

# ROCK FALLS NEWS

DECEMBER 2008  
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## Temporary Sewer Replaced

There were many anxious moments among the residents along Riverside Drive as the ambient air temperatures dropped into the teens on a couple of occasions this fall.

While road crews excavated Riverside Drive to install a much larger water passage in late summer, the pressurized sewer line that normally lays beneath the surface of the street needed to be re-routed into a temporary location. Much of the temporary sewer line was hanging in mid-air upstream from the road construction. Such an arrangement worked fine during warm weather. But when temperatures dropped below freezing, there was danger of the exposed line freezing solid.

To complicate the problem, the excavating contractor that re-

routed the sewer line was trying to complete another large project elsewhere in the county. That project dragged on for unknown reasons, delaying the ability of the contractor to get to the Rock Falls project in a timely manner. The City and the County held their breath and crossed their fingers that serious cold weather would hold off until the sewer line could be finalized.

In mid-November the contractor arrived and began digging. The contractor laid new plastic pipe beneath the street and over the new concrete encasement. Where the sewer line crossed the encasement, the contractor ordered special-made pipe encased within foam insulation to provide additional protection from brutal North Iowa temperatures. Freezing of the line would cause unimaginable problems.

The new line connects directly to a valve arrangement within a manhole at the south end of the street. Since there had been considerable leakage within the manhole prior to the street repair, all of the valves in the manhole were replaced and updated.

All that remains of the flood damage project is the surface paving and replacement of the guardrail system. Paving will not be completed until next spring or summer to allow ample time for the whole process to settle adequately.

The flood of 2008 caused considerable infrastructure damage all across the county. Although county crews and contractors were doing their best to rebuild and repair damages, the whole process has caused many delays and frustrations. Our hats are off to Mary Kelly, Cerro Gordo county engineer. Mary coordinated an enormous amount of construction work across the county. Mary redesigned the water passage under Riverside Drive in Rock Falls to make the structure much more efficient in handling heavy flooding. Mary handled frustrated citizens and officials with sincere professionalism.



## High Water!

Within the best laid plans there can come unexpected twists and turns. Following the sinking of the new well in City Park, Knorr Electric installed the pump, electrical controls, and pressure tank. At this point it was discovered that the static water level in the well sits about three feet above the ground level.

The good news is that there is obviously lots of water available in the new well. The bad news is that water standing above ground level in North Iowa will most likely freeze during the winter.

Therefore, it was advised that the standpipe be enclosed with an insulating structure to prevent heat loss from the standing water, thus preventing freezing. Again, we are indebted to Mother Nature this year for holding back Old Man Winter long enough to become fully winterized.

### Pancake Breakfast

All You Can Eat

Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs,  
Coffee, Juice

Sunday December 7

8-11 AM

Free Will Donation

Community Center