composition I; Mon. & Wed. 2PM 3:15PM
 ENGL-101-HEXN1 - Rhetoric and Composition I; Wed. 6PM-8:40PM
 MATH-107-HEXN - Applied Mathematical Concepts; Mon. Tues. & Wed, 4PM-5:20PM
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C o r n e r
 You have enjoyed Bertha's Corner in Just the Facts for years. Now you can purchase her book filled with Bertha's Corners for only \$8⁰⁰! (\$12 if mailed to you). Call Bertha at 217-283-6876 before they're gone! Your book will be signed by Bertha! Thank you, dear friends, and have a blessed day!

From the Blotter

Andrew W. McKelvey, 28, of Paxton, was arrested after police were called at 12:05 p.m. Wednesday to the 300 block of East Seminary. A 28-year-old Hoopeston woman alleged McKelvey battered her. After filing the report, the woman sought medical treatment, police said.

McKelvey, who had left the scene, was found in the 700 block of South Fourth St.

He was arrested on a preliminary charge of domestic battery and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Obituaries

GOBLE - Glenda Lynn (Starkey) Goble, 71, of Hoopeston, died at 6:20 a.m. Monday June 20, 2022, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 2-5 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Monday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in East Lynn Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Riley Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 3356, Indianapolis IN 46206. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

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Enjoy the tree-shaded,
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Open 1:30-7:30 p.m. daily
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Phosphorus continued from other side

could be coming. "When everybody heard me say something was coming down the pike, this is what I'm talking about. How are we going to come up with \$19 million? Anybody got a clue? Anybody want to take a guess? Yeah, this is going to suck. You can quote me on that."

The city's planning report on phosphorus is due to the EPA by December 31, 2023.

- In unrelated business, the council:
- Heard from Ald. Bob Porth that he will be bringing amended budget to the council for approval. Some things were left out, some, like the police contract, were up in the air at budget time, he said. With the contract resolved - 'but not signed, " Wise interjected - a more accurate budget can be approved.
 - Porth also said the city received a letter from Gov. J.B. Pritzker about the suspension of the 1% grocery sales tax,

Briefly

At the library

Coming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Treeclimbers genealogy group, 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

The library needs old magazines, preferably those with lots of pictures, for a children's summer craft project. They can be dropped off in the lower level children's room and are needed by June 29.

Stitchin' Time, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew or other needlecraft, bring your project and coffee and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

For information on library programs, call (217) 283-6711 or stop by 110 N. Fourth St.

Addiction recovery group

Addiction recovery group for men. 6 p.m. Sundays in Rossville. Call or text 217-304-4211 or 217-260-1361 for details.

Hydrant flushing

The Village of Rossville will begin hydrant testing possibly beginning Monday, June 27. All hydrants will be required to be tested.

Please use caution doing laundry at this time.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 89. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 65. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 86, low 69. Sunday, partly sunny. High 84, low 59.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

slated to run from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Hoopeston will lose about \$93,000 in income, Porth said, adding Pritzker's letter did not include a plan to repay the city for the lost income.

● Learned a new pool/garden meter has been selected. June 30 is the last day to pre-order a meter in a group buy, said Ald. Kellie Ferrell. The meter costs about \$36 and is expected to work with current infrastructure. Residents who order meters after June 30 will do so as individuals and will have a \$12.50 shipping fee.

Wise addressed confusion about the meter program, which will deduct sewer charges based on gallons of water used to fill pools and water gardens. No deduction will be made on the water used.

● Heard from Wise that remaining funds from last year's

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will be used to purchase a new squad car. While taking someone to Danville recently, a car broke down and caught on fire.

Officials had planned to purchase two squad cars from this year's ARPA allotment but the Covid pandemic related funds have not arrived.

● Heard from Ald. Stephen Eyrich that the Thompson project is on schedule. Curbing and other preliminary work is expected to be done by the end of next week. Resurfacing of the street will be done in July.

● The city's tar and chip program is also underway, he said.

● During the group's committee of the whole meeting at 6 p.m., the council heard a presentation from a representative of Hoerr Construction Inc.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Rossville Family Restaurant is accepting applications for servers. Primarily evening shifts on the weekends. Apply in person.

The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a full-time water department employee.

Requirements:

- Valid Driver's License
- Class B CDL with airbrake endorsement or ability to obtain one
- High School diploma or equivalent
- A positive attitude and willingness to learn
- Strong work ethic

Punctuality and attendance is important for this position. There is opportunity for advancement with the proper training and certification. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or www.cityofhoopeston.com/employment

The Frederick Community Bank in Cissna Park is in need of a Customer Account Representative. Applicant must have skills interacting with customers, ability to handle various transactions accurately, and be part of a team environment. The position available may be part-time or full-time. If you are interested, please mail your resume to The Frederick Community Bank, PO Box 36, Cissna Park, IL 60924, or pick up an application from the receptionist in Cissna Park.

AQUALITY SOLUTIONS is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st St. in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Seeking a bartender for weekdays and nights. Possibly a week-end day. Our hours are from 7a-7p. Must have a Bassett and Food handlers Cert within 30 days. Stop by Hubbard Trail Coun-

try Club or call 217-748-6521.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING! Apply at www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities Applications available onsite. EOE

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking a full time applicator. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

RUMMAGE SALES

RANKIN: 40715 N 770 East Rd. (across from East Lynn Cemetery) Sat. June 25-July 2. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Estate/Moving/ Downsizing Sale. AC WD 45 tractor, (good condition), 2000 Chrysler Sebring convertible, family size propane grill, table & 5 chairs, 1960 bedroom set, 110 A/C unit, roll top desk, end tables, coffee tables, nice men's suits, flat screen TVs (1 lg., 1 med.) much more!

HOOPESTON: 709 W. Washington. Fri & Sat 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Crafting, Christmas decor, kitchenware, adult clothes, furniture & more!

HOOPESTON: 601 W. Penn Fri. Sat 8-noon. Many items

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or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!