

ROCK FALLS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2008
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Financial Assistance

The Iowa Finance Authority is able to provide financial assistance to homeowners in North Iowa whose homes were destroyed or damaged in the summer floods. \$1,729,889 is available for down payment assistance, repairs, and/or interim mortgage assistance.

Individuals whose homes were damaged beyond reasonable repair will be offered down payment assistance of up to \$50,000 plus the reimbursement of up to \$10,000 for the full cost of purchasing energy-efficient furnaces, appliances, air conditioners, etc. Households eligible for this assistance may also qualify for interim mortgage assistance.

Individuals may also receive assistance of up to \$50,000 to make repairs to a flood-damaged property.

For individuals involved in property buy-outs, assistance is available up to \$1,000 per month to maintain mortgages, including payment of mortgage principal and interest and property taxes, for a period not to exceed 12 months.

The assistance programs can be a forgivable loan with a maximum amount of \$72,000, with 10%

loan forgiveness annually up to 100% so long as homeowner remains in the home. If the homeowner sells the home before the ten years, the homeowner shall repay the remaining loan balance upon the sale of his home. Households must be registered with FEMA, have received FEMA housing assistance to be eligible for the program, and have a need for disaster assistance.

To register on-line, go to:
www.jumpstart.iowa.gov.

Support the Betterment Group!

As has been mentioned on many occasions, at the time the City of Rock Falls accepted ownership of the Rock Falls school building, a group of citizens rose to the challenge of funding and maintaining the school building for use as a community center.

The Rock Falls Area Betterment Group spends many, many man-hours each year raising money to pay the expenses of keeping the school building viable as a community center.

The building is used for many community events including exercise classes, wedding receptions, anniversaries, banquets, auctions, youth sports practices, and dances. The building is also used for City Hall functions serving the city clerk offices, and city council chambers.

The Betterment Group conducts various fund-raising projects throughout the year, all culminating with the famous Rock

Falls Fun Days. Funds raised from these events are used to pay for heating, air conditioning, cleaning, insurance, and many other expenses of operation.

One of the recurring events that happens throughout the year is the operation of a concession stand each time an auction is held at the Center. Delectable items such as maidrites, hot dogs, walking tacos, homemade pies, cinnamon rolls, and dessert bars are offered for sale. This would be a great time to bring the family to the Community Center for lunch or a snack. The menu items are very reasonably priced and, according to the auction patrons, absolutely delicious!

Greater support of the Community Center fund-raising events is essential for generating operating revenue. The cost of propane and insurance is skyrocketing. So stop by the con-

Pancake Breakfast

All You Can Eat

Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs,
 Coffee, Juice

Sunday Nov. 2

8–11 AM

Free Will Donation

Community Center

cession stand, even if the auction is of no interest. Also, bring the family to the all-you-can-eat breakfast on the first Sunday morning of every month.

A problem exists where the burden of labor for fund-raising events falls on the back of a very few concerned citizens. Volunteer to help with some of the events throughout the year. It's a great way to see and visit with many of the Rock Falls citizens that you might not see otherwise.

Election 2008

The Community Center is the official polling site for the General Election of 2008 for Rock Falls and the township. The polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. until 9:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 25th was the final day to pre-register to vote in the November 4, 2008 General Election. However, Iowa law now allows eligible persons to register and vote at the polls on Election Day. An Election Day registrant must provide acceptable proof of identity and current residence in the precinct.

Voters who are currently registered need not re-register unless they have changed residences from one county to another. A voter who has changed addresses within the same county as the voter is currently registered may change his/her voter registration address anytime before the election or at the voter's new polling site on Election Day. Election night results are expected to be available by 11:00 p.m. The county auditor's office in the courthouse will be open until precincts have reported. Members of the public are welcome to be present, or to call in for results.