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The rhyme was originally a short poem  
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Happiest of Birthdays to You!  
and Much More !!!



# Friendly Valley Times



“God maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.”  
~ Matthew 5:45

## April Showers bring May Flowers

The Easter weekend celebration reminded me of a popular phrase that I memorized as a teenager that encourages me to look forward to the month of May with excitement and enthusiasm, in spite of the depression that looms from the hard and long winter of the past several months -- that phrase is, April showers, bring May flowers.

Following the commemoration of the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus over the weekend, I kept thinking about phrases like: weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning; there is a silver lining after each dark cloud; and this too shall pass.

The reality of Jesus' death producing new life parallels with the thought of sunshine following a season of gloom and sadness. Like April showers bringing May flowers.

Perhaps everybody heard this rhyme at some point, generally having been taught it at an early age by parents or teachers. It's a popular thing to say and hear around springtime, but one thing you might not know is where the rhyme originated from. It reaches back to the mid-1500s, although earlier use of "April showers bring May flowers" probably existed.

In 1557, a man by the name of Thomas Tusser compiled a collection of writings he called "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry." In the April husbandry section, he wrote: Sweet April showers Do spring May flowers

As you can see, the rhyme was originally a short poem. However, there is meaning behind the words, as well.

"April showers bring May flowers" is a reminder that even the most unpleasant of things, in this case the heavy rains of April, can bring about very enjoyable things indeed -- even an abundance of flowers in May. "April showers bring May flowers" is also a lesson in patience, and one that remains valid to this day.

Many of life's greatest things come only to those who wait, and by patiently and happily enduring the clouds and damp of April, you can find yourself more easily able to take in the sights and smells of May. After all, it's easier to love something if you begin with an optimistic outlook.

~By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Milton Johnson, Garrison Chaplain's Office

### STEAMBOAT ROCK COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**City of Steamboat Rock**  
PO Box 366  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2240  
[srcityhall@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srcityhall@heartofiowa.net)

**Steamboat Rock Fire & Rescue**  
PO Box 174  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2314  
[srchief@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srchief@heartofiowa.net)

**Steamboat Rock Public Library**  
511 W. Market St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2300  
[srocklib@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srocklib@heartofiowa.net)

**Steamboat Rock Baptist Church**  
107 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2458  
[church@steamboatbaptist.org](mailto:church@steamboatbaptist.org)

**Steamboat Rock Historic Society**  
409 W. Market St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-858-6085  
[jimkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkramer@heartofiowa.net)

**Steamboat Rock Cemetery**  
19325 Z Ave.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-751-5096  
[50672cemetery@gmail.com](mailto:50672cemetery@gmail.com)

**Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church**  
401 Market St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2292  
[srpresby@gmail.com](mailto:srpresby@gmail.com)

**Steamboat Rock Visionary Group/Pride & Betterment**  
PO Box 185  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2182  
[bhutchcroft@hotmail.com](mailto:bhutchcroft@hotmail.com)

## Steamboat Rock Historical Society

**President:** Jim Kramer    **Vice President:** Dennis Holmes    **Secretary:**    **Treasurer:** Kitty Hemmen  
**At Large:** Keith Griffen    Email: [jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net)

**OUR Mission:** “*To preserve and promote the history of Steamboat Rock and the surrounding area*”

### Museum Open on Appointment Only

Our museum is now closed again until next Spring. However, if you are in town and would like to tour our museum, please contact me at 641-858-6085 and I would be happy to make arrangements to meet you there.

### Would you be willing to join our team?

We still have room for people to join our team as we look to preserve the history of Steamboat Rock. In last month's newsletter, we mentioned the many ways that you could help us. If you are interested and would like to know more about helping us, please contact me at 641-858-6085 or send me an email at [jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net)

### A Look Back—My Neighbor and Friend

My wife and I moved back here to Steamboat Rock in the fall of 1978. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to purchase the house that I had lived in until the age of 10. We have lived here in the same house for the past 45 years. As I look back at the many neighbors that we have had over those 45 years, my thoughts go back to Joe and Lillian Cervetti. They were the best neighbors that one could ask for. I have many fond memories of both of them. I do have one regret—I wish that I would have taken more time to just sit and visit and learn from Joe and Lillian. They both had much wisdom. We, along with our neighbors, have constantly had struggles trying to get rid of the moles that pile up dirt and make tunnels in our yards. A few years before she passed away, Lillian gave me this advice after seeing me trying to get rid of the moles: She said to me: “**Jim, just keep all your urine in the garage and when you get enough of it, pour it in the mound or tunnel and the moles will most certainly go away.**” 😊😊😊 To be honest, I don't remember if it worked or not. I simply got very tired of always going out to the garage.

Anyway, the attached article was in the 1955 Steamboat Rock Centennial Edition and was written by Joe Cervetti, talking about his time in Steamboat Rock. I thought you would enjoy reading it.

I would appreciate hearing back from you if you know of any homes, businesses, churches, etc. that were built by Joe and his crew. And does anyone know what happened to his two violins? Let me know.

*Jim Kramer—Steamboat Rock Historical Society*

*Cont'd on page 6*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOOOUUU!!!

*May you live a long life, Full of Gladness and Health, with a pocket full of gold as the least of your wealth,  
May the Dreams you hold dearest, be those which Come True, May the kindness you spread, keep returning to YOU!*

April 6<sup>th</sup> Austin Williams  
April 29<sup>th</sup> Scott Williams

April 21<sup>st</sup> Chris Caldwell



## Pastor Lynn Arends, Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church and East Friesland Presbyterian Church



*Cont'd on page 6*

# *from the Mayor*

**Welcome to a new friendly face in the City Clerk position:** Please welcome our new City Clerk, Dawn Schaa. Some of you have known Dawn for many years or may even have known her when she graduated from High School here in Steamboat Rock. You may even know her family locally. At this time, she plans to have City Hall open on Monday and Wednesday. This is her first time as a City Clerk and there are many, many, m-a-n-y duties required of City Clerks to keep a City running smoothly. During this intense learning curve, please be patient with our new Clerk, encourage her every chance you get!

**Property Valuations:** The Hardin County Assessor has given me the heads up that many properties will have higher valuations posted in the next few months. Your property taxes may or may not increase with the valuation increase. There are a LOT of factors that enter in to the actual property tax amount. Things like: the state wide “rollback,” the rate (or Levy) imposed by various taxing authorities like schools, the County, the City, and a handful of smaller levies. The point is, don’t shoot the messenger, the Assessor only establishes the valuation.

**City Wide Clean-up Days:** Are scheduled for Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>. 8:00 to 11:00 am each day. The City will provide a roll-off at the City stick dump. This is an excellent opportunity to get rid of that junk that was too big for the garbage truck or just an extra spring-cleaning pile you have created. Fee of \$15 for each appliances to be disposed of, right at the location, or pay the City Clerk in advance and she will give the folks helping on site the heads up. That is a pass-through fee to the company that picks up the appliances. This collection of junk excludes TVs and RV refrigerators. There will also be a place to get rid of recyclable metals at these events.

**Annual Ditch Walk:** Save the date of Saturday April 22, 2023 (Earth Day) to help with a ditch clean-up. This is a great opportunity to log some volunteer hours and a good way to spend time with friends or meet some new ones. You may remember that this is one of those activities where many hands make light work. This year will be a new location beginning at the Iowa River Bridge for two miles to the west on D-35. Meet at the Iowa River Landing here in Steamboat Rock at 9:00 am and we should be done by noon. Brings gloves and dress appropriately for the weather of the day. If you would like to help, but are unable to walk well, we need folks to provide and drive pick-ups or UTV’s to service the walkers and transport the loaded bags.

Thanks  
Tim Stearns, Mayor



\*\*\*\*\*

## **AUTO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILLS (NO Fees!)**

Fill out this form and email or drop it off at City Hall please

### **Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement** **AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS (ACH DEBITS)**

I (we) hereby authorize City of Steamboat Rock, hereinafter called COMPANY, to initiate debit entries to my (our) \*Checking Account \*Savings Account (select one) indicated below at the depository financial institution names below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, and to debit the same to such account. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Depository Name _____	Branch _____	
City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Routing Number _____	Account Number _____	
Type of Account: [ ] Checking [ ] Savings		
This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until COMPANY has received written notification from me (or either of us) its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford COMPANY and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.		
Name(s) _____	ID Number _____	
Date _____	Signature _____	
<b>NOTE: ALL WRITTEN DEBIT AUTHORIZATIONS MUST PROVIDE THAT THE RECEIVER MAY REVOKE THE AUTHORIZATION ONLY BY NOTIFYING THE ORIGINATOR IN THE MANNER SPECIFIED IN THE AUTHORIZATION</b>		



# Steamboat Rock Fire Department

## Spring is Near – Lol

It is no longer winter, this is harassment!!!

Spring is near but it just doesn't seem like it wants to get here. Gravel roads will be to change, and they can change very quickly. Please be careful if you travel gravel.

Now that the water is flowing, beware of water flowing over water. It is always encouraged NOT to drive through water. It can take less than a foot of water to sweep a vehicle off the road. Traveling when raining, also creates hazards when driving. Hitting water at 55 m.p.h. can also take you off the road. Pay attention to the road conditions and barricades that are up. **FIND AN ALTERNATE ROUTE, if needed!!!**

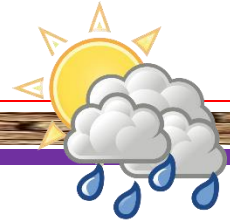
The time for warmer weather now, LOL!! This would also be a good time to check your furnace filter. The air from the weather has been a dry. This dry weather will allow dust particles to float through the air much easier, allowing them to travel more freely to your furnace intake (filter). Changing this now or the next month will prepare you for the upcoming warm season if you have central air. This too will help with the efficiency of cooling your house.

Not only checking your house filters, have you recently checked your car filters. There is one for the motor, but have you checked your cabin filter? Hmmm, didn't know about that one?? MOST vehicle's cabin filter is located near the glove compartment. This will help filter the air that you breathe inside your car. According to the Washington Post "When Sneezing Kills," a person traveling at 60 m.p.h. will travel 50 feet with their eyes closed. Do you realize how many times you sneeze? Most people sneeze in odd increments, and possible no less than three times, this will only increase the amount of distance traveled with eyes closed. You may want to check this cabin filter as it will increase the efficiency of your system.

For those of you itching to get to yardwork, have you begin charging those batteries? Make sure all levels of liquid are proper before charging. That is if you can tell the level.

Check the batteries in all your fire alarms!!

Be Safe,  
Scott  
SRFD



## Steamboat Rock Visionary Group / Pride & Betterment

*Members: Toni Nederhoff, Mary Gast, Dave Hagberg,  
Mariah Schurman, Sandy Trampe, Mike Finger, & Bob Hutchcroft*

**Spring!** Spring! Isn't that a nice word! With its arrival our committee will again be looking forward to providing our community a nice park to enjoy. A clean, safe playground, a lighted basketball court, a fantastic pickleball court, a great shelter house, and a porta potty, will be maintained through committee monies and member efforts. We hope you and our community visitors enjoy the park all through the warmer weather coming soon!

**FVT!** The Friendly Valley Times has been a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in our community. The Pride and Betterment Committee has been instrumental in working with the city to keep the Times going, doing much of the legwork, and paying the bills. The expenses, like for everything it seems, have become so high it is straining the coffers. When P & B and VG combined, the Visionary Group agreed to support the Times. Now we are faced with the reality that both manpower and monies are in short supply.

One suggestion to help with this situation is to make the FVT available only by email. By sending the FVT only through email would save the hours of labor and the expense of printing and folding the copies. We are asking for feedback to this idea. Could you make this work for you? Please contact a VG committee member or a member of the city council or the mayor with your input. Thank you.

**Projects!** The committee will be discussing possible projects at our upcoming meetings. We welcome ideas from our fellow community members. Please pass on your ideas to a committee member.

**VG/P&B!** The two committees pledged to community improvement have combined. The Pride and Betterment Committee has been around since the early 1990s and the Visionary Group since 2011. We will be discussing a name for the combined committee soon. If you have ideas let us know.

## Steamboat Rock Public Library

There is a sign-up sheet at the library for those wishing to learn how to play cribbage. This is being sponsored by the *Friends of the Steamboat Rock Public Library*. Classes will be held on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 or 6:00. Please designate what time you are coming. Down the road after we are trained, we hope to host games and tournaments here at the library. As I remember my parents playing this basically for blood like most card games, I want us to remember we are playing for fun and relaxation!

Letters have gone out asking for donations for the summer reading program this year. We have all the programs in place and are looking forward to a great time. The Calkins Nature Center, Blank Park Zoo, Dinosaur Puppets, Aaron Fowler and his therapy dogs, ISU Bug Zoo and Lindsey Butokofer with her reptiles have been lined up. If you decide you wish to give a donation for any of these events or just in general, please do so to the Friends of the Steamboat Rock Public Library. Check with the library if you have any questions.

Book club will be on April 13th starting at 2:00. There are always great treats that everyone brings so don't feel that you have to bring something. We do not read the same book, so the different book reviews are fun to listen to.

Please don't forget the library has free Wi-Fi with no password required and it is on 24/7. We also have 7 adult patron computers and 5 small devices for the kids to use.

511 W. Market St; Steamboat Rock Phone/Fax: 641-868-2300

[www.youseemore.com/nile/steamboatrock](http://www.youseemore.com/nile/steamboatrock)

or on Facebook @SteamboatRockLibrary

Just some of the links for our patrons through our website:



Tuesday 1:00-6:00 PM  
Wednesday 2:00-5:00 PM  
Thursday-Friday 12:00-4:00 PM  
Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

### Mystery

*The Last Time I Lied*

by Riley Sager

*The Deceit* by Sara Foster

*Storm Watch* (Joe Pickett

#23) by C. J. Box

*I will find you*

by Harlan Coben

*Good Dog, Bad Cop*

by David Rosenfelt

### Children's Fiction

*Good Night, Sister*

by Katherine

Schwarzenegger Pratt

### Fiction

*Worthy Opponents*

by Danielle Steel

*The Sister Effect*

by Susan Mallery

*Count Down*

by James Patterson

*Hello Beautiful*

by Ann Naplitano

### Romance

*Whispering Rock*

by Robyn Carr

### Historical Fiction

*Homestead*

by Melinda Moustakis

(Just a reminder there is no charge to check out DVDs to our patrons)

We have a date for learning to play cribbage at the Steamboat Rock Library! There will be 2 lessons on Tuesday, March 28, one at 1:30 p.m. and the other at 6:00 p.m. If there is enough interest, we will also offer other times for games, though the March 28 date is mainly for newbies to learn how the game is played.

Light refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome!

Please call the library so we have some idea how many will be coming.



## Cervettis Begin Construction Work in 1939

In October, 1939, the Cervettis (Joe, Lillian, Joan, and Frank) moved to Steamboat Rock. Our history here may not go back as far as many other families, but to the best of our knowledge we were the first and only Italians to settle here.

We moved into a house just one-half block south and one-half block east of where we presently live in Steamboat Rock. This house was razed several years ago, and the lot was vacant until 1975 when we constructed a home for Mrs. Mildred Janssen.

In the fall of 1940, we moved to our present location, replacing the old house in 1952.

My very first job in Steamboat Rock was a house remodeling project for the late Thomas Ruppelt, with his son, the late Robert Ruppelt, assisting. Rates at that time were 50 cents per hour, and we worked 10-hour days. This home is presently owned by Mrs. Lucille Pierson.

The first new house was built for Marvin Jeske, near New Providence in 1940 and we have constructed 35 new homes along with countless remodeling jobs and cabinet work since.

Jobs which started us toward institutional, commercial, and religious buildings were the construction of the locker for Leo Knight in 1944, the extensive remodeling of the Presbyterian Church in 1946, and the addition to the Steamboat Rock school in 1955. Since the business started, we have accomplished work on 31 churches, 13 schools, service stations, fire station, dental clinic, motel, restaurant, doctor offices, banks, bowling alleys, office buildings, stores, and others, all within a 60-mile radius of home.

Many of the structures constructed in the past 12 years have been designed and planned by son Frank, of Marshalltown, who is a practicing architect and engineer in that city.

Daughter Joan Kuhfus, who worked at Holmes Sundries through her high school days, now resides at Ellsworth. She taught school for a number of years and is now employed in the office of the Land O'Lake Turkey Plant.

Another memorable feat, which was actually more of a hobby, was making two violins in 1951. My father had told me years ago that my grandfather had been a violin maker in Italy. However, Father had no knowledge of the technique. I needed a good teacher and found one in the late John Noble. He spent many hours teaching me how to select, cut and finish the wood, even down to making a portion of the tools.

I hope to make more violins in the future, but in the meantime, console myself by repairing them.

Joe Cervetti



ART IN THE GREENBELT PRESENTS...

# 2023 ART FESTIVAL & GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

807 W. MARKET ST., STEAMBOAT ROCK

**2-7 pm -- Art Festival** featuring local and regional artists; children's art table. **FREE.**

**2:30 - 4:30 pm -- Magician. FREE**

**4-7 pm -- Garden Party.** Live music, charcuterie, and beverages. (\$20 - ticket required)

MAYOR  
Tim Stearns  
  
"A valley  
of  
Friendliness"



COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Adam Blackburn  
Dave Mull  
Kevin Pieters  
Cory Schurman  
Jon Schurman

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Jon Schurman and Cory Schurman. Also present were JJ Veld, Scott Williams, Dawn Schaa, and by zoom Renee Oltrogge.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by Mull to approve the posted agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Schurman moved to approve the minutes of the February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 council meeting, seconded by Pieters. Motion carried unanimously. C. Schurman moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve City bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. C. Schurman moved to approve Dawn Schaa's hours worked in February, seconded by Pieters. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: None

Melissa Johanson, Librarian was absent but provided last meeting minutes, agenda for 3/14/23 meeting, YTD Budget, and proposed FY24 budget.

Fire Department – Williams reported that Jeremy Akins had been in touch with him regarding the fire department burning some structures on his property at 308 6<sup>th</sup> St & 601 W Sycamore St. Discussed the need for hazardous materials inspection prior to burning. Williams presented PO# 90 for 2 replacement bulbs from Danko. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull to approve PO #90. Motion carried unanimously. Williams presented PO# 91 to Scentsy in the amount of \$160.09 for recalibration of the 4-gas monitor. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve PO #91. Motion carried unanimously. Williams presented PO# 92 for approval of up to \$3,000 for three carbon fiber tanks. C. Schurman moved to approve up to \$3000 for purchase of 3 carbon fiber tanks to maintain the integrity of the fire fighter equipment. Seconded by Mull. Motion carried unanimously. Pieters abstained due to conflict of interest.

JJ Veld reported that the Water & Sanitation Audit went well. Discussed the issues with the city snow plow truck. Plan to take to Alden Diesel for repairs this summer. Will measure and acquire repair rings for a couple of manholes in town to be ready when time and weather permits.

Mayor Stearns advised on distressed properties; No new activity on 106 4<sup>th</sup> St, 208 3<sup>rd</sup> St., or 301 W Market St.. Mayor Stearns sent notice on 308 6<sup>th</sup> St & 601 W Sycamore St. In light of the info presented by Chief Williams, will delay the start of legal action until after the next Council meeting if still necessary.

Nuisance Reporting- none

Grant status: Mayor Stearns discussed the status of each of the 7 grants on the list.

Hardin County Conservation sewer hook-up and River Rd sewer project- no report.

Road repairs: Jon reported that he had met with Liser and they measured each of the holes in streets needing repair but has not received an estimate back yet.

Nuisance Ordinance Update. final pending.

Municipal Infractions Ordinance Update. final pending.

Animal Control Code Ordinance Update. final pending.

Increased pedestrian traffic- Julie found a DOT TSIP grant if we decide what we need to do.

Mayor Stearns presented the ATV/UTV Code for 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Will make an additional modification about designated streets for the second reading.

Mayor Stearns requested Budget Hearing Date be moved to the next council meeting April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters to set the Budget Hearing Date as April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 pm. Roll call vote: Jon- Aye, Kevin Aye, Adam Aye, Dave Aye, Cory Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stearns discussed that he sent an e-mail with the council's questions regarding the renewal of the City insurance. Received an e-mail back which did not address any of the questions. Mayor Stearns requested an insurance audit so that we could get clarification of what we actually have regarding insurance coverage. The last one had been completed in 2018.

Mayor Stearns discussed the estimated cost for asbestos removal from the school house (excluding the gym) at approximately \$100,000.00.

Mayor Stearns discussed the 2023 Ditch walk date being April 22, 2023 Earth Day. This year's route will go west of town for 2 miles. Always looking for many volunteers to help. Will start at 9:00 a.m.

Spring Clean-up Days recommended for June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>. Appliances will cost \$15.00 to be disposed of. TV's and camper refrigerators are not accepted but could be taken directly to the Landfill per their charges. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters to set the City-wide clean-up days for June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> at the City stick dump.. Motion carried unanimously

Pieters moved to adjourn the meeting, Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

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Dawn Schaa, City Clerk

# looking Ahead...

**Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>** April Fool's Day Karaoke @Happenings 9p-1a

**Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** City Council Meeting 6:30pm @city hall

**Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** Good Friday

**Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** Pepper Tournament @Happenings

**Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** Easter Sunday

**Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** Craig Swalwell Band @Happenings 9-1

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** Annual Ditch Walk starting @9:00am

**Recycling** April 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

**Every Wednesday @6:30pm- SRBC Awanas Club**



## Thank YOU to our Newsletter Sponsors ~

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(888) 320-9487 Toll Free



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OR go to the city website – [www.steamboatrockiowa.net](http://www.steamboatrockiowa.net) and sign up there at the bottom of the Home page.

[www.steamboatrockiowa.com](http://www.steamboatrockiowa.com)

Steamboat Rock Pride & Betterment Committee  
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Steamboat Rock, IA 50672

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