Ottawa, Illinois and the Community Rating System

Joining CRS at a Class 5
Aiming for a Class 2
Ottawa, Illinois
Flood History

Almost every decade has had multiple, record Flood Events
“The Town of Two Rivers”
The watershed for almost 12,000 square miles.
“Flood Amnesia”

Sept. 2008

March 11, 2009
Evacuation of residents began early today in the Center Ottawa section of the city as floodwaters from the Illinois and Fox Rivers crept toward window ledges on the first floor of the homes. Volunteers helped residents flee the St. George, Huron, and Green Street areas in the wake of floodwaters which were not expected to begin going down before Sunday. (Daily Times photo)
Flood Saturday reaches Center Ottawa

Pumper truck

The fire department used a pumper truck Saturday to try to keep ahead of the flood waters in the OHS cafeteria. (Daily Times photo)

Street covered

A youth on a bicycle shows the depth of the water in Shadbom and Main streets Saturday. (Daily Times photo)
Severe flooding cuts off part of Ottawa

Main Street covered

An estimated three feet of water covered Main Street in front of the high school by early Saturday morning, moving officials to close it to traffic and cutting off the East side of the city.
Overview

The flooding conditions that plagued Ottawa throughout the weekend, with the rising of the Fox and Illinois rivers, could be typified by this shot of the area known as The Flats, near the bend in the Fox River. The Marquette High School football field is in the top center. (Daily Times photo)
The Daily Times

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 19, 1997
Vol. 153, No. 194
50 CENTS

TUESDAY

TODAY'S TIMES
Ottawa train hearing rescheduled for Aug. 28
A hearing on a LaSalle County historical group's bid against the Eastern Thirteen Development is set for Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m., before Judge Thomas Louis. The hearing was originally set for Monday. The county is receiving a preliminary injunction to gain access to the property as part of his investigation, but no other hearing has been held.

The Floods
JULY 1996 & FEBRUARY 1997

Just look at it – you'll see why we stay here
By PEGGY SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

Feelings don't wash away
By PEGGY SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

The storied stream overwhelmed it.
It damaged roads and homes.
The water was calm and gentle.

There are a lot of deep feelings tied to homes. We lived in the home for 32 years.

Illinois

What's Edgar's future? Turn to tomorrow

OPINION

Nobody's perfect? Not with our expectations
Cohoctah Area Woman's News: "We are all so human, we are all so vulnerable. Nobody's perfect, and everybody has expectations. They're having a tough time opening up because they don't know what to expect."

PERFECT

10

Everybody's real-like.

Perfectly imperfect.

ILLINOIS

What's Edgar's future? Turn to tomorrow
SPRINGFIELD — Gov. Jim Edgar will arrive at the Illinois State Fair.

TODAY'S TIMES

Anti-junk mail crusade hits a nerve in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) - Thousands of Illinoisans have taken advantage of an offer to remove their names from junk mail lists, Secretary of State George Ryan said.

River bathed by Tuesday evening, when it hit more than 10 feet above the previous record at the Illinois River gauge in central Illinois. "It's a disaster," said one resident, watching the water rise. "We're losing our homes."

Additional towns were being threatened, and officials in several locations Tuesday prepared for the possibility of flooding. "We're not taking any chances," said Mayor John Smith of Rockford, Illinois. "We've got a floodwall, but it's not guaranteed to hold."

Ryan had declared a state of emergency in Rockford, and a spokesman for the Illinois Department of Transportation said the state was preparing to mobilize the National Guard to help with flood relief.

Ryan had decided to step down as state's attorney, but a spokesman for the Illinois Attorney General's Office said he would not comment on the move until Ryan has announced his plans. A statement from Ryan's office said he was resigning to focus on flood relief efforts.

Flats family takes high ground

By CAROLINAS

The mayor of Superior, Wis., said the community has had a "terrible night" with flooding. "We've been dealing with this for years," he said. "It's not just a flood, it's a way of life for us."
**TODAY’S TIMES**

To park or not to park?

Shakespeare in the lot

"Shakespeare in the Parking Lot" is a hit for the summer and this year.

A group of residents have been putting on performances in the lot of the local theater, including "Hamlet," "Macbeth," and "Romeo and Juliet.

Tonight's show is "Macbeth," directed by a young local director, and is expected to be a hit.

**The FLOODS**

**JULY 1996 & FEBRUARY 1997**

"We just hope it doesn't happen again."

**OPINION**

*What is worse than flood with 1-2 punch?*

By PAT MARRISON

"Floods are not something we want to live with," said Mr. Johnson, the mayor of our city. "But we must be prepared, even if it means sacrificing some of our comforts."

**BUCKET LIST**

1. **Buy emergency supplies.**
2. **Secure your home.**
3. **Stay informed.**

**bettério**

"I'm not sure what will happen," said Mr. Johnson. "But I know it will be a tough time for everyone."
**Entering the CRS at a class 5. How did we do that?**

- Made formal application in March 2009
- Received compliance visit from FEMA August 2009
- In October of 2009 the Ottawa Flood Commission was formally recognized by City Council Action. The Commission was formed using the guidelines from CRS/FEMA and the “Ten Step Process”
- Had initial verification visit from ISO/CRS Specialist in November 2009

At this day long meeting the ISO/CRS Specialist outlined what specifically we had to do to document our efforts
Improvement Opportunities

- Create ECs for all development in the SFHA since 1985 (56)
- Create ECs for all development in the SFHA (19)
- Area realtors to disclose SFHA on property data sheets (46)
- Area realtors to keep disclosure brochure at front desk (10)
- Deed restrict all open space properties (varies)
- Adopt add’l I-Codes (10)
- Add add’l layers to GIS Program (20)
- Adopt annual stormwater facility insp./maint. program (110)

- Adopt Stormwater Regulations (24)
  - Up to 100-yr. event
  - Regulate all development
- Require grading plans for all development (50)
- Adopt Watershed Management Plan (100-200)
- Add more buy-outs when ready (varies)
- Prepare written procedure for drainage system maintenance (200)
  - Add Capital Impro. Prog. (50)
- Adopt formal Flood Warning Program (30-100)
CRS Activities

- 300 Public Information Activities
  - 310 Elevation Certificates 84 pts
  - 320 Map Information 140 pts
  - 330 Outreach Projects 207 pts
  - 340 Hazard Disclosure 10 pts
  - 350 Flood Protection Information 71 pts
  - 360 Flood Protection Assistance 66 pts
CRS Activities

- 400 Mapping & Regulatory Activities
  - 410 Additional Flood Data  163 pts
  - 420 Open Space Preservation  59 pts
  - 430 Higher Regulatory Standards  577 pts
  - 440 Flood Data Maintenance  88 pts
  - 450 Stormwater Management  51 pts
CRS Activities

- 510 Floodplain Management Planning 108 pts
- 520 Acquisition & Relocation 2358 pts
- 530 Flood Protection 0 pts
- 540 Drainage System Maintenance 100 pts
CRS Activities

- 600 Flood Preparedness Activities
  - 610 Flood Warning Program Review Pending
  - 620 Levee Safety 0 pts
  - 630 Dam Safety 57 pts
  - Total points **4139 (Class 2)**
## Activity 610

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>459.9</td>
<td>City of Ottawa</td>
<td>No impact, normal pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>460.5</td>
<td>Ottawa High School</td>
<td>River infiltration to south east corner of levee at baseball field. Gatewell D closed, pumping begins and flood fighting preparations begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>460.6</td>
<td>City of Ottawa</td>
<td>Backup in CSO 009, arch sewer to Webster St. Close sluice gate MH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>460.8</td>
<td>Ottawa High School</td>
<td>Pumping operations start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>River Rescue</td>
<td>Emergency boat docks and ramps begin to flood and become unstable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>470.7</td>
<td>Ottawa Elementary Building</td>
<td>Building is surrounded by water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>471.3</td>
<td>YMCA</td>
<td>Water reaches center of parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>471.5</td>
<td>City of Ottawa</td>
<td>Fox River is flowing into CSO 013, Madison Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>472</td>
<td>Shoreline Boat Club</td>
<td>River infiltrates building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>474.5</td>
<td>Ottawa High School</td>
<td>Top of Fox River levee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>City of Ottawa</td>
<td>Waste Water Treatment levee should be sand bagged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>475.0</td>
<td>Heritage Harbor</td>
<td>Power should be shut down to docks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>475.33</td>
<td>Heritage Harbor</td>
<td>Lowest basement begins to flood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>475.85</td>
<td>Ottawa High School</td>
<td>Top of flood protection wall on Fox River South of Main St bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>475.9</td>
<td>City of Ottawa</td>
<td>Closing of Main Street bridge and mandatory evacuation of the East side should be evaluated.</td>
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