

## 2020: My 10 Lessons From the Desk of

*Mayor Bennett*



2021, a new year another beginning. Before I dive into our objectives for 2021, I would like to take a few minutes to share lessons learned in 2020 thru COVID-19, Derecho, Black Lives Matter, Presidential election, and the strength of Hiawathan's.

1. **Change Grows Character.** Shortly after the first quarter of the year we all heard for the first time of COVID-19. A strange word, its description; a pandemic, quarantines, fear, misinformation and political and if that word was not enough then we heard of something called a Derecho. A test of time. As a city it is not something we could control or plan for, but we lead with a mindset of being a role-model with humility, compassion, centered, and hope. As challenges revealed itself, we were disciplined, direct and enthusiastic about making this a test to be our best.
2. **Judge Less, Acceptance.** With a world divided it was important to simply allow people their opinions and learn to observe, think, and communicate without losing our emotional center or compassion.
3. **Family & Health First.** There is really no explanation needed on this one. We put people first, sent home employees that could work from home and when sick they stayed home took care of themselves and their loved ones when needed. We choose to educate, separated facts from myths and these efforts continue. We put ourselves in a position to be stronger and healthier in a pandemic. As vaccines emerge, we again will educate, separate fact from myths and repeat.
4. **Community Matters.** If COVID did not teach us that community matters, then Derecho did. Hiawatha residents and our Hiawatha teams rose to the top. All hands were on deck within minutes of the storm. Pathways were cleared for public safety, electric and gas companies. Hiawatha still has that hometown feel. Derecho brought people out of their homes, neighbors helping neighbors, sharing their stories with each other in the streets, and relationships were created that were not there prior. As a mayor it warms my heart to see kindness and gratitude overflowing.
5. **Confidence.** The feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something: firm trust. I am thankful for the people I lead and trust; council, our city manager and staff rose to their own abilities and qualities. A new level of appreciation with each challenge that came their way, they focused, planned, and then put it into action. "Stronger Together" platform to aid in the slowing the spread of COVID-19 and now six-months into Derecho with 80% of our community debris pick up complete. The credit goes to our Hiawatha team. It was their plan and with confidence they lead. Thank you!
6. **Leaders Show Up.** This year I was amazed at all the leading going on out there. Community organizations, neighbor associations, HEDCO, business owners, and volunteers. "Iowa Nice" is a real thing; we breed kindness, character, and strength.
7. **Sticking to a Plan.** Often during intense pressure communities divert from their strategic plan, projects stop, and people stand in place. This was not an option for Hiawatha, this was not the time to give up or divert from our strategic plan. In fact, it is the time to follow the plan to its greatest detail. COVID-19 and Derecho may have slowed us down a bit, but we stayed the course. \$5M worth of infrastructure work completed; Created the beginnings of Turtle Creek Park along Edgewood Road, built a new Public Safety Garage and Training Facility, refurbished storm water drainage systems along Raney Street and Pirie Drive, widened 18th Avenue in preparation of a traffic light at 18th and Blairsferry Road, added new connections to the trail system along Boyson and Thiher Drive, improved ADA ramp compliance at various intersections, trail lighting at Clark Park, improved the traffic system at Willman and Center Point Road, improved infrastructure around the Village Center concept creating Faye Street and completed land acquisitions for the Tower Terrace Interchange and roadway expansions.

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8. **Build and Invest.** While others waited, our Hiawatha business community invested when the chips were down. Many businesses were on track to have their best year yet. Yes, it was a hard year for all, but our community looked for opportunities. Each of them had to navigate both COVID-19 and Derecho but that did not stop them from growing their businesses or reaching out to assist others who were maybe not as fortunate. The result of their efforts will be built upon in 2021.
9. **Productivity Habits Matter.** This mindset has saved the day for us. We did not let any one thing stop us from accomplishing our goals and staying the course. Our team is performance driven, positively focused on the plan and action minded. FOCUS, PLAN, and TAKE ACTION! It is what they do best.
10. **Knowing Matters.** 2020 has left its handprint on every single one of us. I think many of us realized how caught up in the motions we were; chasing, consuming, and listening to the noises. 2020 has given us the time to reflect on what matters most in life. We are now wide-eyes, open-eared and ready for 2021.

Now, let us take what we have learned through hardships, fear of the unknown and the knowing of what matters into 2021.

## WHAT 2021 HOLDS FOCUS, PLAN ACTION

### 01

OPERATION RE-LEAF

- RIGHT-OF-WAY TREE RESTORATION
- PARK AREA TREE RESTORATION
- ASH BORER REMEDIATION

### 02

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- VILLAGE CENTER PLAZA (EMMONS ST/NCPR)
- RAILROAD QUIET ZONE
- HOUSING REHABILITATION
- TOWER TERRACE ROAD EXTENSION PREP WORK (I-380 TO HWY 13)
- SECOND FIRE STATION - DESIGN AND REFERENDUM PREPERATION
- UPDATE DESIGN GUIDELINES
- TURTLE CREEK PARK PHASE II

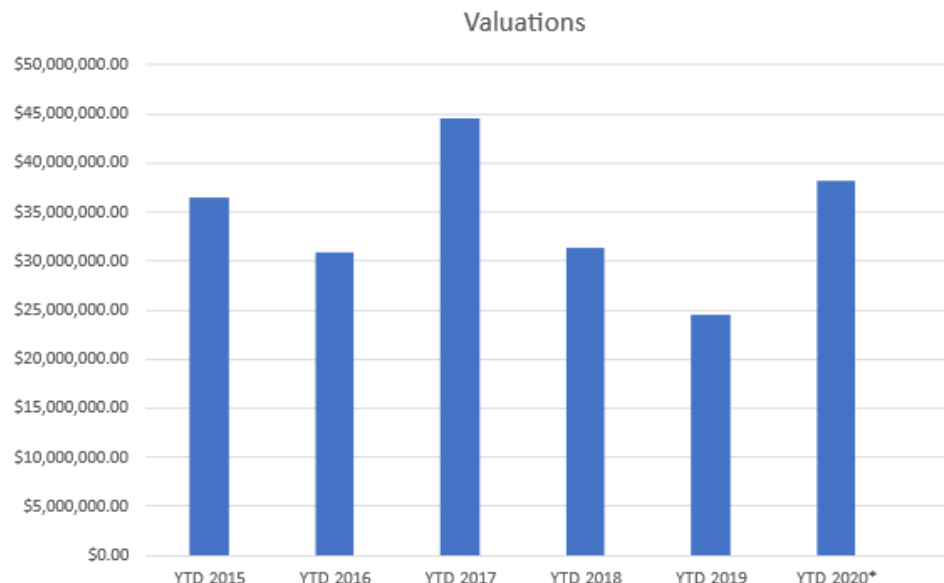
### 03

INFASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- TUCKER/GUTHRIDGE PARK PLAYGROUND RECONSTRUCTION
- SANITARY SEWER LIFT STATION UPGRADES
- STORM WATER/WATERWAY DESIGN STUDY
- 11TH AVE RECONSTRUCTION FROM EMMONS TO RAINBOW
- DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION OF COLD STORAGE FACILITY
- OVERLAY OF VARIOUS STREETS
- WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT ROBINS RD, PIRIE DR, 1ST AVE AND TUCKER ST
- TRAIL LIGHTING TUCKER PARK

### 2020-year end Building Permit totals

2020 was very busy. December was the second biggest in the past seven years closing out 2020 with \$38 million in permit valuations. This includes 16 new homes, 5 new commercial buildings, \$13.7 million in new construction valuations and an estimated \$12.5 million in derecho repair work. The storm repair work amounted to about 50% of the permit valuations for the last six months. This has created a very strong fiscal construction start. The city has credited over \$15K in residential permit fees to home owners due to the federal disaster designated derecho. We credited about 20 of the 252-storm repair permits in December marking the end of the credits. The resolution has expired so fees are no longer being credited for construction repairs.





# WHEN WILL I GET A COVID-19 VACCINATION?

## Vaccine Distribution to Priority Populations

### PHASE 1B - IN ORDER OF PRIORITY

Persons aged 65 and older are eligible for the vaccine during any tier.



#### TIER 1

- First responders (e.g., firefighters, police officers, and child welfare social workers)
- PK-12 school staff, early childhood education, and childcare workers



#### TIER 2

- Food, agriculture, distribution and manufacturing workers who work in or live in congregate settings that do not allow for social distancing
- Individuals with disabilities living in home settings and their direct care staff



#### TIER 3

- Staff of and individuals living in congregate settings (does not include college dormitories)
- Government officials, to ensure continuity of government including staff, engaged in state business at the Iowa Capitol during the legislative session



#### TIER 4

- Inspectors responsible for hospital, long-term care, and child safety



#### TIER 5

- Correctional facility staff and individuals incarcerated

### PHASE 1B BEGINS FEBRUARY 2021

*Timeframes are estimated as of January 2021 and are subject to change.*

Published 1/21/2021

Iowa is currently vaccinating individuals in Phase 1A, which includes health care personnel and residents and staff of long-term care facilities. With the vaccination of Phase 1A moving closer to completion, it is time to focus attention on Phase 1B. The Infectious Disease Advisory Council (IDAC) made recommendations and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) issued a vaccine shortage order, which included prioritizing Iowans age 75 and older, and other Iowans who are vulnerable to exposure to COVID-19 or high-risk for illness as the result of a COVID-19 infection. These populations are eligible to receive vaccine beginning February 1, 2021. Since last week, there has been a push nationally to further expand eligibility of older adults. In response to this push, Iowa is expanding Phase 1B to include Iowans age 65 and over. However, vaccine remains in short supply. This means not everyone in Phase 1B will be able to get vaccine right away. To help balance vaccine supply with the Phase 1B demands, IDPH has implemented a tiered prioritization, outlined below. IDPH remains in close contact with our federal partners to communicate Iowa's need for additional vaccines.

#### Phase 1B Priority Populations

Persons aged 65 years and over. OR, the following populations vulnerable to high risk of exposure or severity of illness (listed in order of priority):

##### Tier 1

- First Responders
- PK-12 staff, early childhood education, childcare workers

##### Tier 2

- Frontline essential workers in food, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors who live or work in non-social distanced settings
- Individuals with disabilities living in home settings and their direct care staff

##### Tier 3

- Staff and individuals living in congregate settings not covered by previous Phase or Tier
- Government officials, including staff, engaged in business at the State Capitol

##### Tier 4

- Inspectors responsible for health, life and safety

##### Tier 5

- Correctional facility staff and individuals incarcerated

**IDPH continues to urge Iowans that while the vaccine is still a scarce resource, to practice virus mitigation efforts.**

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Practice social distancing with those outside your household
- Stay home if you feel sick
- Clean your hands frequently with soap and water

## Derecho Cleanup

Cleanup from the Derecho storm continues within Hiawatha. All of the stockpiles at the different locations throughout the city have been cleaned up. To date, approximately 22,250 cubic yards of debris have been hauled off of seven locations. Trees have been removed from the city right-of-ways accounting for an additional 4,300 cubic yards of debris. Stump removal and backfill of right-of-way trees will occur in the spring of 2021 after the snow has cleared. This effort will take some time as there are approximately 325 stumps that will need to be removed throughout the community and filled with topsoil. A huge thank you to our Hiawatha team who have gone above and beyond these past five months with the extended efforts of coordinating and helping with all of the cleanup. We ask for the community's continued patience as the work continues.

## Waterway Cleanup

The city is currently working with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for cleanup efforts in the Ushers Creek and Dry Creek watersheds. There is approximately 30 acres of watershed that will comprise of tree felling and debris cleanup to prevent future damage to infrastructure and homes within the 100-year floodplain. This will be a significant undertaking to clean these areas up while minimizing ground damage. Efforts within these watersheds could prevent upwards of \$1,514,000 in private and public infrastructure damage. Debris cleanup will likely begin in April or May upon approvals.

## Dollars Spent on Cleanup Efforts

To date, the city has spent \$1,229,081 in cleanup efforts. The city will be looking at spending another \$1 million in the Dry Creek and Ushers Ferry watershed areas as well as stump removals and cleanup in the city right-of-way. While FEMA and the NRCS government programs help with funding of cleanup efforts, the city will be responsible for \$500,000 in matching fees.



## Hiawatha Library Partners with Cedar Rapids Community Schools

The Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids Public Libraries have partnered with the Cedar Rapids School District to give all students a library card to offer them access to our digital library to supplement their virtual learning.

Curbside service is available at [www.hiawathapubliclibrary.org](http://www.hiawathapubliclibrary.org)

Services include:

- Virtual programming for all ages
- Reading programs
- Adult make-and-take-projects
- Science activity kits for tweens
- Holds pickup
- Copy/print services
- Reference services
- Circulating hot spots
- Digital resources including downloadable audiobooks, ebooks, movies, comics, and music
- Free WiFi access extends to the parking lot
- Librarians will browse for patrons and get them the material they need



## Sleep in Heavenly Peace

In December of 2020, Officer Mehlert joined other area volunteers in delivering and building beds for children in the Cedar Rapids, Marion and Hiawatha communities through Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Linn County. Beds are delivered monthly but on this particular day, 22 beds were delivered to children in need.

For more information about Sleep in Heavenly Peace's efforts and organization, visit their website at [www.shpbeds.org/chapter/ia-cedar-rapidsmarion](http://www.shpbeds.org/chapter/ia-cedar-rapidsmarion) or on Facebook at Sleep in Heavenly Peace- IA, Cedar Rapids - Marion.

**DISCOVER COOPERATIVE LIVING AND ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULLEST**

Going away for the winter?  
Hate shoveling?  
Don't want to deal with maintenance issues?

These are a few reasons to consider cooperative living. Prairie Garden Cooperative is designing and building the first senior living space in Hiawatha, facing beautiful Clark Park located at 1050 N 18th Avenue! Co-Op Housing means you'll still own your property without all the hassle of maintenance, snow removal, lawn care & more. Plus you'll have access to all amenities the Co-Op has to offer as well as a fun community environment!

If interested, please contact Karen Knight at 319-360-8989.



## Hiawatha Fire and Ambulance Busy in 2020

This was an odd year for statistics. In 2019 the Hiawatha Fire Department averaged about 114 calls a month. 2020 was a much different story. HFD started out average in January and February with 120 monthly calls; Then COVID pandemic hit. Fewer people called 911 to go to the hospital, probably out of fear of contracting COVID. However, the calls responded to had a higher acuity – meaning they were more severe. March through June HFD responded to fewer than 90 calls in a month. As things leveled out with the pandemic, so did calls, climbing to 114 in July.

Then the Derecho hit on August 10th. In the 48 hours following the storm HFD responded to 61 incidents, and in the week following, responded to more than 100. HFD continued to see some Derecho related events into late August as people worked to clean up and repair. HFD saw injuries from clean up work, gas leaks, power lines arcing, and unauthorized burning calls increase during this time. Fortunately Hiawatha experienced no reported fatalities due to the derecho, and only one minor house fire that was a result of the storm, although many homes and businesses had severe damage.

As things settled down from the Derecho in late August, the Mercy Hiawatha Emergency Department opened. City Council approved a contract with Mercy for the Hiawatha Ambulance to provide ambulance service for the Emergency Department. This provides a great business relationship between Mercy and Hiawatha. Hiawatha Ambulance transports patients that need admitted to the main hospital. This has been a great opportunity for our EMT's and Paramedics to experience a variety of medical situations, adding to their skill and experience level. Mercy pays for the transports providing additional revenue that covers the cost of the transports, and offsets other ambulance expense. Total calls for service in 2020 was 1,581; a 15% increase from 2019.

As in past years, Medical calls made up the bulk of fire department response, 76% in 2020.

Service Calls (6.7%), good intent calls (6.58%), and false alarms (4.24%) make up the bulk of the remaining calls. Although a smaller percentage, HFD responded to 36 fire calls in 2020. Altogether, 2020 provided a challenging year for the Fire Department. The men and women, paid and volunteer, stood up to the challenge every day, living out their motto of "caring for the community" and making Hiawatha a safe place to live, work, and play.

### Snow Ordinance Reminder

Snow ordinances go into effect when the National Weather Service (NWS) predicts a snowfall in which three (3) or more inches of snow is expected. While the Snow Ordinance is in effect, there is no parking on any city street. Vehicles found parked in violation of this ordinance will receive a **\$25** parking ticket and/or be impounded. During overnight snow removal operations, vehicles found in violation on City streets will be towed. The Snow Ordinance declaration is sent to all the local media including but not limited to: KGAN (Channel 2), KCRG (Channel 9) and KWWL (Channel 7). The declaration will also be posted on our City website, [www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com), social media and emailed and/or text to those who opted to receive our "GET ALERTS" program. If you'd like to receive alerts by text and/or email, sign up today at:

[www.hiawatha-iowa.com/alert-signup/](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com/alert-signup/)

As a reminder:

- City of Hiawatha will NOT conduct snowfall clearing operations on streets for a snowfall of less than two (2) inches.
- Sidewalks must be shoveled within 24 hours of the cessation of snowfall.
- Clear snow from around fire hydrants that are near your property.
- Direct sump pumps and downspouts away from hard surfaces to prevent slippery conditions on driveways, sidewalks and streets.
- Be neighborly! Check with your neighbors to see if they need help with snow removal.

Don't park in the street if:

- The 24 hour (or less) prediction by the National Weather Service is predicting three (3) or more inches of snow.
- Three (3) or more inches of snow has fallen and/or your street has not been cleared.
- When in doubt about parking, move your vehicle off the street.

### February

- 03 City Council meeting 5:30 PM
- 09 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 09 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 10 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 15 City offices closed
- 16 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 17 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 22 P & Z Meeting 5:30 PM
- 24 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)

### March

- 03 City Council meeting 5:30 PM
- 09 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 09 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 10 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
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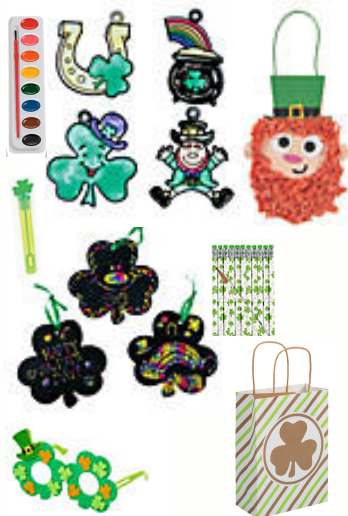
**Hiawatha Kids League**

For information visit  
[www.tinyurl.com/hiawathakidleague](http://www.tinyurl.com/hiawathakidleague)  
or call Peg Bader at 319-393-9175

**DELIVER BY**  
**SATURDAY,**  
**02/06/2021**

# Postal Customer Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY *Craft Kit*



- ST PATRICK'S DAY SUN CATCHERS
- MAGIC COLOR SCRATCH SHAMROCKS
- SHAMROCKS FOAM MASK GLASSES
- LEPRECHAUN CRINKLE SIGN
- CRAFT BAG
- BUBBLES, PENCIL & PAINT INCLUDED!

DELIVERED ON MARCH 3RD  
\$10 PER KIT  
REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM](http://WWW.HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM)

### Remembering Hiawatha's History

Hiawatha's first postage cancellation stamp was introduced at the opening of the Hiawatha Post Office on February 16, 1955.

If you'd like to learn more about Hiawatha's History purchase "HIAWATHA, 70 YEARS OF HISTORY" book by contacting Pat at 319-721-9730 or [se\\_me@live.com](mailto:se_me@live.com)



### CITY DIRECTORY

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
City Manager	Kim Downs	319-393-1515 x523	<a href="mailto:kdowns@hiawatha-iowa.com">kdowns@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
City Clerk	Kari Graber	319-393-1515 x526	<a href="mailto:kgraber@hiawatha-iowa.com">kgraber@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
Finance Director	Cindy Kudrna	319-393-1515 x522	<a href="mailto:ckudrna@hiawatha-iowa.com">ckudrna@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
Parks & Recreation Director	Kelly Willadsen	319-393-1515 x251	<a href="mailto:kwilladsen@hiawatha-iowa.com">kwilladsen@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
Community Development Director	Patrick Parsley	319-393-1515 x229	<a href="mailto:pparsley@hiawatha-iowa.com">pparsley@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
City Engineer	Jon Fitch	319-393-1515 x528	<a href="mailto:jfitch@hiawatha-iowa.com">jfitch@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
Public Works Superintendent	Rod Jasa	319-393-6601	<a href="mailto:rjasa@hiawatha-iowa.com">rjasa@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
Water Superintendent	Marty Recker	319-393-1515 x232	<a href="mailto:mreckere@hiawatha-iowa.com">mreckere@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
Police Chief	Dennis Marks	319-393-1212	<a href="mailto:chief@hiawathapolice.com">chief@hiawathapolice.com</a>
Fire Chief	Mike Nesslage	319-393-4180	<a href="mailto:mnesslage@hiawatha-iowa.com">mnesslage@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>
Library Director	Jeanal Weeks	319-393-1414	<a href="mailto:weeksj@hiawatha-iowa.com">weeksj@hiawatha-iowa.com</a>

For more information about City of Hiawatha and its services, call 319-393-1515 or visit [www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com)

**CITY COUNCIL** | City of Hiawatha Regular Council Meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month.



**MAYOR**  
**BILL BENNETT**  
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Sign up for  
Hiawatha  
alerts by  
scanning  
this code!



#### Hiawatha Council Action

The Hiawatha City Council meeting minutes may be obtained online at [www.hiawathaiowa.com/government/city-council-documents/](http://www.hiawathaiowa.com/government/city-council-documents/) or by request to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall at 319-393-1515 ext. 526

**Hiawatha!**  
Say hello to a great place to live, work and play