

Quotable

"He who sees a need and waits to be asked for help is as unkind as if he had refused it."

- Dante

Elected officials

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Board of Supervisors

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The Enterprise

Serving Washington County since 1873

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4A

The Enterprise

Friday,

July 24, 2009

enterprisepub.com

Editorial

Emergency water test; two groups working together

It didn't generate much fanfare, but the test marked an important occasion last month when water was pumped from the Pappo-Missouri River Natural Resources District's rural water system to the water tower just south of town.

It marked the first test of the system that was designed to provide Blair with a backup supply of water in case of an emergency. And the test went well, which is good news for Blair residents. Using a Blair Volunteer Fire Department pumper truck, a crew pumped 1,200 gallons of water per minute to the water tower.

The test confirmed that, in case of emergency, Blair could get water from the Metropolitan Utilities District in Omaha via the NRD's rural water system. That way Blair could provide at least basic water service to residents in the event that the city's main water supply was interrupted.

The recent test was the culmination of four years of planning and work by the city of Blair and the PMNRD. This a project that has proven to be of great value to everyone involved, including residents in Blair and Washington County. Many county residents now have a dependable supply of water for household and emergency use thanks to the NRD's rural water system that serves a large area between Blair and Fort Calhoun.

And Blair residents have a reliable backup supply of water in case an emergency shut down the city's normal water supply. The 1,200 gpm that was pumped into the water tower during the recent test is about half of what the city uses on a regular basis, but it would provide enough water to keep the community going in an emergency.

It's an example of two government subdivisions (three, if you count MUD in Omaha) working together to achieve a common goal and to consolidate efforts for maximum efficiency. And it's an example of the kind of emergency planning that continues to enhance the quality of life in Blair.

The city of Blair invested about \$500,000 into this endeavor and it looks like it was money well spent.

EDITORIALS represent the opinion of Enterprise



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Reader

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To the editor

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