

ROCK FALLS NEWS

JUNE 2006



COUNCIL PASSES SEX OFFENDER ORDINANCE

OBSTRUCTIONS

Following a recent survey of streets in Rock Falls, it has become apparent that certain obstructions have been placed in the city right-of-way across town. A city street and its right-of-way measures 66 feet. Therefore, on either side of the street the right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the street.

A number of posts, barriers, walls, bushes, trees, rocks, and other items have been placed within the right-of-way. Some items cause little harm; other items can block traffic visibility, create hazards, and can simply become a nuisance.

Any item considered necessary to be in the City right-of-way should be approved by the City Council. In addition, property owners need to be aware that should street or utility work need to be conducted in the right-of-way, such obstructions would need to be moved at the property owner's expense.

Check out Rock Falls Web Site!
www.rockfallsiowa.com
Minutes of council meetings
History
Souvenirs
Information

Some time ago, the State of Iowa passed a law that prohibited persons listed on the State Sex Offender Registry from taking residence within 2,000 feet of a school or a child-care facility.

The City Council understands that children constitute a substantial portion of the population of Rock Falls. However, the city has no school nor child-care facility. Therefore, the council felt that other "child-oriented facilities" do exist in the City such as the city park, various school bus stops, and the Rock Falls Community Center. The Code of Iowa, therefore, does not protect children living in Rock Falls.

Since the Code of Iowa does

not provide any restrictions to registered sex offenders taking residence in Rock Falls, the Council felt that implementation of the State Code could result in registered sex offenders relocating to Rock Falls to avoid its application in a city that does not have schools and child-care facilities. Such relocations could increase risks to Rock Falls children.

Therefore, the Rock Falls City Council passed city ordinance 3-11-3 at the May council meeting. This ordinance prohibits a registered sex offender from residing within 2,000 feet of the real property comprising a child-oriented facility (park, bus stops, community center). The distance shall be measured from the closest boundary line

of the residence to the closest boundary line of the child-oriented facility. Violators of the ordinance could be subject to a fine, imprisonment, or both.



OFFICE SPACE

For several years a portion of the Community Center was used for the Rock Falls post office. No longer being used by the USPS, this space could be available for lease to a business or organization. For information, contact xxxxxxx xxxxxxx

MOSQUITOES ARE EXPECTED

Typically, this is the time of year where the mosquito population begins to increase. Once again, the City Council has engaged a mosquito control company to periodically fog all the neighborhoods of Rock Falls.

In most areas the crew will fog neighborhoods from the streets

using environmentally friendly pesticide products.



Two or three times during the summer, application will be from an airplane to vary the procedure and more thoroughly

control the mosquitoes. Varying times and application procedures are necessary to control different species of insects.

Pesticides used are not harmful to outside pets and wildlife. For information regarding product being used refer to (www.mosquitocontrolofiowa.com)