

end of August - September 2023



# Friendly Valley Times

Steamboat Rock, Iowa

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

“For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I am the one who helps you.’” ~ Isaiah 41:13

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” ~Romans 12:12

## in this issue >>>

Tree Lighting here before we know it!  
Book Club  
Email your Recipes  
Happiest of Birthdays to You!

Power Can Change Things  
Filter for your Furnace  
Local Project Updates  
and Much More !!!



**Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** City Council Meeting 6:30pm @city hall

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** The Jason Kincel Band 5-9pm @Happenings

*LAST outside music for the year*

**Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** Fundraising Event at Boat Club

Live Music, UTV Ride, food, etc. – Details will be coming out

**Recycling** August 28<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

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

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

**TODAY**  
WILL NEVER COME AGAIN.  
*Be a blessing.*  
**Be a friend.**  
*Encourage someone.*  
**Take Time To Care.**  
**Let your words heal,**  
**and not wound.**

## 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)

## How Do You Want to be Remembered?

More than a decade ago, a man was reading his morning newspaper. To his surprise and horror, he read his name in the obituary column. The newspapers had mistakenly reported the death of the wrong person for sure. He was shocked to read a news headline about his death. When he regained his composure, He read it to find out what people had said about him.



The obituary included sentences like, “Dynamite King Dies.” and “He was the merchant of death..” The man was the inventor of dynamite and when he read the words “merchant of death,” he asked himself a question, “Is this how I am going to be remembered?” he asked himself. He decided that this was not the way he wanted to be remembered and he decided to change.

From that day on, he started working toward world peace. His name was Alfred Nobel, and he is remembered today by the great Nobel Prize, the greatest of all the prizes.

The Nobel Prize has been honoring men and women from all corners of the globe for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and for work in peace since 1901. The foundations for the prize were laid in 1895 when Alfred Nobel wrote his last will, leaving much of his wealth to the establishment of the Nobel Prize.

**Moral:** It is never late to start over.

~alltimeshortstories.com

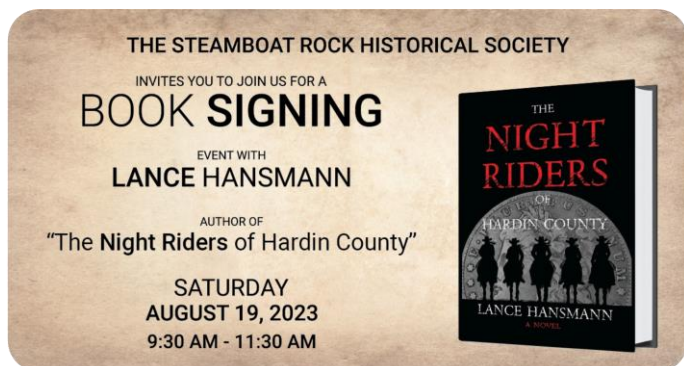
### Book Signing *The Night Riders of Hardin County* By Lance Hansmann

The Steamboat Rock Historical Society will be hosting a book signing for “The Night Riders of Hardin County” on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM.

There will be a tent and chairs set up across the street west of the Museum in Steamboat Rock. After a brief reading and Q & A session outside, you can walk through the museum to look at the Rainsbarger and other exhibits as well as having your copy of the book signed.

In case of bad weather, we will move inside at “Happenings” across the street. Meet and greet starts at 9:30 with a reading beginning at approx. 10:00 AM. There will be a limited quantity of books available for purchase at the museum, but those who attend are encouraged to bring their own copy if possible.

Jim Kramer, President—Steamboat Rock Historical Society



Heading into Fall here soon and if you are like me, it's time to find some new recipes to try.

Email me your favorite Recipe to Share with EVERYONE!

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

# *from the Mayor*

## **Late Summer in Steamboat Rock**

Yes, in case you missed turning the calendar over from July, August is half over. School will be starting again in a week. So, watch out for those kids running or wandering out in the street, bicyclists, newly christened drivers, and so forth. You get the idea, it is a time to be extra cautious as you drive, stop, and pass through intersections.

By the time you read this, Market street should have a new coat of asphalt sealer between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway St. Hoping it turns out really well and is the first of several years of street maintenance investment.

**Reminder;** the City has three City Council seats and the Mayor position up for grabs at the next election. After working with the three Councilmen who's seats are up, I will tell you again, they all do an excellent job and if you are so inclined please encourage them to turn in nomination papers again. Those whose seats are up for reelection are Adam Blackburn, Jon Schurman, and Dave Mull. If you have a desire to file, 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. For anyone interested in running for Mayor, I would be happy to spend a little time encouraging you about the duties of the office.

## **Update on a few local projects:**

Stormwater project designed to *keep East Market Street from getting washed out* in 2"+ rain events. Plan is to drop an "intake" in the corner of Jeff Folkerts, Doug Hiekens, and Peter Gavagans properties and come 170 feet south down an alley with a 12" non-perforated pipe to meet a 15" pipe that already goes under Jeff Folkerts driveway headed west. This project will be paid for with ARPA money that came with a limited purposes to our City and will need to be given back at the end of 2023 if unused. This project has taken two years to get a contractor to even come look. Please encourage your City Council members to move forward with protecting East Market Street.

*Generator for the City well system.* The City has been approved for a USDA grant to purchase an automatic standby generator for the City well. The generator has been on order for two years and is finally on its way. The cost to hook up to the well, is more than the actual generator cost and is another use for the ARPA funds the City is holding in restricted (and qualified) funds for this project.

*West side sewer project.* This is a project that is absolutely important to our area. First brought to our attention by Hardin County Conservation because for them to complete their multi-million-dollar upgrades on the west side of the Iowa River, they need to hook up to a municipal sewer system. The benefits to the remainder of the City are;

- 1) Residents on the west side of the Iowa River will be able to hook up to our City municipal sewer system, saving them a significant amount of money over installing expensive leech bed systems repeatedly as they fail.
- 2) Will allow property owners over time to be compliant with Iowa Code in terms of sanitary systems thereby increasing the market value of their homes,
- 3) Sewer installations are not a money maker for a city in themselves. Steamboat Rock needs to consider expanding to provide areas for future residential development. This project would provide the first phase of potential development southwest down River Road. Residential development brings in additional real estate tax revenues which Cities need. Not a project to receive immediate return on investment, more like a 20-40-year project in that regard, as all municipal sewer installations are.
- 4) Will in the near term allow the development of several overnight guest accommodations already in the works, that won't happen without this sewer installation, which in turn provide Hotel/Motel tax contributions to the City.
- 5) The mechanics of the grant application are still in process, but in this particular project a large portion of it gets paid for through grants and surcharges which makes it a bargain by most calculations.
- 6) From an operational standpoint the variable costs are covered by the revenues received through monthly usage fees from the Hardin County Conservation hook-up and the residents that use this service.
- 7) From a City funding position, the city sewer fund is in an excellent position to take this project on at this time, to be the first of several expansions in other directions for the City. Please encourage your favorite City Council person to support this project.

Be careful out there!

*Thanks*

*Tim Stearns, Mayor*



# 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”

## Vietnam War Veterans

The Steamboat Rock Historical Society is searching for the names and addresses of all the Vietnam War Veterans who at one time lived in the 50672-zip code for Steamboat Rock. Grace Starr, a high school student at AGWSR, has volunteered her time to prepare an exhibit that would honor these veterans by telling their stories and experiences from serving in this war. At the Veterans Monument at the Steamboat Rock Cemetery, the men and women from this area who served in this war, are listed on one of the stones. These names are listed below:

### Army

Asher, David L.	Hansmann, Paul	Lawler, James R.	Rose, Donald C.
Berends, Alan K.	Heard, Michael Rex	Lawler, Patrick M.	Rose, James
Bright, Dean Leroy	Heard, Susan Jane	Luiken, Arnold Dean	Ruby, Laurie Pingle
Brown, James	Heard, Thomas Claude	Moore, John E.	Sapp, Mary
Callaway, Robert Dale	Heckman, Lee Ann	Newby, John	Stupp, Clayton Corydon
Fisher, Arnold Dean	Hemmen, Jake	Oliviera, John	Thoms, Norman Keith
Fisher, Jon M.	Hoffman, Steven	Pekarek, Tom	Truesdale, Warren T.
Folkerts, Michael R.	Jordening, David	Pierson, Ron	Van Hove, John
Frerichs, Wayne George	Kies, Eugene Donald	Prescott, William C.	Van Lengen, Craig A.
Geerdes, Don			Van Heiden, Richard
			Weichers, Gordon

### Marines

Heard, Jonathan L.    Lawler, Myron P.    Springer, Douglas D.    Lawler, Joseph    Miller, Ronald

*Cont'd on page 6*

## Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church

My first car was a 1974 Chevrolet Nova Custom. A beautiful blue coupe. It also had a 350 engine with a four-barrel carburetor. Translating that for the automotively challenged, it means that car went fast, and it would go fast quickly. It was a small, but powerful car. Probably not the best choice for a 16-year-old rebel, but hey, I had fun. My abuse of my car's power kept me going through tires, not to mention gas, at a rate that my small but regular paychecks could barely keep up with.

In our cars or in our lives, power is a funny thing. It's good to have some, because sometimes you might need it; but when we use it in the wrong way, or abuse it, it can be the cause of anxiety and grief. Margaret Thatcher once said, “Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't.”

God is very powerful. In fact, He's omnipotent. That means all-powerful. There is nothing or no one more powerful than God. But God doesn't need to tell us of his power. We can see it in many different ways. In what ways have you seen God's power? In the Message Bible, Jeremiah 32:27 says, “I am God, the God of everything living. Is there anything I can't do?”

But know this, friends, for all of God's great, unlimited power; He never abuses it. Again, in the Message, in Job 37:23, Elihu tells Job, “Mighty God!... Unsurpassable in power and justice! It's unthinkable that he'd treat anyone unfairly.”

It's one thing to have power. It's another way to know how to use it.

But without a doubt, the greatest example of God's power is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. And in that lies yet another show of the power of God. Through the Holy Spirit, God uses His power to transform us, to change us into a new creation, a new person when we give our lives to Him and to Christ Jesus.

In Ephesians 1:19-21, in the NLT Bible, Paul says “I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.”

Power can change things. It can change car tires into long black marks on the pavement. Trust me, I know. And it can change your life- now and forever. Again, trust me, I know. Experience the power of God today so you can experience His greater power for eternity.

**May God bless you this month and always**



# Steamboat Rock Visionary Group

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

**Christmas in August??** While working recently to get our Christmas tree lights at the evergreen tree uptown all working again, someone went by and shouted that we were too late for Christmas in July. 😊

Two young girls dropped by the tree with their dog and wondered what we were up to. They expressed their enthusiasm for last year's lighting event and the things they particularly enjoyed (free cocoa was one of their faves). It was good to hear how much they enjoyed the night and that they would plan to come again this year. The enjoyment of our young community members (there are more than one might guess) is one of the main reasons we do this community get-together. The committee will be working to make this night even better and ideas on how to do so would be appreciated.

When asked how to make it more fun, one of the girls mentioned above said she would like us to have some games. We are going to take this suggestion and see what we can come up with. Tentative date for the tree lighting is the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving (November 22).

**Shelter house usage!** The playground and shelter house usage this summer has been greater than ever, and it's wonderful to see so many people enjoying our park and our community.

To reserve the shelter house, do the following: on the south side of the shelter on one of the pillars there is a plastic holder about 4x7 inches. Just write out your dates and name on a piece of paper or cardboard and slide it into the slot. This can be done at least several weeks before your event. In case the holder already is being used, just tape your reservation to the pillar.

**FVT!** The committee is hopeful that everyone has submitted their email addresses to [hry@heartofiowa.net](mailto:hry@heartofiowa.net) so that no one misses any of the news from our great community. A hard copy of the Times may be picked up at the library.



## Steamboat Rock Fire Department

The first weekend in September (for me) marks the end to the summer even though summer technically isn't over. Some leaves begin to change, you see the crops showing signs of changing; Super Nationals in Boone, IA is the exclamation point to a summer filled with racing, and Fireman's Convention, being held in Iowa Falls this year and next, is a time for all departments to come together to meet up with friends, days of competition, and the annual meeting.

Last minute yard work is getting done before the first frost. Leaves are beginning to fall. Some may burn your leaves and grass clipping coming this fall. Remember to call in even the smallest burn to Hardin County. It doesn't take much wind to spread something small, so when burning leaves, stay fire safe.

If you are attempting to burn branches or other items that are considered legal to burn, remember there is a stipulation on the size of the pile you are burning. Your pile CANNOT be any larger than four feet wide, four feet in length, and not over four feet high. This 4x4x4 method is for residents wanting to burn within city limits. Always be considerate of your neighbors by letting them know you will be burning. You MUST make a phone call to the Hardin County Sheriffs Dept. and notify them of your location of your burn.

I would like to thank all those that donate their cans. SRFD will continue collecting cans but the drop off area is at the fire station. Please be looking for a three-sided area where you may leave your bags. Please don't dump out the bags. You may still leave bottles, but they need to be in a bag or original carrier.

It is also a good time to consider buying a new filter for your furnace. We could go from AC to heat in a matter of a day – this is Iowa.

As Always – Stay Fire Safe,  
Chief Williams

**U.S.A.F.**

Blosch, Harry Dean  
Blythe, Wayne L.  
Cervetti, Franklin H.  
Farley, John Robert

Gast, Roger G.  
Hartman, Clarence E.  
Hartman, John A.  
Klatt, Gary

Kruse, Curt  
Pixler, Gordon  
Wiles, James Jr.

**Navy**

Bartholomew, Don  
De Neui, Robert  
Heller, Patrick  
Luiken, Ronald  
Snittjer, Jack R.

Caldwell, Stan  
Havens, Lawrence T.  
Leverton, David W.  
Moore, James A.

Claassen, Craig  
Havens, Robert E.  
Luiken, George A.  
Rainsbarger, George

**Coast Guard**

Bisset, David Peter

We need the addresses of the above men and women or a close relative. If you have any information on any of the above, would you please send me that information at the following address: [jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net)

**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!*

August 22<sup>nd</sup> **Sydney Johnson**  
August 24<sup>th</sup> **Kip Roelfsema**  
**Nate Johnson**  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> **Rob Prescott**

August 23<sup>rd</sup> **Tricia Frerichs**  
August 31<sup>st</sup> **Derek Witt**

September 6<sup>th</sup> **Emily Schuneman**  
**Heidi Young**



**September 7<sup>th</sup> HAPPY BIRTHDAY STEAMBOAT ROCK (1855)**

September 8<sup>th</sup> – Remembering the late **Carol Williams** on her Birthday  
September 10<sup>th</sup> **Jarret Wininger**      September 12<sup>th</sup> **Jon Schurman**  
September 13<sup>th</sup> **Cathy Armstrong**      September 15<sup>th</sup> **Jodie (Stupp) Schmidt**

***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.



# Steamboat Rock Public Library

The Steamboat Rock Public Library sign is back up on the front porch courtesy of Mayor Tim and a very big "thank you" goes to him. Now for no more storms to blow it down again!

It is that time of year when things tend to calm down with summer reading over, but I would like to have one last marshmallow gun fight for the younger kids and a party afterwards. Will be working out the details with the kids and will keep everyone posted.

The food pantry has been filled a number of times over the summer and looks to be empty again. We have even had fresh corn, cucumbers, and tomatoes out there. So, if anyone has extra in the way of fresh garden produce or in your cupboards, please don't forget those in need.

We have this wonderful program through the state library where we can borrow items from other libraries not just in the state of Iowa but also the United States. It is called SILO and the items are checked out for a month to the patron at no cost to you.

Book club will be on September 14<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.

[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

*A Very Typical Family*

by Sierra Godfrey

*You Are Here*

by Karin Lin-Greenberg

*The Devil's Ransom* by Brad Taylor

*After Death* by Dean Koontz

*The Bourne Defiance*

by Brian Freeman

### Mystery

*Try Not to Breathe* by David Bell

*Obsessed* by James Patterson

*Flob Dead Gorgeous*

by David Rosenfelt

*An Evil Heart* by Linda Castillo

*Circle of Death* by James Patterson

*All He Has Left* by Chad Zunker

*The Moonlight Child*

by Karen McQuestion

*An Honest Man* by Michael Koryta

*The Bitter Past* by Bruce Borgos

*Mrs. Plansky's Revenge*

by Spences Quinn

*Take the Honey and Run*

by Jennie Marts

*What Harms You* by Lisa Black

### Romance

*Must Love Flowers*

by Debbie Macomber

*My Magnolia Summer*

by Victoria Benton Frank

### Historical Fiction

*Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grissom

*Hotel Laguna* by Nicola Harrison

### Young Adults

*One of Us is Back*

by Karen McManus

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

## To ALL Students Returning to School

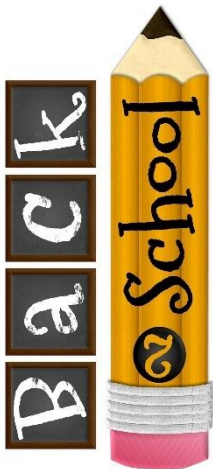
### If you see any of the following:

- \*another student struggling to make friends
- \*another student being picked on
- \*a student who is new, shy, or not with the "in crowd"
- \*a student who is eating lunch alone

## Be a Leader! Be a Warrior!

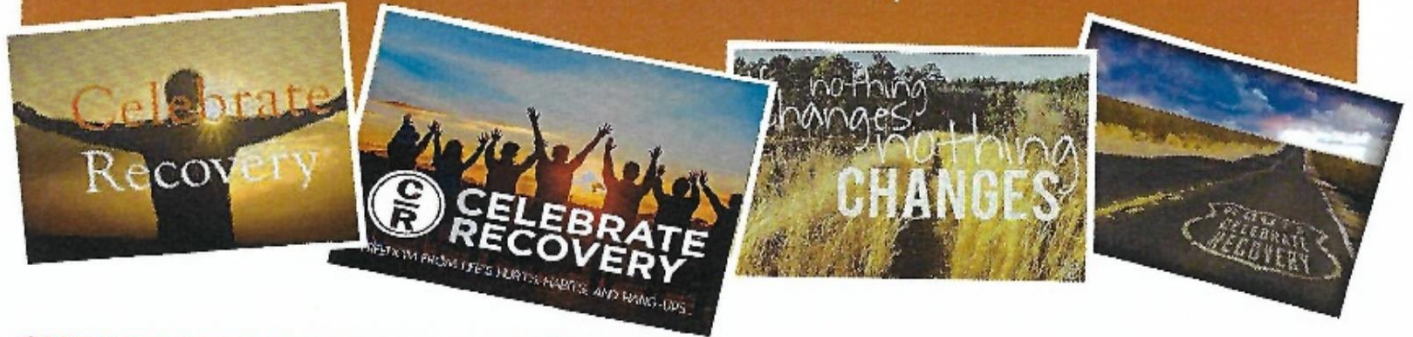
Say hi. Smile at them. Ask if you can sit with them. Include them. You never know what that person is facing inside or outside of school.

**YOUR KINDNESS WILL  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN  
SOMEONE'S LIFE**



# CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Come Be Part of Our Family



## CHRIST CENTERED RECOVERY PROGRAM

Celebrate Recovery is a recovery program aimed at all "hurts, habits, and hang-ups", including but not exclusive to: high anxiety; co-dependency; compulsive behaviors; sex addiction; financial dysfunction; drug and alcohol addictions; and eating disorders. Celebrate Recovery offers a confidential atmosphere for those to share hurts, feelings, all judgment free. It is a Christ centered program following the 12 steps in biblical form.

## HOW TO JOIN A MEETING

Come be part of our family and start Your road to recovery. If you suffer from addiction, drugs, alcohol, pornography, sex, gambling, food, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, PTSD, or any form of mental illness then this program could allow you to make the first step toward peace. Please see below for meeting information.

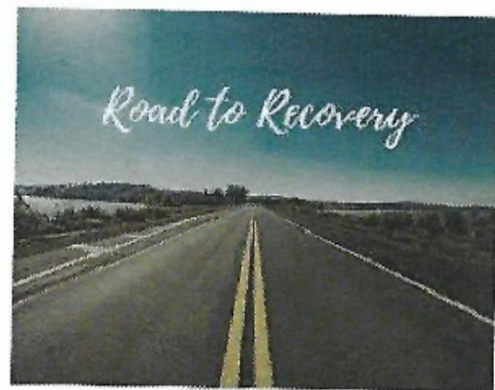
## CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETING

Wednesday nights at 6:30PM  
First Presbyterian Church, 401 West Market Street,  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672

Contact:

Miss Johnnie Ogden - 641-640-5425

Todd Eriksen - 870-397-4507



*THE ROAD TO RECOVERY STARTS HERE*

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY A PRINCIPLES OF RECOVERY

- Realize I'm not God.
- Earnestly believe that God exists.
- Consciously choose to commit.
- Openly examine, confess my faults.
- Voluntarily submit to God.
- Evaluate all my relationships.
- Reserve a daily time with God.
- Yield myself to God for his use.



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 August 14, 2023, 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, and Jon Schurman. Absent were: Kevin Pieters and Cory Schurman. Also, present Linda Whitt-Jensen, Craig Babcock, Michelle Kelley, Jim and Julie Green, Dianne Haywood, JD Holmes, and Scott Williams.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Blackburn moved, seconded by Mull to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Blackburn moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull the motion to approve City bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Blackburn moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve employee hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: Property owners, James, and Julie Green, 207 Madison St., SBR asked for alley abandonment update with city clerk to follow up. Michelle Kelley, 207 Madison St., requested legal and permitting requirements to convert a 2-stall garage into a market selling eggs and produce with other homemade products. City clerk to follow up and put on September agenda. Craig Babcock representing the Presbyterian Church, asked about using the school gym as a back-up for their annual community dinners to be placed on September's agenda. Mull moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve request for a permit to install fencing at 408 Madison St. SBR. Motion carried unanimously. Mull asked if the City would allow having a Deer Hunting season inside the City limits. Mull asked if the County will be placing a grate over the new culvert installed on Main Street.

Melissa Johanson submitted the minutes of the last Library board meeting.

Scott Williams, Fire Chief, reported that three members will attend fire convention in September located in Iowa Falls again this year. A life-sized training dummy was donated to the department.

Public Works Report: Provided by Mayor Stearns: new well panel (\$4000-\$5000) and new sewer meter (\$1000) are ordered. The snow plow truck is at Shaun Rogers for repair.

Distressed Properties – Property owners, 308 6<sup>th</sup> St & 601 W Sycamore St, SBR were sent letter requesting property update no later than 09/1/2023.

Old Business: Dianne Haywood compared benefits between EMC Insurance verses Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) with ICAP providing better coverage. Dianne left a packet for the City to begin filling out for a potential transition to ICAP. Mull moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve a change to existing EMC policy to go from \$25,000 deductible down to \$5,000 deductible for a \$700 increase in premium. Motion carried unanimously.

Road Repairs – Road repairs are planned for later this week. Discussion about number of block-aids needed to keep traffic off Market St. Mayor Stearns presented bids for a storm-water drainage project which would protect the integrity of East market Street. Decision tabled until next meeting.

Nuisance Ordinance-no report. Municipal Infractions Ordinance-no report. Animal Control Code Amended Ordinance-no report.

New business: Mayor Stearns presented the proposed/ in process 5-yr. Disaster Mitigation Plan for the City to become part of the Hardin County Plan which would run through 2028. Council will need to be prepared to do a Resolution in September 2023. Mayor Stearns asked for discussion if the City needs to develop an Emergency Operation Plan.

The new/additional food pantry provided by Iowa Select Farms is scheduled for installation during the last week of August.

Visionary Group will transplant 3 Oak trees to around the Shelter House in the park in the next couple months. Also thinking about transplanting a Spruce to that location.

Mayor Stearns asked the Council to think about the purchase an acre of land from Shores, west next to sewer plant. This purchase can be included in the west side sewer grant application and will allow us to accept fill to be piled there to be available for future sewer plant upgrades.

Cont'd on page 8



Mayor Stearns asked for further discussion and clarification about the gym lockers. City plans to keep those lockers for now.

Future development on the west side of the Iowa River; Discussion centered around annexation further west from the existing City Limits, providing water service to the west side residents, City park restoration, and street repairs. Generally council members were in favor of all those developments.

Mayors Comments: Audit exit review pending- not allowed to have a quorum at the meeting. Should have completed financial by next meeting. Nomination papers are due in to the County Auditor's office by 5:00 pm on September 21, 2023.

Mull moved to adjourn, seconded by Blackburn, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk



# Tech Tract

Although the benefits of technology are well-known, constant changes can make online safety a challenge. Seniors are often targets of financial abuse, so keeping your online information safe is essential.

## Tip #1 Use Strong Passwords

When choosing a password, it's critical not to use standard keyboard patterns like QWERTY or 12345. Try mixing it up by combining numbers, symbols, and lowercase and uppercase letters. Keep track of your passwords somewhere safe (preferably not saved on your computer), and try not to reuse old passwords for new accounts. The simpler the password, the easier it is to hack.

### 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!



#### Toni Nederhoff Agency

American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries  
American Family Insurance Company  
Iowa Office - Marshall, WI 53763  
aifam.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

