

FRIENDLY VALLEY TIMES

Steamboat Rock, Iowa 50672

www.steamboatrockiowa.com



“They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest.”

~Psalms 107:37

in this issue >>>

*Update on Road Repairs
Elementary school at Steamboat Rock
Be Kind
NEW Business OPEN in town
Damn Removal Project*

Happiest of Birthdays to You! and Much More !!!



Why He Carried The Turkey

----- JAMES BALDWIN

In Richmond, Virginia, one Saturday morning, an old man went into the market to buy something. He was dressed plainly, his coat was worn, and his hat was dingy. On his arm he carried a small basket.

“I wish to get a fowl for to-morrow’s dinner,” he said. The market man showed him a fat turkey, plum and white and ready for roasting. “Ah! That is just what I want,” said the old man. “My wife will be delighted with it.”

He asked the price and paid for it. The market man wrapped a paper round it and put it in the basket.

Just then a young man stepped up. “I will take one of those turkeys,” he said. He was dressed in fine style and carried a small cane.

“Shall I wrap it up for you?” asked the market man. “Yes, here is your money,” answered the young gentleman; “and send it to my house at once.”

“I cannot do that,” said the market man. “My errand boy is sick today, and there is no one else to send. Besides, it is not our customer to deliver goods.”

“Then how am I to get it home?” asked the young gentleman. “I suppose you will have to carry it yourself,” said the market man. “It is not heavy.”

“Carry it myself! Who do you think I am? Fancy me carrying a turkey along the street!” said the young gentleman; and he began to grow very angry.

The old man who had bought the first turkey was standing quite near. He had heard all what was said.

“Excuse me, sir,” he said; “but may I ask where you live?”

“I live at Number 39, Blank Street,” answered the young gentleman; “and name is Johnson.”

“Well, that is lucky,” said the old man, smiling. “I happen to be going that way, and I will carry your turkey, if you will allow me.”

“oh, certainly!” said Mr. Johnson. “Here it is. You may follow me.”

When they reached Mr. Johnson’s house, the old man politely handed him the turkey and turned to go.

“Here, my friend, what shall I pay you?” said the young gentleman.

“Oh, nothing, sire, nothing,” answered the old man. “It was no trouble to me, and you are welcome.”

He bowed and went on. Young Mr. Johnson looked after him and wondered. Then he turned and walked briskly back to the market.

“Who is that polite old gentleman who carried my turkey for me?” he asked the market man. “That is John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States. He is one of the greatest men in our country,” was the answer.

The young gentleman was surprised and ashamed. “Why did he offer to carry my turkey?” he asked.

“He wished to teach you a lesson,” answered the market man. “What sort of lesson?” “He wished to teach you that no man should feel himself too fine to carry his own packages.”

“Oh no!” said another man who had seen and heard it all. “Judge Marshall carried the turkey simply because he wished to be kind and obliging. That is his way.”

Steamboat Rock Community Resources

City of Steamboat Rock
PO Box 366
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2240
srcityhall@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock
Public Library
511 W. Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2300
srocklib@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock
Fire & Rescue
PO Box 174
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2314
srchief@heartofiowa.net

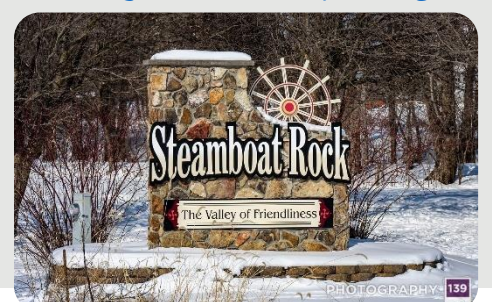
Steamboat Rock
Historic Society
409 W. Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-6085
jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock
Visionary Group
PO Box 344
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2182
bhutchcroft@hotmail.com

Steamboat Rock Cemetery
19325 Z Ave.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-751-5096
50672cemetery@gmail.com

Steamboat Rock
Presbyterian Church
401 Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2292
srpresby@gmail.com

Steamboat Rock
Baptist Church
107 2nd St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2458
church@steamboatbaptist.org



Steamboat Rock Historical Society

President: *Jim Kramer*, jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net Vice President: *Dennis Holmes*

Secretary: Treasurer: *Kitty Hemmen* at Large: *Keith Griffen*

Our Mission: "to preserve and promote the history of Steamboat Rock and the surrounding area"

Museum Open by Appointment

If you are in town and would like to visit our museum, please contact me at the email address above or call me at 641-858-6085 and I would be happy to give you a tour. We have many neat artifacts that will remind you of your time in our town.

Jim Kramer, President
Steamboat Rock Historical Society

The Night Riders of Hardin County

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 or 641-858-6085 and I will be happy to meet you at the museum to pick up your book.

My Elementary Grade Teachers 1957/58 through 1964/65

This past week, I had a conversation with someone regarding our time in elementary school at Steamboat Rock. That conversation made me think of those years and the teachers that I had during that time. Let me share a few thoughts about those times and the teachers.

I will start off with my kindergarten year since that is where most of us would have started. My teacher was **Mrs. Hoffmeier**. And let me say right off that I heard she was a fantastic teacher. Later on, I heard many good things about her as a teacher. But you see, I had a huge problem that first year of school and it was not her fault. I did not want to be there and went to great lengths to do what I could to avoid school. You see, I really liked staying home with my mom. This going to school thing was not for me. And I did not like having to take a nap. We had a paper apple above our cot but if we didn't sleep, our apple would have a worm in it. I had a worm in my apple every day. I did survive that first year.

Everything changed for me the next year as I went on to 1st grade. My teacher was **Mrs. Prosser**, and she was awesome. As I think back to that year, I really don't know why I no longer needed to be at home with mom. I think it might have been that Mrs. Prosser was much younger than the other teachers and she was really pretty. She was able to help me actually like coming to school. Thank you, Mrs. Prosser.

By second grade it had become apparent that I was in this for the long haul. My 2nd grade teacher was **Mrs. Sietsema**. I liked her a lot. I think 2nd grade was a good year for me. My parents knew Mrs. Sietsema but I'm not sure what the connection was.

My 3rd grade teacher was **Mrs. Riemenschneider**. I really don't remember a lot about 3rd grade and that is probably a good thing. I think my teacher lived in Eldora and I remember my parents going to her home once and taking me along. Hmmm! I can't remember what that was about but I'm sure that my teacher wanted to tell my parents what a good student I was for her.

My 4th grade teacher was **Mrs. Weber**. I just remember that she was a very kind lady. Years later, while visiting the nursing home in Eldora, I had a short visit with her. And she even remembered me!!!! And she was still that very kind lady who had good things to say about me.

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Steamboat Rock Fire & Rescue

National Fire Prevention Month

Beggar's night is Monday, Oct. 31st from 5 -7 p.m.. Remember if you WANT them at your door, please turn your porch light on. Keep a watchful eye out if you are driving.

Please keep in mind, at this point Hardin County is still under a burn ban. A decision will be made at the end of next week, Oct. 27th. October is also the time that leaves begin to fall. If you choose to burn, please be considerate of your neighbors. Also watch the wind direction and NEVER leave any embers. Make sure your pile is completely out before leaving it for the night. This would also be a good time to clean out your gutters. If you are no longer able to check them, make a call to someone that can assist you.

We would like to thank the community for the continuous support with pop cans. We are asking that you keep your cans in the bags and place it in the drop off area.

As always be fire safe,

Chief Williams



Kelley Farmacy

Steamboat Rock, IA

Hello@kelleyfarmacy.com

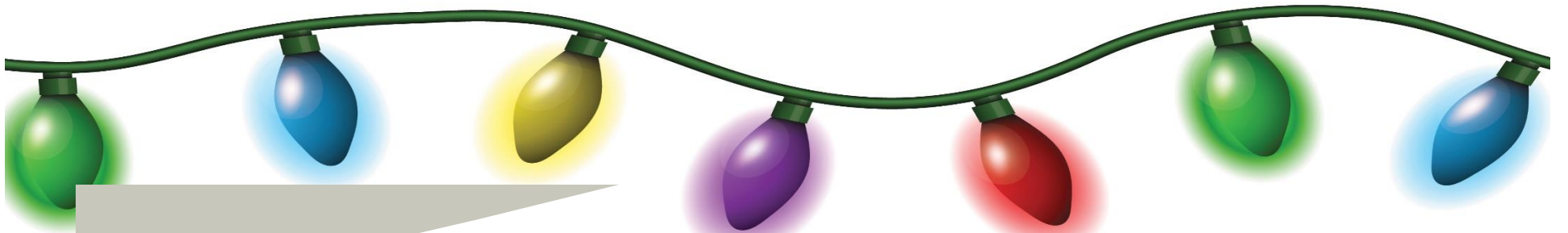
KelleyFarmacy.com

"Welcome to our small family homestead and Market! Nestled in the heart of Steamboat Rock, our charming oasis offers a delightful escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Here at Kelley Farmacy, we are passionate about cultivating the land, nurturing nature's bounty, and sharing the fruits of our labor with our community"

Kelley Farmacy will be an in person market starting in 2024 but currently there will be an online market with scheduled pick ups or shipping is available.

We have fresh eggs available for \$4/dozen.





Steamboat Rock Visionary Group

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony! The Visionary Group along with the Historical Society, the Library the Fire Department, and the City have planned for the 5th annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. We are excited to welcome the Christmas season and want to invite the community to come out and join us. The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, November 22, beginning at 5:30. The full schedule is below. We hope to see a great crowd that night!

- 5:30pm** Historical Society Museum opens
Homestead Nursery opens wreath shop (one block north of the Historical Museum)
Love-A-Latte opens free hot cider and hot chocolate(street south of the tree)
Free hot dogs, water and Christmas cookies opens
Bean bag toss east of the library

Adults may pick up tickets near hot dog area for chance to win prizes:
two books(Night Raiders of Hardin County), two Christmas wreaths, two \$50 bills

Children may pick up tickets near hot dog area for chance to win a book
and to be chosen to be the "Christmas elf". (to be the one to switch on the tree lights)
- 6:00pm** Story time at the library
Library coloring contest(get materials at the library) winners announced.
Adult and children prize winners announced.
- 6:45pm** **TREE LIGHTING!** (2600 bulbs!)
- 6:47pm** **Santa!** (gives out goody bags east of the tree)



Thanks for coming!



Monday, November 13th City Council Meeting 6:30pm @ City Hall
Sunday, November 5th Daylight Savings Time ENDS – Set Clocks BACK an Hour!!
Saturday November 11th Veterans Day
Wednesday, November 22nd Tree Lighting
And LIVE Music @Happenings 9pm-1am
Thursday, November 23^d Thanksgiving Day

Recycling October 23^d and November 6th & 20th

Every Wednesday @6:30pm- SRBC Awanas Club

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

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!*

- November 4th Jennifer Stahl
- November 9th Adam Nederhoff
- November 12th Amber Smith
- November 15th Matt Kane & Ryan Rolph
- November 24th Ryan Stupp
- November 27th Erin Ross



from the Mayor

West Side Sewer Installation Project

This project has been on my plate for a while now. The City Council has looked at this project a few times over the past 30 years because Hardin County Conservation has asked them to multiple times.

With the changes in the economic reasons over the years in favor of tourism here in Iowa and the increasing leverage the DNR/EPA have over clean water, now is a particularly good time for this to come to fruition.

Here is the information as we understand it today:

\$663,049.53 New preliminary cost estimate including BABA (Build America Buy America)
-\$30,000 for the PER (preliminary engineering report)

This \$30m will be covered 100% by either a USDA PPL or Search grant to be applied for in Nov 2023

=====
\$633,049.53 Remaining
+ \$6,000 Archaeological Study (estimated cost \$3-5m)
-\$6,000 Apply for Hardin County Endowment Fund Grant

=====
\$633,049.53
\$633,049.53 x 64% USDA Grant = \$405,151.70 USDA Grant application in process
-\$405,151.70

=====
\$227,897.83 USDA loan that partners with the Grant. Loan can be paid back early without penalty.
-\$50,000 the City has planned to use on this project right out of FY24 Annual budget
-\$75,000 Surcharge to be received from Hardin County Conservation

=====
\$102,897.83 loan balance to pay back over 10-20 years if desired.

On June 30, 2023, 23FYE the Sewer fund had a balance of \$213,781.73. Today that includes; CD for \$8,205.77, a CD for \$5,563.88, CD#1 for \$50,000 12 month at 5.5%, CD#2 for \$50,000 12 month at 5.5%, a small savings account in the amount of \$671.48, with the remainder in the general fund.

In the FY24 budget (current operating year) for the sewer fund, \$50,000 was entered as an expense right out of cash-flow for this project, while maintaining a positive bottom line budget number. Historically the sewer fund budget runs \$45-50,000 positive in an effort to build up the sewer fund to allow the City to do major repairs or projects of this type.

The City is in an excellent position to do this project at this time for the following, but not limited to reasons: Sewer fund is in good position. Sewer cash flow (budget) is strong and continuous. Hardin County Conservation has offered to pay a \$75,000 surcharge to help this project along that may never be available again and their project includes some development the City would receive Hotel/Motel tax \$ from. There is an air BNB project in process that is contingent on this sewer line installation from which the City would receive Hotel/Motel tax \$. Some residents with-in the City limits on the west side of Iowa River need access to municipal sewer. This installation would be the first step to allow further development of the City Southwest along River Road.

These grant applications get strung out because of all the regs tied to the use of Federal \$, but communities all over have chosen to overcome the obstacles and keep moving forward. Estimate today of when the bid letting process begins for this project should be about August-October of 2024. Sooner if possible. The processing of this application has been handed off to Region 6 in Marshalltown who has many years of experience with these exact type of grant applications. There will be multiple times along the way that the City Council will need to make forward moving decisions- so please continue to encourage the upcoming "new" City Council to stand firm with progress.

Be careful out there!

Thanks, Tim Stearns, Mayor



from the Mayor Part 2

Steamboat Rock Dam Removal Project

Many of you only know me as Mayor for the last nearly 4 years. A few of you know that I worked as an Ag Lender for most of my working career. You may not know me as a genuine River Rat. Have always loved rivers and spent the last 55 years paddling on them, studying them, playing in them, and helping others enjoy them. In the 1980's was asked to be the Red Cross Canoeing Instructor Trainer for the State of Iowa. In addition to that I have studied why rivers rise and fall today compared to how they did 50 years ago (has nothing to do with climate change). Studied the flow downstream, upstream, and around things enough that when I approach an obstacle in the water, I already know without thinking where the water is going and how my craft will respond to it. Have Civil engineer friends that enlist me to take them on a river to help them determine what needs to be done to correct a water flow situation. Have paddled on top of the crest of a river flood as it moved down river, have studied extensively what causes dangerous situations in a river and retrieved the results of other folks disasters out of rivers. My point is that even though there have only been a handful of fatalities from the SR dam, I will tell you it is very dangerous. Add in the fact that common sense seems to be vanishing from our culture, and you have a recipe for disaster.

Next factor is the condition of the dam. A couple years ago the east end of the dam was temporarily repaired to keep it from washing out. For the same reason that water flows differently today than 50 years ago, the SR dam is still only a few heavy rainfall events away from being breached on the east end. If that were to happen, that would create the possibility of destroying good fishing below the dam for a few years due to burying the downstream mussels with silt.

Over the course of the last 5 years there have only been a handful of local people that attended the Iowa DNR meetings to try to understand what was being proposed as part of the dam removal project. At one of the meetings a survey was taken from those in attendance, the results of which are in the Steamboat Rock Dam website. A very positive aspect of the dam removal is the effect on the Hardin County Conservation Pine Ridge Campground. To summarize, instead of flooding every other year on the average, it is 2 out of 5 years. The Pine Ridge campground is some of your tax dollars at work, removing the dam will protect the campground from flooding to a greater degree.

This is a huge opportunity to improve the fishing and other recreation upstream from where the dam is now. The Iowa DNR could have just used \$800,000 to remove the dam and nothing more. Instead, they choose to utilize about \$1,500,000 to optimize the habitat for fisheries upstream from where the dam is now. Over the course of the 5 years, I have had the opportunity to get to know a couple of the Iowa DNR Fish and Wildlife folks who have participated in this project. From conversations with them, working for the Iowa DNR is just their day job, their hearts are really in fishing and making it better for everyone. These people live for fishing. They have the opportunity to study fish behavior and habitat, plan new habitat, test their plans, and do that over and over again to produce the best fishing for everyone. The people I met are seasoned at this, not novices to the trade.

The dam removal project is in the final public comment period until November 8th. 2023. If you would like to leave a positive comment you may enter it in the "contact" on the upper right of the steamboatrockdam.com website or submit directly to;

Louise Mauldin, US Fish and Wildlife Service (yes, the entity providing \$1,000,000 towards this project) ; 555 Lester Ave; Onalaska, Wi. 54650

Thanks, Tim Stearns

Steamboat Rock Public Library



----- MELISSA JOHANSON WWW.YOUSEEMORE.COM/NILE/STEAMBOATROCK

The Tree Lightening will be on November 22nd. We will have Story time at the library starting at 6:00 PM. At 6:30 we will announce the winners of the coloring contest and they will receive their prizes. Coloring pages are available to be picked up at the library and need to be turned in by November 17th.

Halloween will be celebrated in the city of Steamboat Rock on Tuesday, October 31st. 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.

We have signed up for Hoopla through the website but there will be 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 some of you with family cards 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.

or on Facebook @SteamboatRockLibrary



Please join us at the Steamboat Rock Public Library on October 31st starting at 5:00 PM for grilled hotdogs, chips, and either hot cider or cocoa. We are planning on 100 hungry goblins to come to the front patio to enjoy this treat before they take off to visit the rest of the town.



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

The Last Exchange by Charles Martin
The Book Club Hotel by Sarah Morgan
Go As a River by Shelley Read
Second Act by Danielle Steel
Just Stay Away by Tony Wirt
Exchange after the Firm by John Grisham
Twas the bite before Christmas by David Rosenfelt
12 Dogs of Christmas by Susan Wiggs

Mystery

An Equal Justice by Chad Zunker
An Unequal Defense by Chad Zunker
Runaway Justice by Chad Zunker
Family Money by Chad Zunker
12 Months to Live by James Patterson and Mike Lupica
Judgment Prey by John Sanford

Historical Fiction

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict,
 Victoria Christopher Murray
The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

Non-Fiction

The Mosquito Bowl by Buzz Bissinger

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.



Fun Facts About Iowa's 99 Counties *cont'd from last month*



Calhoun – is in the Des Moines Lobe. This is one of the youngest and flattest regions in Iowa.

Carroll – a county with a small population, the most populous city is Carroll (named for the country) which has a population of 10,103. It's smallest city is Ralston which has just under 80 residents.

Cass – Notable people to come from this county include: Edwin Perkins, the inventor of Kool-Aid. Ed Podolak, a former running back for Kansas City Chiefs. Earl Caddock, a champion amateur & pro wrestler of the 1910s and early 1920s. Steve H. Hanke, A professor of applied economics at Johns Hopkins University, advisor to presidents, currency reformer, and commodity and currency trader.

Cedar – is the only Iowa county which shares the name of a tree.

Cerro Gordo – is where the music died. It was the site of the airplane crash north of the city of Clear Lake, in which rock and roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson, along with their pilot Roger A. Peterson, were killed on February 3, 1959.

Clarke – was named for James Clarke, a Governor of the Iowa Territory.

Clay – the first newspaper in Clay County was the Peterson Patriot which started publication in 1880. The paper featured an editorial column called 'Roger's Remarks,' a humor column, the local news and happenings, social events/gatherings of the community, local sports, classifieds, and articles on the women's suffrage movement.

Cherokee – was one of the 49 divided from Indian Treaty lands by the Third

Like the Chickasaw tribe, the Cherokee tribe was not actually associated with the region.

Chickasaw – is named for the Chickasaw tribe. Interestingly enough, the Chickasaw tribe mainly lived in the Southern United States at the time the county was named, and not northeast Iowa where the county is located.

Clayton – at just under 800 sq. miles, this county boasts only 180 miles of paved roads, and 900 miles of soft surface county roads. Drive Safe!

Clinton – was formed on December 21, 1837. It was named for DeWitt Clinton who was a Governor of New York. Popular guy, the Iowa cities of DeWitt and Clinton were also named after him. Both of those cities are in Clinton County.

Crawford – was settled in May of 1849 by Cornelius Dunham. Must have been lonely... The next settler didn't arrive until June 1850.

Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church

----- PASTOR LYNN ARENDS

In his book 12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos (great book BTW. Highly recommend it) author Jordan Peterson says, "He whose life has a why can bear almost any how."

In a politically correct world, I guess we'd rephrase that to, "Those whose lives have a why can bear almost any how."

In other words, why do you live, think, and do what you do? What's the "why" in your life? What's your motivation? A very good question. Not just for readers of Peterson's book, but a very good question for all of us.

Why?

Why do we do what we do? Why do we act the way we act? Why do we say what we say? What motivates you? As David Pratte puts it, "A sound sleeper is more likely to get up in the middle of the night if the house is on fire than if he remembers he did not brush his teeth." I'd call that motivation!

So why? The answers here are as varied as there are people reading this. Each of us has our own reasons for the things we do, think, and say. So, is there any reason that's common to all of us? Well, there should be. Especially for those of us who claim Christ as our Lord.

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Steamboat Rock Historical Society

Many of you will remember my 5th grade teacher—**Mrs. Norris**. To this day, if her name comes up in a conversation, two things will be mentioned. (1)-getting thumped in the back of the head if you misbehaved. (2)-she had this habit of adjusting her bra strap quite often during each day. However, despite this, I think she was a great teacher.

And then came 6th grade, and according to the yearbook, it says my teacher was Mrs. Caster. But I am quite certain that my teacher in 6th grade was **Mrs. Meyer**. I remember going out to her farm for our year end party.

And last but not least, in 7th grade my teacher was **Mrs. Pierson**. I could write an entire article about Mrs. Pierson, but I will just say that she was nothing short of fantastic. Many a child that passed through the halls of Steamboat Rock school had the opportunity to be taught by this wonderful teacher.

As I think back to each of these teachers, I am fairly confident that I never took the time to say "Thank You" to any of them. But I know today that I am very thankful for the education that these ladies gave me and many others during their years of teaching. If anyone reading this happens to be a family member of one of these teachers, please know that I very much appreciate these teachers and their efforts to give me an education.

Jim Kramer, Graduating Class of 1970

AUTO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILLS (NO Fees!)

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

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

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

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



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**

<small>American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries American Family Insurance Company Home Office - Madison, WI 53782 afam.com</small>	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
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Steamboat Rock Trick or Treat NIGHT



October 31st



Cont'd from page 5

Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church

First, we should want to imitate our Lord. In The Message translation of the Bible, Ephesians 5:1-2 says, " Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents.... Observe how Christ loved us.... Love like that." We've heard it before. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. In our case, it's not only flattery, it's love.

Second, Christians should be motivated by what awaits us at the end of our journey. Paul writes to his protégé in 2 Timothy 4:8 of The Living Bible, " In heaven a crown is waiting for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return. And not just to me but to all those whose lives show that they are eagerly looking forward to his coming back again." Like the finish line at the end of a race, we should be compelled to complete our own race here on earth, knowing God in heaven is at the end.

So, friends, I ask you, seeking an honest answer in return. What's your why? Why do you do what you do? What motivates you? May God bless you this month and always.



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 October 9, 2023, 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Jon Schurman, and Cory Schurman. Also, present Linda Whitt-Jensen, Melissa Johanson, James Green, JJ Veld, Mike Vandy, Jersey Flanagan, and Scott Williams.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. C. Schurman moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull to approve the September 11, 2013 minutes. Motion carried unanimously. Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman the motion to approve City bills as presented with the addition of two other pending bills to DENCO and staff salaries. Motion carried unanimously. Mull moved, seconded by Cory to approve employee hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: Mull discussed repairs needed to raise a flag at the north entrance to the old school house. Mull will research and report in new business in November. Representatives from All Star Wrestling proposed a "family-friendly" event maybe 3 times per year in SBR gym. Mull to meet with representatives to consider any building maintenance and insurance requirements to hold the event(s) with information in November.

Library: Melissa Johanson, librarian, provided minutes of the last Library board meeting and agenda for the 10/11/23 meeting. Library planning a Halloween party and hand out hot dogs to the first 100 people. Blackburn offered additional hot dog provisions provided by Dollar General for this event. Council supported \$1600 fee for short year to Whoopla for subscription to digital books/audio books/magazines/music. Full year is \$2,000. Paid out of Library's book/movie purchase budget. Supports state book requirements.

Fire Department: Scott Williams, Fire Chief, reported we are presently in a burn ban. Fire hoses were all tested and passed. Windows on the south end of firehouse need repaired before winter. Two firefighters have left the department recently and presently the count is 12. Discussion about how to get the semi van trailer out of the overnight truck parking (fire department practice) area that has been there for two years. Owner has been asked multiple times to remove the trailer. Mayor Stearns will contact City attorney for advice. Request by resident for the fire department to be in attendance during a burn of a building already pushed into a hole. Fire department considers it to be uncomfortably close to another building on the property. Council agreed to have fire department attend fire at a fee if the fire appeared to be getting out of control.

Public Works Report: JJ Veld reported that ammonia levels have come down and are now at compliant levels. JJ Veld proposed developing a designated truck route to protect streets. Discussion about a 15 Ton embargo on all city streets with special permit and designated route for a loaded truck when necessary. JJ presented an annual pump maintenance contract in the amount of \$2100/inspection for discussion. Inspection is multipoint and includes pump flow rate and a multitude of other things that are required annually by the DNR. Follow up research pending. C. Schurman moved to use the contract if it is less cost for one inspection/year than what would be billed for a single inspection call. Seconded by Blackburn, motion carried unanimously. Linda asked if we could get our renters across the hall to reduce the noise level which is distracting to City business.

Distressed Properties – 208 3rd St: IRS guy that City Attorney Niederhoff needs to have sign off is back in his normal office and will call him again. 308 6th St & 601 W Sycamore St; Niederhoff will file suit against property.

Nuisance reports: none

Account balances were presented: Mayor Stearns noted that out of the \$149,536.37 balance in the General checking account: \$42,112.84 belonged to Water Fund, \$121,532.83 belong to Sewer fund, \$12,688.30 belong to Sanitation(garbage) fund. Leaves City operating balance at (\$26,797.60). A budget amendment will be required to transfer some other account balances to shore up the general operating account.

Mayor reviewed fund balances with water \$68,274.75, sewer \$235,973.96, and garbage \$20,313.19.

Old Business: Road repairs completed. Nuisance Ordinance update-no report. Municipal Infractions Ordinance-no report, Animal Control Code Amended Ordinance- Attorney Niederhoff stated the court case he had been waiting for to read the outcome is complete and he will be finishing up these ordinance updates. EMC Insurance policy requirements: long term lessee insurance requirements have been met, waiver system pending for other gym users. ICAP insurance is working on a quote for the City which should be complete in February 2024. State Auditor report pending. Motion to adopt Resolution #2023-11 for the Hardin County 5-year disaster Mitigation plan tabled pending discussion with Tom Creighton, Hardin County Disaster Coordinator. East Market St storm water mitigation project is complete except for the final grading after a rain. Mull reported \$7000.00/acre to purchase an acre of land from Shores is available to extend the sewer plant operations to the west. Mayor reviewed the highly restricted ARPA funds with remaining undesignated of \$12,741. Sewer plant land acquisition qualifies for ARPA \$. New Iowa Select food pantry will be filled by Iowa Select staff Payton Williams.

Mayor Stearns presented the money flow for the west side sewer project as we understand it today. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull the motion to approve hiring CGA Consultant Engineering firm for the west side sewer project. Motion carried unanimously.

New business: Discussion about an open Deer hunting season within the City limits determined to pose an unnecessary hazard. Favorable discussion about Saturday open gym for local children with the requirement of a responsible adult present. Discussion about installation of a grate over the north end of the new culvert under Main St, tabled until further safety research and costs are obtained.

C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull, motion to go to Closed Session to discuss Personnel. Motion carried unanimously. Pieters moved, seconded by Mull to re-open Open Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Comments: Water Code update pending before we begin to shut water off to properties with past due City bills.

Mull moved to adjourn, seconded by J. Schurman, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk