

REMEMBERING THE 2020

Derecho

The August 10th Derecho brings one word to mind, togetherness. 2020 was a year that many of us would like to put behind us, we all faced challenges, change and many frustrations. But when the Derecho hit our community there was no time to think, everyone came together to achieve one goal, restoring our community. Neighbors helping neighbors, City Staff working diligently until all roadways were safe and clear, nearby cities, contractors, and the Iowa DOT offering a helping hand, local nonprofits providing resources, and community members volunteering wherever help was due. I am proud to work in a community that came together and turned a devastating disaster into a beautiful restored place that we are fortunate enough to call home. Although it will take time and many years to restore and rebuild our tree canopy what an amazing transformation we made within the last year. We should all be proud.

Kelly Willadsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

After it was safe, our Public Works staff immediately started clearing and opening main roads. This was the start of approximately three months of loading and hauling tree debris away. We completed the first pass of city-wide tree debris pick up within three weeks of the disaster. I estimate that we made an additional 10-15 passes throughout the city from August 10 through November 15, 2020. I will admit, we were not prepared for an event of this magnitude. I do not believe any community that was hit by the derecho was prepared. We have learned a lot about handling tree debris and will be more prepared in the future. I do feel that, all things considered, we handled the derecho pretty well. As a City, we pulled together and just went to work. Cities of Dyersville, Walker, Center Point, along with the Iowa Department of Transportation donated labor and equipment to lend a hand. They were a tremendous help! We hired three contractors to assist with tree debris pick up, Tschiggfrie Excavating, Eastern Iowa Excavating, and McMurrin Trucking; we are thankful for their help. I would also like to compliment our residents for their patience and understanding while work was being performed. We did not receive any complaints, just inquisitive minds wondering when we would be able to get to their streets. Crews were thankful to receive water, cookies, snacks and compliments while performing their jobs. Some residents even assisted us while picking up debris from their street. Thank you, Hiawatha community, for coming together as one.

Rod Jasa, Director of Public Works

Tragedies come in many forms each unique in its own way. Some tragedies come with advance warning and others are within a blink of an eye. Derecho being one of them. I recall the morning as it became a bit gloomy but we noted nothing out of the ordinary. Even with the winds initially picking up we still did not sense anything different than any other rainstorm we've encountered until it wasn't any other rainstorm. Derecho-the fast moving hurricane-like storm with straight-line winds of up to 140 miles per hour lasting over 45 minutes changed our lives and those that we serve forever.

As a team that day, we came together as we always do but for a reason we hadn't experienced before.

Whether we like it or not we gained institutional knowledge. We learned the power of a natural disaster and its effects on us as individuals. We had to make tough decisions on the spot with little information. We made them with our residents in mind. We experienced an event we hope to never experience again but if we do we are prepared. As we know a natural disaster can present itself differently each time; it can be more intense or destructive than the time before, and we will need to manage those expectations to the best of our ability. We now know managing a disaster is exhausting for all involved. Weary staff continued to be engaged and look for a silver lining. We cleared streets for emergency services and made paths for utility companies to do their work, we removed down trees to ensure the safety of others, we checked on residents with severe health conditions to ensure those in need had 24/7 oxygen, we provided a cooling and charging station, food, and water. We found volunteers to assist residents in removal of debris from yards, off of roofs and out of windows, we provided individuals with a place to work, we knocked on doors to provide resource information and so much more.

We watched neighbors support one another and build new relationships. Derecho didn't pull us apart, it brought us together.

Kim Downs, City Manager



**Election Day
Tuesday,
November 2, 2021
Polls are open
7:00 AM - 8:00 PM**

City of Hiawatha has two council seats up in the 2021 election. Candidates for office must complete an Affidavit of Candidacy form and a Nomination Petition with no less than 25 signatures. Completed paperwork must be filed with the Linn County Election Services Department at 935 2nd St. SW in Cedar Rapids. Visit the elections tab at sos.iowa.gov to obtain the Nomination Petition and Affidavit of Candidacy paperwork. The 2021 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 file nomination papers - August 23
 Last day to file nomination papers - September 16
 Early Voting takes place from October 13 through November 1

EVERY PENNY MATTERS - LOCAL OPTION SALES AND SERVICES TAX

Local Option Sales and Services Tax is the state authorized sales and services tax on retail purchases used by cities to raise money for certain projects. Experts often consider a local option sales and services tax as the most equitable tax because everyone pitches in, not just the homeowners as with a property tax. As residents of Linn County, you are already paying the 1% sales tax when you shop in surrounding areas, such as Cedar Rapids. The dollars generated from the sales tax are then disbursed to the communities that have voted YES for the 1% sales tax, however the communities that voted NO, will not be able to receive any part of those dollars generated.

Local Option Sales and Services Tax in the City of Hiawatha

A local option sales and services tax is not a new tax to the City of Hiawatha. LOST dollars have funded many CIP projects including:

- 12th Avenue repairs from Blairs Ferry to Lyndhurst
- Industrial Avenue repairs from Boyson to the north
- Widening of 18th Avenue
- Ambulance replacement and updates
- Guthridge Park basketball court, tennis court and ice rink
- Turtle Creek Park
- Library expansion
- Trail lighting at Guthridge, Tucker and Clark Parks
- Public Safety Garage and Training Facility
- Police Department Interview Equipment

Voters will decide on November 2, 2021 on whether to approve a 10-year 1% Local Option Sales and Services Tax that would be implemented on July 1, 2024 and would end June 30, 2034.

For more information contact City of Hiawatha at 319-393-1515

What happens if the Local Option Sales and Services Tax is turned down in Hiawatha?

The City would be forced to find other ways to pay for maintenance and infrastructure. Likely through increased property taxes and bonding.

How is the money to be used?

Funds generated are extremely important to maintaining and enhancing the resident wellbeing in the City of Hiawatha. Funds raised are used to help maintain and expand our infrastructure. Local option sales and services tax funds are for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and property tax relief such as:

- Up to 10% for property tax relief
- The specific purposes for which the revenues shall otherwise be expended is/are 100% for any lawful purpose including, but not limited to:
- Retirement of outstanding obligations
 - Water & sewer system improvements
 - Street improvements
 - Public safety, library, and park & recreation improvements

How does the public know funds are being spent correctly?

Iowa law protects the funds raised by requiring a spending plan be approved at the same time the tax is approved by voters. In addition, all sales and services tax revenue must be kept separate from other city funds. Elected officials are held accountable for spending the revenues as advertised. Citizens would be kept informed about the progress of projects through the "Hiawatha Insights" city newsletter publication that is produced and distributed by the city.

STORM WATER CHARGES WILL START BEING COLLECTED ON OCTOBER'S WATER BILL

City council recently reviewed and approved the proposed five-year stepped storm water fee increase for residential, commercial and mobile home parks.

The council held the first initial public hearing in regards to the increase on June 16 with second and third readings for public input on July 7 and 21, respectively. Ordinance No. 955 increasing storm water fees was passed and approved on July 21. The new storm water fees will be reflected on the water bills that are due in October. For more information visit www.hiawatha-iowa.com/news/storm-water-rate-increase/



GAMBLING VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2021 BALLOT

The Linn County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution that will allow Linn County voters to decide on November 2, 2021, whether to reauthorize gambling games in Linn County. Per state statute, this measure must be voted on and approved twice, with an eight-year separation between the two votes, to allow gambling in Linn County permanently. Linn County voters first approved a gambling referendum in 2013.

The November referendum will be a yes/no vote on whether Linn County residents want to allow gambling facilities in Linn County. The referendum is not for a specific casino or proposed casino. A yes vote means Linn County will allow gambling—it does not mean that a casino will be developed in Linn County. Approval of a specific gambling facility in Linn County has additional requirements, including an application and approval by the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission.

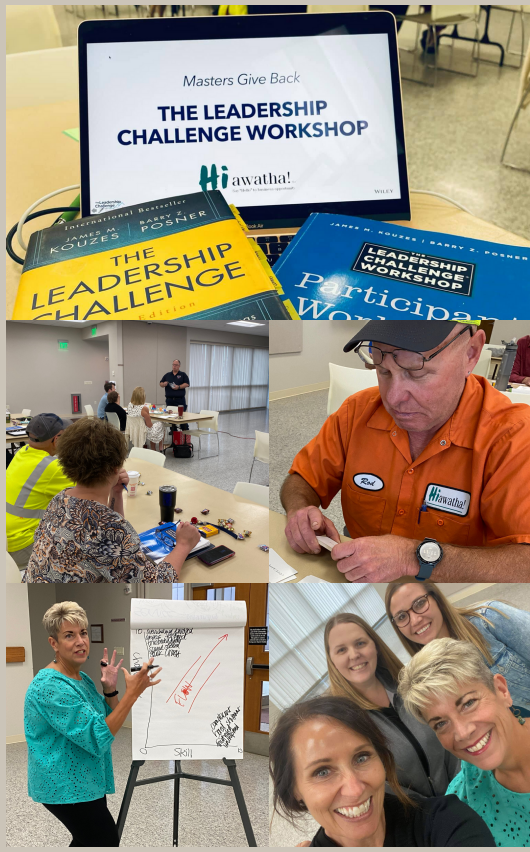
Hiawatha Council Action

The Hiawatha City Council meeting minutes may be obtained online at 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

CITY OF HIAWATHA ACCEPTS THE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

Similar to many Iowa communities, the City of Hiawatha has faced multiple challenges, from a global pandemic to a natural disaster. Last month, city leaders were selected to address a different kind of a challenge based on professional growth called "The Leadership Challenge". Facilitated by Angie Chaplin, founder/owner of Mindful Leadership, 14 members of Hiawatha's city administrative team took part in The Leadership Challenge® Workshop, a multi-day training that explores leadership characteristics, values, and behaviors. Mindful Leadership received approval from the book's publishing company, Wiley, to donate facilitation and workshop materials through its Masters Give Back program. "As a former city leader in Storm Lake plus having worked with federal government leaders on their leadership challenges, I chose to partner with the City of Hiawatha," Chaplin said. "Well-positioned for growth, Hiawatha is an up-and-coming progressive business community ready to embrace a leadership culture." "The Leadership Challenge Workshop provides an opportunity for leadership teams to reflect on themselves and their belief systems," said Kim Downs, City Manager for the City of Hiawatha. "Life is busy, and our team goes from one project, task, or goal to another without taking an assessment of their individual accomplishments, let alone build upon their leadership skills. This interactive and thought-provoking program gave us the chance to do that as an individual and a team, and for that I'm grateful."

Based on The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership, the workshop included a behavior/personality profile plus the Leadership Practices Inventory, a 360-degree leadership frequency assessment. To learn more about The Leadership Challenge, visit www.leadershipchallenge.com or see Mindful Leadership at www.angiechaplin.com.



Litchfield Drive and Tucker Street will be reduced to one lane beginning the week of August 12th. The south side of Litchfield, from 18th Avenue to Miller Road, will receive new ADA ramps with sidewalk tie-ins. Tucker, from B Avenue to C Avenue will experience minor curb and gutter repairs. On or around August 26th, both Litchfield Drive and Tucker Street will be closed completely to receive a new asphalt overlay. The contractor will notify homeowners in the effected areas prior to the closures. Roadwork is expected to be completed within three weeks. Questions can be directed to the Engineering Department at 319-393-1515 x528. While we know road closures are an inconvenience to both homeowners and those who travel, the updates will improve resident wellbeing overall. Proper ADA ramps will benefit everyone, regardless of disability, and curb and gutter repairs will keep asphalt stable, prevent deterioration and direct water to the proper drainage areas. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.



INTERN SPOTLIGHT



The City of Hiawatha and Kirkwood Community College partnered with Workplace Learning Connections to offer a 45 hour unpaid internship for high school students over the summer. JT McCrea, a Senior at Cedar Rapids Prairie High School interned in the Finance Department. Cindy Kudrna, Finance Director said "I have enjoyed having JT here at the City of Hiawatha. He has done a number of various tasks including data entry, weekly deposits, processing payments to vendors, and filing." JT said, "What I liked most about my internship was being able to look at the budget and see all the different income streams and revenue. I was unaware of the amount of different revenue sources that exist. I am grateful that I was able to ask so many questions and learn about stuff that didn't make sense at first. I was really grateful that I could work next to people who care about their community."



Tavian Wray, a senior at Cedar Rapids Kennedy High School interned with the Engineering Department. He had the opportunity to observe a number of construction projects in the community including the new plaza outside of city hall at the intersection of Emmons and N Center Point Road. Tavian was able to witness a design on paper transition to a project constructed in the field. He listened in on a number of meetings between consultants and engineering staff regarding the design and what the city was looking for. He helped organize a very large project file dating back 30 plus years by date and by print size in preparation to be scanned for electronic storage. He was able to ask a lot of questions and hopefully solidify his want to be an engineer.

ECRWSS

Postal Customer Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

**DELIVER BY
SATURDAY,
08/14/2021**

STATE OF THE CITY TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF HIAWATHA IN ITS EFFORTS TO REMAIN ONE OF THE FINEST CITIES IN THE CORRIDOR WHILE ADAPTING TO THE ECONOMY, LEGISLATION, AND A NATURAL DISASTER. MAYOR BILL BENNETT WILL PROVIDE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM HEDCO CHAIR, MARK PARMENTER AND VICE-CHAIR, MELISSA WHITE. KEYNOTE SPEAKER, UNITED STATES CONGRESSWOMAN, ASHLEY HINSON, RECAPS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR OUR ECONOMY WHILE HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANT PROGRAM INCENTIVES THAT AID IN STRENGTHENING OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS THEY NAVIGATE COVID AND THE RECESSION.

SEATING IS LIMITED
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
DOORS OPEN AT 3:30PM

CRYSTAL GROUP | 855 METZGER DRIVE | HIAWATHA, IA 52233

RESERVE YOUR SEAT ONLINE AT

WWW.HEDCO.ORG/EVENTS/HIAWATHA-STATE-OF-THE-CITY-09-02-2021



State of the City

ADDRESS 2021



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
Interim Fire Chief	Matt Powers	319-393-4180	mkpowers@hiawatha-iowa.com
Library Director	Jeaneal Weeks	319-393-1414	weeksj@hiawatha-iowa.com

For more information about City of Hiawatha and its services, call 319-393-1515 or visit 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
STEVE DODSON**
sdodson@hiawatha-iowa.com



HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY LAUNCHES DIGITAL INCLUSION

Hiawatha Public Library was awarded \$5000 from the 2021 American Rescue Plan Library Grants program. Youth Services Librarian Alicia Mangin took full advantage of this opportunity to purchase 32 Playaway Launchpads, technology that supports digital inclusion for the community. Hiawatha Public Library's mission to foster the creation of young readers has always been the foundation of collection development and programming for Mangin. Digital literacy is an important part of this. The addition of Playaway Launchpads provides children with the opportunity to experience a tablet, free of charge from their local library without the need for Wi-Fi, bridging the digital divide that exists for low income homes. Playaway Launchpads are preloaded with learning applications that impact development and education. The Early Literacy tablets designed for kids ages 3+ include activities and stories that help build fundamental skills from number and letter recognition to sight words, phonics, and reading comprehension. The Reading Academy tablets help kids master verbal, reading, and writing skills as they transition from learning-to-read to reading-to-learn. Finally, the STEM and STEAM tablets present an interactive mix of science, technology, engineering, art, and math-based games that propel young minds to incorporate critical thinking and artistic inventiveness. Mangin says, "I am excited about offering this new item to our community. They are going to love this fun learning tool." Stop by Hiawatha Public Library and check out a Launchpad today!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN STRONG

While many companies encountered significant setbacks in 2020, there were still some bright spots and big wins in terms of economic development projects in Hiawatha. Large new projects, BDC Group Inc. and Home Depot Distribution Center were welcomed in Hiawatha.



4 projects approved by City Council



\$9+ million capital investment



30 new jobs created
20 jobs retained



16 new homes built
\$5.8M valuation

BDC GROUP

OSP Construction, telecom site development, on-demand, electrical and maintenance service

- \$2.5 million capital investment (Hiawatha Properties LLC)
- \$2.9 million building construction and site improvements
- Construction of a new 25,000 sq. ft. classified commercial building
- Retention of 30 jobs at a high quality wage

HOME DEPOT DISTRIBUTION CENTER

World's largest home improvement specialty retailer with 2,200+ box stores and distribution centers.

- \$2.8 million capital investment (Hiawatha Properties LLC)
- \$4.5 million building construction and site improvements
- Construction of a new 51,000 sq. ft. classified commercial building
- Retention of 20 jobs at a high quality wage

Face Masks/Coverings will be required of the public entering into city facilities effective August 5, 2021. The wearing of face coverings will be assessed weekly to determine the continued use of face coverings as recommended by CDC and Linn County Public Health. The City Council encourages our area businesses to follow CDC and Linn County Public Health's guidance and advocates for each individual to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

- 01 Farmers Market 10:00 - 1:00 PM
- 04 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 06 Music in the Park - 6:00 PM
The Compass Rose Band
- 06 Movie under the Moon - 9:15 PM
Monsters Inc.
- 07 Fun Fest Concert - 6:30 PM
The Mixtape followed by Fireworks
- 08 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 09 History Commission Meeting 1:30 PM
- 10 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 10 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 11 Council Meeting Airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 13 Music in the Park - 6:00 PM
The Bamboozlers
- 15 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 17 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 18 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 20 Music in the Park - 6:00 PM
The Bamboozlers
- 21 HIBRAI Bike Ride Fundraiser 8:00 AM
- 22 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 23 P & Z Meeting 5:30 PM
- 25 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 27 Music in the Park - 6:00 PM
Robby Vee & his Rock n Roll Caravan
- 29 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

NOTICE



FACE MASKS
REQUIRED

THANK
You!

Thank you World Class Industries for supporting our summer Blastball Youth Program for 2021!



BEGINNER'S PICKLEBALL CLINIC

August 21, 2021 1-3pm
Guthridge Park Tennis Courts

Participants will need to bring their own pickleball paddle, balls will be supplied. This FREE clinic is geared for players new to the sport. Participants will review rules, scoring and position, serving, return of serve, dinks, ground strokes, and volleys.
Register at www.Hiawatha-Iowa.com

HIAWATHA FARMERS MARKET
GUTHRIDGE PARK
SUNDAYS
THROUGH OCT 31
10:00AM-1:00PM
RAIN OR SHINE

• FRUITS • VEGETABLES
• EGGS • BAKED GOODS
• HONEY • FLOWERS
• HANDCRAFTS
• DESSERTS

**EFFECTIVE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS
EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**

If you haven't already updated your employee handbook after the craziness of 2020, its time to do so! Handbooks are used in legal situations as a key piece of evidence with any employee situation and many state and federal laws have changed over the past year, particularly in the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) space. The September summit will focus on:

- Flexible workplaces
- Social media, cyber security and employee regulation updates
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion opportunities

September 21, 2021 from 8:00 - 9:15AM
BDC Group, Inc. at 1525 Ketelsen Dr, Hiawatha
Register today at cedarrapids.org/events/hiawatha-business-summit



SAVE THE DATE

HIAWATHA TREE DISTRIBUTION EVENT

\$25.00
PER TREE
(UP TO 2 PER HOUSEHOLD)

TREE ORDER STARTS:

Monday, September 6th

TREE ORDER ENDS:

Wednesday, September 22nd
or until sold out

PICK-UP DAY:

Sunday, September 26th
11:00am - 1:00pm

**KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE:
LINN COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER
1770 BOYSON RD, HIAWATHA**



For more information or to order your trees visit:
WWW.TRESSFOREVERADOPTIONS.ORG

Hiawatha!

SEPTEMBER

- 01 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 02 State of the City Address
Crystal Group 4:00 PM
- 04 Farmers Market 10:00 - 1:00 PM
- 06 City Hall Closed for Holiday
- 08 Council Meeting Airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 12 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 13 History Commission Meeting 1:30 PM
- 14 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 14 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 15 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 19 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 21 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 22 Council Meeting Airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 26 Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 27 P & Z Meeting 5:30 PM



LOOKING BACK WITH THE HISTORY COMMISSION

Nixon School opened August 31, 1970. There were NO sidewalks and the creek flowed with 5-6 feet of water. Children made a make-shift rock dam to the bridge to go to school. If you'd like to learn more about the history of Hiawatha consider purchasing a "HIAWATHA, 70 YEARS OF HISTORY" book at the Hiawatha Library.



FRIENDS OF HIAWATHA PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION PRESENT A

TAILGATE IN THE PARK

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HAWKEYES VS MARYLAND TERRAPINS
GUTHRIDGE PARK | 7:00PM | OCTOBER 1

THE FRIENDS OF HIAWATHA PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING SPONSORS!

Extending the Growing Season

Thursday, September 9th 6:30PM

Enjoy home-grown early tomatoes and pick fresh broccoli from the garden for the holiday! Phil will discuss clever ways the home gardener can extend Iowa's growing season. Topics include utilizing cold frames, row covers, hoop houses, and other ingenious ideas to prolong your garden's productivity.

This class is presented by Master Gardener: Phil Pfister

Brought to you by the Linn County Master Gardeners



KNOW YOUR W'S



WEAR
a cloth face covering.



WAIT
6 feet apart.
Avoid close contact.



WASH
your hands often or use hand sanitizer.