

OUR TOWNS

Gayville
Mission Hill
Volin

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Drainage Pipe Collapses In Gayville, Causes Huge Hole

Residents Hope To Receive Loan Soon To Replace Deteriorating Structure

BY JUSTIN RUST
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GAYVILLE — Waiting for paperwork and approval is becoming a potentially dangerous process in Gayville.

Residents in the town are waiting to hear back about a loan which would be used to replace a 1,500-foot vitrified clay pipe built more than 70 years ago.

A portion of the pipe collapsed in 2000, and July 22, after a night in which Gayville received about four inches of rain, the pipe collapsed again, creating an 8-10-foot deep hole that is about four and a half feet wide.

The hole is located near a daycare in the 500 block of Merchant Street. Children at the daycare commonly play in the open lot where the hole now sits.

Because of the heat and humidity last Thursday, daycare owner Angie Heier took the kids inside, potentially avoiding a disaster.

"I just cringe to think what if a kid, or two or three, had been there," said Gayville City Clerk Betty Putman. "What a disaster it could've been."

Jay Jorgensen, who is on the Gayville ditch board and also serves on the Town Board, said it's very fortunate that no one got hurt.

Since the hole developed, a couple of four-foot snow fences have been placed around it in order to keep people, specifically children, away.

Jorgensen said he is confident the fence is good enough to deter people who want to get close to the hole.

"I think it would take some effort to

get through the fence," he said.

But Heier doesn't agree. "I think it's pretty dangerous," she said. "The kids want to go up to it and look at it. They want to know what's in the hole and are curious. There's not much there for them to crawl under or over."

Because of the danger the hole could present, Jorgensen said the city is going to have a quick, temporary fix while it waits to hear on the loan.

"We are going to try and get things done as fast as we can, and also properly," he said. "We are working on it right now, and it will hopefully be done in a couple of weeks."

Heier said she is hoping there is something they can do to improve the safety aspects around the hole.

The drainage pipe, which takes water from a ditch on the east side of town to another ditch on the west side, has been an ongoing headache since it first collapsed in 2000.

Two years later, an assessment was placed on property owners adjoining the drainage system in an attempt by the county to get grant money from the state to replace the pipe.

The assessment generates approximately \$12,000 a year and \$112,000 has been accumulated. The estimated cost of replacing the drainage system is \$250,000.

Not all of the money would go to the replacement of the pipe, as some of it would be set aside for general maintenance to the new pipe.

The main problem is figuring out who will pay for the new drainage system,

since the town isn't responsible.

However, the Gayville Town Board has pressed the Yankton County Commission and the state for action. The two entities have debated who will pay for the new pipe and how it will be funded.

"It gets stalled at the county and state aspects so far," Jorgensen said. "We want to try and make some headway, and we get some roadblocks. We just try and keep plugging away and get past these roadblocks."

Jorgensen has been working to get a loan for the project. Earlier in the year, a proposal was submitted asking for a 40-year loan that would cost the town \$7,000 a year.

The loan might have to be a 20-year loan, and Jorgensen is hoping to find out that and more during a Friday meeting with USDA Rural Development.

If USDA Rural Development approves the loan, Jorgensen believes the bidding process will begin and the project will be completed next year.

"I'm not sure what the process is to get the bids sent out, and if you have to wait 30 to 40 days and go from there," he said. "I don't know how long it will take to replace, but I am hoping for next year."

The approval of the loan would help answer some questions the town has had for a while.

"The residents don't know what the hold up is, and they don't understand the process it takes to get everything in place," Putman said. "There are too many loopholes to get around. It's been a long time, years basically, that this has gone on."



TRAVIS GULBRANDSON/P&D
A collapsed drainage pipe in Gayville is causing concerns about the safety of areas above the 1,500 foot clay pipe that was built more than 70 years ago. City residents are waiting on a possible loan to replace the aging pipe, but for now people who live near the 8-10 foot deep by four and half foot across hole are wondering if it is safe to be in their yards.

Gayville-Volin Schools Ready To Return To Classes

BY JASON W. SELCHERT, ED. S.
Superintendent, Gayville-Volin Schools

With just over one month left before we welcome back more than 250 students, I wanted to update you on some information for the upcoming year.

The first day of school is set for Aug. 18, 2010. We will have a new start time of 8:10 a.m. and a new ending time of 3:19 p.m. This is a nine minute difference from past years. This timing change accommodates for the change in the school calendar which was adopted by our school board in the spring.

The calendar, which is included in this mailing, switches all of our early release time and most of the holidays (when possible) to Mondays. This will allow staff to work with our students to increase their academic skills on ten Monday mornings. This doesn't change the instructional time from previous years and allows for remediation and enrichment opportunities for all children in the district. These optional sessions will run from 8-11 a.m., and the district will provide shuttle service to Volin, Mission Hill, Yankton and all daycares.

More information will be provided in student packets which will be mailed the first part of August.

Also, the district has spent this summer updating all of the district technology. You will notice some subtle changes which we believe will keep the students and parents more informed. Along with the technology upgrades, we will be

Ice Cream Social Planned For Gayville

The Gayville women of the ELCA will be holding an ice cream social on from 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 4 at the Gayville Community Center.

Taverns, hot dogs, Coney dogs, pie, bars, ice cream and drinks will be served. A free will offering will be taken and funds will be matched by Thrivent Financial For Lutherans.

piloting a 1:1 laptop program in the high school. All 9-12 students will receive a laptop issued by the school with all the necessary software loaded to perform academic tasks.

The district is purchasing insurance for these laptops in case of accidental loss or damage. Should your child participate in the program and should there be a need to use the insurance, the students' parents will be responsible for the deductible on the computer. This will be a nominal fee of

between \$25-\$75. It also can only be used for a one time replacement of the computer. Any subsequent issues will render the policy invalid and the parent/student will be responsible for the repair or replacement charges. The plan is to issue laptops to the students and they would keep that laptop until graduation. They will have the option of purchasing the laptop upon graduation.

Lastly, test scores from the Dakota STEP tests taken in the spring are here and they will be

included in your registration packets that you receive in August. We will continue to try to improve our reading and math scores and the overall goal is to have all students proficient in those areas before 2013. If your son or daughter isn't proficient, we encourage you to contact the school to set up a specific instructional program to increase proficiency. This can be done by utilizing our ASP or Title program and as discussed above our enrichment program. Students in grades 9-12 can

tact Mr. Rice or Mrs. Selchert to discuss scheduling options, as well as opportunities to increase proficiency in reading and math. Student registration will take place from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Aug. 9-10 for students in grades 10-12. Also, there is a mandatory meeting on Aug. 17 for all ninth-grade parents. This will be held at 7 p.m. during back to school night. I hope you and your children are having a great summer and we are looking forward to seeing you in August.

Chorus To Perform At Volin Church

VOLIN — The Tri-Valley Barbershop Chorus, under the direction of Alan Ward, will perform at Faith United Lutheran Church, 44874 303rd St., Volin at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 1.
Contact the church at 605-267-2277 or faithunited@iw.net with questions or to receive driving instructions.



Out On The Town

VFW Post 791
209 Cedar

Thursday
5-7pm - Hamburger/
Pizzaburger & Fries \$5.00
6-7pm - Domestic Beers
\$1.00

Friday
Apple Glazed Pork Chop
or Menu
Serving 5:30-8:00

Saturday
No Band
Serving from Menu
5:30-8:00

Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm
Sunday at 6:30pm
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-6:00
Chislic Served Last
Wednesday of Each Month

Pancake Breakfast
or Biscuits & Gravy
\$5.00 All You Can Eat
Children 6-10 \$2.50 • Under 5 free
Sun., Aug. 1st 8AM-12:30PM
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209 Cedar, Yankton • 665-3562

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Students \$2.00 Adults \$4.00

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MUSIC BY FREDERICK LOEWE
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& GABRIEL PASCAL'S
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ORIGINAL PRODUCTION DIRECTED
BY MOSS HART

THE DAKOTA THEATRE
YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA
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THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY SHOWS 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY MATINEES 2 P.M.
TICKETS \$16 ADULTS,
\$8 CHILDREN

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