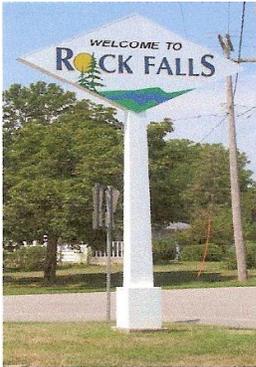


# ROCK FALLS NEWS

AUGUST 2007

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Most everyone will agree that the sign has been worth the wait. Dean Johnson of Johnson Sign Company set the panels in place during the last week of July on the newly designed Rock Falls Welcome Sign. Rock Falls is well-known for its beautiful trees and riverscape. The new sign has incorporated these wonderful community assets into a modern depiction of the little city on the Shell Rock.

Based upon input from several community citizens, it was decided to keep the sign in the shape of the old DX sign that actually still remains beneath the new modern sign. Many citizens still remember the DX service station that sat on the corner for a good many years.



## Fun Days in Rock Falls August 17-18!!

It'll be a "Rockin'" time in Rock Falls in August! Rock Falls Fun Days begins on Friday evening, August 17, with a special Karaoke /dance event on the basketball court east of the Community Center. This event will be sponsored by Bill Boyd Sales and Trucking of Rock Falls and emceed by Mitch Varner. It might be a good time to practice for the American Idol auditions!

Saturday, August 18, the day

will be filled with a myriad of activities including, bean bag tossing, softball tournament, and volleyball tournament.

Children's games will again be held in the early afternoon. There will also be raffle ticket sales throughout the day with many valu-

able prizes, headlined by the magnificent Aussie Stainless Steel BBQ Grill. The Beer Garden will be open throughout the day and evening.

Dancing will begin at 8:00 with the band Working Class. The Plymouth Fire Department will begin their famous char-broiled steaks at 4:00 PM.

Volunteers will be needed both Thursday night to erect fences and Sunday morning to remove fences and clean the grounds. It'll be a great weekend for family reunions!



## Sewer Contract Renewal

The Rock Falls City Council continues to work through an agreement with PeopleService, Inc. to provide sewer services to the City.

PeopleService, Inc. provides sewer management services under contract. The present five-year contract expired June 30, 2007. PeopleService, Inc. informed the Council that renewing the contract for the next five years would require an increase in the annual fees of 11.1%. The contract also has a provision of an annual increase equal to the Consumer Price Index of each respective year. The CPI has been raising the annual fees another nearly 3% per year.

The City Council felt that an in-

crease of 11.1% was unacceptable. Due to the increased costs of personnel, fuel, insurance, and other operational costs, the Council felt that a contract increase of 6% was warranted.

PeopleService, Inc. rejected the offer of a 6% increase and offered an 8% increase pro-rated over 3 years. The Council has taken the counter offer under advisement. PeopleService, Inc. provides a 12-month grace period, continuing to provide services without a signed contract.

The City has impressed upon PeopleService, Inc. that significant planning needs to be undertaken regarding the future of this 25-year old system. If fees are going to be increased, the City should expect the development of a five-year

strategic plan which should include a detailed inventory of assets, a present condition inspection and evaluation, an upgrade of depreciated equipment, and a budget complete with consumer rate analysis.

The Council is postponing the signing of a formal contract subject to the willingness of PeopleService, Inc. to engage in a strategic planning process. PeopleService, Inc. has given a verbal intent of cooperation. The council investigated another service provider based in LaMars, Iowa. Although the company looked very promising, the Council felt that PeopleService, Inc. should be given the opportunity to rise to the challenge of moving the Rock Falls sewer system into a pro-active management operation.