

GRATIOT COUNTY

Residents can help with health answers

By Linda Gittleman

Special to the Morning Sun

Definitive, rock solid answers to health questions are often hard to come by.

But unless questions are asked and a study begins, no one will ever know if the chemical contamination in St. Louis has been the cause of certain illnesses and deaths in the community.

Many people have responded to the health questionnaire and map geared for current and former St. Louis residents.

That questionnaire was initiated by former resident JoAnne Hall Scalf a few months ago.

But not enough people have filled out the forms.

To begin getting answers to questions that have plagued the city's residents is the goal.

And, that starts with questions about current and former residents' health as well as the health of their family members.

To help local residents with the forms, St. Louis City Hall will be open from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednes-

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day March 22, said Jim Hall, member of the Pine River Superfund Task Force and Scalf's brother.

Some members of the task force will be on hand and will answer questions if they can, he said.

It's hoped that the health map and survey will serve as a springboard for further studies that will eventually include the education of physicians who treat people with pollution related problems here and elsewhere.

"Our success in the last 18 years has been monumental," Hall said, noting the clean ups of the river, the residential areas and dump sites. "We've come a long way. We can't quit fighting now."

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*— Jim Hall, member of the Pine
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