

CCI residents deserve a plan

Residents living near the former Chemical Commodities Inc. property may not see an entire cleanup of the area for some time and maybe not in their lifetime. They've already lived with noxious fumes, the destruction of their property and other problems caused by contamination.

And the Environmental Protection Agency has been unable to definitely determine all the effects years of chemical waste improperly handled at CCI has had the entire area. The feds are able to monitor the site and determine what is wrong with the area, but it's hard to know the effects of 50 years of improper waste handling.

We do know there has been no major health risk to the community, which is fortunate. Some residents have replaced soil in their yards because chemical seepage damaged grass and other vegetation, and many residents have installed clean air filters.

How long it will take until the site is 100 percent contamination free is another unanswered question.

The EPA is still taking recommendations from residents before developing a final cleanup plan.

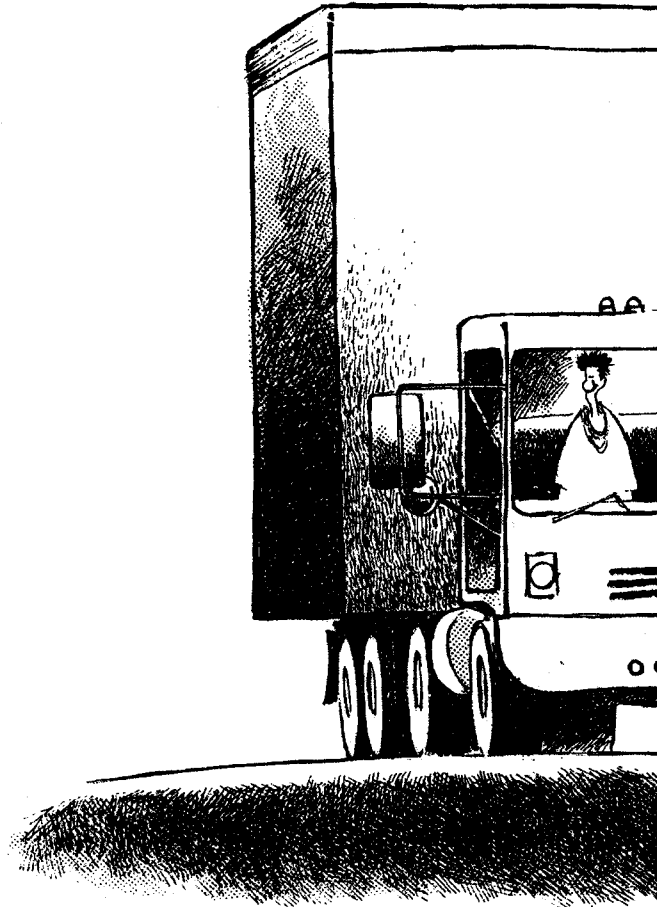
The best estimate anyone has received from the EPA is 10, 20, maybe 30 years before the area is back to normal.

This uncertainty cannot be comforting for residents, who cannot even sell their property because of the CCI site.

We hope the city stays involved in the process, but lets the federal government handle the situation. The city does not need the liability. Also, the federal government needs to hold the companies involved in the process accountable. CCI is out of business, thus cannot be held accountable, but Boeing has paid its share so far.

We hope the EPA can come up with a plan that will not take years and years to accomplish and end up costing taxpayers.

The neighbors of that community have been through enough and need to have some kind of peace of mind within their lifetime.



Help with birth

The city is planning a birthday party, and that's something we all can get behind. I mean, who doesn't like a party?

John Andrade, one of the primary movers behind the effort to organize Olathe's sesquicent-

project's mission or goal.

The goal is simple — a birthday celebration. Andrade added that all of 2007 is open for the event. (Olathe was officially founded in 1857, so 2007 marks the city's 150th birthday.)