



August 2019

Volume 137

HEDCO “State of the City” 2019-Making A Difference

The Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation (HEDCO) hosted a luncheon July 18 for Hiawatha businesses, which featured a presentation and panel about the past year’s progress. Kyle Kunz, HEDCO Board of Directors Chair, explained the successful timeline of Hiawatha’s new partnerships and developments from July 2018 to June 2019.

As a growing community, HEDCO and the City welcomed eight new partnerships and six ribbon cuttings for new Hiawatha businesses and expansions. In fact, five of Corridor Business Journal’s fastest-growing companies were Hiawatha businesses: Crystal Group, Channel Fusion, Mobile Demand, Boomerang Corporation, and Wickwire Chiropractic.

In addition to business growth, construction development allows Hiawatha to be easily accessible, as well as develop as a community. Hiawatha can look forward to the Tower Terrace Interchange alleviating traffic congestion at Boyson Road and the economic growth around that interchange. In addition, there is the development of the new Hiawatha Village Center, as well as the Hiawatha Public Library’s renovation and expansion. Over a three-year period, economic development has centered around Tower Commerce, Peck’s Landing, Longfellow Square and Sherman’s Addition.



HEDCO presented the following statistics regarding the City’s growth:

- 629,996 square feet of new commercial property
- \$78M added property value
- 479 full-time employees; 132 retained
- 125 part-time employees; 25 retained
- Completed APA Awarded Comprehensive Plan 2036
- Hiawatha Population Growth-2010 grew by 8%; 2020 projections 12%
- 39% increase in permit fees since 2015
- Lowered property tax levy by .42 over a period of two-fiscal years.

Residential growth continues to fill in and expand:

- Pines at Turtle Creek (5th) – close to completion
- Dell Ridge – 34 lots; 60% constructed
- Rolling Prairie – 102 lots; 30% completed
- Heritage (12th) – 26 lots; 85% completed
- Todd Hills Addition-72 lots (NEW Development)
- Smart Series Housing-Essential Housing needs for infill of \$5M + investment
- Need for multi-family 521 units



Annual New Building Construction Value since 2015

(Continued on next page)

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Workforce development efforts included Hiawatha being named as one of 22 Home Base Iowa Communities (HBI). Serving our veterans as they have served us, Hiawatha supports HBI by connecting veterans with employers. Transitioning from being a soldier to a civilian is already difficult enough, so HBI partners help alleviate that stress by helping veterans find jobs that are suited to their strengths.

Economic Development Forecast Panel consisting of developers; Joe Ahmann, Jon Dusek and Pat Callanan along with Mayor Bennett highlighted the city's holistic approach to economic development- interchange advantages, smart planning vision, and investment in aesthetics are all pluses for the city of Hiawatha.

The city's community development director spoke of the city's recent Robins Road Corridor Study for redevelopment along with these next steps:

- Redevelopment of Robins Road and potential expansion of an multi-mixed use corridor
- As a part of the vision, a master plan redevelopment, both private and public, including roadway and pedestrian facility improvements
- Future Hiawatha Main Street

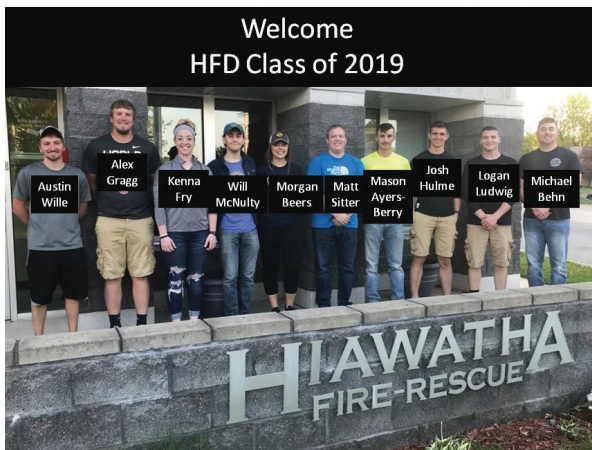
Supporting new businesses and being veteran-friendly is only the beginning of working in Hiawatha.

Being connected to I-380, having a supportive community and providing a stable, growing workforce are not only perks, but promises for working and living in Hiawatha.



COMPLETE OUR SURVEY
HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Technological advances are changing the service delivery processes for the City of Hiawatha. Given access to services through the internet for water billing, construction permits, parks/recreation reservations and other City services, the City is considering adjusting our office hours to coincide with traffic needs. Your input would be greatly appreciated! During the month of August, a random survey will be sent out to reach over 900 residents. Please help us in completing this survey to better serve you! Thank you for your time!



The Fire Department welcomes its new members! The newest group of members started training in mid-May and will continue their training through the summer before actually going into a fire. Until then, they will assist with other firefighting and EMS activities. We welcome the following new people:

- Mason Ayers-Berry
- Morgan Beers
- Michael Behn
- Kenna Fry
- Alexander Cragg
- Robert J. Hulme (Josh)
- Logan C. Ludwig
- Matthew Sitter
- Austin Wille
- William McNulty

A Few Things to Know About the 2019 Election

The City of Hiawatha has three council seats and the mayor seat to fill for the 2019 election. Candidates for office must complete a Nomination Petition with no less than **25** signatures and an Affidavit of Candidacy form. Nomination Petitions and Affidavit of Candidacy paperwork must be filed with the Linn County Auditor/Elections Services Department.

Resources for Candidates

Nomination Petitions and Affidavit of Candidacy Paperwork is available at the City Clerk's office or Secretary of State website at sos.iowa.gov under the elections tab. The 2019 Candidate's Guide educates candidates on election laws and responsibilities of elected officials. These are available at the City Clerk's office, Linn County Election Services Department, or online at sos.iowa.gov, under the elections tab.

Important Dates

First day to final nomination papers
August 26, 2019

The deadline to file nomination papers
September 19, 2019



Polls open
7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
November 5, 2019

The City of Hiawatha Hosts Five Interns this Summer

Five high school interns have been helping the City of Hiawatha this summer as part of the Kirkwood Community College's Workplace Learning Connection (KCCWWLC). The internship program allows high school students (grades 11-12), in Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn or Washington counties in Iowa the opportunity to gain real-world experience through supervised internships. Interns develop employability behaviors that prepare them for the workplace and gain insight that will help them make informed post-secondary choices. The KCCWWLC and the City's partnership has been an exceptional experience in developing workplace candidates, while building positive experiences for both parties. Hiawatha's five summer interns are:



As an intern in the Policy and Administration Department, Maddie Miller has had the opportunity to attend and take minutes at a council meeting, prepare resolutions, update housing statistics for the Police Department 5-year Plan, and attend the State of the City Event, along with many other miscellaneous projects and tasks. We have enjoyed having Maddie help us this summer. A word from Maddie: "I enjoyed making connections with new people and learning about all the different jobs that are available in city government."



Riley Coulter is a junior at Prairie High School and interested in a career in engineering. As an intern with the Hiawatha Engineering Department this summer, she has attended council meetings, bid openings, meetings with design engineers, and helped the department prepare construction estimates and reports for the City Council. A word from Riley regarding her experience: "My internship with the City of Hiawatha has been a great experience as I explore possibilities for my future career. I have enjoyed having a role in many meetings and the design plans for projects over the summer. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity that allowed me to continue my studies and interest in the engineering field."



The Finance Intern this summer is Camryn Ray. She will be a Senior at Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids this fall. We have enjoyed having Camryn here at the City of Hiawatha. She has done a number of various tasks for the Finance Department including data entry, weekly deposits, processing payments to vendors, and filing. She has had the opportunity to attend a city council meeting and the annual State of the City Event. Camryn says, her favorite part "is the trust she receives from Cindy. She keeps me busy with tasks that can't be messed up. At first it was a little challenging, but by now, I'm used to all the numbers and technology and I really enjoy that. I feel more mature and ready for my future."



As an intern in the Policy and Administration Department, Sophia Wepking had the opportunity to attend and take minutes at a council meeting, prepare resolutions, update housing statistics for the Police Department 5-year Plan, and attend the State of the City Event, along with many other miscellaneous projects and tasks. We have enjoyed having Sophia help us this summer. A word from Sophie: "I have really enjoyed working for the City and getting a chance to learn more about small town government. It is so great to make connections with others and help make a difference in the community."



Taylor Kenny attends Prairie High School and has an interest in becoming a librarian. As an intern at the library, she had the opportunity to help with the Summer Reading Program, work with children during programs, shelve materials, and assist patrons along with many other miscellaneous projects and tasks. Taylor has been a great help this summer. A word from Taylor: "Being part of the team at the library has been very fulfilling for me. The best part has been getting children excited about reading and learning, and I will always remember how happy they all are to come to the library."

Hiawatha Public Library Construction Project Update

As we move through the summer you have seen an increasing amount of activity at the Hiawatha library construction site. The focus of attention for the past three (3) months has been preparation of the site for new construction, including the completion of the east parking lot, underpinning the existing library, shoring, soil stabilization, earth removal for the new addition. Rain has certainly slowed down construction progress, but the sun has been on our side lately.

Justin Electric and Alliant Energy have completed the work for the temporary power switch over and the transformer relocated. Second Avenue, just north of W. Willman Street, has been closed for storm water and sanitary improvements. Dewatering has become complicated with needed adjustments in the field. Concrete footings and foundation walls to follow in the month of August where the contractor will prepare to change gears and start constructing the core of Phase I-new addition. For future updates, go to hiawathapubliclibrary.org.



Open Burning in Town

With a few exceptions, open burning is prohibited inside the city limits of Hiawatha. Both Linn County and Hiawatha have ordinances governing open burning; the primary concerns are safety and air quality. The burning of trash and burn barrels are specifically prohibited and burning can result in an administrative fine. Certain types of burning, like restorative prairie burns or training burns are allowed with a permit from the Fire Department and Linn County Public Health. Many of us enjoy having a campfire on cool fall nights. Campfires and recreational fires are allowed. However, the Fire Department has the authority to order any open fire to be extinguished if they deem it unsafe.

IowaStateFair

NOTHING COMPARES

AUG 8-18 2019

FRIENDS OF HIAWATHA PARKS AND RECREATION & CENTER POINT PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS

IOWA STATE FAIR CHARTER BUS TRIP

AUGUST 15, 2019

\$35 per person includes fair ticket and transportation. Pick up & Drop off at Hiawatha and Center Point City Halls

★ GUTHRIDGE PARK ★

IN THE PARK

Music

FREE ADMISSION

BROWN PAVILION LAWN

2 AUGUST MICHAEL MONCADA AND WHISKEY HIGH

9 AUGUST ROBIN BANKS

16 AUGUST EXIT 185

23 AUGUST PAST MASTERS

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE AT 5:45PM

BANDS PLAY FROM 6PM - 9PM

Hiawatha History Commission

Nixon Eementary School opened August 31, 1970 and was named after former President Richard Nixon. According to the school's website, Richard Nixon's brother, Ed, visited Nixon for the 25th Anniversary, in April of 1995.

The caption reads: "The students are shown walking in Northwood Drive, the only access to Nixon School at present. The school bus and the cars illustrate the traffic problems in the road, which is muddy after a moderate rain."



—Gazette Photo by Tom Merryman
THESE students are pictured walking in Northwood drive, the only access to Nixon school at present. The school bus and the cars illustrate the traffic problems in the road, which is muddy after a moderate rain. The street is to be closed for paving.

Photo Courtesy of the Cedar Rapids Gazette

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**DELIVER BY
 SATURDAY,
 08/10/2019**

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New Water Dept. Employee



The Water Department has a new friendly face to greet you when you stop by to pay your water bill. Stacey Carter joined the Water Dept. team in April 2019. She comes with banking and clerical experience from the University of Iowa Credit Union. Stacey will be processing water bills, meter readings and daily payments, along with assisting customers with their move in and move out information and answering phones. Stacey and her husband have three children and live in Cedar Rapids. She stays busy with her family, faith and many children's activities. The Water Department is excited to have Stacey on board. Welcome!

Amy Scheer Joins City Staff as Deputy Clerk/Admin. Coordinator



The City of Hiawatha hired Amy Scheer as the new Deputy Clerk/Administrative Coordinator in April 2019. Amy graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 2016 where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. She gained her professional experience working as an Assistant Librarian for the Independence Public Library, an Audit and Tax Staff Accountant for Hogan-Hansen, P.C., and then as the Associate Clerk for the City of Independence. Her background includes customer service, audit and tax accounting, payroll, and human resources. Amy currently lives with her husband, dog, and two cats in Independence. She and her family enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors. Stop by City Hall and welcome Amy to our team.

City Directory

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