

end of January... **February 2024**



Friendly Valley Times

Steamboat Rock, Iowa

www.steamboatrockiowa.com



“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”
~Ezekiel 36:26

in this issue >>>

Entryway to the Bike Trail
Who? When? Why?
Mystery Date
Happiest of Birthdays to YOU!

and Much More !!!

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”

- ARISTOTLE

Monday, February 12th City Council Meeting 6:30pm @city hall

Saturday, February 3rd Karaoke @Happenings

February 14th HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!

Saturday, February 17th LIVE Music – OPEN Jam Night @Happenings

Recycling January 29th & February 12th & 26th

Every Wednesday @6:30pm- SRBC Awanas Club

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

Every Wednesday @6:30pm SRBC Awanas Club



STEAMBOAT ROCK COMMUNITY RESOURCES

City of Steamboat Rock

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

srcityhall@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Visionary Group

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

bhutchcroft@hotmail.com

Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church

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

srpresby@gmail.com

Steamboat Rock Fire & Rescue

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

srchief@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Historic Society

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

jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Baptist Church

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

church@steamboatbaptist.org

Steamboat Rock Public Library

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

srocklib@heartofiowa.net

Steamboat Rock Cemetery

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

50672cemetery@gmail.com

Chain of Kindness

Once a man was driving down the road when he noticed an elderly lady stranded on one of the most deserted sections of the road. Even though the light was dim in the evening, the man saw that she needed some help. So, he parked his car in front of hers and approached her.

The older woman became concerned because no one had stopped to help her in the past few hours, and now this guy was approaching her with a grin. She became worried that the man would hurt her because he appeared poor and hungry. The man could see she was scared and understood how she felt. 'I'm here to help you, ma'am. My name is Bryan Anderson', he continued, addressing her.

Despite her fear, the older woman told him that her car's tire was flat. "Ma'am, It's cold outdoors; why don't you wait inside my warm car while I change the tires," the man replied.

Having said this, the man took his toolbox and began changing the flat tire of the Lady's car. The man quickly replaced the tire. The older woman rolled down her car window and started talking to him as he finished.

She introduced herself, said she was from a far distant place and was passing through, and expressed her gratitude to him for helping her. After setting aside tools and a flat fire for her automobile, the man simply grinned as he shut the trunk. "How much should I pay you?" asked the elderly Lady." The man had no qualms about being paid because this was not his job. Instead, he was assisting her in her time of need.

He told her that if she genuinely wanted to repay him, she should help someone in need the next time she saw one. "And at that time, think of it as payment for this deed of mine." the man added.

On the way back to her destination, the old Lady noticed a small cafe a few miles down the road. She pulled over and

went in to relax and grab a bite before the final leg of her journey.

After she was seated, a waitress approached her and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. The Lady noticed that the waitress was in the later stage of her pregnancy but still smiling and working hard.

The elderly Lady wondered how someone with so little could be so kind and generous to a stranger until she remembered how Bryan, a stranger, had just helped her. After finishing her meal, the Lady paid a hundred-dollar bill much higher than her bill amount. The waitress went inside to get change, but when she returned, the old Lady had left. While the waitress was wondering where the Lady was, she noticed something on the napkin.

Her eyes filled with tears when she read a note that was written by the old Lady: "Thank you for your amazing services. You don't owe me anything. Someone once helped me without expecting anything in return. If you truly want to repay me, pass on your kindness, and Do not let this chain of love end with you." There were four-hundred-dollar bills left under the napkin for the waitress. Later that evening, when the waitress returned to her house, she was pondering about the generosity and the note from the Lady.

She wondered how the woman knew that she and her husband was in desperate need of financial help. It would have been tough for them financially with the baby coming very soon had she not helped her.

As she slept next to her husband, she could tell that her husband was concerned and worried about the future. So, she whispered into her husband's ears,

"Everything will be fine. Today, we were blessed by kindness from a stranger. I love you. Bryan Anderson."

Steamboat Rock Visionary Group

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

Projects: With the new year beginning, the committee is going to focus its efforts toward completing a project or two this coming year. We are currently working with River Valley Landscaping on developing an eye-catching entryway to the bike trail. It's already amazing how many people use the trail even with its relatively short distance. We want people to remember that the trail starts(or ends depending on which way you are traveling) in our beautiful community.

Another project we would like to pursue is adding a water fountain at the park. This is one of the most-requested improvements from people who use the park. We are beginning to look into the feasibility of this.

Still another idea we have liked is for adding an area to the park for smaller kids to play basketball. The baskets there now are too high for the shorter children to reach. A small court with shorter baskets might solve this problem. If anyone would like to add ideas to this list or add their support to one or more of these projects please talk to a member.

Trees! Many thanks to Allen Whiley for the use of a bucket truck in getting our beautiful tree lighted for the holiday season. Also big thanks to Marvin Kramer for donating a Black Hills Spruce and for moving that tree and three others to the shelter house area at Washington Square Park. We are hopeful these trees will take root and provide cooling summer shade for years to come.

Steamboat Rock Historical Society

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

At Large: Keith Griffen **Email:** jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net

OUR Mission: “*To preserve and promote the history of Steamboat Rock and the surrounding area*”

Museum Open By Appointment Only

Our museum is closed until Spring. However, if you are in town and would like to tour our museum, please contact me at 641-858-6085 and I would be happy to make arrangements to meet you there.

Would You Be Willing to Join our Team?

Are you interested in history? Are you interested in preserving the history of Steamboat Rock? We very much need more people to come along side us to get the job done. If is something that you might be interested in or would like to know more about it, please contact me at 641-858-6085 or send me an email at jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net

Christmas in Steamboat Rock

Once again, we had the opportunity to join with The Visionary Group to host the annual “Lighting of the Tree” on the open lot west of the museum. It was another fun evening with hot dogs, hot drinks, and a visit from Santa Claus. And the tree is beautiful.

And, thanks to Arelene Finger and Kitty Hemmen, we had a beautiful display in the window at the museum. With a number of people putting up lights in and around our town, it was a reminder of the awesome place it is to live in Steamboat Rock.

The Night Riders of Hardin County

We have found it necessary to order more of these books written by Lance Hansmann. Everyone that I have talked to about this book, has given it rave reviews. Please let me know if you would like to purchase one of these books.

Do You Remember

Recently, I was reminded of the way things used to be in Steamboat Rock. Do you remember some of these things? (Keep in mind that I was born in 1952 so most of these things go back to the late 1950’s and 1960’s.) I would really like to hear back from you with some of your memories of your time in Steamboat Rock.

Jim Kramer

President—Steamboat Rock Historical Society

Cont’d on page 7

Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church

On Thursday, January 4th, I along with the rest of Iowa, and indeed the rest of the nation, listened in horror as we heard of yet another mass shooting. Again, this time, at a high school. But unlike the other shootings that have become all too familiar, this one was in Perry, Iowa. This one was close to home.

And as the story unfolded, and now again with the news of the brave principals’ passing, I ran through the gamut of emotions that come with these shocking stories.

That evening, I took some extra prayer time. A lot of extra prayer time actually and asked God for some answers.

Especially, “Why?” Why do things like this happen?

Why do You allow this evil to continue?

Why do young children have to die so violently?

Why?

And the more I prayed, the more I asked. And the more I asked, the angrier I became. I was mad! Mad at God! And I wanted answers- now!

And I’m far from the only one who’s ever looked for answers to the end of evil. Psalm 94:3 in God’s Word Translation asks,

Cont’d on page 5



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

“How long, O LORD, will wicked people triumph? How long?” I’m pretty sure this question has been around as long as evil has been around.

And in that time that I spent with God, I never did get any answers. But what I did realize was that my anger wasn’t so much that I didn’t get answers. But instead, that I didn’t get any answers- now. What I realized was that God does have the answers, but for whatever reason, we don’t get to know them. And that’s what I needed to accept- that I may never get an answer. Nor may I ever understand all of this. Not on this side of heaven, anyway.

As the prophet Isaiah says in 55:8-9, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

And while you may think that would make me angrier, I instead found in that realization a very real peace.

I know that many of you have questions.

Who? When? Why?

Is it possible for us to understand, to accept that we may not get an answer to our questions? But to accept that God knows every answer and if we accept His gift of salvation, that through His loving grace and mercy, we will someday, have all the answers as well.

May God bless you this month and always.

Steamboat Rock Fire Department



Since our last FVT – SRFD held its annual dance. Once again, we were offered the use of space, a live band they scheduled and the opportunity to collect a cover charge at the door. Thank-you Happenings!!!

We had numerous businesses and individuals that helped out with silent auction items, general raffle items, and big-ticket items. Steamboat Rock FD purchased a 350 Legend w/scope from Iowa Falls Marine and a 75” LED TV as raffled items. All together we had 11 silent auction items, 23 general raffles. General raffles ranged from nights at our local rentable cabins and Air BnB’s, donated Iowa Hawkeye clothing, meat bundles from Nimrod meats and Heikens, two single topping pizzas, gift cards for groceries, Koozies made from animal fur, free 18 holes of golf and cart for two, 24” Blackstone griddle, two gift cards at area eating establishments and smoked pulled pork, pork’n beans, coleslaw to eat if the desire hit you.

All in all, it was a good night, good turnout, and great time.

Many THANKS goes out to all those that donated something and helped in any way.

We have had a good accumulation of snow over the past few days/weeks. Furnaces have been running now for at least two to three months. One thing to check is the furnace outlet. Make sure that the snow is cleared from this opening and it gets it proper ventilation. It will help with the efficiency of your furnace and stop one possibility of the fumes coming back into the house.

Another item to check would be your dryer vent. With the temperatures outside dipping below freezing and the warm moist air coming from your dryer vent, it doesn’t take long for that to freeze. The amount of snow that we have received, it is also good practice to remove the snow from this vent too. With lint not being able to blow out properly due to the buildup of snow or freezing the outlet shut, could cause a blockage in the vent tube. The blockage can back up rather quickly and then become a fire hazard when you use your dryer the next time.

With all this dry weather, you may have noticed that you are being shocked after walking through the house, getting out from under a blanket, or just doing everyday activities in your home. This means there is not enough moisture in your home. Not only is your skin dry, everything in your home is also dry. Be very careful during this dry part of the season if you burn candles, plugging/unplugging items, and/or burning wood in a fireplace or wood pallet furnace.

Stay Safe,
Chief Williams

Steamboat Rock Public Library

There are some great programs scheduled for our much younger patrons. We have one titled "Reading to Harper" where kids and/or parents schedule a time every other Tuesday afternoon to sit and read to a dog. This starts on January 23rd. Some of the benefits are improving reading abilities, makes kids more comfortable, improves sentiment towards reading and helps build self-confidence. Those of you that have not met Harper she is a big, goofy yellow lab that manages the Ogden household and keeps a great eye on the kids in that household and in the neighborhood.

Our next event for kids is painting starting January 30th @ 3:45 PM. Johnnie Ogden will be here overseeing the kids doing painting projects.

With both these events we would appreciate it if you would call 641-868-2300 or email srocklib@heartofiowa.net to let us know.

Mystery Date is starting for adults so stop in to pick up your book and review slip. There will be a drawing on February 14th for a prize.

Game night is starting on Wednesday, January 31st @ 6:30. Along with cribbage there will be card or board games.

Chair yoga will be Tuesday & Thursday @ 9:30 AM starting January 30th. Everyone welcome. Coffee afterwards of course.

Summer reading is being planned and we have all the programs in place. This year we have Science Heroes, Grout Museum, Mississippi River Museum, Science Center of Iowa Calkins Nature Center, and the final program is Foam Cannon along with the pizza party. We start on June 11th at 1:00 PM for signup.

www.youseemore.com/nile/steamboatrock
or on Facebook @SteamboatRockLibrary



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

We Must Not Think of Ourselves
by Lauren Grodstein

Fragile Designs
by Colleen Coble

The Last Love Note
by Emma Grey

Nowhere Alone
by Andrew Cunningham

Wisdom Spring
by Andrew Cunningham

Mystery

Lost Hours by Paige Shelton

The Watchmaker's Hand
by Jeffrey Deaver
One Last Kill by Robert Dugoni
California Bear

by Duane Swierczynski
Complicit by Amy Rivers
The Heiress by Rachel Hawkins
Holmes, Marple & Poe
by James Patterson

Northwoods by Amy Pease
Ripple Effect by Amy Rivers
Stumble and Fall by Amy Rivers

Historical Fiction

The Little Liar by Mitch Albom
Artifice by Sharon Cameron

As you can tell I have really cut back on book purchases since we got Hoopla. Please stop in to get your card updated and receive the information on how to use this app.



A R A R N T T # N G F E H N E B E G T R E R E N F B T S L T

2024 ART FESTIVAL & GARDEN PARTY

Saturday, June 1

108 River RD S, STEAMBOAT ROCK
2-7 PM

2-7 pm - ART FESTIVAL featuring local and regional artists.
Garden Stroll. FREE.

2:30 - 4:30 pm -- CHILDREN'S ART TENT AND ACTIVITIES

4-7 pm - GARDEN PARTY - \$20. Live music, charcuterie, and beverages. Advance ticket purchase guarantees charcuterie. Tickets available at area coffee shops and Steamboat Rock Library.

Do You Remember

- The annual fireworks down at the ball park. Since lived just north of ball park, this was a big thing for me. I remember many people coming to town for this event. If I remember correctly, the High School band also performed. I so enjoyed going down the next morning to seek and find so many things that were left behind.
- The water fountain on the corner across from the bank. It would sure be nice to have a water fountain in town again.
- Going to the drugstore with my dad for a cold pop.
- Helping my dad unload the milk cans on the east side of the cheese factory.
- Going to the General Store with my mom. I think it was located on the empty lot where we now have the tree lighting.
- Going down to the bank on Saturday morning to get rolls of pennies to look for coins for my collection. I think it was Anna Doolaard working at the bank.
- Hollis and Meta Mae's big dog. It always scared me.
- The boat rides on the Iowa River on the pontoon boats.
- Going to school early on the first day of school each year so that I could pick out a desk that I wanted. Cathy Heard was always there first because of her dad.
- Getting my hair cut by Claude Heard and then later on by George Hemmen.
- Fishing down at the river with brother Jerry and cousins Randy, Mark, & Marvin.
- Going to Sunday School at the Baptist Church.
- Parades.
- Stupp's DX to get something sweet.
- The boiler room at the school. Rhoades, Butters, Waterhouse, Roelfsema, Heard, and others. What were they doing there? Oh, yea, I remember.
- Playing marbles on the school yard during recess.
- Jeff Crosser falling off the monkey bars and getting hurt.
- Keith Wilts putting his tongue on those same monkey bars in the winter time.
- On yea, and then there was Al Bell.
- The school needed room, so the annex was used down the street for typing class.
- Playing softball on the school grounds. I remember 3 games always going on depending on which class you were in decided where you played on the grounds.
- Rex Heard coming in to clean up when a classmate upchucked.
- Miss Prosser—my 1st grade teacher, she was awesome.
- Mrs. Pierson and her poems for 8th grade graduation.
- On yea, my first play while in 7th grade. So glad when it was over.
- Playing outdoors with Jerry Trittlen, Larry Luiken, and others here in town.
- Going into Sonny's Café with my dad.
- Going to Petgeter's Elevator and getting a pop.
- The train rider to Ackley when I was in Kindergarten.

Just a few memories, but the page is full. I am so glad that I was able to grow up in Steamboat Rock, Iowa.

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!*

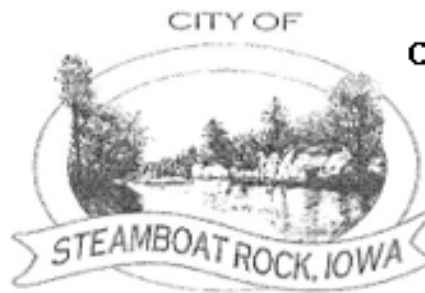
January 26th Tori (Heikens) Leigha
February 13th Kailey Tubbs
February 15th JC Powers
February 20th Jordan Steppe
February 23rd Larry Klatt
February 24th Jerry Hughes, Lora Kramer, & Paul Williams



MAYOR

Dave Mull

*A Valley Of
Friendliness*



CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kevin Pieters
Cory Schurman
Marc Havens
Travis Hollander
Marvin Veld

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session on January 15, 2024 (rescheduled 01/08/2024 meeting), 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Mull and the following council members: Kevin Pieters, Marc Havens, and Marvin Veld. Absent were Cory Schurman, and Travis Hollander. Also present Linda Whitt-Jensen, James Green, and JJ Veld.

Mayor Mull called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by Veld to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Pieters moved, seconded by Havens to approve the December 11, 2023 and the December 28, 2023 minutes. Motion carried unanimously. Pieters moved, seconded by Havens to approve City bills. Motion carried unanimously. Pieters moved, seconded by Veld to approve employee hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: None

Library: No report

Fire Department: Kevin Pieters, Asst. Chief, reported that the Fire Department will hold a dance.

Public Works report – JJ Veld reported the snow plow is now in operation.

Distressed Properties – Waiting for IRS to sign-off on 208 3rd St. Suit being filed pending lien search on 308 6th St and 601 W Sycamore St

Nuisance reports: none

Old Business: Account balances were presented and reviewed by Mayor Mull. A budget meeting was scheduled for January 29, 2024 to continue development of the FY25 budget. The flag pole renovation is pending and Havens will follow up. Pieters will follow up on the grate over new Main Street culvert. The development of a designated truck route is pending. Disbursal of grant funds pending. Mull will follow up on the Shores property acquisition.

New Business: Efforts will begin to collect outstanding utilities bills via current code with customer shut off to commence in February. Customers with delinquent bills are encouraged to contact City Hall to establish a repayment plan to avoid utility disconnection. Iowa law stipulates that property owners are liable for delinquent utility billing unless a tenant signed lien exemption form is on file. Property owners are encouraged to contact City Hall to request the form for tenant's signature. Council determined that the current treatment plant is sufficient with repairs as needed. The Steamboat Rock West Side Sewer Project continues moving forward with grant documentation completion underway.

Veld moved to adjourn, seconded by Havens. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

David Mull, Mayor

Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk



In & Around Steamboat Rock

Angie's Beauty Shoppe

Angie Luiken
108 East Market St
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2407: cell 531-485-4195
jluiken@heartofiowa.net
All Day Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. AM
Family Haircare and Retail

Antiques By Mona

Mona & Doug Bleeker
17552 V Ave
Steamboat Rock, Iowa 50672
(641) 640-0568
antiquesbymona@heartofiowa.net
www.antiquesbymona.com

D.C. Auto Detailing

205 5th St
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2275

Kelley Pharmacy

Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
KelleyPharmacy.com
Hello@kelleyfarmacy.com

Havens' Electric

Marc Havens
204 Madison
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-858-6732
havenselectric.mh@gmail.com
Commercial, Residential, Agricultural,
Trenching, Bucket Truck available

Happenings

Heidi Young & Todd Fleming
508 W Market St
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2000
fun@happeningsbar.com
www.happeningsbar.com
or @funathappenings on socials

Ralph Gast Construction

Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
cell: 515-681-8475
Custom built cabinets & remodeling

The Guest House

202 E. Market St
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-640-5425

Starr Flooring

Chad Starr, Contractor
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
319-269-6322

The Rock Stop

102 E. Main St
PO Box 396
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2138
csnittjer@outlook.com
Summer Hours:
Mon-Sat 6:30am-9pm/Sun 7am-8pm
Winter Hours:
Mon-Sat 6:30am-8pm/Sun 7am-7pm

Rock Solid Fitness

Ronnie & Kimberly Mullins
306 W. Market St.
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
319-830-1797
rocksolidfitnesscenter@gmail.com
kmullins45@gmail.com
Always Open

Timbers Edge Wedding & Event Centre

Korey & Kollin DeBerg
19493 Co Hwy S56
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
515-290-2158
info@timbersedgevenue.com
www.timbersedgevenue.com

Totebo Honey

Jackie Hagberg
503 E. Main St
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
402-990-6248
Raw honey for sale
June through November

Travel Now

Marcia Frerichs
306 W Market St
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
641-868-2024
cell 515-971-6764
M&W 9:30-12:00; Th 9:30-4:00
A Travel Agency That Helps You
"With Your Dream Vacation"

Vista Inspection Partners

Jim Van Eschen
102 Broadway
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672
319-610-5141

American Family Insurance

Toni Nederhoff
1120 Edgington Ave
Eldora, IA 50627(641) 858-2318
[Website](#)

Babcock's Home Repairs

PO Box 202
Wellsburg, IA 50680
(641) 869-5295
cell (319) 231-6699

Donna's Dog Grooming & Boarding

17978 Q Ave
Iowa Falls, IA 50126
M-F 7-6; Sat 8-12

Homestead Realty

212 Oak Street
Iowa Falls, IA 50126
641-648-4206

Iowa Realty

Ike Rooks
1318 Washington St
Eldora, IA 50627
641-939-3476
www.eldoraiaowarealty.com

Pine Lake Country Club

2502 Co Rd S56
Eldora, IA 50627
(641) 858-3031
plcc@heartofiowa.net
www.plccgolf.com

Rock-N-Row Adventures

Just east of Eldora
641-751-3418
Camping, tubing and much much more!
[ROCK-N-ROW](#)