

# Hiawatha Insights

CITY OF HIAWATHA

Volume 9  
December 2008

Happy Holidays From Your City Staff



*The administration and staff of the City of Hiawatha would like to wish you and yours a very happy, prosperous and safe holiday season.*

## Hiawatha Citizen's Survey Results from your Mayor

In August, the city sent out 800 citizen survey's and 289 were returned, giving the survey a 4.2% margin of error. Jeff Schott of the Institute of Public Affairs reviewed the survey with the City Council at a recent council meeting. Schott commented that he has collected many surveys over the years and the City of Hiawatha's is the most positive that he has ever seen. Here is a sample of some of the results.

- 99.3% agree Hiawatha is a nice place to live.
- 91.3% agree Hiawatha should continue to maintain it's own identity.
- 73.4% agree Hiawatha should encourage more industries.
- 82.7% agree Hiawatha should encourage Commercial and Office Development.
- 82.7% agree Hiawatha should encourage Reinvestment in Commercial and Industrial Property.
- 90.7% feel safe in their neighborhood.
- 53.3% are aware of the Neighborhood Watch Program.
- 64.7% want more aggressive Code Enforcement.
- 84.4% want Hiawatha to seek opportunities for city growth.
- 73.4% agree the Mayor and Council meet their expectations.

The list goes on and on with more items too numerous to mention in this newsletter. To view a complete copy of the 2008 Citizen's Survey, please feel free to stop at City Hall or the Hiawatha Library. I want to thank everyone who took the time to give us your thoughts on how we were doing and the direction the City was heading. I look forward to your thoughts in future citizen's surveys.

### 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

## Hiawatha Fire Department News

Hiawatha Firefighters held another successful chili supper on November 1st. Almost 800 people attended the annual chili supper. The money will go to fund rescue and medical equipment. While the chili supper is always important to us as a fund raiser, it's even more important to us as a community event. It's a great opportunity for members of the community to come visit with us under non-emergency situations. The chili supper has also become a great social tradition. Many of our visitors have been attending for years. We want to thank all of the citizens that stopped by to enjoy the chili, the businesses and individuals who gave donations (and are too numerous to list ), and most of all Betty Mark, for all her hard work in coordinating the donations. The Fire Department Chili Supper is held annually on the first Saturday in November.

Ten individuals have recently joined or rejoined the Hiawatha Fire Department. They include:

Jamey Parker, past member of the FD and a certified firefighter and EMT. He is relocating to Hiawatha and is employed at DAEC.

Colleen Dickerson, Vinton, has been a Paramedic for the last eight (8) years, and currently works part time for North Benton EMS. She recently completed FF1 training.

Justin Lorenzen, Cedar Rapids, is also a past member of the FD and is also relocating. He is a certified EMT and Firefighter.

Jeff Gibbons is a certified EMS responder and works at General Mills. He resides in rural Hiawatha.

Zach Novotny is a resident of Hiawatha, a certified firefighter. He is a firefighter in the Air National Guard. He has completed his EMT class and is awaiting certification.

Cory Saunders is a recent graduate of Kennedy and is a resident of Hiawatha. He has completed his EMT class and is awaiting certification. He has close family ties to the Fire Department.

Jacob Hatch is a resident of Hiawatha and a former volunteer firefighter in Wellsburg.

Elisa Forcht is a resident of rural Hiawatha. She was formerly on Mt. Vernon FD and Mt. Vernon Ambulance. She is a certified EMT.

Lindsey Willard lives near Kennedy High School. She is employed by Papa John's and is attending EMT class.

Devin Toll lives in Robins. He works at St. Luke's in the ER and is a certified EMT.

All these members are going through our rookie orientation program. During this program, they learn the basics of firefighting, become acquainted with fire department policy and procedures, and generally become acclimated to the fire service. They will graduate that program in January. Following that, most will continue to obtain further firefighting and EMT certifications.

We welcome them to the City of Hiawatha Fire Department.



## Christmas Tree Disposal



The City of Hiawatha does not currently offer city wide Christmas tree pickup and removal. It is the responsibility of the resident to contact their garbage hauler and make arrangements for the pickup and removal of their Christmas trees after the holidays.



## In Memory Of.....

The Hiawatha Public Library is sad to report the loss of Linda Nash to cancer. Linda worked as a librarian for the city for twenty-one years, most recently as a library cataloger. She cataloged most of the library materials and answered countless reference questions. In addition, she worked in collection development and led a mystery book club called "While Others Sleep." In recent years, Linda wrote a blog for the library's website in which she related her experiences as a librarian and candidly wrote about her struggles with cancer. Linda was driven and devoted to her career, even while raising three wonderful kids. She will be sorely missed by her family, her "work family" and the entire community.



## December Events at the Hiawatha Public Library

**Eat Your Way Through Africa: Friday, January 2, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.**

Presented by HPL and the African American Museum.

**Cedar Rapids Symphony Music Together: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Music Together** is an interactive introduction to music, rhythm and movement for kids between birth and five years of age. Join us as Teri Stuckey demonstrates this program.

**Clifford Comes to the Library: Monday, December 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.**

Get ready for lots of sloppy dog kisses as Clifford the Big Red Dog plans a stop at the Hiawatha Public Library.



### Olivia's Wish List Includes Gifts for All

Olivia Scott was facing an important milestone in her young life.....her fifth birthday! She wanted to make this one special; one that would keep on giving. So when Olivia sent out invitations for her birthday bash, she included a gift request along with her R.S.V.P. In lieu of traditional birthday presents, she asked her friends to purchase a children's book to be donated to Hiawatha Public Library.

Next time you check out *Eloise Takes a Bath*, *If you Take a Mouse to School*, *The Trailer Park Princesses* or one of fourteen other Hiawatha Library books, take note of the gift acknowledgement that may appear on the book's back *Donated by Olivia & (party guest's name) for Olivia's 5th birthday. Thank you Olivia. Your tremendous show of generosity will benefit Hiawatha Library patrons for years to come. And let's not forget, Happy Birthday to you!*

## Laurie Hebl, Finance Director Resigns

Laurie Hebl, who has served Hiawatha citizens for the past 12 years as Finance Director, announced her resignation to the Council at the November 5, 2008 regular meeting.

Laurie has taken a position to assume the responsibilities as Director of Finance and Administrative Services with the City of Indianola.

Laurie was responsible for the budget, capital improvement program and accounts payable. Laurie served as a valuable member of the City's management team and was active in many of the special events such as Ragbrai, Hi-brai, Hog Wild Days and the recent Flood Fest. She was also a member of the newly organized Hiawatha Kiwanis Chapter.

We wish her luck in her new endeavor and thank her for her many years of dedication to the City of Hiawatha.



## Kim Downs acquires MMC



City Clerk, Kim Downs has received her Master Municipal Clerk designation through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program. Ms. Downs' effort to obtain the education and experience needed to achieve this honor speaks to her dedication and the city's dedication to the citizens of Hiawatha and to the profession of municipal management.

City Clerk, Kim Downs joins only 28 other clerks in Iowa who, through this process, are establishing Iowa as a national and international leader in continuing professional development.

Congratulations to City Clerk, Kim Downs for her hard work and her dedication to her profession.



# Hiawatha Projects

## 8th Ave Water Main & Sub Drain

This project is roughly fifty percent complete with a project completion date of December 19, 2008. The new 6" watermain that replaces the old 4" watermain is installed. In the coming weeks, the contractor will be switching individual water services, installing street subdrain, providing sump pump connection locations and reinstalling concrete driveways. Grass seeding will be completed in the spring.



## North Center Point Road Streetscape Project from South of Boyson Road to North of Railroad

The project is nearly complete. The only remaining work to complete the project includes powering up the remaining street lights, final grading and charging and testing the irrigation system. Grass seeding will be completed in the spring.



## Council Action Summary

November 5, 2008

**Ordinance 625**—approving the rezoning of 1905 N Center Point Rd from A to I-1.

**Resolution 08-170**—regarding MidAmerican Energy Franchise will not be put to an election.

**Resolution 08-171**—setting public hearing for the consideration of amending Chapter 110 Natural Gas Franchise involving Mid-American Energy company.

**Resolution 08-172**—granting an easement encroachment for 1200 Properties, L.L.C. (Toyota).

**Resolution 08-173**—approving Final Plat for the Sherman 5th Addition.

**Resolution 08-174**—approving the replacement of a street light in the area of Emmons Street and 4th Avenue and directing Alliant Energy to install light with a cost not to exceed \$3,938.26.

**Resolution 08-175**—approving the City Administrator bonus of \$5,000.00 to be paid as agreed upon a time of hire for the completion of five (5) years of employment, effective November 10, 2008.

## Park & Recreation Dept.

### Kid's Movie Night

6:00 pm Hiawatha Community Center

January 16, 2009

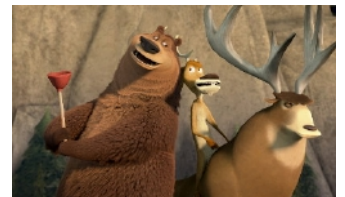
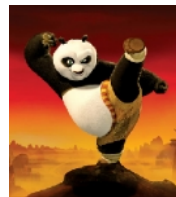
February 13, 2009

March 13, 2009

Kung Fu Panda

Open Season 2

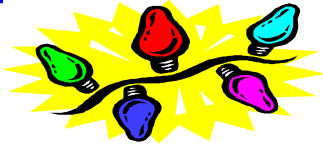
To Be Announced



### Park & Recreation Department Job Opportunity

The City of Hiawatha is accepting applications for a Parks Maintenance Position (FT). The position would be responsible for performing a wide variety of activities related to the city parks and properties. The City is looking for a self motivated individual with good communication skills, ability to follow instructions, operate construction equipment and complete minor repairs. Any combination of education and experience providing the required skills and knowledge of the position is a must. Salary DOQ with great benefits. Pre-employment physical and a valid driver's license required. Contact City Hall to request an application and job description. Application deadline December 14, 2008.





# December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 CIP Work Ses- sion 6pm	2	3 Council 7pm	4	5	6
7	8 History 1:30pm Board of Adj 6pm	9 Parks 6pm Library 7pm	10 Work Session 6pm	11	12	13
14 Public Safety 6pm	15 Budget Work Session 6pm	16 Friends of the Library 6:30 pm Water 6:30 pm	17 Council 7pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 City Offices Closed	25	26	27
28	29	30 P&Z 6pm	31 City Offices Closed			



# January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 City Offices Closed	2	3
4	5 Budget Work Session 6pm	6	7 Council 7pm	8	9	10
11 Public Safety 6pm	12 Budget Work Session 6pm History 1:30pm Board of Adj 6pm	13 Parks 6pm Library 7pm	14 Work Session 6pm	15	16 Kids Movie Night 6pm Kung Fu Panda	17
18	19 Budget Work Session 6pm	20 Friends of the Library 6:30 pm Water 6:30 pm	21 Council 7pm	22	23	24
25	26 Budget Work Session 6pm	27 P&Z 6pm	28	29	30	31

101 Emmons Street  
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233  
Phone: 319-393-1515  
Fax: 319-393-1516  
www.hiawatha-iowa.com

## Walk Sequence

# Postal Customer Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

## News from your Police Department

The Police entrance, located on the interstate (west) side of City Hall, is open 24 hours a day everyday. If you need to contact a police officer you may enter the building and press a buzzer located above the phone. If an officer is in the building, they will meet you within a short time. If you do not receive a response, lift the phone receiver and dial 5001. This will connect you to a dispatcher. The dispatcher will then notify an on duty officer via her radio. The phone may also be used to dial 911 if you are in an emergency type situation. The entrance and parking lot are covered by security monitors.



### Door to Door Safety

City Ordinance, Chapter 122, requires all peddlers, solicitors, and transient merchants to be registered with City Hall. Several exemptions for local students, boy and girl scouts, local residents and farmers, newspaper sales, and others are contained within the ordinance. The ordinance helps us identify companies and salesmen who will only temporarily be in Hiawatha. Every year, we hear complaints from other jurisdictions across the state on high pressure sales of inferior products and downright fraudulent business practices. Many times they relate to tree repair/removal and paving or roofing projects. There are many honest businesses that do provide these services but, merely registering with the city does not guarantee the products or services of these companies. It does allow us to identify and follow up on criminal activity should it occur. An honest business should have the same price for their product or service after giving you time to do your research.

As a resident, you have every right to request that the salesperson at your door show you their license issued by the city. If they don't have it or insist its "in the vehicle", politely thank them for their time and tell them you aren't interested and then contact City Hall at (319) 393-1515 or the Police Dept. at (319) 393-1212.

### School Zone Safety

Speed zones around the two elementary schools are **25 mph**. These areas will receive extra patrol emphasis during school hours. It is also state law that drivers yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. All crosswalks are clearly marked with yellow cautionary signs and pavement markings. Please slow down and watch for the children in these areas.



### Snow birds and Vacationers

One of the services the police department provides is house checks while you are away. Our house check form is accessible on the city website ([www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com)) or at the police department during normal business hours. Emergency contact, license plates of vehicles at the residence, and other pertinent information is needed to complete the form. While you are away, officers will check the exterior of the residence to ensure all appears to be in order. This service is utilized by many residents who plan to be out of town for the holidays, on summer vacations, or south for the winter months. The service is free and we encourage you to take advantage of it.

**WATER DEPARTMENT NOTE**— Don't forget to call the Water Department to hold your bills, forward your bills or turn off your water while you are away. Call us at City Hall at 393-5556.

