

ROCK FALLS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2007

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DOGS CONTINUE TO TOP THE COMPLAINT LIST!

OFFICE SPACE



One of the rooms in the Community Center has been used for the Rock Falls Post Office for several years. Since the Post Office no longer leases this space, an opportunity exists for a person or a company to utilize this location for an office. Anyone interested could contact City Hall at 641-696-3455.

Snowbirds or vacationers be sure to inform City Hall if you will be absent over 30 days so that your sewer tank can be flushed.

Check out Rock Falls Web Site!

www.rockfallsiowa.com

Minutes of council meetings

History

Souvenirs

Information

Send this Newsletter to friends across the country via the Rock Falls Web Site



Following is an excerpt from the August Rock Falls Newsletter:

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."

Another article appeared in the December Newsletter referring to the proper care and control of dogs.

And yet, City Hall continues to receive calls on a regular basis about dogs that are running loose, chasing people that are



House Numbers

House numbers are not only important for sewer maintenance,



taking walks, barking for extended periods, and soiling neighbors' lawns. The issue becomes simple: there are citizens who choose to own dogs and there are citizens that choose not to own dogs. Should dog owners respect the rights of non-dog owners?

A rough calculation would show that about 45% of households in Rock Falls own one or more dogs. This is not a majority, but it is getting close. It means that a non-dog owner has a good chance of living in close proximity to a dog owner.

In years past, the Rock Falls City Councils have taken the stand that dog owners should indeed re-

but the numbers are also important for trash service and, most importantly, for emergency services. And data will show that **most ambulance calls are at night**. Illuminated house numbers are not

spect the rights of the non-dog owners through the comprehensive ordinance mentioned above. Enforcement of the dog ordinance will be discussed at the February 12, 2007, city council meeting. Any dog-owners or non-dog owners are invited and encouraged to present ideas and concerns to the council.

Should the ordinance be repealed? Should the ordinance be strengthened? Should enforcement be strengthened and at what cost? Should penalties be more severe? Should dogs be prohibited entirely?

Unless citizens voice their concerns to the council, the council members can only guess at the feelings of the community. The coffee will be on; come and join in the discussion.



expensive. And they could save a life when time is of the essence.