

## in this issue >>>

Begger Night – Leave your porch light on

Winter Hours for Church

Plant Garlic & Spring Bulbs

Directory of the Library

Uncle Doc

.... And SO Much More!



October  
2024

Steamboat Rock, Iowa 641-868-2240 srcityhall@heartofiowa.net www.steamboatrockiowa.com

# Friendly Valley Times

## YOUR City >>>

David Mull, Mayor  
Kevin Pieters Cory Schurman  
Marc Havens Travis Hollander

### City Hall Hours

Monday 8:00am-1:00pm  
Tuesday Closed  
Wednesday 8:00am-4pm  
Thursday Closed  
Friday 8:00am-1:00pm

### Recycling 7:00am Mondays

October 7<sup>th</sup> & October 21<sup>st</sup>

## Welcome to October

This month's name stems from the Latin *octo*, "eight," because this was the eighth month of the early Roman calendar. When the Romans converted to a 12-month calendar, the name October stuck despite the fact that it's now the 10th month!

October's full Moon, known as the Hunter's Moon, arrives on Thursday, October 17. Like September's Harvest Moon, the Hunter's Moon is closely tied to the autumnal equinox.

Also, keep an eye out for the Draconid meteor shower in the late evening of October 9, and the Orionid meteor shower in the predawn hours of October 21-22.

With the autumnal equinox in late September, foliage season has officially begun across much of the United States.

Why do leaves change colors? Did you know that fall's vivid colors are actually hidden underneath summer's green? The main reason for the color change is not autumn's chilly weather, but light—or rather, the lack of it. The green color of leaves disappears when photosynthesis (from sunlight) slows down, and the chlorophyll breaks down. Trees with a lot of direct sunlight will produce red leaves, while other trees may turn yellow, orange, or brown.

October is all about ending the harvest and storing your crops.

Fall is the best time to plant garlic and bulbs for spring flowers. Do these tasks soon if you haven't yet!

October's birth flowers are the cosmos and the calendula or marigold. Cosmos is a symbol of joy in life and love and peace. The calendula (aka garden, English, or pot marigold) represents winning grace, grief, or chagrin in the language of flowers.

The October birthstone is the opal, which symbolizes faithfulness and confidence. The symbolize hope and purity and were once thought to improve eyesight or enhance intuition.

A little Folklore for the season:

- When deer are in a gray coat in October, expect a hard winter.
- Much rain in October, much wind in December.
- A warm October means a cold February.

Picking your Pumpkin:

- Color-look for one that has deep-orange color.
- Give them a Thump-knock on it to check that it is hollow.
- When they are ripe, it's stem is also hard.
- If you gently push your thumbnail into the skin, it should dent it but not puncture it.
- Make sure the bottom is not mushy!

### ATTENTION:

The City is asking all residents to please take a picture of your service line before the water meter that is inside your house.

This is for the purpose of EPA lead service line inventory.

Please email is to

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

You can contact City Hall with any questions or to schedule an inspection if you are unsure of what or how to complete this request.

**This request needs to be submitted no later than October 16, 2024**

# Steamboat Rock Visionary Group >>>

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



## Keep the Date

The committee is busy planning the 6th annual Christmas tree lighting evening. This event will be held on **Wednesday, November 27.**

We will again provide free hot dogs and other food items as well as prizes for adults and kids. Santa will also make an appearance. It will again be a evening filled with fun. Further details will be coming out as we get closer to the date. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

## Thank You

We greatly appreciate those who have used our park facilities this summer for the job they have done in cleaning up after themselves. Seldom do we see trash not in a trash receptacle

and this fact makes our park much more attractive to users and easier for those of us who clean. Our plan is to continue with the basketball lights remaining on until 10:30 until the end of October and the porta potty staying until that time also. Problems at the park should be reported to any committee member.

## Shelter house reservations

Reservations for the shelter house can be made by placing a paper with name and dates in the plastic holder which is located on the roof support pole on the south side of the shelter house.

**Memorial bench** A reminder that memorial benches or picnic tables are still available for placing at the playground. If you would like to honor a loved one in this manner, contact a committee member of your choice.

## T shirts

We have a few extra small and extra-large long sleeved t shirts still available at the library. \$20.

**Donations.** Donations to the committee can be made by sending a check to VG, PO Box 344, Steamboat Rock, IA 50672. Thank you for any amount you wish to give.



## Community Resources >>>

### Steamboat Rock Visionary Group

PO Box 344  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2812  
[bhutchcroft@hotmail.com](mailto:bhutchcroft@hotmail.com)

### Steamboat Rock Historic Society

409 W. Market St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-858-6085  
[jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net)

### Steamboat Rock Fire & Rescue

PO Box 174  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2314  
[srchief@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srchief@heartofiowa.net)

### 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)

### Steamboat Rock Public Library

511 W. Market St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2300  
[srocklib@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srocklib@heartofiowa.net)

Steamboat Rock Baptist Church  
107 2<sup>nd</sup> St; Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2458 Ofc Hours: 8:00a-4:00pm  
[church@steamboatbaptist.org](mailto:church@steamboatbaptist.org)

8:30am Traditional Service  
10:00am Contemporary Service &  
Pathway Classes  
11:15am Contemporary Service with  
Children's Church



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

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

Worship:10:30am

## Looking for a way to give back?

Donations are appreciated at the Little Food Patries around Hardin County.

### Located at the Library

Iowa Falls: Friendship Club, Hospital, Julia O'Neal park, First United Meth. Church, Library, & Dale Howard Activity Center (inside)  
Eldora: Bud's Laundromat, Library, & Dorothy's.  
Hubbard: Post Office Radcliffe: Elem. School  
Ackley: Library Union: Library Alden: Library





## Steamboat Rock Fire Department

National Fire Prevention Month/Week October 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

October – the month where we start to see the beautiful colors of fall begin – the month where we see a difference in the crops – the month where we notice a true difference in temperatures - Trees start to shed their leaves. These are just a few really noticeable differences. Take time to go out and see and enjoy God's canvas.

We have not had rain for some time now. But as I am currently typing this, Sept. 19, the skies have cut loose. Conditions are still right for just a spark to ignite another area. Be mindful IF you are planning on burning. Make sure that all necessary steps have been taken; called the controlled burn in to Hardin Co. dispatch (nonemergent number), contacted the chief of your local department, and have enough water to distinguish the burn you are conducting. Keep in mind that if you don't call it in and for some reason the department shows up, by law, we will put it out.

This time of year, harvest will begin or is currently underway. Large machinery will be traveling down the roads and country roads causing a smaller area of roadway to travel on. Be aware of where you are at. Don't pass on a double yellow line, near a field entrance, or an intersection putting yourself and others at risk. The lack of rain has now made our rural roads very dusty. When traveling on gravel, slow your speed down as the dust may hide a parked vehicle on the side of the road.

Beggar's night will be coming at the near the end of the month. Remember if you WANT them at your door, please turn your porch light on. There will be many littles out and about, so keep a watchful eye if driving others around.

As always be fire safe,

Chief Williams

## Steamboat Rock Historical Society

**President:** Jim Kramer  
**Secretary:**

**Vice President:**

**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

We are still in the planning stages as to when the museum will be open again on a regular basis. However, we would be happy to give you a tour. Call me at 641-858-6085 or send me an email at the address above, and we will find a date and time to meet.

### Update on Building Repairs

Since our team started meeting again, we have been working on getting the building updated. So far, the window frames on the east side of the building have been repaired, new window shades have been installed, and the carpet has been cleaned. Repair work to the outside stucco is done be done in mid to late September. Once the stucco is repaired, we have a painter ready to repaint the building.

### Monthly Meetings

You are welcome to join us at one of our monthly meetings. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday night of each month at 6:30 PM. Dates for upcoming months are October 14<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup>. We would love to have you join us.

### The Night Riders of Hardin County

Author, Lance Hansmann, has been busy doing book signings at libraries in Hardin County over the past several months. If you have not yet read his book, we have a supply on hand at our museum. Contact me for more information.

### Steamboat Rock in Pictures

Thanks to Chester Klatt, we have some new pictures of Steamboat Rock in the past. Be sure to stop in sometime and see these new additions.

*Cont'd on page 5*

# Steamboat Rock Public Library

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

[www.youseemore.com/nile/steamboatrock](http://www.youseemore.com/nile/steamboatrock) or on Facebook @SteamboatRockLibrary

It is hard to realize I have been here for almost 7 years. The end of December that will be true. As most of you have probably heard, I am retiring as the director of the Steamboat Rock Public Library the end of December. The application for this position consists of a cover letter and a resume for those of you interested and should be sent or dropped off at the library in a sealed envelope.

We are in the midst of planning our annual Halloween party for Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 4:00 with hot dogs, chips, and drink. Then you are free to roam around town looking for treats from the community and the Trunk and Treat event at the Baptist Church. If a light is on at a home they are expecting you.

The annual Tree Lightening will be on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Not sure of the time as of yet so stay tune for information. On a sad note, there was some vandalism to the tree this summer and lights were torn down. Hopefully, we can still have this event for

the community. **Please guys – this is our community so stop it and have some pride!**

The book walk displays should be installed this month along the trail through Steamboat Rock. There will be 20 2-sided displays where the library will put up laminated pages for kids of all ages to read. These books will be aimed mainly to children ages 2 to 6 but all should enjoy reading them. Other organizations in the community will also be able to use these displays as a way to get information out to all who walk this trail. A very big “thank you” to the Hardin County Endowment for the grant to purchase these displays for our community. Might be another reason for everyone to get out on the trail and enjoy Steamboat Rock, not just looking for trees with eyes!

Melissa Johanson, Director



## Hours

Tuesday 1:00-6:00pm  
Wednesday 2:00-5:00pm  
Thursday-Friday 12:00-4:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm

## New to the Library

### Fiction

*James* by Percival Everett  
*Burn* by Peter Heller  
*Spirit Crossing*  
by William Kent Krueger  
*The Housemaid is Watching*  
by Freida McFadden  
*My Name is Lucy Barton*  
by Elizabeth Strout  
*Anything is Possible*  
by Elizabeth Strout  
*Oh William!* By Elizabeth Strout  
*The Book Swap* by Tessa Bickers

### Historical Fiction

*The Rose Arbor* by Rhys Bowen

### Mystery

*The Woman Who Lied*  
by Claire Douglas  
*A Dream in the Dark*  
by Robert Justice  
*A Great Reckoning* by Louise Penny  
*Glass Houses* by Louise Penny  
*Kingdom of the Blind*  
by Louise Penny  
*All the Devils are Here*  
by Louise Penny  
*A Better Man* by Louise Penny  
*Never Lie* by Freida McFadden  
*Fatal Intrusion* by Jeffrey Deaver  
*No Safe Place* by Michael Ledwidge  
*The Dark Wives* by Ann Cleves  
*The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden  
*The Housemaid is Watching*  
by Freida McFadden  
*Home before dark* by Riley Sager  
*The house across the lake*  
by Riley Sager

### Romance

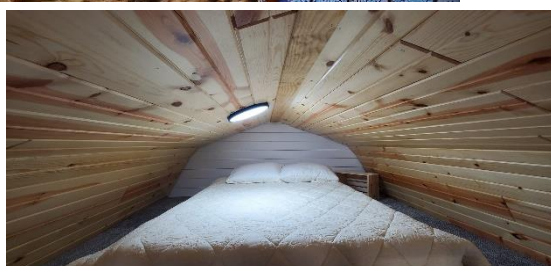
*Slow Dance* by Rainbow Rowell

### Nonfiction

*Likeable Badass* by Alison Fragale

## Trailhead Cabins and Camping

Jarret, Kim, & Mel Winger brings to you [www.trailheadcnc.com](http://www.trailheadcnc.com)



**The Autobiography of Mildred May Smith-Fiedler**

Last month, I told you about the lady from Door County Wisconsin, who had her great-grandmother's autobiography. She visited our town and museum to find out more about her family's time here in Steamboat Rock. Mildred May Smith-Fiedler was born here in 1900 and lived here with her parents until they moved to Eldora sometime before 1910.

In her journal, she wrote a few things about Steamboat Rock that she remembered. Sometime in the future, we will have her full biography at the museum, but for now I want to share a small portion of her story with you pertaining to her time in Steamboat Rock. The following is directly from her journal:

- The blacksmith, Mr. Hartman, lived up the street from us. There was quite a large family—a fat wife named Tina. One son was about my age. Everyone used to tease me about him. They tell a story about Mr. Hartman. He had to get up very early as the farmers would come in early to have their horses shod before getting to work in the fields. One evening they had company who stayed quite late. After making several hints—Mr. Hartman said, “Well Tina, I guess we had better go to bed so these folks can go home.”

After selling out the Hardware Store to his partner—Dad and Mom took over the “City Hotel.” Most of the business was local bachelors. Some I can remember:

1. Prof Hightower—Supt of the school
2. Jim Holmes—cashier in the bank
3. Ole Oleson—worked on the section gang on the railroad
4. Uncle Lloyd

There was a town drunk called “Uncle Doc”. One time he took me by the hand and kept saying— “Come on with Uncle Doc and go get candy!” Dad saw him and gave him a kick and a scare, so he never bothered me again.

Jim Holmes brought a beautiful bride, “Doll” to town. She and Mamma became very good friends.

The above gives a little glimpse into life in Steamboat Rock back in the early 1900's.

Jim Kramer  
Steamboat Rock Historical Society

***Cottage on the Edge***

[www.airbnb.com/h/cottageontheedge](http://www.airbnb.com/h/cottageontheedge)

Doug & Mona Bleeker 641-640-0568



***Antiques by Mona***

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

Doug & Mona Bleeker 641-640-0568

17552 V Ave; Steamboat Rock, IA





## Steamboat Rock Fire Department

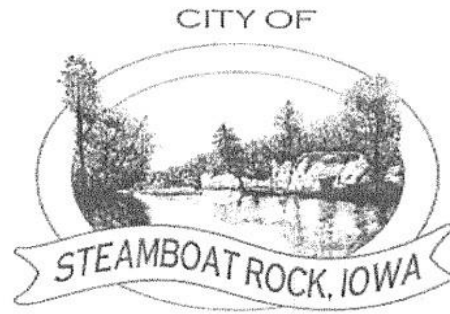
- **Types of calls in 2023**
  - These calls consist of fire, auto accidents, giving mutual aid, and first responder calls – we assist three ambulance services – Eldora, Ackley, and Iowa Falls
- **Currently have 10 members**
  - Current Chief Scott Williams
  - We have four members that have 30+ years of service and still serving
- **Meeting and Training**
  - Department meeting is the first Thursday of the month(6pm)
  - Training is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday and occasionally on Sat. morning
- **Special Equipment**
  - Grain Bin equipment
  - High Angle Rescue
  - Haz-Mat equipment
  - Torpedo Nozzle
- **Requirements**
  - Need to take Fire Fighter 1
  - Have 24 hours of training during calendar year

If you are interested in joining, please attend a monthly meeting or leave a message at City Hall. (641) 868-2240



**MAYOR**  
David Mull

*A Valley Of  
Friendliness*



**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Kevin Pieters  
Cory Schurman  
Marc Havens  
Travis Hollander  
Marvin Veld

The Steamboat Rock City Council met on September 9, 2024 for their regular session. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Mull at 6:30 PM with council member Kevin Pieter, Travis Hollander, and Marv Veld present. Marc Havens and Cory Schurman were absent.

Kevin Pieters made a motion to approve the agenda and was second by Marv Veld. Motion carried.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Diane Hennagir was present and discussed the issue of stray cats and wondered what if anything the city could do to rectify this issue. City informed Diane that there was nothing they could do, but the residents could remove the cats themselves. She also asked about community events and why the city doesn't have them anymore. Council explained that they could not get help or anyone to organize. She also asked about the City dump and why it was locked.

**REPORTS:**

**LIBRARY:** No Report

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Scott Williams reported that the department had received the "torpedoes." These are a piece of equipment to aid in extinguishing fires quicker and safer for the firemen. The department ceased receiving cans for recycling and contacted the Visionary Group to see if they would like to take over. They have not had a response from them as of the meeting. Still working with other departments to define territories/boundary for each fire department but have implemented dual page. Dual page is having two departments respond for a call but the department whose territory will be primary.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Shannon Hazelton reported that they should be ready to install the new electric pump by the end of the month. Need to finish getting things ready for it to be installed.

Kevin Pieters made the motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting and it was seconded by Marv Veld. Motion carried.

Travis Hollander made the motion to approve the bills as presented, with Marv Veld seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Kevin Pieters made the motion to approve the hours and Travis Hollander seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Discussed the list of street repairs that need to be addressed. City had one bid from Will Venenga and a second one from OEL Construction. After further discussion, council decided there were a few manholes that need attention, so they will be getting separate bids for that work.

Kevin Pieters made a motion to award the street repairs to Will Venenga and to get a separate bid for manhole cover repairs. Travis Hollander seconded the motion and motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Cathy Armstrong presented signatures from her neighbors and was asking for council approval to have goats (2) on her property. She had all signatures but one. A motion was made by Kevin Pieters to grant permission for Cathy to have goats on her property with the stipulation that she was to obtain the signature of Nicole Tate and present the completed paperwork before moving forward. She told the council it would not be until spring for her to purchase the goats.

Council discussed a Resolution for the Hardin County Conservation Board concerning the maintenance agreement and permanent sanitary sewer easement. Resolution was presented to council and motion was made by Kevin Pieters and seconded by Marv Veld to accept the resolution. Vote was taken with a roll call vote: Kevin, yes; Travis, yes and Marv, yes. Marc and Cory were absent. Resolution passed.

City Hall received an email from Kitty Hemmen concerning the weeds blocking the view of oncoming traffic at the corner of W Market Street and County D56. She was wondering if the city could do something about the weeds. Dave said he would talk to Jim Kramer, since the property belonged to the Baptist Church. Kevin Pieters also said that he would look into doing something.

Council discussed the agreement from the Engineering firm of CGA, Inc. for the search grant money. Had questions as to what the money can be used for or if it is to pay CGA, Inc. for their services. Council decided to wait to sign until Dave can talk with Julie Winter from Region 6 Resource Partners.

Motion was made by Marv Veld to adjourn and move into closed session. Travis seconded the motion and motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

David L, Mull, Sr., Mayor

Valeria Kjormoe, City Clerk

# I Heard it On...



First after school program a SUCCESS!!  
Painted egg carton turtles



AGWSR Community School District  
September 12 at 12:56 PM

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, AGWSR Community School District will call for a bond referendum election presenting voters with one (1) question that will address three (3) main priorities:

- Ⓛ HEALTH & SAFETY
- Ⓛ LEARNING SPACES
- Ⓛ BUILDING REPAIRS

Over the next month, information will continue to be shared with voters through our Bond Referendum website [bit.ly/agwsr-ref24](https://bit.ly/agwsr-ref24), social media, open house/tour opportunities (starting Sunday, Sept. 15), and more.

**ATTEND A BUILDING TOUR!**

- 🌟 Sunday, Sept. 15 // Ackley Tour // 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.
- 🌟 Thursday, Sept. 19 // Wellsburg Tour // 7:00 to 8:00 P.M.
- 🌟 Sunday, Sept. 22 // Wellsburg Tour // 7:00 to 8:00 P.M.
- 🌟 Tuesday, Oct. 1 // Ackley Tour // 7:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Meeting place in the cafeteria in each facility

**ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE**

- 🌟 Tuesday, Oct. 22 // AGWSR High School Gym (Ackley) // 6:30 to 7:00 P.M.
- 🌟 Thursday, Oct. 24 // AGWSR Middle School Gym (Wellsburg) // 6:30 to 7:00 P.M.

LEARN MORE TODAY! [bit.ly/agwsr-ref24](https://bit.ly/agwsr-ref24)

## Looking Ahead...

Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> Karaoke @Happenings 9:00p-1:00a

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting @6:30pm City Hall

Every Wednesday @6:30pm- Awanas Club @SR Baptist Church  
AND Celebrate Recovery @Presbyterian Church