Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

To:	Park and Recreation Commission
CC:	Mayor and City Council
From:	Kelly Willadsen, Park and Recreation Director
Date:	November 13, 2018
Re:	Park and Recreation Report

Rick, Ted, Ambyr and I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We are excited for the year ahead and all the opportunities that are coming our way!

Reports:

- **Letters to Santa:** The elves in the office have collected 30 letters from Santa so far this month. He will be busy getting those responses back to the children before Christmas! Letters will be sent to many surrounding states which is very exciting. We hope to collect many more before December 18th!
- **Free Fitness in Hiawatha Community Center:** Join us for a fun evening of holiday fun December 19th for an awesome POUND workout, plus an ugly sweater contest with prizes, AND a white elephant gift exchange! (gifts can be anything that is NOT new, and something in your home you no longer use, want, or do not mind getting rid of!!!--this should be fun!)
  Tara will start the evening with the ugly sweater contest and gift exchange, then Rockout to a fun holiday POUND class!!! Bring a yoga mat, water, and be ready to Rock!!!
  Tara will be adding 12 more classes to our 2019 schedule! Come join the fun on the second Wednesday of the month! Her classes run from 6-7pm in the Community Center. Did we mention Free!!
- **Whispering Pines Painting:** This month we have two painting classes scheduled in the Community Center on December 10th and 18th. This month Donita will be creating a bottle cap snowman and winter friends painting. Bring your own snacks and beverages and learn to paint at the Hiawatha Community Center. Fee is $35 cash or check only.

- **JoJo Siwa Dance Clinic with the Kennedy Dance Team:** This year we are switching up the dance clinic and adding a theme! Children ages k-5th grade will learn to dance like JoJo Siwa, a trending Disney star that has gained popularity from many young girls. The Kennedy Hiawatha School dance team will teach the dance and hold a performance for parents at the end of the clinic. Fee is $25.00 and each participant will receive a JoJo bow!
- **Reindeer Run:** The Friends Foundation's 2nd annual Reindeer Run was held on December 1st at Clark Park. Unfortunately, the weather was not ideal with wind and rain, but we still had a great turn out! Overall, we had 104 registered with 67 that ran the day off. Every runner received a stocking hat and post-race refreshments that included, hot cocoa, coffee, cookies and candy canes! Santa was available after the race for photos with the participants. The Foundation raised $2,300.00 that will be put towards some features at our upcoming dog park. We look forward to next years race and better weather!
- **Program Brochure 2019:** Ambyr and I are currently working on the completion of the program brochure! This year we have focused on programs we can improve, change and get rid of. We are also bringing in some new programs including flag football, motivational Monday fitness classes, and some classes with the Master Gardners.

Parks:

- **Dog Park:** We have a great start to the dog park. We had 20 volunteers help with a clean up day on November 17th from 1-4pm. We have volunteers from Dave Wright Subaru, Family, Friends and the local Boy Scout troop. We got a lot accomplished in 3 hours picking up brush, cutting up downed trees and picking up garbage. We will be working with the Linn County Chainsaw Response Team in early January to help up complete the rest of the tree work. They are a local group that helps in times of need. They recently just got done helping Marshalltown after the tornados this past summer. We look forward to having some volunteer groups help us complete this project.
- **MSA Professional Services**: On December 17th MSA Professionals will be at City Hall to meet with individuals to participate in the Hiawatha 2029 Park & Recreation Vision focus group sessions. They will have a 15-20 minute conversation discussing issues and opportunities with the Hiawatha Park System as it relates to them. I January MSA will meet with Staff, Council and the board to go over some of the feedback from the survey and focus groups. We are excited to see what feedback we receive and how we can move forward as a department. If you haven't already taken the public survey please do so! We have paper copies available at City Hall as well!
- **Guthridge Park Trail Reconstruction:** As you may have noticed, our Guthridge Park Trail Reconstruction project ran into a few road blocks putting the project on hold. With the significant rain fall we experienced in September and October it created a very wet subsoil condition. During the removal of the existing trail, extra material needed to be removed and

replaced with new stone to stabilize the base under the new asphalt. With an estimated change order of $15,000.00 we needed council approval to move forward. At the November 7th meeting they approved us to move forward with the additional expenses. Since it was so late in the year and the asphalt plant closed November 20th, Pate finished the rock base and will complete the paving when spring allows. The streets department filled in the pavement gaps so the trail will be open for the winter months for usability. The rock will not be plowed during snowfall but the paved sections will.

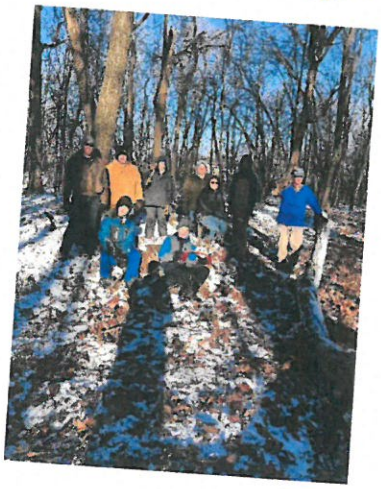
- **Rick Wolfe:** Ricks last day will be December 28th. We thank Rick for all his hard work over the past 10 years! He has been a great teammate and we will miss having him around! We will be evaluating the parks staff to see what the best step is for replacement after the new year.

JoJo Siwa Dance Clinic

Hiawatha Community Center
Sunday, January 27
1-2pm

Learn how to dance like JoJo at this fun, interactive dance clinic taught by Coach Miranda and the Kennedy Cougars Dance Team!

Perform for your family and friends immediately following the clinic!

Register at www.Hiawatha-Iowa.com

Kennedy
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