

# H-F Park District crew helps strip inner workings of H-F Ice Arena

BY MARILYN THOMAS  
mthomas@hfchronicle.com

Ever wonder how the ice gets made for an ice arena?

"It's pretty amazing when you see it like this," said Doug Boehm, superintendent of parks and planning at the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, while standing in the middle of what was the H-F Ice Arena.

The park district is preparing for a total renovation of the refrigeration system at the ice arena after its old ice making system failed in November causing a shutdown of the facility at 777 Kedzie Ave. in Flossmoor.

The park district was expected to approve a contract for a new refrigeration system at a special meeting March 29. Before that, parks employees Andrew Presnak and Kenny Nye stripped the ice rink of its innards.

Presnak, ice arena maintenance supervisor, said the rink is built upon a layer of gravel that serves as a subflooring. Then two layers of pink insulating foam board were laid on top. A plastic vapor barrier was laid on top separating the foam from the 150 pipes that measure 200-feet in length.

The refrigerant solution would fill the pipes that were covered with about four inches of sand. Presnak said when the sand freezes "it's hard as a rock."

Presnak and Nye worked over a two week period to clear the rink. They cut the stainless steel piping, bundled it and took it to a recycling center. Their efforts netted \$10,756 for the park district.

The smaller rink at the ice arena won't get the same hands-on treatment by park staff. It's set in concrete and will require jackhammers to break it up, Boehm said.

Engineers have been out to measure the depth of the core to make sure the ground is stable, Boehm said. The park district is working with W.B. Olson, Inc., the project's construction manager and Williams Architects. Presnak said he is part of the park district team on the project.

Parks Executive Director Debbie Kopas has said that everyone involved in the project understands the urgency of getting the ice arena reopened as soon as possible, but this is a major project that will take months to complete. The plan is to take the ice arena reopened in November.



Marilyn Thomas/H-F Chronicle

Kenny Nye drives a backhoe on what was the H-F Ice Arena. He and Andrew Presnak worked to remove the refrigeration piping and other materials to clear the rink for its rebuild.

**Fill Your Basket with Savings at Walts's**

[www.waltsfoods.com](http://www.waltsfoods.com)  
Homewood • South Holland • Crete • Beecher • Dyer, IN

**Protect Your Home & Property with Flood Insurance**

Flossmoor participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), making purchasing flood insurance easier for you!

As members, Flossmoor residents do not need to live in a floodplain to qualify for flood insurance. Contact your insurance provider to start protecting yourself, your family and your home from flooding today!

 FLOSSMOOR

[flossmoor.org](http://flossmoor.org)