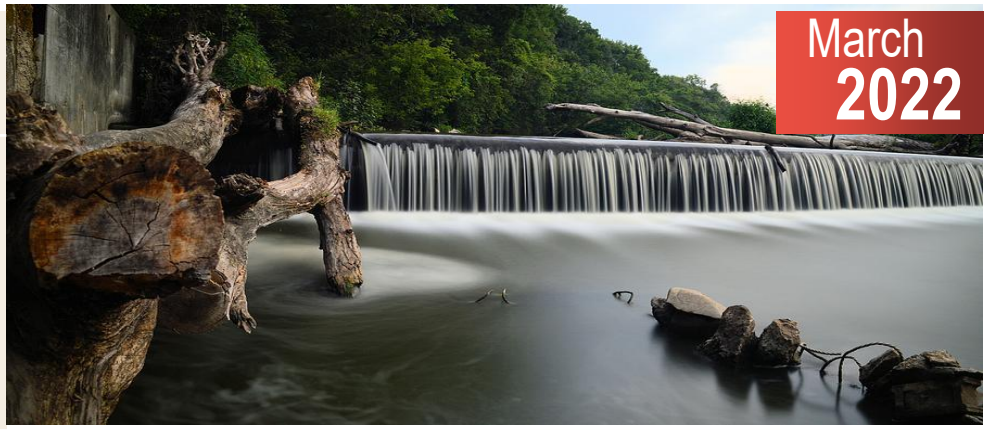


*in this issue >>>*

- Summer Events everywhere you look*
- Spring Cleanup Days*
- Recycling Facts*
- Springtime Safety Reminders*
- Someone is Watching*



March  
2022

Published by Pride & Betterment

# Friendly Valley Times

*Then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine, and olive oil.*

*~ Deuteronomy 11:14*

Spring is her! What other words make you think of spring?

Simple things to live by:

- **Love one Another**
- **Be Patient & Kind**
- **Laugh often**
- **Help others if you can**
- **Consider other perspectives**
- **Be Kind**

**Though ups and downs,  
Let the hope and promise of the  
new season shine brightly!**

## From the Mayor

**Refuse & Recycling:** Here in Steamboat Rock, we produce roughly 12,000 pounds of garbage and about 2,500 pounds of recycling materials monthly. Blyth Sanitation picks up the garbage which goes to the landfill. Blyth charges the City for the service they provide and the City gets billed directly from the Hardin County Landfill for the tonnage, currently at \$55/ton. The recycling is done by a separate entity located in the first building when entering the landfill site and shares a scale with the Hardin County Solid Waste. The City gets billed quarterly from the recycling entity in the amount of \$2,441.25 for the recycling. The recycling billings are based on the number of people in the county at about \$31.50/person, not based on tonnage.

A long time ago in 1973 I helped prepare the site for the then new landfill in Hamilton County. Even as a high schooler back then it occurred to me that landfills are expensive to create, operate, maintain, and eventually close down and monitor. Even more disturbing was the idea that it took valuable farmland out of production. Because of that experience, I have always paid attention to landfill usage. The point is that the less we put in landfills, the less it costs, and the more land is retained for farming and other productive uses.

Americans, likely due to our standard of living, are the largest trash in the world at approximately 1,609# per person per year. To put that in perspective the US is about 5% of the world population, and we produce 40%

of the world's garbage. What would that consist of? 10% of our garbage is packaging materials, a further short list might include: diapers, ink pens, razors, sharps, tires, 1,200#/person of organic wastes that could be composted, paper, plastics, glass, junk mail, you get the idea.

What about recycling? The chatter is all over the board if it matters, if it happens, if the materials actually get recycled, does it really have to be clean and sorted, how can this be easier for me to participate, and so forth. Today I visited directly with our Hardin County Recycling Center about these very issues.

Let's start with a few recycling facts. Aluminum (Al) is one of the easiest materials to recycle in the world. To create new Al, it takes 4 parts of Bauxite ore to produce 1 part of Al. To recycle Al, it takes 5% of the energy required to produce it from new Bauxite ore including the transportation and handling costs of the recycled materials. Recycling also reduces the pollutants from mining, shipping, and a host of other factors. During the recycling process Al does not degrade even after multiple times of recycling. On the other end of the recycling scale is plastics.

*Cont'd on Page 4*

# Miscellaneous News

**THANK YOU** – Special thanks to Bruce Baillie for his dedication to the Steamboat Rock Cemetery. Bruce recently completed 18 years of serving on the Cemetery Board of Directors.

~ Thank you, Bruce, – Ed Bear, Greg Heikens, Lora Kramer, Deb Meints, Doug Pickering, caretaker.

**FROM Toni Nederhoff** – “I would like to THANK the Steamboat Rock Library for the nice gifts for the “Blind Date” book contest very much.”

**SPRING Cleanup Days June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-11:00am**

You are encouraged to take anything you want to get rid of to the dump site by the Fire Station that day. They can accept metals that day at no charge and appliances at \$15 each. Please obtain a sticker from City Hall prior to dropping off appliances.

We have a special pile for metals, large appliances, microwaves, and dehumidifiers. All other items may go in the dumpster.

PLEASE do not set out any car batteries, tires, paint, or other hazardous materials that are not accepted at the county dump.

If you have any questions, contact the City Hall at 641-868-2240

For more info, visit [www.steamboatrockiowa.com](http://www.steamboatrockiowa.com)



## Steamboat Rock Fire Department

Now that the snow is melting off, and with warmer temperatures, there will be individuals wanting to burn off dead grasses.

Please keep in mind that this can be a dryer portion of the year, and some like to burn off the old dead grass. If you do burn, call Hardin Sheriff NON-EMERGENCY number (641-939-8190) give them the location of your burn before you start and when you are finished. When burning, take note of the wind conditions, speed, and direction. It doesn't take much for a spark to travel & ignite something else.

If you don't call in a burn that you started and the department gets called, by rights we have to extinguish the fire. So do your due diligence and call.

When you are finished, call the non-emergency number to inform them. This gives them valuable information on whether to dispatch your local FD.

Homeowners, if you haven't checked your smoke detectors, now would be a good time. Probably a good time to do a battery check in all the smoke detectors in your house and camper (if having one) as well. If you have forced air from your furnace, it would be a good thing to dust them as well. The amount of dust that accumulates will affect the proper function of your detector. Sometimes it seems we move from using the furnace to using the AC. Don't forget to change your AC filter before turning that on as well.

I would like to take the time and thank all those that continue to donate to the can redemption container. It has been going very well. The money collected from the cans are going towards new scene lights on #650. This will allow us more visibility while on scene at night.

When dropping off your cans in garbage bag, take the time and empty them out. Once the bag is empty, deposit the bag in the dumpster. The other day when it was windy, there bags, full of cans, scattered all over the parking lot. It is an attempt to keep it looking clean around the school.

Enjoy the warmer weather, Scott  
SRFD



# Steamboat Rock Public Library

The Board has been updating policies for the past months to be in compliance with the state library. They realized most of them didn't know we have 4 foldable tables to rent out to the patrons of the library. These tables are 6 foot long and white in color. The cost is \$5.00 per table per day and are lightweight so great for transporting from the library to wherever you need them. Great for garage sales, confirmations, showers, weddings or graduations. We use them here for programs and love them. We also have a couple of laptops and devices to checkout, but the cost is a bit more than for the tables.

We have an author visit coming up on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Julie Stone, who is originally from Eldora, will read from her new book "He's with the Band" and will have this book plus her others here that she will sign and sale to the public. Refreshments will be served after the reading.

Donation letters have been sent out and the Friends of the Library have been receiving checks from local businesses to help us put on a great summer reading program for our younger patrons. Between the cost of the programs, refreshments for after the programs, prizes and the final summer blowout meal these donations will certainly help cover the costs we will incur. Ages are preschool through junior high. This year's theme is "Read Beyond the Beaten Path" and dates are June 13<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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



## Hours are as Follows

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

## New to the Library

### Adult Fiction

*A Deadly Bone to Pick*

by Peggy Rothschild

*The Saints of Swallow Hill*

by Donna Everhart

*The Fell* by Sarah Moss

*High Stakes* by Danielle Steel

### Mystery

*Beach Wedding* by Michael Ledwidge

*Nothing to Lose* by J A Janee

*Wish You Were Gone* by Kieran Scott

*The Paris Apartment* by Lucy Foley

*The Love of my Life* by Rosie Walsh

*The Night Shift* by Alex Finlay

*Shadows Reel* by C.J. Box

### Romance Fiction

*One Italian Summer* by Rebecca Serie

### Puzzles

Colorado 1000 pieces

### Dar's Pick from Our Stacks

*A Little Hope* by Ethan Joelle

### Melissa's Pick from Our Stacks

*The Hope River* series books

1- 4 by Patricia Harman

### Board Book

*A Day on the Farm with the Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

### Children's Books

*The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors* by Drew Daywalt

### Young Adult

*Bones of a Saint* by Grant Farley

*When We Were Infinite*

by Kelly Loy Gilbert

## Steamboat Rock Historical Society

President: Jim Kramer

Vice President: Dennis Holmes

Secretary: Janet Folkerts

Treasurer: Kitty Hemmen

At Large: Keith Griffen

Email: [jimkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkramer@heartofiowa.net)

### OUR Mission

“to preserve and promote the history of Steamboat Rock and the surrounding area”

Due to the continued impact of COVID-19, our museum will remain closed until further notice. It is our hope that we will be able to open again in the near future. However, if you are visiting Steamboat Rock and would like to visit the museum, please give me a call at 641-858-6085 and I would be happy to meet you at the museum.

### Special Notice to ALL Members

You will be getting a letter within the next 30 days with information pertaining to our new web page. This letter will give you the instructions for the following benefit of supporting us with your membership. Terry Folkerts' book, *Steamboat Rock: Anchored in History* will be accessible to you on the web site. AND this includes a special search function which allows you to enter in any key word and search the book for any entries related to that key word. This privilege is for members only.

### “Steamboat Rock – Anchored in History”

As per the notice above, this book will be available online for members to view. However, we still have just a few printed copies left of this book. Once we are sold out, we will NOT print any more books since it will be available to our members online.

### Web Page Update

Take time to look at our web page at [www.steamboat-rock-historical-society.com](http://www.steamboat-rock-historical-society.com)  
As per the notice above, only paid members will have access to the information in the book.

*Cont'd on next page*

**Cont'd from Page 1** They need to have the little symbol with a number from 1-7 on the bottom to be considered for recycling and if they are not clean, end up in the landfill. If plastic ends up in the landfill, it is estimated to take 700 years to decompose.

Plastic takes twice as much energy to incinerate it as it does to recycle it. Here in Hardin County, they will accept what I refer to as plastic film, things like grocery bags, the air-filled packaging materials, the plastic wrap around just about everything. Today I found out that we need to keep this type of material sorted separately and it is recycled right here in Hardin County by Plastic Recycling in Iowa Falls. The other 1-7 categories need to be clean of food and dirt and get sold as a commodity. Plastic does degrade each time it is recycled, and generally new virgin plastic is required to be added each time it is used.

Everyone has paper products to get rid of, junk mail, newspapers, magazines, white paper, hard paper packaging material, cardboard, and more. For each 2,000 pounds of paper we recycle, it saves; 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 4,000 Kilowatts of energy, 7,000 gallons of water, and 3 cubic yards of landfill space. Here in Hardin County to increase the efficiency of the recycling pick-up and sorting at the recycling center, they would appreciate the following to be each bagged or contained separately, newspapers, junk mail, magazines, white paper, corrugated cardboard.

Why? Because each of those individual types of paper products (as with the plastic products above) have a different price /ton of value as a commodity to be sold. Another question here is about privacy and personal security. The answer was- while they cannot guarantee privacy and security, they bale it as soon as it comes in, then ship it out as a commodity to an end user who shreds it and reprocesses it. As little staff time as possible is dedicated to moving and sorting.

The Hardin County recycling entity operates through a blend of the prices received for the sorted commodities they sell, and the assessment fee paid by the municipalities quarterly. Even though we pay that fee, it is still less expensive for our citizens to recycle qualified waste than to send it out to the landfill. One of the questions I really wanted answered today was if all the stuff we carefully sort into the recycle bins really does get recycled, and the answer for us is YES.

How can you participate more fully in recycling? You may already have a red recycling tub. If not, you can get one or get additional red tubs by calling the recycling center at 641-939-5808. Recycling tubs are picked up on another week schedule on the same day that refuse is picked up. For additional information and clarity, the current flyer from the Hardin County Solid Waste is posted on the City website.

Recycling has been on my schedule for a long time. Hope this information encourages you to participate to the best of your ability in this endeavor.

Thanks, Tim Stearns, Mayor

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

According to a recent survey of employers conducted by CareerBuilder.com, the following are the top five excuses employees have given for being late to work.

1. Traffic
2. Oversleeping
3. Bad weather
4. Too tired to get up
5. Forgetting something

Seems to me I've tried all five of these and, as I recall, none of them worked very well with any of my employers. Maybe you've had better luck.

Excuses. We've all used them at one point or another to justify or rationalize something we did or didn't do, and we'll all continue to use them. It's just human nature to find a reason why something didn't happen or didn't get done.

We use excuses in our spiritual lives also, don't we? We can all give a myriad of reasons why we don't go to church; why we keep doing things even though we know it's wrong to do those things; why we don't have a closer or better relationship with God. According to an article on the BACC website, here are four excuses we give for not following God or if we do follow God, for not answering His call in our lives.

1. I'm too afraid
2. People won't accept me anyway
3. I'm not good enough or talented enough
4. I simply won't do it

What excuses are you giving for not seeing the results you want in your life, spiritual or otherwise? I always like the quote from actor, bodybuilder and former governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, who said, ....

**Cont'd on Page 5**

## Steamboat Rock Visionary Group UPDATES

### Return to Spring

You may have noticed that our park amenities are back for the season. We have our restroom facility back for the warm months and our lights are back on the basketball court. As the weather is heating up, it's great to see so many people enjoying the park and using these services.

### Annual BBQ

The Visionary Group wants to remind everyone of our annual BBQ fundraiser. We will be serving up some delicious barbecue, sides, and desserts from the picnic shelter at Washington Square Park on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00pm. To help with social distancing, our dinner will be carry-out only in drive-thru style for those who don't wish to walk up. As always, this meal is offered for a free-will donation.

### 5K

Due to lessening of restrictions, the Visionary Group is pleased to bring back the annual 5K fundraiser. This will take place on Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and will include a scenic course through Steamboat Rock and surrounding attractions. Pre-registered participants will receive a race t-shirt and prizes will be awarded to top finishers. More details will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

### Pickleball Court

Don't forget our friends on the Pickleball committee are still in need of funds to complete their project. It's time to head outside and get active! Please consider donating to complete this project so we can continue to grow our park and all the recreational opportunities it provides. Donations for the pickleball court can be made to the Visionary Group.

Email: [srvisionarygroup@gmail.com](mailto:srvisionarygroup@gmail.com)

Mail: PO Box 185 Steamboat Rock

Instagram: @srvisionarygroup

Steamboat Rock Visionary Group Members: Mike Finger, Mary Gast, Dave Hagberg, Bob Hutchcroft, Jen Merfeld, Toni Nederhoff, Mariah Schurman, and Sandy Trampe.

### *Cont'd from Page 4* Pastor Lynn Arends, Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church and East Friesland Presbyterian Church

... "You can have results or excuses, but not both." We can't keep pointing the finger and blaming all these other things for our failure to follow through with what we know we must do.

Proverbs 24:11-12 in The Message Bible says, "...If you say, 'Hey, that's none of my business, will that get you off the hook? Someone is watching you closely, you know— Someone not impressed with weak excuses.'"

Someone is watching, you know. And that someone isn't your boss or your partner or even Ah-nold. That someone is God. Talk to Him about it today. No more excuses.

## City of Steamboat Rock

"A Valley of Friendliness"

Mayor Tim Stearns

*Council Members: Adam Blackburn Jackie Hagberg Kevin Pieters Cory Schurman Jon Schurman*

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session March 14, 2022, 6:30pm in the City Council chambers and available via zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Kevin Pieters, Jackie Hagberg, Cory Schurman, and Jon Schurman. Absent: no one. Also present were JJ Veld, Johnie Ogden, JD Holmes, Craig Babcock, and Renee Otrogge. Scott Williams came late.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman to approve the posted agenda. Absent: no one. Motion carried unanimously.

Hagberg moved to approve the February 7, 2022, minutes, and February 16, 2022, with correction: Hours were presented for Renee Oltrogge, City Clerk and Kelly Haskin, Water/Sewer Supervisor. Blackburn moved, Hagberg seconded the motion to approve hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one. C. Schurman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

C. Schurman moved, Pieters seconded the motion to approve the city bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Hours were presented for Renee Oltrogge, City Clerk and Kelly Haskin, Water/Sewer Supervisor. Pieters moved, Hagberg seconded the motion to approve hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Public Comments: Mayor Stearns advised there was a noise complaint about a semi with Thermo-King operating, parked across from the Rock Stop. The Sheriff's department has been notified about our new noise ordinance. Hagberg wanted to thank those who helped with The Friendly Valley Times last month, it takes a lot of time. Opportunity to help each month, the Thursday after the City Council Meeting, 9am until complete at the City Hall. Please feel free to assist!

Melissa Johanson, Librarian, presented the library report. The board met and adjusted some of the expenses within the proposed FY23 budget. Seeking a grant from Heart of Iowa and need two letters from City Council members. Summer Program planning is progressing. Library sign keeps getting blown off the post and getting a quote to get more stabilized. C. Schurman moved, Hagberg seconded the motion to approve the PO's 202202251, 202202252, 202202253, 202202254 as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Scott Williams, Fire Chief presented the Fire Department report. First call burning CRP ground. Chief Williams asked if the charge should increase from the \$500 base rate, and it was decided to stay the same. Williams advised they have training coming up this Thursday. Plan to order new uniforms as needed from Clay Township Trustees funding. Can donations have been wonderful! Please put the cans in the metal container instead of in small bags that get blown across the street. J. Schurman moved, Blackburn seconded the motion to approve the PO#81 for a valve on #651 as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

JJ Veld presented the public works report. The water leak of 18-20K gallons/day was found and fixed. JJ apologized for any yard damage during this process.

Mayor Stearns advised on distressed properties: 101 E Main St-we are moving forward with next step. 103 E Main St-continue to forebear pending a change. 208 3<sup>rd</sup> St-waiting on a return call from the IRS & cleanup was discussed. 305 4<sup>th</sup> St and 305 W Market St-owner has indicated a cleanup/repair plan and an additional 90-day forbearance letter has been sent. 308 6<sup>th</sup> St and 601 W Sycamore St-letter has been sent with a 90-day forbearance to give the owners time to either update the properties to compliant living conditions or sell the properties.

Mayor Stearns discussed the options for the USDA grant to install an automatic standby generator system for the city well. Least expensive bid with a smaller generator or a larger big with a larger generator to use the grant in the best manner. C. Schurman moved, Blackburn seconded the motion to approve the large bid for the larger generator. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one. The remaining cost of this installation comes from the restricted American Rescue Plan funds.

Mayor Stearns presented Ordinance 22-01 Shipping Containers. Hagberg moved Pieters seconded the motion to approve. Roll call-Blackburn aye, Hagberg aye, Pieters aye, C. Schurman aye, and J. Schurman aye. Motioned carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Mayor Stearns presented Ordinance 22-02 Utility Rates. C. Schurman moved, Pieters seconded the motion to approve. Roll call-Blackburn aye, Hagberg aye, Pieters aye, C. Schurman aye, and J. Schurman aye. Motioned carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Mayor Stearns presented Resolution 22-03 City Budget. Hagberg moved, Blackburn seconded the motion to approve. Roll call-Blackburn aye, Hagberg aye, Pieters aye, C. Schurman aye, and J. Schurman aye. Motioned carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

City Clerk advised The Superintendent of Janitorial Services at Community Center is up for hire with no applicants. Veld advised three lights are out in the gym that need replaced. Discussion was to research changing all the lights in the gym out to LED. Mayor Stearns agreed to research prior to replacing the three that are out.

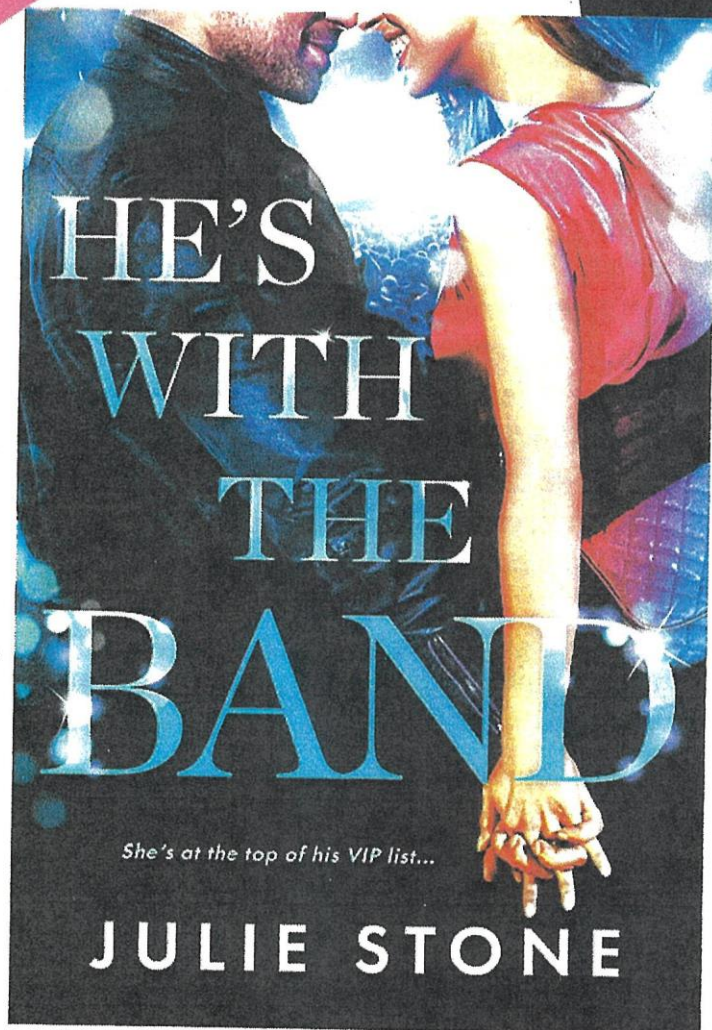
Mayor Stearns discussed an Easement for Hardin County Conservation proposed sewer line. The current plan might need to be re-reviewed by the engineers since the cost increased by 40% from the 2021 estimate. The council discussion was an overwhelming desire to have residents on the south side of the road, on the same side of the river, to have access. Mayor Stearns sked if any council persons desired to be included in the meetings with the Hardin County Conservation, or if council was satisfied with his reports.

Cityside Hazardous Waste Day is Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 9:00am-11:00am, Pieters seconded, motion carried.

City Clerk advised the city's local bank, Great Western Bank is closing their location in Eldora and discussed options for a new bank. Pieters moved to change to Greenbelt Bank & Trust, Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one.

Mayor's comments: planning a ditch walk cleanup again this year on one of the four directions into town on a Saturday in April. Stay tuned. C. Schurman moved to adjourn the meeting, Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: no one. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Meet Author Julie Stone



***Thursday, March 24th***

***7:00pm***

***Steamboat Rock Public Library***

# looking Ahead...

April 2022

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting 6:30pm



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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!



### Toni Nederhoff Agency

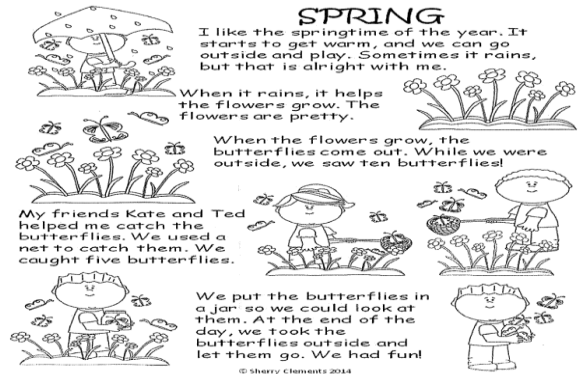
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