

Job Opening
All the Pride & Betterment and Visionary Committees do for YOU
Keep your lawnmower cleaned up
SO many ways to step up and be a part of making this city great!
Happiest of Birthdays to You! and Much More !!!



Friendly Valley Times

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

~ 2 Corinthians 3:17 KJV

The Declaration of Independence

By Washington Irving

While danger was gathering round New York, and its inhabitants were in mute suspense and fearful anticipations, the General Congress at Philadelphia was discussing, with closed doors, what John Adams pronounced,

"The greatest question ever debated in America, and as great as ever was or will be debated among men." The result was, a resolution passed unanimously on the 2nd of July - "that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

"The 2nd of July," adds the same patriot statesman, "will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forth forevermore."

The glorious event has, indeed, given rise to an annual jubilee - but not on the day designated by Adams. The FOURTH of July is the day of national rejoicing, for on that day the "Declaration of Independence," that solemn and sublime document, was adopted.

Tradition gives a dramatic effect to its announcement. It was known to be under discussion, but the closed doors of Congress excluded the populace. They awaited, in throngs, an appointed signal. In the steeple of the State House was a bell, imported twenty-three years previously from London by the Provincial Assembly of Pennsylvania. It bore the portentous text from Scripture: "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof." A joyous peal from that bell gave notice that the bill had been passed. It was the knell of British domination.

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!

**There's got to be somebody with a July Birthday
I've got no one.**



Steamboat Rock Historical Society

President: Jim Kramer **Vice President:** Dennis Holmes **Secretary:** **Treasurer:** Kitty Hemmen

At Large: Keith Griffen Email: 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 closed until sometime later this summer. 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.

Steamboat Rock Main Street in the 1930's and Early 1940's

The article below was written by George Folkerts. He wanted to help keep the history of Steamboat Rock alive and wrote down his memories of the businesses that occupied Market Street in the 30's and early 40's. Enjoy!

Anything printed in red is my additions to what he wrote with the intent of helping the reader know the locations.

Steamboat Rock Main Street as I remember it in the 30's and early 40's.

To begin with the blacksmith shop was west of the schoolhouse. North of it was a building with a pit in it for servicing cars. Next was Ray Karsjens' oil station on the corner. **(These buildings would be in the approx. location that you now find the post office, the buildings on both side of the post office, and of course where Stupp's DX station was located.)**

West of his station was the ice house. Ice was cut from the river and stored up to the summer. West across the alley was the creamery. Most farmers had a small herd of cows to milk. The milk was separated, and the cream was brought to town and sold to the creamery. Joe Gilbertson was the butter maker. On the northeast corner of the creamery was the office. Next to it was the barber shop. I think Ott Filbrandt purchased the business and moved the shop down on the north side of the street next to the telephone office. It became Filbrandt's Barber shop and pool hall. The space where the barber shop had been became a restaurant for a short time. I don't remember what went in there after that but next to it was the drug store. The druggist sold the store to Jim Holmes and moved to Wellsburg. **(The above info is from west of where Stupp's DX stood down to Holmes Drugstore.)**

West of the drugstore was the post office. Marie Eilers was the postmaster and Heine Eckhoff was the rural mail carrier. Leo Knight built the locker sometime in the 1940's. On the corner was Condon's Hotel.

Across the street Lou Luiken had a small office on the corner. Part of that building was a storage building. Just west of that building was Cramer and Luiken Hardware. Henry Cramer was a tinner, and he had a shop

Cont'd on page 6



Steamboat Rock Fire Department

Dry May/June

After the winter we have had it will be nice to see the green grass.

Spring has arrived and passed with it awesome colors. Some of the creations that God has made are just breathe taking.

This dry weather doesn't take long for grass or other combustible items to ignite. If you are doing such activities, please remember to call the Hardin County Sheriff's Department at (641) 939- 8190 and give them the exact location of your burn. Inform them that you have a controlled burn being executed. Remember, if you do call in a controlled burn, you are to have enough water on hand or accessible to completely put the burn out.

I realize that not much lawn mowing probably has occurred but the dry grass that has built up in your lawnmower, could easily start on fire from just the heat of the muffler or the motor. Remember to blow out your mower when you are done. Be very careful if you have anything that you want to burn!!

Hardin County is NOT in a burn ban, but if we don't get rain, this could be a serious consideration. Remember to call your local Fire Chief or the Sheriff's department BEFORE starting the fire. They will be able to inform you of any restrictions.

As Always, Be Fire Safe,
Chief Williams



from the Mayor

2023 Municipal Elections:

In this election year we have only begun to get the rhetoric on TV, newspapers, and fliers in the mail, each discussing about how great they would be as an elected official in the position they are seeking.

Here in Steamboat Rock, the City Council is a five-member Council with four-year terms. Three Council positions will be at the end of their existing terms on 12/31/2023. City positions are considered non-partisan and that is an important consideration to keep in mind. While gender disparity is welcome, there is no Iowa Code in terms of gender balance.

The Mayor position is a two-year term. As your Mayor since January of 2020, I have tried to do the best for the City that I could and will continue to do so right up to December 31 of this year when my term ends. My tenure as Mayor will end and I will not be pursuing re-election. Beginning with the Jan 8, 2024 City Council meeting I will be handing the gavel over to the next Mayor that has filed nomination papers and you have chosen.

City Council positions are four-year terms and there are three Council seats that will need to be nominated for re-elected or a new person nominated and elected to take their place;

Adam Blackburn has been on the Council for several 4-year terms. He is very thoughtful and does a great job. This year is the end of his current 4-year term. If you would like him to run again and continue on the council, please encourage him to file nomination papers.

Jon Schurman was appointed mid-term after a vacancy occurred. He is young and has proven to be an excellent asset to the Council. He will need to be re-elected or have a new person nominated and elected to fill the position. If you would like him to continue on the Council, please encourage him to file nomination papers to be elected for a full four-year term.

Dave Mull was appointed mid-term after a vacancy occurred. Dave is very thoughtful and asks excellent questions for clarification for the entire Council. He will need to be re-elected or have a new person nominated and elected to fill the position. If you would like him to continue on the Council, please encourage him to file nomination papers to be elected for a full four-year term.

The process: If an individual seeks to fill one of these positions, the process begins Monday 8/28/2023 by garnering a Nomination Petition form for Non-Partisan Office and gathering no less than 10 (more are recommended) signatures from individuals who are residents of Steamboat Rock, to be nominated to run for a position. The nomination form must be turned in to the Hardin County Auditor's office by 5:00 pm on Thursday 9/21/2023.

Thanks

Tim Stearns, Mayor



STEAMBOAT ROCK COMMUNITY RESOURCES

City of Steamboat Rock

PO Box 366
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2240

srcityhall@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Baptist Church

107 2nd St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2458

church@steamboatbaptist.org

Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church

401 Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2292

srpresby@gmail.com

Steamboat Rock Fire & Rescue

PO Box 174
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2314

srchief@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Historic Society

409 W. Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-858-6085

jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Public Library

511 W. Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2300

srocklib@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Cemetery

19325 Z Ave.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-751-5096

50672cemetery@gmail.com

Steamboat Rock Visionary Group/Pride & Betterment

PO Box 344
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2182

bhutchcroft@hotmail.com

Steamboat Rock Visionary Group / Pride & Betterment

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

B Friendly Valley Times!

Remind your friends and neighbors to send their email addresses so they don't miss any community news. The address is hry@heartofiowa.net. A hard copy will be available at the library. A small fee will be charged so expenses can be covered.

Brisket Supper!

Thanks to all those who supported our group with your donations. We greatly appreciate it.

The VG pays to have the porta potty at the playground in the warm months, the electricity for the shelter house and the basketball court, upkeep at the park (trash bags, new mulch, weed spraying, new equipment, tree health, etc.). We also maintain the community welcome signs. In addition, we reimburse the city for any costs involved with the FVT. We spend several thousand dollars a year on average so that the city does not have these expenses. So, thanks again to those who support our efforts with your donations.

Future Projects!

The committee is currently working in coordination with River Valley Landscaping on developing an awesome entrance here in Steamboat to the Rivers Edge Trail. More details will be forthcoming.

Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church

THE VOICE OF GOD

One of the things I do in the summer is to announce the home baseball games for the AGWSR Cougars. You know, announce the starting lineups, who's batting, what position they're playing that night. It's something I really enjoy, and I try to pattern my announcing after the old public address announcers I remember. It's hard for our younger readers to imagine, but before the days of jumbo video screens with pictures and player information and things like walk-up music and videos; there was an announcer, always with that "just right" voice who told the crowd who was now batting.

My favorite has to be the iconic Minnesota Twins announcer, Bob Casey, at old Bloomington Stadium and later at the Metro dome. I can recall hearing him say, "Now batting...for the Twins...number 3...Harmon...Killebrew." As I write these words, I can hear Casey's voice in my memories. Casey passed away in 2005.

Another favorite is long-time New York Yankee announcer, Bob Sheppard. Sheppard passed away in 2010. Sheppard's voice was once described as "the voice of God."

Have you ever heard the "real" voice of God? Has God ever spoken to you, really?

Your first response might be, "Absolutely! I'm certain God has spoken to me many times."

And then, as you think about it, you might say, "Well, I think it was God. I'm pretty sure it was God. Well, maybe it wasn't God. If not, who was it then?" I think many of us, if not all of us, who are sure God has spoken to us may question at some point if it really was God.

So, how do we hear the "real" voice of God?

First of all, in order to hear God's voice, we need to be born-again Christians. Jesus says in the Gospel of John that his sheep hear his voice and follow him. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27 New Living Translation Bible

If we're not saved through faith in Jesus Christ, we're not able to hear God's voice because the only way to God is through His Son. Once we've established this personal relationship with God, then we're able to recognize and hear Him.

In the Old Testament, only certain people had direct communication with God, and everyone else had to hear God from these chosen people, or prophets. But after Jesus' death and resurrection, he sent the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of those who believe. This Spirit of God is the one who gives us direct access to the Father.

You know how sometimes you hear that "little voice?" Sometimes we feel the "sensing" of the Spirit or a deep "knowing" or "directing." Some people describe it as having a sense of intuition or maybe your conscience. But for we believers, I think it's the work of the Spirit that speaks God's voice to us in order to lead us in God's path.

And although this is all awesome to us, we might still wonder, "How do we hear the voice of God?"

Good question. We'll look at some answers to that next month.

May God bless you this month and always.



Steamboat Rock Public Library

Summer reading got off to a great start with the Blank Park Zoo bringing 2 live animals – a Blue Tongue Python and a ferret – along with different examples and pictures of animals they have at the zoo. There were a few cringes when the snake came out of the cooler but it was kept in a plastic enclosure so there was no chance of her getting loose! Next week will be story time on Tuesday at 2:00, Lazer Tag on Wednesday at 4:00 with pizza afterwards, and the Insect Zoo on Thursday at 2:00. Lazer Tag is for 13 and over and limited to 8 kids so call the library to get on the list.

Greenbelt Bank & Trust brought us a wonderful selection of books for the summer reading program and many of them are Caldecott winners. Please stop in to check out these children and young adult books.

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. Our printer is Wi-Fi connected and we can fax, scan, send by email or save to a thumb drive. Please bring your own drive if you want to save items that way.

Book club will be on July 13 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. If the weather is still nice, we will be out on the back patio under the pergola.

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

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

Fiction

No Two Persons

by Erica Bauermeister
Drowning; The rescue of flight 1421 by T J Newman

Mystery

The Lie Maker

by Linwood Barclay
The Senator's Wife
by Liv Constantine

Romance

Identity by Nora Roberts

Historical Fiction

Good Night, Irene

by Luis Alberto Urrea

Graphic Novel

Spy Camp by Stuart Gibbs

Children's Fiction

Knight Owl

by Christopher Denise
Berry Song by Michaela Goade

Choosing Brave by Angela Joy

Hot Dog by Doug Salati

Junior Fiction

The Last Mapmaker by

Christina Soontornvat
Maizy Chen's Last Chance
by Lisa Yee

Iveliz Explains It All

by Andrea Beatriz Arango
Ain't Burned All the Bright
by Jason Reynolds

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

Job opening

The City of Steamboat Rock is seeking a qualified applicant to fill the Steamboat Rock City Clerk position.

Qualified applicants should be experienced in the use of computers and computer programs. Example would be e-mail, quick-books, word, excel, pdf usage, and have the ability to learn other programs. Math and personal skills helpful.

A successful candidate will work with City residents, help City maintenance person with book keeping, do water, sewer, garbage billing, and a multitude of other tasks. Report to the Mayor and receive guidance from the City Council.

Currently the position is salaried as part time about 15-25 hours per week. Participation in monthly evening City Council meetings required.

Training will be provided initially by a Clerk consultant and a week of in person clerk formal training provided by Iowa League of Cities annually. For 2023 in July.

**Please provide resume and letter of interest to
PO Box 366 Steamboat Rock, Iowa 50672
or email to srcityhall@heartofiowa.net**

Cont'd from page 2 Steamboat Rock Historical Society

just west of the Hardware store. Next was Ben Johnson's dry goods and grocery store. Ben could measure up a man for a suit. There was an alley just west of Ben's store. Nobles Shoe repair was next. Jerry moved his business to Eldora. What went in there then, I don't remember. Next was the town hall. Harold Luiken owned the garage. It had a hoist in it to raise cares up to be serviced. His brother, Wendell, drove a gas truck to deliver gas to farmers. The garage was on the corner at the west end of main street. (The above info covers the block that now includes "Happenings.")

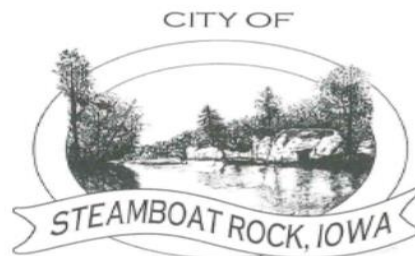
Across the street on the north side of market street was the telephone office. Next was the barber shop. Across the alley was Tom Ruppelt's butcher shop and small groceries. East of the butcher shop was Doctor Caldwell's building. Next was Sentman's dry goods and grocery store. Charlie sold it to Tom Eilers sometime in the 1940's. (The above info covers the block on the north side of Market Street that includes the present-day library.)

Across the street was The Farmer's Savings Bank. (Present-day home of the Steamboat Rock Historical Society.) Eldy Christens was the loan officer and Jim Holmes was the teller. Then came Potgeter's lumber yard. Next was Frank Fredrickson's house. At the back of his home was a room for a person to live in. Moose Hathaway lived there. Moose was the school custodian when I first went to school. How long I don't know but Sonny Sharpshire took the job next. Next to Frank Fredrickson was the Congregational Church. The Presbyterian Church was on the south east corner of the block. Sometime in the 1940's, they purchased the Congregational Church and remodeled it and moved to the new place.

That is all I remember.
By George Folkerts

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 June 12, 2023, 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Kevin Pieters, Jon Schurman and Cory Schurman. Absent: Dave Mull. Also present were JJ Veld, Scott Williams, Dianne Haywood, and Bill Gross.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman to approve the posted agenda including moving Dianne up in the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Schurman moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve City bills as presented with some further discovery about the Midwest Wheel bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: None.

Library- no report C. Schurman moved to approve Library PO for \$194.93, seconded by J. Schurman, motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department – Chief Williams reported they had responded to 24 calls already this calendar year. The Fireman's Breakfast at the Hardin County Conservation Lodge was well attended. J. Schurman moved to approve PO #s 96 & 97, Blackburn seconded, motion carried unanimously. Pieters abstained.

JJ Veld gave the City works report: Have identified 50% of a 12,000 gallon per day excessive water use source, but still seeking the source of the other 6000-gallon unusual usage. Plan to take the end loader to Ag Repair to get the brakes fixed. Discussion about where to take the Dump truck/snow plow for hydraulics and starter repairs. The large Ash tree next to the Shelter house is being taken down by Affordable Tree Service this week. Discussed what to do with the wood. Will contact Eric, Tom, & Travis. When Kelly retires as public works director in Eldora, the City of Steamboat Rock needs to find an Affidavit Operator, unless Kelly figures out how to be able to keep doing that service for us. Plan to replace the manhole in the 200 block of W Market St in late June. Update on distressed properties: Mayor Stearns advised on the property at 208 3rd St, the IRS has agreed to file a release. Mayor Stearns will contact the owner of the properties at 308 6th St & 601 W Sycamore to find out his intentions to act within a limited time frame.

City insurance policy was discussed by our agent Dianne Haywood from the Brownhurst Agency. The City insurance is through EMC. EMC has dropped physical coverage on the entire old school house structure but maintained liability coverage. The policy went from individual coverage on City properties to a blanket coverage

ACCIDENTAL 911 CALLS – WHAT DO YOU DO?

We've all misdialed phone numbers. If you accidentally dial 911, or if a child in your home dials 911 when no emergency exists, **do not hang up**. Stay on the line and tell the dispatcher that 911 was called by mistake.

If you do hang up, it is the dispatcher's job to verify if there is an emergency and they will call you back. This takes away resources from real 911 calls.

If you don't answer the call the dispatcher will send emergency services to your home. The dispatcher won't know if the call was an accident unless you tell them!

Will 911 charge me if I accidentally call them?

Everyone makes mistakes, and there is no penalty for accidentally calling 911. The Dispatcher will want to verify your name and address and ensure that there is not a real emergency. Don't beat yourself up, accidental calls happen.



Inactive Phones

You may have an old phone laying around at home, maybe your kids use it as a "play phone". Those old phones can still call 911. As long as the phone is charged and turned on a call can be placed to 911. Though an inactive phone does not provide a location or callback number. If your kids use a real phone as a play phone make sure they know not to dial 911 as a joke or during playtime.

Cellphone Emergency SOS Features

Both Android and iPhones have crash detection and emergency SOS features that have the potential to trigger false 911 calls. When these features are triggered an alarm may sound, and a countdown timer will appear on the phone to give the user the ability to cancel.

If you don't cancel the countdown, the phone will call 911. Phones settings can be changed or turned off depending on the phone.

iPhone

1. Open the Settings App.



2. Find "Emergency SOS" in the settings list.

3. Turn on or off the settings as desired. You can change the way you activate SOS or turn it off by toggling the slider from green to grey.

Android

1. Open the app drawer and tap on the Safety App.



2. Tap on the "features" tab at the bottom of the screen.

3. Tap on the card that says "Car Crash Detection".

4. Turn off the car crash detection by tapping the slider controller.



Activities like riding amusement park rides,

skiing, or activities with intense movement can trigger an accidental SOS from your cellphone.

To avoid this, leave your



phone in a safe location, or put it into airplane mode. Phones can't access the SOS feature in airplane mode.



with about 2 times the prior coverage even without the old school house structure. The entire insurance industry has taken steps such as this with all municipalities. Difficult to get the “re-insurance” investors on board with other deposit rates offering a higher return with less risk.

Road repairs: Discussion with Bill Gross from Blacktop Services who provided an estimate to patch 7 spots and put an average of ¾” hot mesh leveler on a strip 24 feet wide down the middle of West Market St from 3rd St to 8th St at a cost of \$45,000. No action taken.

Mayor Stearns provided information on account balances, but stated our financials are still being brought up to date by our interim City clerk and the fund balances are not yet available.

Nuisance Ordinance Update. final pending.

Municipal Infractions Ordinance Update. final pending.

Animal Control Code Ordinance Update. final pending.

Mayor Stearns reported on the periodic state Audit that is in process. State staff is collecting data and worked at City Hall one full day on June 7th, 2023. Estimate of exit review is second week in July.

Second day of the Spring Clean-up scheduled for Saturday June 17th. Discussion of the \$1000+- these cleanup days cost the City in terms of continuing in future years. The folks who have helped reported that many people are very thankful we have provided this service.

Mayor Stearns again requested input on where and how to advertise for a new City Clerk. Suggestion to post on INDEED. Blackburn offered to take a run at the wording of our ad.

Mayor Stearns reported the third engineering firm has not yet provided any documentation for the west side sewer project.

Mayor Stearns reported that the Hardin County secondary Road department plans to completely replace the culvert under West Main street in the 400 block. Expect the replacement completed in June 2023.

Mayor Stearns received information from City attorney Niederhoff that we need to set a special Public Hearing to vacate an ally. C.Schurman moved to set the date as Monday June 26,2023 at 6:30 pm. J. Schurman seconded, Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stearns reminded the Council of the Iowa DNR 6th and final Steamboat Rock Dam removal public meeting to be held tentatively on July 13th, 2023 at the Hardin County Conservation Lodge.

Pieters moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Schurman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

looking Ahead...

Tuesday, July 4th Independence Day

Monday, July 10th City Council Meeting 6:30pm @city hall

Saturday, July 15th Live Music outside @Happenings 5-9pm outside

Recycling July 3rd, 17th, and 31st

Every Wednesday @6:30pm- SRBC Awanas Club

Check the calendar on our website @ www.steamboatrockiowa.com



Thank YOU to our Newsletter Sponsors ~

Two offices to better serve you!

We're very proud of our new office and the many ways it will make it easier than ever to meet your insurance needs. Stop by for a visit!



AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Toni Nederhoff Agency

American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Family Insurance Company
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783
aifan.com

1120 Edgington Avenue
Eldora, IA 50627
(641) 858-2318
www.toninederhoff.com

803 G Avenue
Grundy Center, IA 50638
(319) 825-2318 Bus
(888) 320-9487 Toll Free

