

City Contacts

Mayor:
Tom Theis
mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com
319-393-1515 X 525

Council Members

Linda Bendixen—Mayor Pro Tem
lbendixen@hiawatha-iowa.com

Nancy Melsa
Nancym@hiawatha-iowa.com

Dick Olson
dolson@hiawatha-iowa.com

Bob Rampulla
brampulla@hiawatha-iowa.com

Marty Bruns
mbruns@hiawatha-iowa.com

City Staff

City Clerk:
Kim Downs
319-393-1515 X 523

Park & Recreation Director:
Angie Cole
319-393-1515 X 251

Community Development Dir:
Mark Powers
319-393-1515 X 229

Public Works Superintendent:
Rod Jasa
319-393-6601

Water Superintendent:
Carl Ransford
319-393-1515 X 232

Police Chief:
Dennis Marks
319-393-1515 X 133

Fire Chief:
Mike Nesslage
319-393-4180 X 13

Library Director:
Jeaneal Weeks
319-393-1414



Library Week—April 12, 2009 through April 18, 2009

“In hard times, libraries are more important than ever. Human beings need what books give them better than any other medium. Since those ancient nights around the prehistoric campfires, we have needed myth and heroes and moral tales. And information about the world beyond the nearest mountains or oceans.”

“Today, with books and movies more expensive than ever, and television entertainment in free fall to the lowest levels of stupidity, freely circulating books are an absolute necessity. They are quite simply another kind of food. We imagine, and then we live”. -Pete Hamill

Hiawatha is fortunate to have a great public library among its services. Together with the schools, churches and local businesses, a library is one of the cornerstones of a healthy community.

That is why we celebrate National Library Week, April 12-18, 2009. Although libraries help their communities and offer “free” services throughout the year, let’s pause to think about the benefits that our local public library can offer in times of economic crisis like these:

Try it before you buy it. Money is tight. Don’t buy a CD, DVD, or book without “test-driving” it first. Come to the library and borrow it to see if it’s a purchase that is right for you. If we don’t have it, we’ll try our hardest to get it for you. Hiawatha citizens account for 17% of the total Metro Library Network circulation. Your materials checkout has increased 40% over one year ago. Your taxes pay for the service, and you are using it!



Two words: FREE INTERNET. Our nine computer workstations and free wi-fi access is available Monday-Thursday, 10-8, Friday and Saturday, 10-5 and Sundays, 1-4 September to May.

Bolster your business. We have access to databases and research tools that will help you reach new and different markets, even during tough times. Check our website, www.hiawathalibrary.com for more details.

Regain a sense of community. The Hiawatha library hosts many book clubs and other community groups. Come, meet your neighbors, create a network of friends and support. Be a volunteer, or join our Friends of the Library group. Call us here at 393-1414 for more information.

Find entertainment. Our library offers events and activities for children and adults, almost always at no cost to you. A fun night out doesn’t need to be an expensive night out.

Find a new job, a better job, or a different job. Use computers, books, newspapers, and more to find employment and build resumes and cover letters. We also proctor tests for adult students and have many quiet corners for individual or group study.



Our Hiawatha Public Library is a unique and valuable resource. It is a lifeline to the world and all the information in it. Please come and see for yourself what a great community center we have here!

Special Needs Dance

Friday, April 24, 2009—

Want to show off your dance moves? Here is your chance to groove with your friends at the Hiawatha Community Center. Come out from 6:00—10:00 p.m., there will be a DJ that will play all of your favorite tunes as you laugh, dance and hangout with your friends. Grab your parents, respite worker or group home staff and bring them to the Hiawatha Community Center! Refreshments will be provided. Come dance your socks off!!!



Tornado Season is Approaching!

It's nice to see people out enjoying the warm spring weather, but with those first warm days, we are reminded that the more turbulent spring storm season is just around the corner. This is a good time for everyone to review their "emergency action plans" for tornado and storm season. The picture below was taken by Hiawatha Firefighters who volunteered to help out in Parkersburg. And while there were tragic losses of life and property, things certainly could have been even worse. Having a good early warning system saved hundreds of lives.

There are many ways of getting the early warning. An important way is to monitor local weather forecasts daily, not just as a storm approaches. All three local broadcast TV stations do an excellent job of keeping us apprised of conditions. If you are engaging in outdoor activities for the day or week-end, make sure you check the weather before heading out. Many outlets also offer text messaging of warnings and watches to your cellular phone. Take these watches and warnings seriously, don't wait for an actual warning to be issued to take action. You may find yourself stranded somewhere with no shelter.

I think probably the single biggest tool you can use at home is a "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration All-Hazards Radio". National Weather Radio is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards—including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). You can buy receivers at many retail outlets, including electronics, department, sporting goods, and boat and marine accessory stores and their catalogs. They can also be purchased via the Internet from online retailers or directly from manufacturers. (Information quoted from <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/>) Along with a smoke detector, this is probably one of the most important safety tools in your home.

Remember that Outdoor Warning Sirens are our last warning, and that they are for outdoors. They are not designed for indoor warning. If you are inside, with the TV on and/or the air conditioner blowing, you MAY not hear the siren. A weather radio right by your bed will alert you and wake you up if needed. And if you are in the park or on the trail, a blowing siren means take shelter NOW, it's probably too late to try to drive home. Monitoring the weather through many sources, before the actual warning, will give you time to retreat to a safe spot. Do NOT wait until the last minute.

Remember. Whether it's fire safety or weather safety, early warning and a little planning will make the difference in how you and your family survive an emergency.



Hiawatha Legion Post #735



The Legion post would like to thank all of our fellow Hiawathians that have signed up for the Avenue of Flags. Those of you who are interested in participating in the Avenue of Flags can still sign up, the deadline is May 16, 2009. Renewal forms were in the February Newsletter and can be obtained at Hiawatha City Hall. If you have any questions, please call Bob Jones at (319) 393-2601.



Loeb sack Rep To Hold Office Hours In Marion And Hiawatha

Rep. Dave Loeb sack will have a member of his staff in Marion and Hiawatha on Wednesday, April 15th for open office hours. Kirsten Running-Marquardt, Loeb sack's district representative covering Linn County, will be at the Marion City Hall at 1225 Sixth Avenue from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM and at the Hiawatha City Hall at 101 Emmons Street from 12:00 Noon- 1:00 PM for open office hours.

Feel free to come in to share your thoughts on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget being developed by Congress and President Obama. The budget proposals aim to cut the deficit, cut taxes for middle-income Americans, and create jobs by investing in clean and renewable energy. The budget will also invest in education to prepare today's students for tomorrow's jobs and will make healthcare affordable and accessible for Iowa families.

Running-Marquardt will be on hand to work with individuals who are having difficulty with a government agency, have suggestions for the Congressman, or would just like to share their concerns. Members of the public are invited to attend. Running-Marquardt holds regular office hours throughout Linn County.

If you are unable to attend these office hours but have a concern to share with the Congressman, please call our district office toll-free at 1-866-914-IOWA (4692).

Water Department Flushing Hydrants/Credit Card Bill Payments

The Hiawatha Water Department will begin its water main flushing program on Monday, April 20, 2009. We will flush fire hydrants through Friday, May 15, 2009. The water will remain safe to drink, however, you may see discolored water temporarily, this is due to iron sediment build up in the water main. If you observe redness or discoloration in water, you may want to postpone doing laundry for a few days. Questions may be directed to the Water Department office at (319) 393-5556, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Water Department customers are also reminded that effective February 5, 2009, we started a new credit card program that allows you to pay your water & sewer bill by telephone at 1-800-272-9829 or by going online to www.hiawatha-iowa.com.

On the website main page, click on the "Water Department" on the left side, then click on PAY MY WATER BILL. There is a \$2.00 fee for this service. PLEASE NOTE: If your water & sewer bill is over \$100.00, you will have to do two transactions with an additional transaction fee for the second transaction. Other payment methods that are available: Electronic checks, Automatic withdrawals (ACH) from checking or savings accounts by contacting the water department, night deposit box at City Hall or drop off your payment at Hy-Vee on Edgewood Road.

As a friendly reminder, Water & Sewer payments are due on or before the 20th of each month to avoid a late charge.



City Wide Garage Sale—Amnesty Pickup—Leaves/Limbs/Yardwaste Pickup

It's spring in Iowa and our thoughts turn to yard cleanup, garage cleaning and the City's annual garage sale.

Once again, we have scheduled the yearly citywide garage sale for Saturday, May 2nd and will provide a map of all the registered sales, along with a list of addresses. If you want to be a part of the listing, please contact City Hall by phone at (319) 393-1515 or email recept@hiawatha-iowa.com.

Amnesty Pickup will begin May 4th and continue until the crew is finished. It is important to remember that large appliances must be set out separate from the rest of your items, they will be picked up by a different vehicle.

Household Rubbish:

1. Broken Glass. This must be placed in a plastic bucket or other suitable container. Windows and doors with broken glass will not be picked up.
2. Small Items. Do not place these on the ground or put them in cardboard containers or they will not be picked up. Use trash cans or plastic bags as containers and mark them with a red "X" if they are to be discarded.
3. Large Items. Other than doors, nothing longer than 4-ft. will be picked up. Railroad ties, plastic, lumber, carpet and drywall should be cut up and tied in bundles. Picnic tables must be disassembled with all nails and hardware removed.
4. Metal and Appliances. These will be loaded in a separate truck for recycling and must be separated from other rubbish.



Leaves/Brush/Yardwaste pick-up will begin the week of April 27th. Leaves and yardwaste must be in paper bags. There are no restrictions on the size for, logs or branches but they should be spread along the curb to facilitate easier pick-up. Do not stack them.

It is illegal to include any of the following in the curbside collections:

Waste oil and solvents, batteries, deposit beverage containers, pressurized and LP tanks, cans with undried paint, and florescent bulbs.



Is your sump pump correctly connected?

In the previous issues of your city newsletter you have seen articles regarding sewer rate increases. This increase is paid as a part of your city water bill. A portion of the increase will pay for maintenance repairs to the Hiawatha sanitary sewer system.

The flow through the sanitary sewer system is monitored and measured and Hiawatha pays the City of Cedar Rapids based on the total amount of flow through the system. Based on the recorded measurement of our flows there is an abnormal amount of what is considered to be clean water, which is entering the system.

To reduce this cost the city needs your help to decrease the amount of clean water that is entering our sanitary system. Your assistance in helping reduce the amount of clean water in the sanitary system will help reduce further fee increases. We would ask all home owners to check and make sure your sump pumps, foundation drains and roof drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer system. Incorrect hookups add clean water to the sanitary system and we end up paying unnecessary costs to treat the additional water.

It is vital that your sump pump, roof drains and other clean water need to flow to the storm sewer system. Your sump pump lines and roof drains can be directed to your yard or to the street, if your street has the appropriate drainage system installed so that the clean water does not go to the sanitary sewer system.

The Community Development Department has additional information available and if you have questions or concerns please contact us at 393-1515 for further assistance.

Council Action Summary

February 4, 2009

Council placed Ordinance #628 amending Code of Ordinance Chapter 99 Sewer Service Charges, Section 99.02 Rates on its first reading.

February 18, 2009

Ordinance #628—Adopting amendment of Code of Ordinance Chapter 99 Sewer Service Charge Section 99.02 Rates.

Resolution 09-022—Authorizing the execution of Street Sweeping Contract Agreement with Kluesner Construction, Inc at a rate of \$88.85 per hour, not to exceed 30 hours per sweep of all city streets.

Resolution 09-023—Adopting authorization of staff to proceed with request for proposals for City Attorney Services.

Resolution 09-024—Authorizing engineering services to proceed with preparation of plans and specifications for the Heritage Green Drainage Project.

Resolution 09-026—Authorizing staff to proceed with the bidding process for the replacement of the 1997 dump truck/plow sander in FY 2010.

Resolution 09-027—Approving funding for an electronic recycling event scheduled for April 25, 2009.

Resolution 09-028—Approving a community collection event for Household Hazardous Waste and authorize the Mayor to sign the memo of understanding with Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency.

Resolution 09-029—Approving a community “Shred It” Event for the shredding of confidential materials at no charge and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Client Service Agreement.

Resolution 09-030—Fixing a date for a meeting on the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$60,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2009, of the City of Hiawatha.

Resolution 09-031—fixing a date for a meeting on the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$750,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2009, of the City of Hiawatha.

Resolution 09-032—Fixing date for a meeting on the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$1,100,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2009, of the City of Hiawatha.

Resolution 09-033—Fixing date for a meeting on the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$1,200,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2009, of the City of Hiawatha.

February 24, 2009

Council reviewed and discussed the 26 City Administrator applications. Council chose 10 applicants to send a qualification and experience questionnaire, responses due back no later than March 9, 2009.

March 4, 2009

Ordinance #629—Amending Ordinance #627 granting MidAmerican Energy Company a renewal of a twenty five (25) year period a non-exclusive natural gas supply, operation and maintenance franchise.

Resolution 09-034—Adopting and certifying City Taxes for FY10 Budget beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010 with a levy rate of 15.31410.

Resolution 09-035—Instituting proceedings to take additional action for the authorization of a loan agreement and issuance of not to exceed \$60,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2009.

Resolution 09-036—Instituting proceedings to take additional action for the authorization of a loan agreement and issuance of not to exceed \$750,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2009.

Resolution 09-037—Instituting proceedings to take additional action for the authorization of a loan agreement and issuance of \$1,100,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2009.

Resolution 09-038—Authorizing issuance of \$2,940,000 General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2009 and levying a tax for the payment.

Resolution 09-039—Approving the 2009-2012 Public Works Bargaining Agreement.

Resolution 09-040—Awarding contract 2009 Landscaping Mowing Services to Berns Brothers Mowing in the bid amount of \$820.00 (7-day cycle); optional 30-acre Park \$350.00 and \$445.00 per edging.

Resolution 09-041—Awarding contract 2009 Weed control Services to Berns Brothers Mowing in the bid amount of \$21,906.00 per season for turf fertilizing and weed control and to accept the optional bid of \$675.00 for week control and volunteer grass control in sidewalks & parking lots for all areas as submitted.

Resolution 09-042—Approving the Stand-By Fire Protection Services for a local industry and setting the fees for February 20, 2009 and February 27, 2009 and directs the Fire Chief to sign the agreement.

Resolution 09-043—Approving a one year extension for the use of 409 Clark Street residence with Vista AmeriCorps.

A Word from the Police Department

The Hiawatha Police Department would like to remind everyone to keep the doors and windows to your residence locked, locking vehicles is a great idea too. Please don't leave keys in vehicles.

In addition to securing your residence, exterior and interior lighting can serve as a deterrent to criminals.

We would like to encourage residents to participate in the Neighborhood Watch program. If you have questions, please contact Officer Allaire at (319) 393-1212 or email him at neighborhoodwatch@hiawathapolice.com.



APRIL 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Council 7pm	2	3	4 Activity Registration Day 8:00-10:00 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Easter Egg Hunt Kainz Park 9:00 am
12 Public Safety 6pm	13 Senior Evening Dance 5:15pm Board of Adj 6pm	14 Parks 6pm Library 7pm	15 Council 7pm	16	17	18
19 Farmers Market Begins 11am Guthridge Park	20	21 Friends of the Library 6:30pm Water 6:30pm	22	23	24 Special Needs Dance 6:00-10:00 pm Com. Center	25
26	27	28 P&Z 6pm	29	30		

MAY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 City Wide Garage Sale
3	4	5	6 Council 7pm	7	8 Special Needs Movie Night 6:00 pm Com. Center	9
10 Public Safety 6pm	11 History 1:30pm Board of Adj 6pm	12 Parks 6pm Library 7pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Friends of the Library 6:30pm Water 6:30pm	20 Council 7pm	21	22 Bike Rodeo— Concert in Park 7pm Well Lit	23
24	25	26 P&Z 6pm	27	28	29	30
31						

Postal Customer

Walk Sequence

Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

Employee Awards

The American Water Works Association is pleased to announce Water Superintendent, Carl Ransford's 30 years of dedication to AWWA and the water profession. Carl was awarded a plaque, lapel pin and was recognized earlier this year at the conference.

Carl's years of service and dedication make him an incredible asset to the water profession.

AWWA is built on the strength of its dedicated members, members like Carl. The AWWA would like to extend their gratitude and congratulations to Carl for 30 years of support and dedication to AWWA.



Employee Certifications

Congratulations to Kelly Kornegor, Administrative Assistant for the Community Development Department.

Kelly has earned her Certified Permit Technician from the International Code Council. This certification is awarded after the applicant has passed an extensive test on their knowledge of the Building Code, Zoning Code, Legal Aspects of Code Administration and Basic Code Enforcement. This will allow Kelly to assist our citizens with questions finding the necessary information on building and zoning issues.



Playing for Keeps Fund-Raiser



On October 24, 2009 the Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a fundraiser called Playing for Keeps. The purpose of this fundraiser is to benefit the children's Playground, Tot Lot, and Youth in Parks summer programs. This event is scheduled to be held at the Cedar Rapids Toyota-Scion Showroom in Hiawatha. There will be live and silent auctions, an art show, hors d'oeuvres and more. We still have multiple volunteer opportunities available! For more information, please contact Angie Cole, Hiawatha Park & Recreation Director at parkdirect@hiawatha-iowa.com or Molly Keating, Special Events Coordinator at keatingm@hiawatha-



Don't Get Scammed!!!

The Police Department would like to quickly remind everyone about all the scams that are affecting the citizens of Hiawatha. Some of these have been around for quite some time and others have a new twist to them.

One of the newest scams we have seen is the grandparent scam. This scam has its origins in Canada and is targeting the elderly. Seniors are receiving a phone call from someone claiming to be their grandson, telling them they have just been in a motor vehicle accident in Canada and they need bond money to get out of jail. The caller asks them to wire transfer (Western Union, Moneygram) money to help them out. If you should receive a call like this, ask several questions before sending any money. In some cases the caller may know the name of the intended victim's grandson. If not make sure you get a name. If you do not know if you have a relative in another country, please check before you do anything. Other questions you can ask are parent's names, names of brothers or sisters, addresses, phone numbers, or anything you would know about a grandchild that they should also know. When in doubt, hang up.

Ebay and Craig's List are common places for scams. Anytime you sell something on the internet and you receive a check for more than the sale price you should start asking questions. A common scam is when the buyer wants you to cash a check that is more than the purchase price and mail the balance back to them. This scam goes right along with any kind of check you receive in the mail from someone or someplace you have never heard of. If someone asks you to cash a check for them and keep part of the money for yourself, there is something wrong. Remember there is no such thing as free money. Anytime you can make money for doing nothing, you need to think twice.

Keep in mind these scammers make it their job to sit around all day and work on ways to take your money. They are good at what they do because it is in our nature to trust people. It is your job to ask questions and think twice before you do anything. If there is any doubt, contact the Hiawatha Police Department and an Officer can answer any questions you have.

