



## PROPOSED STORM WATER RATE INCREASE

The City is in review and considering an increase to storm water sewer rate fees beginning July 1, 2021. A Citizens Storm Water Committee has reviewed and recommended approval of fees to City Council. The City currently has an enterprise fund for storm water which is used for daily operation and maintenance expenses of existing storm infrastructure; Capital Improvement projects; and maintaining our federal and state permit requirements.

As our community ages and our infrastructure diminishes, it became necessary to establish a storm water enterprise revenue fund to help offset the cost of repairs and maintenance. The storm water enterprise revenue fund started in 2005 with annual revenue of \$45,000. In 2020, the revenue generated for storm water fees was \$147,000. The current program charges a flat rate of \$3.75/meter for residential and \$6.50/meter for commercial.

Each year, projects are included in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) which is reviewed and approved by City Council. The CIP includes \$287,000 of needs in FY22 and \$475,000 of needs in FY23. The City cannot project beyond FY23 without increased revenues as the amount of work approved in FY22 and FY23 will extend out into FY24 and FY25. If the proposed increases are approved, we will have additional storm sewer infrastructure in some of the older neighborhoods south of Boyson Road. Capital Projects include new storm sewer infrastructure at multiple locations; mitigating creek lines; storm sewer drainage study; reconstruct program of Northwood drainage basin; partial purchase of a leaf vacuum truck to eliminate residents bagging leaves and reduces street debris from entering into the existing storm sewer system; and other various projects.

Each project is needed to help maintain our federal MS4 permit that is reviewed on an annual basis. An MS4 Permit is a municipal separate storm system cities in Iowa must abide by an individual storm water permit to minimize storm water runoff. When communities do not comply with regulations and maintain their system, Iowa Department of Natural Resources may fine communities for non-compliance up to \$10,000 per incident. MS4s are determined by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and primarily dependent on population or proximity to a metropolitan area. Projects cannot be completed unless the enterprise account can fully fund the work which results in projects being delayed or spread over multiple years adding to increased construction costs. Without the appropriate enterprise revenue fund, projects would need to be completed by increasing our property tax levy.

The engineering department presented a plan with the Citizens Storm Water Committee's recommendation to city council in a work session on Monday, May 17 to review options and a proposed 5-year stepped increase. The proposed rate structure will bring in \$350,000 annually at five years.

City Council has reviewed the proposed rate structure and will hold a public hearing on June 16 for further discussion.

The proposed monthly rate plan includes the following:

- Residential homes: \$4.25/meter flat rate
- Mobile Home Parks: \$3.75/meter flat rate
- Commercial sites and apartments: \$4.25/meter base rate plus an incremental \$5.50/10,000 square foot of hard surface (impervious) area per month
  - Example of commercial site: Hard surface – 56,538 square foot
  - Proposed meter rate -  $\$4.25 + \$5.50 \times 6 = \$37.25/\text{month}$

Questions specific to individual properties may be answer by contacting City Engineer, Jon Fitch at [jfitch@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:jfitch@hiawatha-iowa.com) or City Manager, Kim Downs at [kdowns@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:kdowns@hiawatha-iowa.com)





On April 25th Hiawatha held our Adopt-A-Street Tree event in Guthridge Park. Approximately 60 trees were given away to area residents to help rebuild Hiawatha's urban tree canopy that was decimated by the August 10th, 2020 derecho. Mark Vitosh, District 12 Forester from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, was on hand to provide a demonstration of how to correctly plant a tree. During the derecho Hiawatha lost about 600 of our 2,000 right-of-way trees, this event was a great start to repopulating our urban tree canopy. Thank you Hiawatha residents!

In addition to the street tree event, on April 28th we had approximately 15 volunteers from Boy Scouts from Troop 766 assist us in planting 15 trees in Guthridge Park. City staff provided a tree planting demonstration. The scouts then divided up into teams and had all the trees planted in an hour! Thank you Troop 766 for your help!



### RIGHT-OF-WAY STUMPS

The city is excited to announce that it has contracted with Hennick Tree Service out of Central City to complete the grinding of stumps in the right-of-way. The contractor will begin work on June 14 or earlier with an October 1 completion date. The contractor will grind stumps in large areas followed up by removal of the chips and replacing with 6" of topsoil and seed. It will be the responsibility of the home owner to provide watering for the seed.

### FIREWORKS ARE LEGAL, RIGHT?

State legislature action has expanded allowable use of consumer fireworks where they were previously illegal. Some people believe this may remove the consequences that may accompany the misuse of fireworks, but nothing could be further from the truth. Misuse of fireworks, particularly if it causes damage, injury, or loss of life, could result in criminal charges, denial of insurance coverage, or personal liability for the property of others.

According to the NFPA, Fireworks started an estimated 19,500 fires in 2018, including 1,900 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires, and 17,100 outside and other fires. According to US Consumer Product Safety Commission statistics, in 2018, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,100 people for fireworks related injuries; half of those injuries were to the extremities and 34% were to the eye or other parts of the head. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for more than one-third (36%) of the estimated 2018 injuries. In the end, someone has to pay for all this.

According to an online article from Forbes.com, homeowners insurance may cover damage to your property or the property of others, or medical claims... but it also may not. Many insurance policies exclude accidents that are caused by illegal acts. That could include misuse or reckless use of consumer fireworks, or the use of professional grade fireworks that are not legal. If you cause an accident, injury or property damage while using any type of firework, you could be liable or be charged criminally. Even if you don't get criminally charged, ...your insurance may deny the property claim on the basis that you were participating in an illegal activity. There is also the possibility that you could get charged criminally under certain circumstances. For example, you launch a firework that goes awry and ends up setting your neighbors house on fire- you could be charged criminally.

If you plan on shooting off fireworks, you may want to check with your insurance agent to ensure you have coverage.

Note that consumer fireworks can only be used on July 4th from noon to 11:00 PM and from 6:00 PM on Dec. 31 to 12:30 AM on January 1. Fireworks may only be used by someone 18 years of age or older.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

Masks: Linn County Supervisors lifted the Linn County mask mandate on May 24th. Local businesses and private property owners may still require customers/visitors to wear masks.

Vaccine: Most local vaccine providers are offering walk-in appointments but check with the pharmacy or clinic first to ask about walk-in availability.

- Find a vaccine provider at [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- Text your ZIP code to 438829
- Call 211 or 800-244-7431. Vaccine navigation services are open to anyone 16 years old or older. Translation services are available.
- Homebound individuals can call Linn County Public Health at 319-892-6097

If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.

### IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN VACCINATED, KNOW YOUR W'S



### WEAR

a cloth face covering.



### WAIT

6 feet apart.

Avoid close contact.



### WASH

your hands often or use hand sanitizer.

## UPDATE TO LIBRARY SERVICES

Hiawatha Public Library, along with the other members of the Metro Library Network, will be switching to a new library operating system called Polaris in June. This new system leads to a better user experience for both library staff and patrons. Library staff will be able to complete their tasks faster and more efficiently, and patrons will find additional useful features available on our new online catalogue!

If you have an active library account, there are a few account maintenance actions you can take to make sure the transition to the new system is smooth:

1. Update your account.
  - a. Make sure that we have your correct name, address, phone, and email on file. Visit us or contact the Library to update your account information.
2. Update your account notification preferences.
  - a. Tell us how you want to be notified about overdue and holds: Phone calls, text message, email, or snail mail.
3. Save your library card number.
  - a. After updating your account information and notification preferences, make sure you have your physical library card OR know your account number. You will need your library card number to checkout between June 11-16. Staff will not be able to look up your library card number for you during this transition period.
4. Save your lists.
  - a. To email or print a list, log into My Account and view lists. Select a list, then use the checkbox next to the Select an Action dropdown to select all items in the list. Alternatively, you may select a subset of items using the individual checkboxes with each item. Then, in Select an Action, choose Email. You will be prompted for an email address and subject heading. You can use the same process to print a list of items. You can also visit or contact the Library for assistance in preserving your Reading Lists.
5. Save your checkout history.
  - a. Visit "My Account" online, go to the "Checkouts" tab and select the Checkout History from the dropdown. Copy this to a word document and print or save. You can also visit or contact the Library for assistance in copying your checkout history. This will not carry over to the new system.

## ANOTHER GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

As summer approaches the Hiawatha Community Development Department would like to remind our residents of our good neighbor policy regarding responsible pet owners. As you may know, pet poop becomes an issue with the approaching warmth and seasonal rain. The warmer weather tends to exacerbate offensive smells if it is not properly disposed of. This creates an unpleasant environment for our neighbors and it can damage our community aesthetics and reputation. Pet waste can also have dire effects on our rivers and streams. Pet waste contains substances which can be harmful to humans and aquatic life if it is not properly disposed of. Rain water carries these substances into our storm sewers; these differ from sanitary sewers located in your home for the disposal of human waste. Sanitary sewers flow to a treatment plant to clean the impurities from the water before they are released into the environment. Storm sewers lead directly to rivers, streams, oceans, and reservoirs without any treatment. This can cause harmful bacteria to accumulate and cause undesirable consequences on human and aquatic life. Being a responsible pet owner means picking up after your pet. The following are a couple tips on how you can properly dispose of your pet's waste:

**Flush It:** The best way to dispose of pet waste is to flush it down the toilet. Just remember to remove the waste from the bag or the litter before putting it in the toilet.

**Scoop the Poop:** Bag it and put it in the trash. Landfills are designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste and cat litter.

Thank you for your help in keeping Hiawatha beautiful and in preserving our valuable water sources. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Community Development Department at 393-1515.

## BOYSON ROAD & 12TH AVENUE INTERSECTION



The City recently hired Shive-Hattery Engineers to study the intersection of 12th Avenue and Boyson Road to improve traffic flow during peak hours. The study looked at three options: stop signs, traffic signals and a roundabout. The existing stop signs make it difficult for traffic turning left on Boyson from the north or south due to the volume of east and west traffic. It was noted that many drivers would bypass the intersection to avoid delays. The study determined through a review of eight criteria that a traffic signal is not warranted, although a roundabout is recommended as a safety benefit to the intersection. This slows down speeds and allows vehicles to make left-turns more easily, ultimately resulting in less crashes and reducing the severity of crashes that may happen. All vehicle types can maneuver through a roundabout including low vehicles, it will operate well with the interchange over I-380. The City held an open house for business owners and residents along Boyson Road. Overall, comments received were positive and people were receptive. With this in mind, the city will apply for an IDOT Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) grant. If the grant is approved, the City would look to have the roundabout constructed in conjunction with the Boyson Road interchange project in the 2024-2025 construction season.

### 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



## ITC CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

ITC Midwest LLC will soon begin work to replace static shield wire with optical fiber overhead ground wire (OPGW) to upgrade the electric transmission line between Marion and Hiawatha.

In order to build this work, construction contractors may need to travel across your property. If that is the case, a representative from ITC Midwest will contact you to discuss your preference for accessing your property and other important information that crews should know about your property. This is important, because the crews may need to access your property on several occasions during the construction phase.

ITC understands that the work and construction equipment may damage your property. They will work to restore any damages once all of the work has been completed and there is no longer a need to access your property. A representative of ITC will contact you at that time to review and settle any remaining damage that may have occurred to your property.

- This project will consist of replacing a static shield line with OPGW on an 115kV electricity transmission line from Hiawatha to Marion. This line is owned by ITC Midwest and the contractor is MJ Electric.
- This project will span approximately six miles.
- The pre-construction activities have begun and line construction started May 10th.
- Hiawatha's portion of the project is scheduled for June 9 - 23.
- Work is scheduled to take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Please contact ITC with any questions about this project.



**Hoang Pham**  
Project Manager  
(319) 297-6749  
hpham@itctransco.com



**Andy DeVaul**  
Field Supervisor  
(641) 328-9894  
adevail@itctransco.com



## EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT PROGRAM

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program provides eligible households with discounts of up to \$50 a month for broadband service, and up to \$75 a month if the household is on Tribal lands. It also will provide a one-time discount of up to \$100 on a computer or tablet for eligible households.

Under the law, the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is open to households that participate in an existing low-income or pandemic relief program offered by a broadband provider; Lifeline subscribers, including those that are on Medicaid or accept SNAP benefits; households with kids receiving free and reduced-price lunch or school breakfast; Pell grant recipients; and those who have lost jobs and seen their income reduced in the last year.

Many providers in our area are participating including but not limited to Assurance Wireless, AT&T Mobility, Boomerang Wireless, CenturyLink, Cricket Wireless, ImOn Communications, Mediacom, Metro by T-Mobile, T-Mobile, TracFone Wireless, US Cellular, Verizon Wireless and Windstream.

To see if your provider is participating or for more information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, please visit: [www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](http://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit).

### Three Ways to Apply

Get started by visiting [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org) to



OR



OR



APPLY ONLINE

Fill out the online application

APPLY BY MAIL

Download and print an application

APPLY THROUGH A COMPANY

Find a participating broadband provider

## CELEBRATING UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY

City of Hiawatha and HEDCO helped UIU celebrate their first year in Hiawatha on May 21! First-time students, adults returning to school, and transfer students will all find an Education Built for Life - your life - at Upper Iowa University. UIU works closely with you to tailor an education program aimed at achieving your unique career goals and pride themselves on options to fit your busy schedule. Classes start July 12, 2021. Find more information at [www.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu), by email at [info@uiu.edu](mailto:info@uiu.edu), or call 319-848-8488 at your convenience.



## LOOKING BACK IN TIME WITH HIAWATHA HISTORY COMMITTEE

Hiawatha Kids League started as a boys baseball league in 1970. Girls were allowed to play starting in 1974. This summer, HKL has over 300 boys and girls playing on the diamonds in Guthridge Park five nights a week.

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



*Hiawatha Kids League participant is ready to steal a base in July 1972*





# 9TH ANNUAL HIAWATHA POLICE K9 GOLF OUTING

**SUNDAY AUGUST 1ST  
1:00PM SHOTGUN START**

REGISTER by Tuesday, July 27th, 2021  
30 TEAM LIMIT - SOLDOUT LAST YEAR

HUNTERS RIDGE  
GOLF COURSE  
2901 Hunters Ridge Rd  
Marion, Iowa

For more info contact:  
Officer Naaktgeboren  
K9@hiawathapolice.com  
319.393.1212

**4-PERSON TEAM  
\$85/GOLFER**

Includes: Range Balls, Green Fees & Cart, Dinner, K9 Demo, Complimentary Beverages, and voucher for another round of golf.

**TOURNAMENT SPONSORS**





FRIENDS OF  
HIAWATHA PARKS  
AND RECREATION  
FOUNDATION

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**  
[HTTPS://LEGACY.IMATHLETE.COM/EVENTS/HIBRAI2021](https://legacy.imathlete.com/events/hibrai2021)

**AUGUST 21-22, 2021**

# Hiawatha BUSINESS Summit

HYBRID OFFICES &  
HIRING REMOTE WORKERS

JUNE 22, 2021  
8:00 - 9:15 AM  
STILLWATER COFFEE CO.



# Picnic in the Park

**Wednesdays  
Guthridge Park  
Brown Pavilion  
11:30 AM  
June 9 - July 28**

Pack a lunch and join Ms. Alicia for stories, fingerplays, and songs! The adventure will include a take home craft and a special treat for the first 36 kids. Please practice social distancing.



Hiawatha!  
2021  
**Fun Fest!**  
08 07 21



**THE MIXTAPE  
6:30 - 9:30PM  
FIREWORKS TO FOLLOW  
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE**

# Hi y o g a

presented by  
panda marie

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH  
GUTHRIDGE PARK

Hi Yoga is a day-long yoga festival presented by the city of Hiawatha and Panda Marie. This outdoor event will feature group yoga sessions, as well as breakout sessions on meditation, buti yoga, numerology, & sound healing. We will also have live music, food trucks, & a wellness market featuring 16 vendors.

PURCHASE TICKETS NOW AT  
[NATURALLYFEELINGBETTER.COM](http://NATURALLYFEELINGBETTER.COM)



# Red, White & Blue CRAFT KIT

- USA Doorknob Hanger Craft
- Patriotic Emoji Magnet Craft
- Card Craft to Local Veterans
- Glow in the Dark Fun

Registration Fee: \$10  
Delivered to Hiawatha Residents: June 23rd  
Sign up today at:  
[www.hiawatha-iowa.com/departments/parks-recreation/programs/](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com/departments/parks-recreation/programs/)



# Hi Tennis Lessons

Wednesday's  
July 7 - August 4  
Guthridge Park

Tots ages 4-6 from 4-4:45 PM  
Rookies ages 7-10 from 5-6 PM  
Racquetees ages 11-13 from 6-7 PM

Fee: \$70.00  
Registration Deadline: July 3  
REGISTER AT [WWW.HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM](http://WWW.HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM)

## VOLUME 157

### June

02	City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
06	Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
08	Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
08	Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
09	Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
13	Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
15	Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
16	City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
20	Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
23	Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
26	HiYoga 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
27	Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
28	P & Z Meeting 5:30 PM

### July

04	Farmers Market 10:00 - 1:00 PM
05	City Hall Closed for Holiday
07	City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
11	Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
13	Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
13	Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
14	Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
18	Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
20	Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
21	City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
25	Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
26	P & Z Meeting 5:30 PM
28	Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)

# Hiawatha!

Say hello to a great place to live, work and play

**DELIVER BY  
SATURDAY,  
06/12/2021**

# Postal Customer Hiawatha, Iowa 52233



Join us to  
celebrate the  
*Retirement*  
of  
*Chief Mike  
Nesslage*

June 25th  
4:00 - 6:00 PM  
Hiawatha Library  
Community Center



It is with a grateful heart that we wish Fire Chief, Michael Nesslage, a kind farewell as he enters retirement as Chief. Chief Nesslage served much of his adult career in Fire and Ambulance Service. He has a total of 38 years of fire/EMS experience and has held various positions from volunteer firefighting to acting Chief. He served more than four years as a Volunteer Firefighter in Germantown, Ohio, nine years as a Volunteer Firefighter for Richland Township in Anderson, Indiana and served as a Fire Public Education Specialist for three years and a Firefighter Paramedic for five years for the City of Cedar Rapids. In Hiawatha he started his career in 1993 as a volunteer firefighter for 12 years, part-time assistant Fire Chief for nine years in 1996. Most prominent position in his career began in June of 2005 as Hiawatha's Fire Chief. He was instrumental in establishing the ambulance service and ensuring its success along with our volunteer firefighter program.

Chief Nesslage has served Hiawatha well with his many accomplishments directing several volunteer firefighters building long lasting relationships, coaching individuals who desire to become fulltime officers and teaching life values as they grow into successful firefighters, paramedics, and EMT's.

As did many of Chief's volunteers Chief Nesslage dedicated himself in serving and sacrificing for others. Most of us do not fully grasp how much the fire service requires of them when deciding to serve. Chief Nesslage effectively has given the department, municipality, community, and the fire service a third of his professional life. That said, to properly recognize this unwavering service and providing an honorable send off the City is hosting a retirement party for Chief Nesslage on June 25 from 4:00-6:00 PM at the Hiawatha Library Community Center. All are welcome to attend to wish him much joy in his retirement and to say thank you for his unselfish service.

## CITY DIRECTORY

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

For more information about City of Hiawatha and its services, call [319-393-1515](tel: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**  
mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com



**COUNCIL MEMBER  
JERRY MOHWINKLE**  
jmohwinkle@hiawatha-iowa.com



**COUNCIL MEMBER  
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**COUNCIL MEMBER  
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