

ROCK FALLS NEWS

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NUISANCE COMPLAINTS



City Center Sign

It seems whenever TV camera crews cover Rock Falls happenings, they tend to shoot footage of the Rock Falls sign located in the center of town. The sign is showing some fading and chipping and looks a bit tired. If there are any organizations or individuals who might like to volunteer to refresh the sign before another North Iowa winter sets in, please contact City Hall.

SEWER SYSTEM

The City of Rock Falls has a rather unique sewer system. It was designed to carry sewage from a low elevation to a sewer lagoon at a high elevation.

Since Rock Falls does not have public works employees, the maintenance and service to the sewage system is contracted through PeopleService, Inc., a company that provides sewage management services to a number of small communities.

Each home in Rock Falls is connected to a tank buried in the ground that houses a grinder-pump. The tank collects sewage from the house, then grinds and pumps the sewage into the large

A recent survey within small rural communities asked questions about nuisances. What are the most common annoyances and how do they affect neighborly relations?



A few of the nuisances identified in the survey include such issues as trash and lawn litter, dilapidated buildings, junked automobiles, odors, noise, and pets.

The people of Rock Falls receive many compliments regarding the beauty and cleanliness of the community. Most properties are kept very attractive.

However, the City does receive complaints about nuisances. The

Don't forget Rock Falls Fun Days August 19! Great time for a family reunion!

most prominent complaints refer to noise. The most common noise emanates from dogs that bark for extended periods. Another noise complaint regards motorized vehicles, usually motorcycles or ATV's with hardly any mufflers.

Citizens that keep dogs for pets within a "community" should respect the rights of neighbors in close proximity that may not enjoy the noise of a continually barking dog. Dogs can be given obedience training to limit barking to an acceptable level or can be kept indoors. Rock Falls has a city ordinance, Title IV, section 4-1-4, which states "an animal shall be considered a nuisance if it causes a disturbance by excessive barking or other noisemaking, chases vehicles, or molests, attacks or interferes with persons or other domestic animals on public property."

Motorcycles, snowmobiles, and ATV's are occasionally operated within the community at high speeds and with hardly any mufflers. This noise creation appears to be intentional and can be very irritating to neighbors who prefer

peace and quiet. Rock Falls has a city ordinance that addresses such noise creation.

For the well-being and "communal enjoyment" of all citizens such vehicles need to be operated with proper mufflers and within the proper licenses and regulations of motorized vehicles.

Living in a communal setting requires a few rules and policies to assure optimal satisfaction for the majority of the citizens. However, good judgment and respect for other citizens is still the best path toward peaceful living for everyone.



The August 14 City Council meeting will be held in the **city park** at 7:00 PM

sewer pipe that transports the sewage to the lagoon.

The grinder-pump is controlled by an electrical panel that is usually fastened to the house. A red light sits atop the panel and is designed to flash if the pump malfunctions. If a resident detects the flashing light, a call should be made immediately to PeopleService, Inc., 1-888-861-1921

On rare occasions, property owners have asked that the electrical control panel be moved to accommodate a change such as a new patio or home expansion. Such changes can be made but are at the expense of the property owner.

An easement exists with each property in Rock Falls along the pathway of the sewage line from the house to the connection with the City sewage main. This easement allows the City access to the sewage system should excavation or service work be needed. Property owners should be aware of the easement when considering plans for additions, decks, plantings, patios, or driveways.

Questions regarding the sewer system can be directed to PeopleService, Inc., at the above numbers, or to the City of Rock Falls. Citizens are invited to any or all City Council meetings on the second Monday of each month. A PeopleService representative attends every meeting.