

# ROCK FALLS NEWS

OCTOBER 2006

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 641-696-3455



## NUISANCE COMPLAINTS



### City Center Sign

The town center sign is showing some fading and chipping and looks a bit tired. If there are any organizations or individuals who might like to volunteer to refresh the sign before another North Iowa winter sets in, please contact City Hall 696-3455.

The October City Council meeting will be held on Oct. 10 in the **Community Center** at 7:00 PM.

Another nuisance recently brought to the attention of the City is not a huge issue, but certainly can be an aggravation.



Horse manure is occasionally deposited upon the City streets in fairly large quantities. Residents sometimes unwittingly

drive through the deposits on their way home. If the garage is part of the house or in close proximity, a very strong odor can permeate one's home.

Horse riders are certainly welcome in the community, but it is hoped that the riders will be good citizens and properly dispose of animal wastes.



### Snowbirds

It has been suggested by PeopleService Company that any residents who plan to be out of town this winter for more than a month notify People Service or City Hall. The mechanisms in the sewer

tanks tend to dry out when they are not being used on a regular basis. Such dryness can result in malfunctions of various kinds.

During an extended absence, PeopleService will periodically flush the system to maintain the machinery. PeopleService can be reached during office hours at 641-749-2612 or messages can be left on the Rock Falls City Hall phone

Christmas is coming! Remember Rock Falls souvenirs make GREAT GIFTS. Call City Hall for prices and delivery!

### Sewer Maintenance

PeopleService, Inc., has been on a campaign over the past few weeks to inspect all of the residential lift stations in Rock Falls. The technicians have a target completion date of October 31, 2006.

The inspections involve removing the tank lid, then visually and mechanically inspecting all of the moving parts and the electrical components. Repairs will be performed on any components that are malfunctioning or are suspicious.

The process is completed by spray washing the interior of the lift station tank. PeopleService has informed the City that a few of the lift stations show a very large

concentration of grease deposits within. Such grease deposits can cause serious malfunctions of the system as well as blockages of the sewer lines.

Greases and oils may be in liquid form when they are poured into a household drain, but are cooled in their passage to the lift station. The cooling of the greases causes them to congeal and become stiff. At this point the greases begin clinging to machinery and to pipes, causing significant buildup and eventual blockages. PeopleService Company suggests that residents not pour greases down their drains, but place them in tight containers and add to the solid waste pickup service.

The technicians also attempt to locate the curb-stop shutoff valve where the residential sewer line connects with the city sewer main line. There are instances where the shutoff has been covered over with dirt or sod. In certain cases, the property owner may be asked to assist with locating a hidden curb-stop. PeopleService prepares a report following the inspection that shows the location of the curb-stop when it can be found.

Residents might also be reminded that the City holds an easement over the sewer line that extends from the house to the lift station and on to the curb-stop valve. This easement gives the City legal access to the sewer lines should those lines need to be excavated for repairs. Placing large plantings or building extensions over the sewer lines would be in violation of the City easement.