

October 2023



# Friendly Valley Times

Steamboat Rock, Iowa

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

"They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest."  
~Psalms 107:37

"Raise your words, not voice. It is the rain that grows flowers, not thunder."  
~Rumi

## in this issue >>>

- Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Perfect Weather for The Night Riders of Hardin County
- No street lights
- NO All-Clear siren
- Book Club
- Happiest of Birthdays to You!

and Much More !!!

**Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** City Council Meeting 6:30pm @city hall

**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** Halloween Party

Live Music by The Grind 9pm-1am @Happenings

**Recycling** September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

Check the calendar on our website @ [www.steamboatrockiowa.com](http://www.steamboatrockiowa.com)



## 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 Visionary Group

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

[bhutchcroft@hotmail.com](mailto:bhutchcroft@hotmail.com)

### Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church

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

[srpresby@gmail.com](mailto:srpresby@gmail.com)

### Steamboat Rock Fire & Rescue

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

[srchief@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srchief@heartofiowa.net)

### Steamboat Rock Historic Society

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

[jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkkramer@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 Public Library

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

[srocklib@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srocklib@heartofiowa.net)

### Steamboat Rock Cemetery

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

[50672cemetery@gmail.com](mailto:50672cemetery@gmail.com)

# Fun Facts About Iowa's 99 Counties

**Adair** - was formed in 1851 from sections of the former Pottawattomie County. It was named for John Aair who was a general in the War of 1812, and the eighth Governor of Kentucky.

**Adams** - has a population of about 4,000 residents. This makes it Iowa's least-populous county.

**Allamakee** - with its unique name, this county's namesake is debated. Many believe it was the name of an Indian chief, while others think it was named for Allen Magee, an early historic trader.

**Appanoose** - the county's first courthouse was built in 1846 for a whopping cost of \$160. It lasted for nine years.

**Audubon** - unlike most counties in Iowa, this one is named after a man who had no political or military background. Named after John James Audubon, who was an American ornithologist, naturalist, and painter.

**Benton** - was formed on December 21, 1837 which is about a decade before Iowa was admitted to the Union in 1846.

**Boone** - county residents selected the now non-existent Boonesboro as the county seat in 1851. The first building erected in the new settlement was a double log house that was used as a county office and courthouse.

**Bremer** - is one of only a few named after a woman, Fredrika Bremer, a Swedish feminist writer. She was born in 1801 and died in 1865.

**Butler** - is the only county in Iowa that does not have any stop lights, four-lane roads (US Hwy or interstate), a hospital, or a movie theatre. There are also no national fast-food chains in the county.

**Buena Vista** - was named in memory of the Battle of Buena Vista which occurred during the 1840's. The United States was victorious, and annexed considerable territory as a result.

**Buchanan** - is home to the Hazleton Old Order Amish settlement which was founded in 1914. In 1987, there were six church districts (congregations) with an estimated population of about 1,200 Amish.

**Black Hawk** - with a population of 131,090, is Iowa's fourth-most populous county. It is named after Black Hawk, a Sauk leader during the 1832 Black Hawk War.

*to be Continued.....*



## Steamboat Rock Visionary Group

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

**Tree Lighting Ceremony!** The committee is working on organizing the annual tree lighting ceremony. The date will again be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 22. We have the lights working on the tree, so job number one is completed. We are planning to again have free hot dogs with the addition of Christmas cookies this year. Further details will be established at our next meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 6:30 at the library. Any individual or community group interested in being a part of the ceremony is urged to attend. We have appreciated the involvement in the past of the SR Library, the SR Historical Society, the SR Fire Department, the Rock Stop, and the Progress Club. The committee will be sending a postcard to each household in the 50672 area with further details.

**Future Projects!** With the excitement in our community surrounding the bike trail, the proposed improvements along the river, and housing sales booming, our home town seems on the verge of a resurgence. Our committee is optimistic about the future of Steamboat Rock and working on projects that will assist progress. We would like to make an attractive entryway to the bike trail. We would like to bring drinking water to the park area. We would like to improve the basketball court so younger kids can play. We appreciate ideas from the community!

**FVT** If you know anyone who has not sent their email address to [hry@heartofiowa.net](mailto:hry@heartofiowa.net) please encourage them to do so. Hard copies may be picked up at the library for a nominal \$1 fee.

## *from the Mayor*

### **Fall in Steamboat Rock**

Yes, even this early there are a few trees beginning to change color. Harvest is slowly starting, and a few producers are taking a little corn out to test fire the corn dryers, so they are ready for full operation in a couple more weeks. This is a time of year to be particularly careful on the roads while extra and very wide farm equipment is also on the roads. Keep in mind that your vehicle is worth a few \$1,000 while that farm equipment is worth a few \$100,000, don't expect them to go in the ditch to get out of your way- GIVE THEM SPACE!

Vicki and I just returned from our second and final trip to California on "The Big Tree Tour." Began with a stop at the Bonneville Salt Flats, then the beautiful Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park, then to Kings Canyon National Park and Sequoia National Park, across the Golden Gate Bridge and up Highway 1 to Redwood Forest National Park, then the final destination was Lassen Volcano National Park. On the way out we were monitoring the hurricane that was coming up thru Baja and headed towards Sequoia and on the way back got rerouted from road closures due to forest fires. Did some hiking in each of the parks, saw some really amazing scenery, and have a lot of pictures of big trees. While we love to travel, we felt blessed to come home to Steamboat Rock where a traffic hold up is 2 cars and there are no stop lights, and if you need to momentarily slow down to look at something there are not 10 cars piled up impatiently behind you. Where we are not looking for the last parking spot to stop and look at something of interest. Where folks are normal, instead of just beside themselves because of potential bad weather. Where the smoke from forest fires doesn't block our view like a heavy fog, or drift in our windows at night enough to wake us up. Coming home to Steamboat Rock after a trip like this we again notice the peace, the pleasant folks, and the beauty of the area stands out to us once again.

**Reminder;** the City has three City Council seats and the Mayor position up for grabs at the next election. If you have a desire to run, nomination papers may be acquired at the City Hall on Monday afternoons, and any time at the Hardin County Auditor's office. They need to be turned in to the Hardin County Auditor's office with a minimum of 10 signatures (15 recommended) and your signature by 5:00 PM on Thursday September 21. Again, for anyone interested in running for Mayor, I would be happy to spend a little time encouraging you about the duties of the office.

Be careful out there!

*Thanks*

*Tim Stearns, Mayor*



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOOOUU!!!**

*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!*

**October 4<sup>th</sup> John Stupp**  
**October 14<sup>th</sup> Tony Vaughn**  
**October 19<sup>th</sup> Kimberly Mullins**  
**October 21<sup>st</sup> Aarron Stahl**  
**October 22<sup>nd</sup> Katie (Rolph) Brown**  
**October 24<sup>th</sup> Dawn Doolaard**  
**October 25<sup>th</sup> TJ Hall**  
**October 26<sup>th</sup> Nick Pieters**



# 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”*

## The Night Riders of Hardin County Book Signing by Lance Hansmann

Thank you to all who attended the book signing by Lance Hansmann on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Everything about the event turned out perfectly. Here are some highlights of the morning:

- Perfect weather permitted us to enjoy the reading and question/answer time outside underneath the big tent. We had over 120 people join us outdoors for this time hearing from Lance.
- We then moved over to the museum for people to purchase a book and have it signed by the author. We had over 100 people come through the museum.
- In total, we had just under 140 people attend the event.
- While in the museum, people had the opportunity to see one of the counterfeit coins in addition to artifacts from the Rainsbarger family.
- We had 20 books in stock for the signing and sold all of these books and took orders for another 25 books.
- Dave Folkerts also sold 8 of his books that he had written about the Rainsbarger story.
- While delivering the 25 books that we needed to order, I had the opportunity to visit with some of the distant relatives of the Rainsbarger family.
- A number of people asked if they could set up a time to come back and spend more time in the museum to look at all of our artifacts.
- Mildred Griffin was able to join us for this event and I know that she had a great time hearing about the book and visiting with people.
- Everybody that I have talked with has given rave reviews about the book. If you have not yet read the book, please consider ordering one today.
- And a number of people were able to visit with others that they had not seen for quite some time. That always makes for a special day.
- Included are a few pictures of the event.



*Cont'd on page 8*

## Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church

Let's imagine that you're trying to get somewhere in your car or whatever and your GPS or your system that gives you directions isn't working right. I know, it's never happened to you, right? But work with me here. So, you're trying to figure out how to get to wherever and eventually, with all other options unavailable, you stop and ask the next person you see who looks like a local. With a sigh of relief you say, "Excuse me, but my GPS isn't working. Can you tell me how to get to \_\_\_\_\_?"

"Sure", they say, "Just..."

But before they can begin to point you in the right way, you take off and leave without even giving them a chance to respond. Leaving them with a bewildered look on their face and asking themselves, "Who was that weirdo?" And putting yourself in the same position you were in before you asked for help. But you wouldn't do something like that, right? Ask for directions and then not wait for the answer. That would just be silly, right?

So, why do so many of us do the very same thing with God?



*Cont'd on page 6*



## Steamboat Rock Fire Department

It's hard to believe that harvest is underway. Be on the lookout for tractors, wagons, semi's, combines, and other equipment that will be on the roads. Most of those listed will have a slow-moving sign on rear and making turns without using signals. Give them enough room to maneuver and if going to pass, make sure that you have a clear view.

It is a very dry fall and having machines in the fields in the field increases the chances of combine fires. Keep farmers in your thoughts as they tend to their crops.

Hardin County is NOT in a burn ban but please use extreme caution if you decide to burn. Make sure you call in your burn with proper address and phone number where you can be reached. Keep in mind that if you do burn, you are to have enough water suppression on hand to extinguish said fire – hence a controlled burn.

Harvest also marks another time of year that many of us may want to forget. Falls tends to lead to rain and sometimes unforgiving weather. Where you live, you may hear the weather sirens going off. They could be testing them to make sure they are working properly.

Hardin County has the capability of setting off the siren when necessary. SRFD members have the same capability if necessary.

I realize the siren doesn't sound very often and we can be thankful for that. Remember that when the siren is activated, take shelter, and do not come outside to see why. Keep in mind that there will be no "All Clear" siren.

You need to have a portable radio/cell phone (w/charged batteries) that you may have communication and find out if the conditions have passed. The National Weather Service gives an estimated time of when it may be in the area and when it may end. This is not set in stone and conditions can always change.

- Battery check in smoke alarms

Stay Fire Safe,  
Chief Williams

### *Cont'd from page 4 Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church*

We pray to God and ask Him for guidance and direction and then, we just walk away and carry on with our lives, upset, confused, and wondering why God doesn't tell us what to do.

Habakkuk was a prophet and as he looked at his country of Judah and the prevailing evil in it, he questioned God about why all this evil was allowed to continue. But God remained strangely silent. Where was God? How long would He allow this mess to continue? In Habakkuk 2:1-3 in The Message, "What's God going to say to my questions? I'm braced for the worst. I'll climb to the lookout tower and scan the horizon. I'll wait to see what God says, how he'll answer my complaint."

The difference between Habakkuk and us is that the prophet was willing to wait for an answer. We, so often, are not that willing. We pray, walk away and hope God will chase us down with His answer. But just like we wouldn't walk away from someone after asking them a question, (that would be silly, right?) we shouldn't just walk away from God before He gets a chance to answer.

Prayer is NOT a one-way conversation. God will answer our prayer. Oh, the answer may not be what we want to hear, and it may not come in our time frame, but we should still wait for His voice.

And I think that's where many of us get lost. We're quick to ask for direction and help, but we're not willing to wait for an answer.

May God bless you this month and always.

# Steamboat Rock Public Library

Halloween will be celebrated in the city of Steamboat Rock on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. At the library we are planning a hot dog roast for the first 100 patrons starting at 5:00 PM. There will be assorted chips along with hot cocoa or hot cider. Then young trick and treaters can go around town and to the Baptist Church for Trunk or Treat and fill their bags.

Book club will be on October 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:00. There are always great treats that everyone brings so don't feel that you have to bring something, just show up. 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.

We will be signing up for Hoopla through the library but are a couple of stipulations. One is you have to live in the 50672-zip code. So even if you have library cards from other Hardin County libraries, those cards will not work here. We will also put a limit per month of only 5 checkouts per card. This means that some of you have family cards and can only check out 5 items on that card. If you feel you will be using the card for more than that you will have to get your own library card. Please bring in some personal mail showing your living address and we will set you up with your own individual library card. We are excited to get this service for our patrons where you can download newer books, magazines, movies, and music.

[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

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

## New to the Library

### Fiction

*Flash Point* by Don Bently  
*Palazzo* by Danielle Steel  
*The Connelly's of County Down*  
by Tracey Lange  
*The Door-to-door Bookstore*  
by Carsten Henn  
*Happiness* by Danielle Steel  
*The It girl* by Ruth Ware  
*Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson  
*Tom Lake* by Ann Patchell  
*Amazing Grace Adams*  
by Fran Littlewood

### Mystery

*Gone Tonight* by Sarah Pekkanen  
*Just Another Missing Person*  
by Gillian McAllister  
*The Last Ranger* by Peter Heller  
*Lion and Lamb* by James Patterson  
*None of this is true* by Lisa Jewell  
*23 1/2 Lies* by James Patterson  
*A Cryptic Clue* by Victoria Gilbert  
*Good Bad Girl* by Alice Feeney  
*The Raging Storm* by Ann Cleeves  
*The River We Remember*  
by William Kent Krueger

### Romance

*Out of Nowhere* by Sandra Brown

### Historical Fiction

*Under the Java moon* by Heather Moore

### Young Adults

*One of Us is Back* by Karen McManus

### Children's Fiction

### Junior Fiction

## *The Guest House* (641) 640-5425

202 East Market St, Steamboat Rock, IA, United States, 50672-7718

Booking for summer 2025 right now! Johnnie Ogden shouts out a BIG Thank You to the community for helping them be booked EVERY weekend from May through October so far this year. Keep spreading the word, what an awesome amenity to have in town.



*Cont'd from page 4 Steamboat Rock Historical*

Yes, you can buy the book on-line and it will be delivered to your door. But we also have copies of the book at the museum for purchase at the same price of \$16.00. Contact me at [jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net) or 641-858-6085 and I will be happy to meet you at the museum to pick up your book.

Again, thank you for your support of the Steamboat Rock Historical Society. We appreciate it very much.

*Jim Kramer*

*President—Steamboat Rock Historical Society*



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 on September 11, 2023, 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Jon Schurman, and Kevin Pieters. Absent were: Cory Schurman. Also, present Linda Whitt-Jensen, Melissa Johanson, James Green, JJ Veld, and JD Holmes.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by Mull to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Blackburn moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve the August 14, 2023 and September 5, 2023 minutes. Motion carried unanimously. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters the motion to approve City bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Pieters moved, seconded by Mull to approve employee hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: none

Melissa Johanson, librarian, reported increased summer reading program attendance and that it is complete. Seeking connection with Greenbelt Home care to keep food pantry at Library filled.

Fire Department: Kevin Pieters reported good MDA fund raising effort.

Public Works Report: Provided by JJ Veld: New control panel at well house is installed. JJ continues tracking the source of higher-than-normal ammonia levels at sewer plant. He continues seeking parts to repair sewer system clarifier. Contractor has been here to do an estimate for getting the sewer plant up to 100% functional. No update on plow truck repair. JJ is seeking clarification of the ownership of city water lines in regard to the pending EPA lead connections rules, and for our work on updating the City Water Code.

Old Business:

Nuisance ordinance update- no report

Municipal Infractions ordinance- no report

Animal Control ordinance update- no report

The Hardin County 5-yr. Disaster Mitigation Plan Resolution should be ready for the October meeting.

Visionary Group tree transplants should be complete in the park in September.

The food pantry provided by Iowa Select Farms was completed and has a mixture of items.

Storm water diversion project on the north side of E Market St was discussed. Pieters moved to have Ross Excavating LLC install the intake system at a cost of \$15,502 to protect E Market St from getting washed out. Blackburn seconded. Roll call vote: J. Schuman- Aye, Pieters- Aye, Blackburn- Aye, Mull, Aye, C. Schurman a-absent, motion carried unanimously.

New business:

Mayor Stearns reviewed insurance carrier's request that Schoolhouse businesses carry separate insurance and that waivers are signed by gymnasium users; system under development.

Road repairs - Kevin Pieters reported road repairs are complete with road surface protected and smoother.

Mayor Stearns reported that the State audit exit review is nearing completion.

Mayor Stearns reminded Council that the nomination paperwork is due to County Auditor's office 9/22/2023 at 5:00 PM.

The 2022/2023 fiscal year end reports were handed out and Mayor Stearns stated the format is still under adjustment.

David Mull continues to seek information on the purchase an acre of land from Shores next to sewer plant.

Mayor Stearns stated that two engineering firms responded by the September 8, 2023 deadline and they will be forwarded to Region 6 for review to help us choose the Engineer to complete a PER (Preliminary Engineering Report).

Kevin Pieters moved for the City Halloween observance to be 10/31/2023. Seconded by Mull. Motion carried unanimously.

Mull moved to adjourn, seconded by Pieters, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

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Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk



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 special session on September 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Jon Schurman, Kevin Pieters and Cory Schurman. Also, present Linda Whitt-Jensen, Bill Trampe, Suzie DeVries, Melissa Johanson, Kim Whiley, Bob Hutchcroft, Deb Crosser, John Schuller, Wes Wiese, and Julie Winter.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stearns gave a brief summary of the history of the discussions of this project and where the City Sewer Fund stood at this time.

Julie Winter from Region 6 presented details of the proposed USDA grants availability and status. Also discussed the possible time line of the project.

Wes Wiese, Hardin County Conservation (HCC), updated information on their projects and the importance of a commitment to allow HCC to gain City sewer system access by either crossing under the Iowa River or down River Road.

C. Schurman moved to allow HCC hook up to the Steamboat Rock municipal waste water system in one of those two ways. Pieters seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Much discussion about how the USDA grants, loans from the USDA, loans from the Hardin County Supervisors, surcharges, and City cash investment into the project all fit together depending on the cost of the project. Additional discussion of how to get and pay for the Engineering PER report using a USDA PPL or Search grant, and the timeline for each of those. Further discussion about garnering local funds for the PER to move the timing forward about 6 months.

Blackburn moved to pursue this west side sewer project with total cost not to exceed \$850,000 with the City obligation not to exceed \$215,000 and to pursue local funding to pay for the Engineering PER. Mull seconded. Motion carried unanimously by raise of hand vote.

C. Schurman moved to adjourn, seconded by Pieters, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk



Steamboat Rock  
Trick or Treat NIGHT  
October 31st



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