



# HIAWATHA STRONG

Monday August 10, 2020 will be a day many of us will remember for the rest of our lives. As a community we are still coping with the aftermath of a storm that touched our homes and landscape leaving no one untouched — for all in the Midwest this storm removed roofs, opened up homes without protection from the rain, topped or flattened trees, trampled corn and soybean crops, damaged grain elevators and leveled banks, churches and businesses.

While many were without power our city teams were opening streets from debris and clearing paths for the electric companies to aid in its restoration. That work continues today and will continue for the next several months. “The devastation was widespread and on the back of COVID19. It is so sad to see block after block of downed trees and damaged homes, leaving no one untouched. The tree piles 6 to 10 feet high along our city roadways. When you walk out in the morning or heading home from work you are reminded of derecho’s affects with the smell of Christmas pine throughout the community” Kim Downs, City Administrator. “The city itself worked methodically to clear city streets, and shortly thereafter began to remove debris from rights-of-way in many parts of the city. Power has been restored and clean up continues daily. Most of our citizens now have communication access”, Bill Bennett, Mayor.

“It’s by far the most extensive and widespread damage our city as seen in its lifetime,” Mayor Bill Bennett, “Unlike a tornado, which is a mile wide, the derecho stretched for a width of really intense damage — of approximately 40 miles, probably closer to 60-70 miles wide,” he said.

On August 17, 2020, a Presidential Disaster Declaration was made. President Trump approved Governor Reynolds’ request for funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Individual Assistance Program for Linn County. City, Linn County, State of Iowa, and the President’s swift response delivered critical assistance for our State, city and the people who call Iowa their home. Individuals and business owners who sustained losses can apply for FEMA individual assistance by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 for TTY users. Users of 711 or video relay service may call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers operate from 6 AM to 9 PM, seven days a week, until further notice. Another option is registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). For additional resources visit our Hiawatha website at [www.hiawatha-iowa/derecho-2020/](http://www.hiawatha-iowa/derecho-2020/). The derecho presented the city with a challenge not ever seen before along with creating communication barriers due to fiber connectivity being down. The city attempted to combat those challenges by putting feet on the street. “As the city council, police department, fire department and I walked throughout the neighborhoods doing house checks of our community we saw resilience, kindness and neighbors getting to know neighbors. The derecho reminded us that Hiawatha is built on strong spirits, positive relationships, and doers”, said Kim Downs City Administrator. “It will take our city’s landscape a while to catch up, but we will rebuild, and replant based on those strengths and with gratitude.”

# COVID-19 UPDATE

*Hiawatha City Hall is closed to the public through the rest of 2020. Open by appointment only.*



[hiawatha-iowa.com/stronger-together](https://hiawatha-iowa.com/stronger-together)

## WATER DEPARTMENT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Beginning September 2020, the Water Department will be reinstating our policy on water service termination for delinquent accounts. Along with the reinstatement of our termination policy, we will begin charging penalties after the 20th of the month. If assistance is needed, there will be payment agreement options available. You must contact the water office at 319-393-5556 to discuss possible arrangements.

The following options will continue to be available:

- Drop box outside of City Hall, 101 Emmons Street
- Online payments at <https://hiawatha-iowa.com/departments/water/pay-bill/>
- Pay by phone (requires customer account number at 877-690-3729 Jurisdiction code - 2510)
- ACH- Automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account on the 15th of every month

## ASSISTANCE EXTENDED

Assistance is still available for Iowa homeowners and renters through the COVID-19 Iowa Eviction & Foreclosure Prevention Program. The maximum mortgage payment assistance has increased from a maximum of \$3,000 to \$3,600. The maximum rental assistance payment remains unchanged at \$3,200.

Call Housing Recovery Help Line  
855-300-5885  
515-348-8813

## FUTURE READY IOWA GRANT

\$5 million in funding from the Corona Virus Relief Fund has been allocated to support the Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund. Grant applications are being accepted to provide funding opportunities for employers, employer consortiums, community organizations and nonprofits to provide training, books, tools and wrap around support for Iowans engaged in training programs in high-demand careers. The grant program will focus on jobs that have been affected or eliminated because of the pandemic. Applicants can find more information and apply at [futurereadyiowa.gov/innovation](https://futurereadyiowa.gov/innovation) and can apply at [iowagrants.gov/index.do](https://iowagrants.gov/index.do)

## CLEAN-UP DATES

### STORM STRUCTURAL DEBRIS AS RESULT OF DERECHO

SEPTEMBER 28 - HAVE DEBRIS  
AT CURB BY 7:00 AM

### AMNESTY DAY

OCTOBER 12 - DETAILS COMING

### RIGHT-OF-WAY BRUSH & LIMB DEBRIS REMOVAL CURBSIDE PICK UP

ENDING OCTOBER 26

### LEAVES ONLY PICK UP

NOVEMBER 9 & 23 - HAVE  
LEAVES IN PAPER BAGS & ON  
CURB BY 7AM

# REASONS TO Celebrate

State Farm Ribbon Cutting  
June 19, 2020



Dog Park Ribbon Cutting  
August 5, 2020



ImOn Communications and the Hiawatha Public Library are partnering to purchase additional Wi-Fi hotspots, specifically for lending to low-income families who need Internet access. Contact Hiawatha Public Library at 319-393-1414 for more information

Mercy's Emergency Department  
Ribbon Cutting September 10, 2020



Turtle Creek Park Groundbreaking  
September 2, 2020



**CELEBRATE BEST OF THE CORRIDOR**  
CBJ 2020

**Congratulations**  
to these Hiawatha businesses for winning Best of the Corridor in their category from Corridor Business Journal

**Best Auto Dealer**  
McGrath Family of Dealerships

**Best Service Dealer**  
**JUNGE** AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

**Best Developer**  
AHMANN Companies, Inc.

**Best Printer**  
**CEDAR** GRAPHICS

**COOLEST**  
CBJ

PLACES TO WORK  
**PRAIRIEWOODS SPIRITUALITY CENTER**

**Rally**  
G.A.P.  
CHAMPION AND PROTECT

Champion and protect local businesses through pandemic economic recovery!

# Residential Rental Inspections

The City of Hiawatha is researching the re-establishment of rental licensure inspections following the COVID-19 shutdown. The City is coordinating with the neighboring cities for the implementation of best practices for these inspections. A list of proposed best practices for implementation has been compiled from contributions developed by Kevin Ciabatti; Cedar Rapids Building Official, Gary Hansen; Marion Building Official, and Jerry Youtsey; Hiawatha Rental Housing Program Manager. The list currently includes the following which may be implemented in new procedures:

- Facial Protection:
  - Mouth and nose covering for everyone during the inspection. This may require the City to provide masks for tenants. Owners and building managers attending the inspections will be required to have their own protection.
  - Glasses will be required for all inspectors.
- Disposable gloves or hand sanitizer:
  - Gloves will be worn by all inspectors. Gloves will be disposed and replaced for each dwelling unit or
  - hand sanitizer shall be used by the inspector after each dwelling unit inspection.
- Inspection Procedures:
  - The inspector will refrain from touching anything within the units. The landlord or tenant will open doors, turn on water, flush toilets, turn on switches, etc.
  - Where possible the tenant will vacate the unit during the inspection.
  - Inspection time will be limited to less than 5 minutes if the unit has not been vacated.
- Tenant health verification will be completed before the inspection begins and shall verify:
  - No one with a fever within the last 14 days is residing in the residence.
  - No one knowingly in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
  - No one presently having other flu-like symptoms in the residence.

Hiawatha and the neighboring jurisdictions are at different stages of restarting rental licensure inspections. The cities of Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids have suspended them while the City of Marion is completing rental inspections as of July 1st unless the tenant requests a delay. "There is a significant need to keep these inspections active for the health and safety of our citizens.", according to Mr. Hansen. With that in mind, the city of Hiawatha is planning to begin rental inspections in early September. The new health concerns and information on the spread of this virus is causing the City to update inspection processes. Moving forward, Hiawatha will implement procedures to keep our city staff and our citizens safe while performing this valued function. Maintaining Hiawatha as a safe place to live, work and play is the top priority in our inspection services.

## September Calendar

- 20 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Guthridge Park
- 23 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 27 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Guthridge Park
- 28 P&Z Meeting 5:30 PM

## October Calendar

- 04 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Guthridge Park
- 07 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 11 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Guthridge Park
- 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  
Guthridge Park
- 20 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 21 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 25 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Guthridge Park
- 26 P & Z Meeting 5:30 PM
- 28 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
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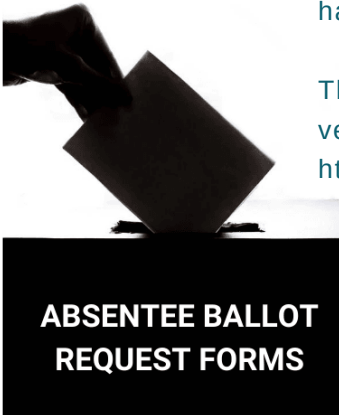


# Absentee Request Mailers

The Linn County Auditor's Office has mailed new absentee request forms to all voters impacted by an August 27, 2020 court decision that invalidated pre-filled absentee request forms sent by and returned to the Auditor's Office. In addition, voters may receive an absentee request form from the Secretary of State as well as the political parties and interest groups.

Voters only need to send in one response. Once validated and processed, the Linn County Auditor's Office will mail an orange confirmation postcard to each person who has mailed in an absentee request form.

The Linn County Auditor's Office will mail ballots on Monday, October 5. Voters may verify the status of their absentee ballot at <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/absenteeballotstatus/>.



## Early, In-Person Voting Options

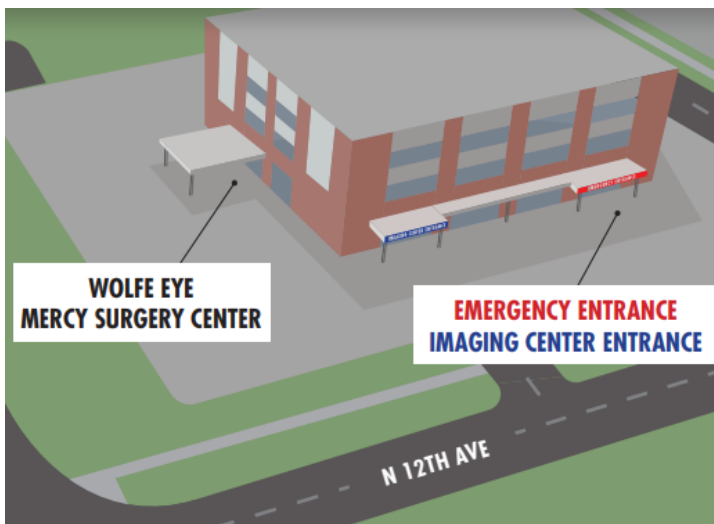
Voters also have the option for in-person, early voting. The following hours and locations are available:

823 3rd St SW, Cedar Rapids  
(near the Linn County Public Service Center)  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday- Friday from October 5- November 2, 2020.

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, October 24 and October 31  
Lindale Mall Food Court  
4444 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids  
11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday from October 6- October 28, 2020

### Dates & Deadlines

Oct. 5	Absentee Ballots Mailed; Early, In-Person Voting Begins
Oct. 24	Last Day to Pre-register to Vote for this Election - Saturday Last Day to Request a Mailed Absentee Ballot Auditor's Office Open for Absentee Voting - Saturday
Oct. 31	Auditor's Office Open for Absentee Voting - Saturday
Nov. 2	Last Day to Vote In-Person Absentee
<b>Nov. 3</b>	<b>Election Day</b>
Nov. 10	County Canvass of Votes



## NEW MERCY ER FACILITY

*Mercy Hiawatha Medical Park 1195 Boyson Rd.*

The Hiawatha MercyCare Urgent Care location has transitioned to an extension of Mercy's existing Emergency Department. Additional services — including imaging, lab and pharmacy services — are also available on-site to support the ER. This new ER location will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. As such, it will provide increased access to emergency services in our area, which is especially critical given the community growth in northern Linn County.



### Hiawatha Elementary School

Hiawatha Elementary School opened in the fall of 1958 with 13 classrooms and an enrollment of 350 students, Kindergarten through 6th grade. There was a lot of excitement that day, not just because it was the first year in the brand new building, but because the fire alarm went off five minutes into the day. The students had to wait outside in front of the school until the fire could be extinguished and it was safe to go back into the school.

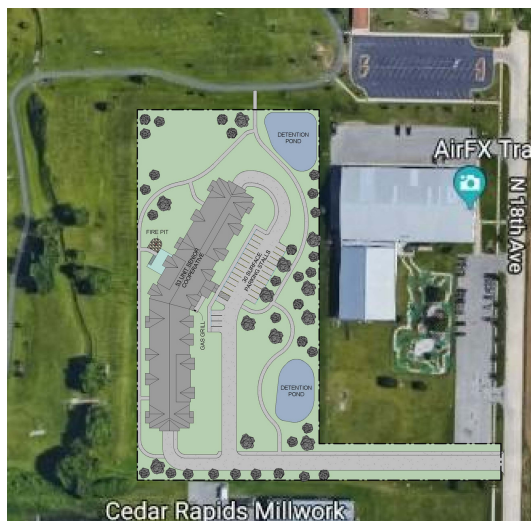
**DELIVER BY**  
**SATURDAY,**  
**9/26/2020**

# Postal Customer

## Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Hiawatha, IA  
Permit No. 33

**ECRWSS**



Prairie Garden Cooperative located at 1050 N 18th Avenue, Hiawatha, is designing and building senior living space facing beautiful Clark Park, the first in Hiawatha. As one plans ahead for retirement this type of housing represents affordable ownership options, stable monthly fees, ease of resale, choice of finishes. One would enjoy complete maintenance freedom, spacious designed homes, new friends and extended living areas.

If this peaks your interest contact Karen Knight at 319-360-8989 or [karenknight@cbhrealty.com](mailto:karenknight@cbhrealty.com)

### CITY DIRECTORY

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
City Administrator	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	John Bender	319-393-1515 x511	<a href="mailto:jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com">jbender@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**

[mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com)



**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**JERRY MOHWINKLE**

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**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
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**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**STEVE DODSON**

[sdodson@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:sdodson@hiawatha-iowa.com)

#### Hiawatha Council Action

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