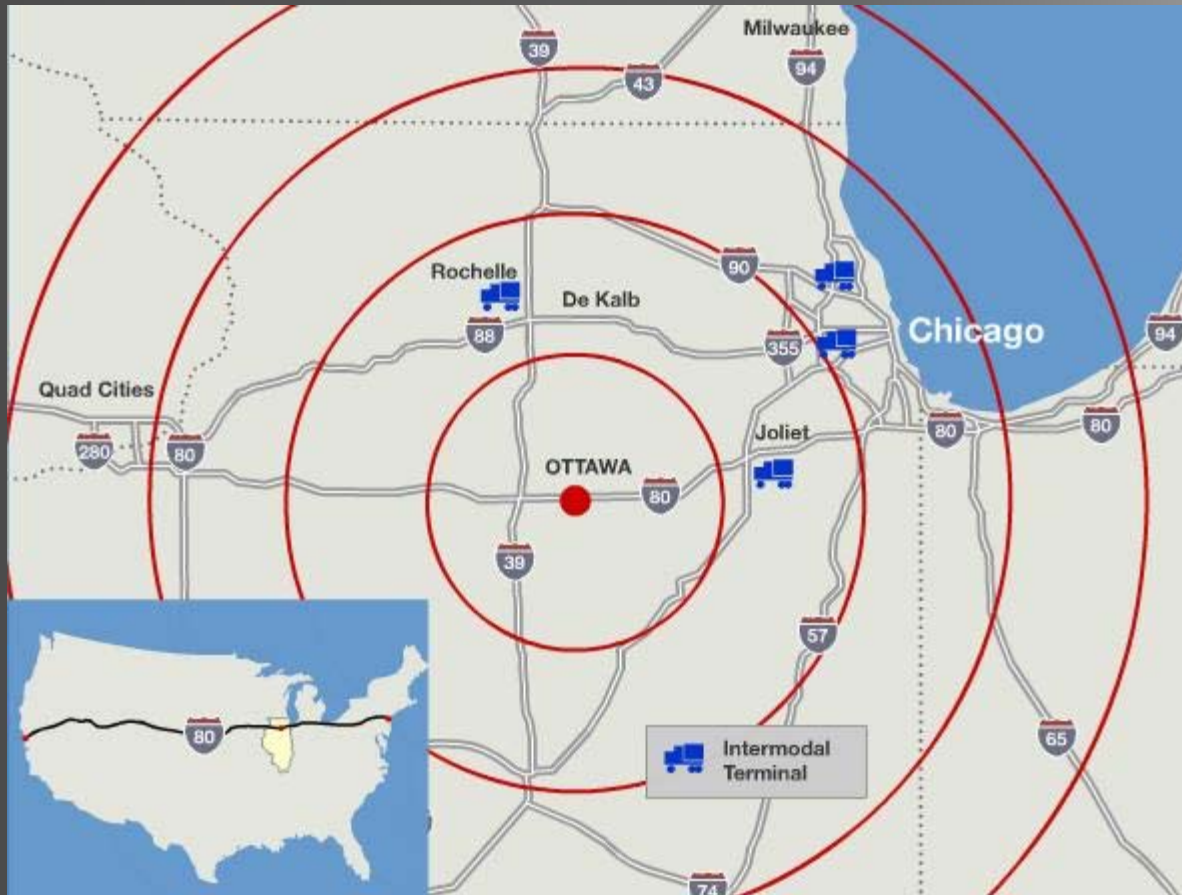


# Ottawa, Illinois and the Community Rating System



Joining CRS  
at a Class 5  
Aiming for a  
Class 2

# Ottawa, Illinois





# Flood History


Almost every  
decade has had  
multiple, record  
Flood Events

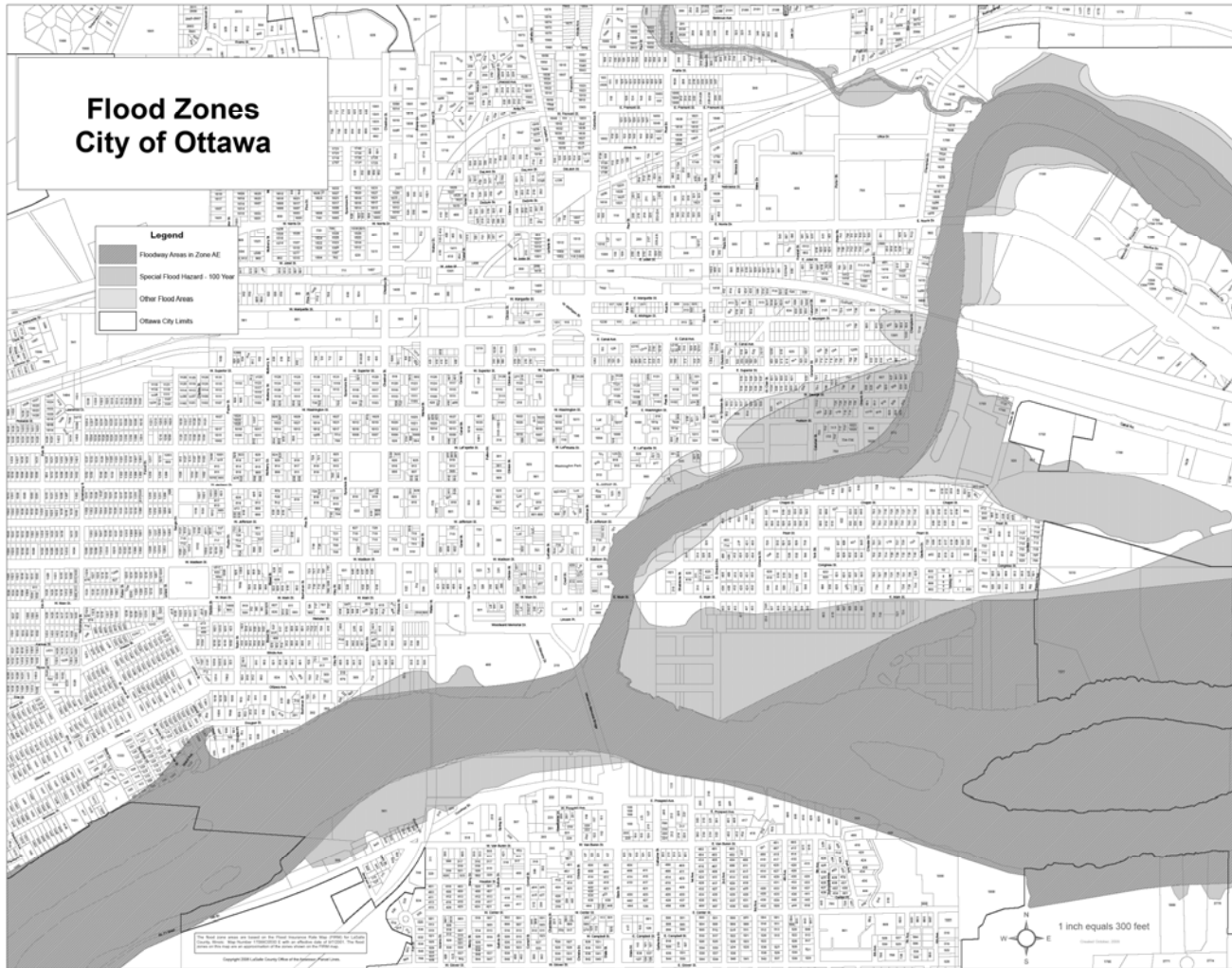


The



## Flood Zones City of Ottawa

Legend	
	Floodway Areas in Zone AE
	Special Flood Hazard - 100 Year
	Other Flood Areas
	Ottawa City Limits



# **"Flood Amnesia"**



Sept.  
2008



March 11, 2009



# The Daily Times

138th Year — 285th Day

Saturday, December 4, 1982

Ottawa, Illinois

Phone 433-2000

Price 25c



*Center Ottawa flood scene*

Evacuation of residents began early today in the Center Ottawa section of the city as floodwaters from the Illinois and Fox Rivers crept towards 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 at Shabbona and Main Streets Saturday. (Daily Times photo)

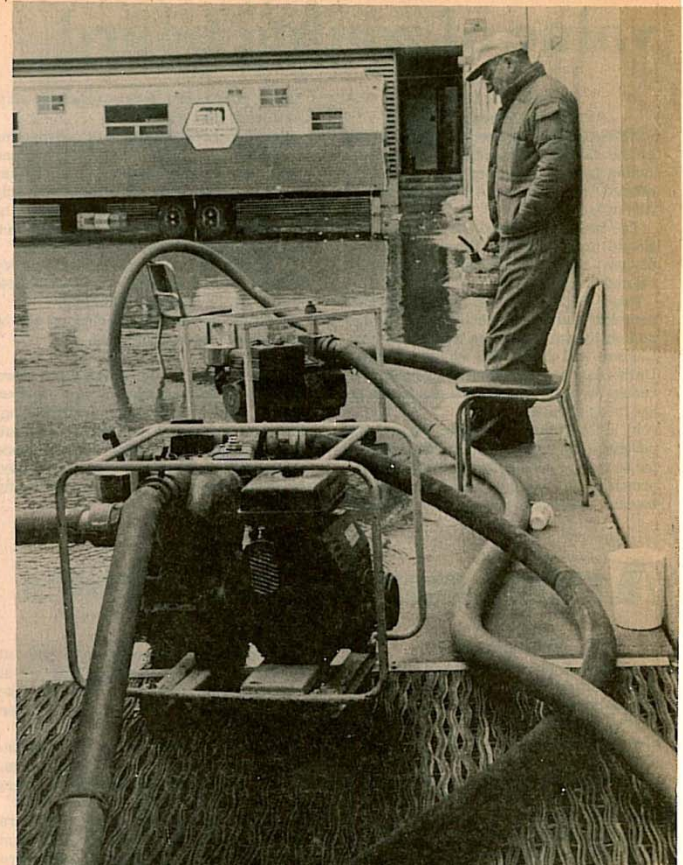


# *Severe flooding cuts off part of Ottawa*



***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)



TUESDAY

# The Daily Times

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 19, 1997 Vol. 153, No. 194

50 CENTS

## TODAY'S TIMES

### Ottawa train hearing rescheduled for Aug. 28

A hearing in the La Salle County Historical Society's suit against the Edmund Thornton Foundation is set for Thursday, Aug. 28, at 1:30 p.m. before Judge James Lanuti. The hearing was originally set for Monday. The society is seeking a preliminary injunction to gain access to Thornton's property on Boyce Memorial Drive, so it can move a historic locomotive, tender and caboose to a Mendota railroad museum.

The locomotive is owned by the society and kept on land leased from Thornton. To move the train, it must be transported across property not under lease. Thornton has denied the society access to this land, saying he is defending Ottawa's interest in the locomotive.

## OPINION

### Nobody's perfect? Not with our expectations

Columnist Andy Rooney writes:

"We're all amused to say, occasionally, 'Nobody's perfect,' but we live our lives as though this were not so. Even though we know no one is, we're surprised and disappointed when they are not."

**PERFECT**  
**10**

## ILLINOIS

### What's Edgar's future? Tune in tomorrow

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. Jim Edgar will apparently answer the politi-



## The FLOODS

JULY 1996 &amp; FEBRUARY 1997

**'Just look at it - you'll see why we stay here'**

By PEGGY SCHNEIDER  
Staff Writer

**B**ette Pearlman had to admit it made sense.

The Ottawa real estate agent wondered why people in Dayton kept coming back after flooding along the Fox River. So she asked them.

"Just look at it and you'll see what we're talking about," they told her. "You'll see why we stay here."

Pearlman looked and understood.

"The water was pretty calming and soothing. I can see how you could get lost in that world; it's

## Feelings don't wash away

By PEGGY SCHNEIDER  
Staff Writer

**T**he colorful perennials sprouting gallily in Dennis Knobloch's old yard were typical flood survivors.

The brave floral display greeted Knobloch and his wife recently when they revisited the

■ **SHIRLEY THOMAS** of Wedron (photo above, like so many others who live along the Fox River, had watched the water rise before. They knew what was coming and what they faced ahead. (Photo by Tom Sisk.) **More photos on Page 9.**

"There are a lot of deep feelings tied (to home). We lived in our home for 17 years.

called the police, Emergency Service and Disaster Agency, and tracked the water themselves," Bruner said.

The July flood was catastrophic because the community had not really been affected by disasters, Bruner said. The February flood was devastating because people were trying to put their lives back together, or thought they had.



WEDNESDAY

# The Daily Times

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 20, 1997 Vol. 153, No. 195

50 CENTS

## 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.

Ryan said that by Tuesday morning, close to 3,000 forms already had been distributed at license facilities, and several hundred more had arrived by mail and over Ryan's Internet site.

Additional forms were being trucked to several facilities Tuesday after motorists snapped up every form on hand at facilities in Rockford, Peoria and Granite City and reduced supplies in other areas, Ryan's office said.

Ryan had decided to stop selling state lists to junk mailers, but a Sangamon County Circuit Judge recently ordered him to continue the 70-year-old practice. An appeal of that judge's decision is pending.

**NO!**

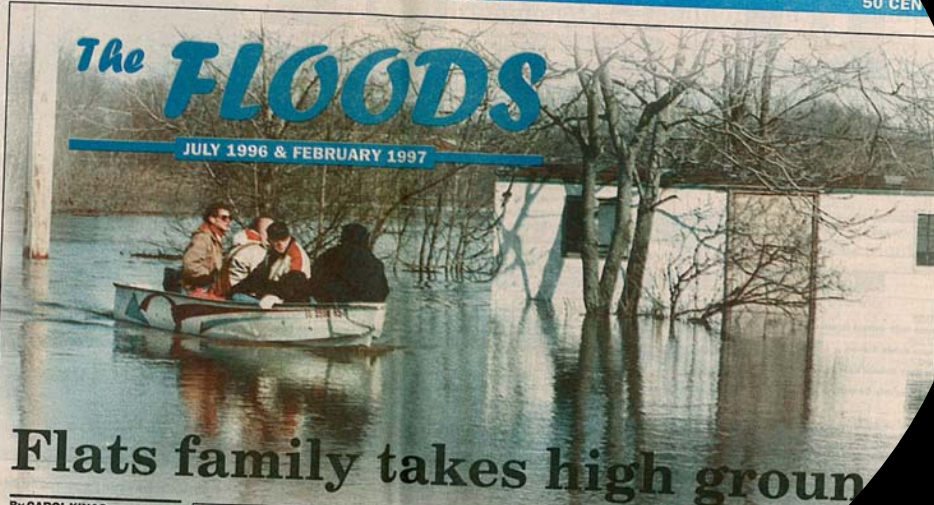
## LOCAL

### Grants, proposals by city council

...plying for a \$75,000  
...velop boat ramps  
...Fox River Park,  
...damaged  
...the Flats.  
...it is  
...eds,

## The FLOODS

JULY 1996 & FEBRUARY 1997



## Flats family takes high ground

By CAROL KINAS  
Marseilles Bureau Chief

The corner of Superior and Ontario in Ottawa always has had its share of attention.

The original house there was owned by a well-known labor leader in the area and years ago was known as the Jim Hickey house, present owner said.

The house was ruined. It was





MONDAY

# The Daily Times

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 18, 1997 Vol. 153, No. 193

50 CENTS

## TODAY'S TIMES

### To park or not to park: Shakespeare in the lot

NEW YORK (AP) — Broadway it's not. "Shakespeare in the Parking Lot" is theater for the masses, and then some. Actors compete with daily garbage trucks, an occasional drunk, sniffing dogs, car alarms and the like.

The 3-year-old summer festival of Shakespearean plays performs for free in a municipal parking lot, doing the Bard's "Macbeth," "A Midsummer's Night Dream," "The



Tempest" and more.

It has its upside, said Bob D'Haene, a wiry actor who plays Macbeth.

In one recent play, teen-age boys taunted performers with howls and laughter during "Hamlet." About halfway through, they became quieter. The next night they returned and sat in a back row, silent and watching.

"You could just tell, they were totally, totally getting everything that we're doing and enjoying it and having a great time," D'Haene said.

## OPINION

### Never a dull moment on television talk shows

Columnist Dave Barry recently took to the TV world while promoting his new book.



"You go on whatever show they tell you to

on on in front that the book will be



## The FLOODS

JULY 1996 & FEBRUARY 1997

'We just hope  
it doesn't  
happen again'

By JANET LUNDQUIST  
Staff Writer

By looking at the dollars required to repair damage from the July 1996 and February 1997 floods, it appears the winter flood was worse.

La Salle County spent between \$30,000 and \$35,000 to repair shoulder damage on county roads and clean up debris stuck under bridges from flooding last July, says County Engineer Bill Keith. It spent about \$70,000 to pull itself back together after the February flood.

County roads and shoulders suffered more damage in the winter because the ground was frozen, he said.

Serena Township Road Commissioner Ron Rosengren said his area did not have any problems last July.

■ **CONNIE BENNETT** (photo at left) of Sheridan, was one of many La Salle County residents who found their world floating away last summer. For many, recovery is still ongoing more than a year later. (Photo by Tom Siskak) **More photos on Page 7.**

it floods — and the city has done nothing to help.

The committee will start with a survey of damage analysis on homes affected by July and February flooding, Keene said. The city has not yet estimated how home damages.

"We want to lessen the impact of floods coming in the future," Keene said. "If you sit back and do nothing, nothing will happen. I'm not sure what all will be accomplished (by the committee), but I know at least something will happen."

Two of Ottawa's schools sustained

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

By PAT HARRISON  
City Editor


Waterworks



## 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 (15)
- 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 Impr. 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

- *500 Flood Damage Reduction Activities*

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



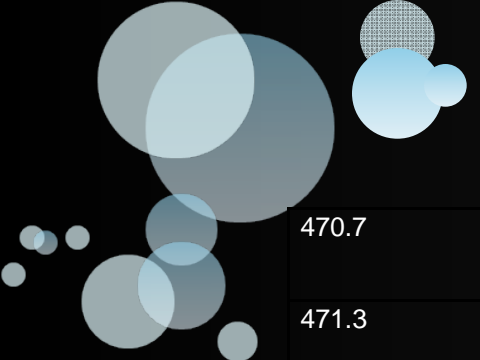
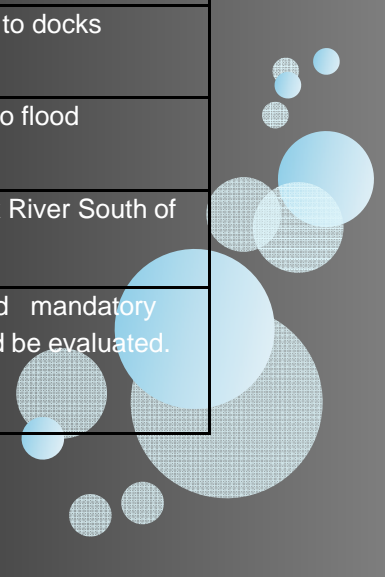
# CRS Activities

- *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

Elevation	Stakeholder	Impact
459.9	City of Ottawa	No impact, normal pool
460.5	Ottawa High School	River infiltration to south east corner of levee at baseball field. Gatewell D closed, pumping begins and flood fighting preparations begin
460.6	City of Ottawa	Backup in CSO 009, arch sewer to Webster St. Close sluice gate MH.
460.8	Ottawa High School	Pumping operations start
	River Rescue	Emergency boat docks and ramps begin to flood and become unstable



470.7	Ottawa Elementary	Building is surrounded by water
471.3	YMCA	Water reaches center of parking lot
471.5	City of Ottawa	Fox River is flowing into CSO 013, Madison Street
472	Shoreline Boat Club	River infiltrates building
	City of Ottawa	Waste Water Treatment levee should be sand bagged.
474.5	Ottawa High School	Top of Fox River levee
	City of Ottawa	Illinois River overtops levee at Waste Water Treatment plant
475.0	Heritage Harbor	Power should be shut down to docks
475.33	Heritage Harbor	Lowest basement begins to flood
475.85	Ottawa High School	Top of flood protection wall on Fox River South of Main St bridge
475.9	City of Ottawa	Closing of Main Street bridge and mandatory evacuation of the East side should be evaluated.