

Hiawatha Insights

December 2013

2013 Election Recap

Volume 69

HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL RE-ELECTION

The Hiawatha City Council remains status quo. Martin Bruns and Robert Rampulla were re-elected for their second four year terms. Although the two positions went uncontested, there was a high voter turnout.

Bruns received 647 votes, Rampulla 590 votes and 46 write in votes. Bruns and Rampulla will renew their oaths of office on December 18th at 5:30p.m., during the regular council meeting.



Extension of Local Option Sales & Service Tax Approved

Overwhelmingly, voters of Hiawatha joined the four bordering cities on November 5th to extend the 1% local option sales tax for 10 years. The vote count was a positive 16,950 to 10,310. 62.18% to extend the local option sales & servicetax for an additional 10 years. A quick analysis of November 5th's votes showed Hiawatha, Cedar Rapids, Marion, and Fairfax individually, as cities approved the sales tax by more than a 60% margin, with Robins approving it with about a 55% margin. With an estimation of \$8M in added revenue in the next 10 years means we can move up needed projects, such as streets/right-of-way, facility improvements and water, storm water and sewer infrastructure upgrades and expansions. City staff will begin formulating a LOSST Capital Improvement Plan that will establish priorities and an appropriate timeline for all department projects that were addressed as priorities in our LOSST fliers and the public information meeting that was held on October 28, 2013.



Local Sales and Service Tax Metro Block (Cedar Rapids, Fairfax, Hiawatha, Marion, and Robins) (Public Measure K) Election Review

Yes..... 16,950
No..... 10,310

Hiawatha - individually

Yes..... 622
No..... 345



Special Library Levy Voted Down

A special levy to generate additional funds for the Hiawatha Public Library was voted down by 53% of the vote Tuesday, November 5, 2013. The levy proposed a 27 cent per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation with no end date to provide additional revenue to help with operational staffing costs and to defray building expansion costs for the library.

Hiawatha Library Levy (Public Measure H) Election Review

Yes..... 447
No..... 502



Although there has been no talk of a future library special levy petition, the next opportunity for a library special levy referendum to be placed on a ballot, would be in the Fall of 2016, during a regular city election, held in odd numbered years.

Hiawatha!TM

Hiawatha Police and Fire Acquire New Defibrillators

In July, City Council approved the replacement of fire department EKG machines, and the replacement and addition of police department AED's. For the police department, the AED's will replace existing AED's that are over ten (10) years old. In the past, there were not a sufficient number of AED's for every patrol vehicle. This purchase allows each patrol vehicle to carry an AED, assuring the officers have this life saving piece of equipment. The police officers are typically the first one to arrive at a medical call, and earlier this year, two officers utilized an AED to save the life of a Hiawatha man.

For the Fire Department, the purchase allows the FD to replace existing EKG machines that are as old as ten (10) years. The smaller, more technologically advanced EKG machines provide paramedics with additional information regarding patient's status. Upgrades to the communications will allow the EKG's acquired from patients to be efficiently transmitted to hospitals and cardiologists, shaving critical minutes off the time it takes to get a patient with a heart attack the advanced medical care they need.

This is a good example of how Local Option Sales and Service Tax funds are used to improve public safety and directly impact the well being of community members.

Photos: Deputy Fire Chief Andy Sweeney passes off the defibs to Police Chief Dennis Marks. Firefighter Paramedics Dan Veerhusen, Ryan Young, and Andrew Vaughan review the operation of the new EKG Machine.



Hiawatha American Legion Post 735 Celebrates!

The Hiawatha American Legion is celebrating fifteen years of existence. They have been in their new Post home for three (3) years. In that time, the Post has added a Women's Auxiliary, and a Sons of the American Legion Squadron. Both are starting their second year. All three groups are on the lookout for new members. "We need to make sure that we continue to be relevant and be there for our veterans and our communities", said Rick Pierce. Pierce went on to say "And we can do that through membership. We need to improve because, as everyone knows, we're not getting any younger, are we?"



The Legion family has been supportive of veterans' issues in the area, and both the Legion and the Auxiliary have supported the Veterans Outreach Center on First Avenue in Cedar Rapids. The Post also sponsors a team in the Hiawatha Kids League as well as a Holiday Event with Santa Claus at the Fire Station. They have been able to do this because the community of Hiawatha has backed their efforts. "We are very thankful for the support of our community and hope you will continue to do so." For more information, please call the Post at 393-2377. The Legion is located at 207 Robins Road.

Hiawatha Recognizes Two Area Businesses

Farmer's Daughter's Market

Hiawatha Farmer's Daughter's Market marked five successful years in business by holding a four day celebration from November 7-10, filled with free samples, tastings, giveaways and discounts. Owner Jennifer Goodlove kicked off the anniversary with a ribbon cutting including some congratulatory words from Mayor Tom Theis.

The Farmer's Daughters Market is located at 495 Miller Road and is open Monday through Sunday.

Breakfast and lunch are served daily, with a menu that includes a variety of farm fresh produce and homemade selections such as soup, sandwiches, salads, quiche, cinnamon rolls and desserts. This unique market situated in a rustic barn with a red roof offers breads, cheese, dips, salsa, soup mixes, local wines, local handmade gifts, arts, crafts, antiques and catering services for business and private events.

More information about the Farmer's Daughter's Market can be found on their website at www.fdmarket.com.



2BFit

How much better would you like working out if you knew you would actually have fun while exercising?



Opening its doors in June of 2013, 2BFit had exactly that on its mind. "We want you to experience fun in your workouts so we shake things up and keep it exciting." The 45-minute instructor led classes are various types of workouts and are offered Monday - Friday at 5:15 am, 6:15 am, 11:45 am, 4:15 pm and 5:30 pm and Saturday at 7:30 am.

The arsenal of equipment includes vibration platforms, free weights, bands, kick boxing, medicine balls and more. The fitness area is cushioned so your muscles get a workout, not your joints.

2BFit is located between Boyson Rd. and Tower Terrace on Hawkeye Dr. The facility has showers in the locker rooms along with towels for your use.

2BFit offers affordable fitness. If your goals are 2BFit, 2BHappy and 2BHealthy - Call 832-2234 or go to 2BFit.US for more information



Hiawatha Police Recommend Safety

Don't let your holidays be ruined by becoming the victim of a crime. Unfortunately, not everyone there has a "peace on earth, goodwill toward men" attitude at this time of year. It is always important to protect yourself from theft and fraud.

Internal Revenue Service

IRS warns of telephone scam targeting tax payers, including recent immigrants, throughout the country.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. The scam has hit taxpayers in nearly every state in the country.

More details from the IRS are posted here: <http://www.iowa.gov/tax/news/IRSTelephoneScam.doc>.



Locking Windows and Doors

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.

When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.

Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.

Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.

Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.



Identity Theft

www.rethinkingdebt.org offers tips to help consumers protect themselves, more can be found on their website.

Don't carry large sums of cash. If you choose not to charge your purchases, using a debit card may be right for you.

Have a constant awareness of your surroundings. The sidewalk and malls will be crowded, and shoppers will be distracted, the perfect combination for a pick-pocket. If someone bumps into you, don't assume it was an accident.

Make copies of your credit cards. Copy both sides of all your cards. If you lose your wallet, you'll have easy access to all of your account information they contain.



Hiawatha Citizen Complaint Policy

On October 16, 2013, City Council implemented a Citizen Complaint Policy to establish formal procedures for citizens who wish to file a complaint. The policy also serves as a uniform guide for city staff and elected officials to follow when investigating and processing citizen complaints.

The Citizen Complaint Policy defines the following types of complaints citizens may file with the City:

1. **Infractions Complaint** - citizen making a complaint against another citizen for violation of a City ordinance.
2. **Non-Infraction Complaint** - citizen making a complaint against the City because they believe a policy or ordinance is unfair. A citizen making a complaint against the City because they believe there has been inaction or inappropriate action taken. Complaints about potholes, street lights out, curb and gutter repairs, and other general requests.
3. **Misconduct Complaint** - citizen making a complaint against a City employee or elected official.

The policy provides proper procedures for citizens to follow in order to file each type of complaint with the City and details how the investigation and resolution process will be handled once the complaint is received and reviewed by City staff or elected officials. If a citizen wishes to make a misconduct complaint against a City employee or elected official, the Citizen Complaint Policy instructs the citizen to fill out a Citizen Complaint Form and return it to the City Administrator or the Mayor if it involves the City Administrator. In order to protect employees, elected officials and citizens, it is important that any misconduct allegations be investigated by City management first to ensure they are based on factual information, before the allegations are made in a public setting such as a council meeting when it is not warranted or appropriate.

The Citizen Complaint Policy and Citizen Complaint Form are available by request at City Hall.

Guthridge Park American Flag Plaza Dedication

On October 24, 2013, the Hiawatha American Legion Post 735 raised the American Flag in the new Guthridge Park Flag Plaza in honor of our forefathers, sons and daughters, who have fought victoriously to defend our country and our flag. Vice Commander Bob Wheeler lead the Post in the dedication. Commander Rick Pierce and Legionnaire Bob Jones presented the American Flag to Mayor Theis, and Farmer's State Bank representatives Doug Neighbor and Gene Neighbor, and a Friends of the Parks representative, Dave Saari.

For more than 200 years, the American Flag has been a symbol of our nation's strength and unity and a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens. Since 1777, the American Flag has been a prominent icon in our nation's history.

The American Flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with six white. The stripes represent the original thirteen colonies, while the stars represent the 50 States of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well. Red symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

The generous support of Farmer's State Bank, Hiawatha Friends of the Park and the Hiawatha American Legion Post 735 instills pride and demonstrates their partnership in our community by helping to make the Flag Plaza Project a reality. The United States Flag is truly a symbol of our great Nation, built from hard work and sacrifice of those who have gone before us. Thanks to all for making this project a reality!!!



Council Action

November 6, 2013

Resolution 13-264 - Approve and authorize execution of development agreement by and between the City of Hiawatha and Robins Road LLC.

Resolution 13-265 - Amend 2010 Comprehensive Plan.

Resolution 13-266 - Approve "At Your Own Risk" Building Permit as requested by PAKAR Property to begin construction on concrete and footings for a new commercial building located at 95 N Center Point Road.

Resolution 13-267 - Approve a water and sewer rate study with Veenstra & Kimm, Inc., a joint project with the Water Department as recommended by the Water Board.

Resolution 13-268 - Authorize Police Department purchase of one (1) 2014 AWD Ford Police Interceptor Sedan, replacement Unit 810.

Resolution 13-269 - Authorize Police Department purchase of (14) Taser X2's.

Resolution 13-270 - Authorize Police Department purchase of simulation training equipment.

Resolution 13-271 - Authorize staff to proceed with surveying, soil testing and requests for proposals for the preparation of design plans for the 2014 Street Repair Project.

Resolution 13-272 - Award contract for Elevator Preventive Maintenance and Inspection for City Hall to Schumacher Elevator Company of Denver, IA.

Resolution 13-273 - Authorize the Flexible Benefits Plan Renewal for the 2014 plan year with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and direct City Staff to sign the necessary documents.

November 20, 2013

Resolution 13-277 - Approve sewer waiver on second water meter for 1540 Stamy Rd.

Resolution 13-278 - Approve the classification of the City's Tax Increment Financing Indebtedness.

Resolution 13-279 - Approve the certification of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) indebtedness to the Linn County Auditor's Office for Fiscal Year 2015 Collections.

Resolution 13-280 - Approve and place on file the FY 2012-2013 Annual Financial Report.

Resolution 13-281 - Approve and place on file the Annual FY 2012-2013 Urban Renewal Report.

Resolution 13-282 - Set public hearing date (December 4, 2013 @ 5:30 P.M.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 115 Transmission Lines and adding new Chapter 116 Non-Franchised Communication System to establish regulations for installation of non-franchised utilities in the right-of-way.

Resolution 13-283 - Accept Improvements for Pines at Turtle Creek Fourth Addition.

Resolution 13-284 - Approve Final Plat for Pines at Turtle Creek Fourth Addition.

Resolution 13-285 - Authorize Swick Cable Contractors right-of-way permission to bury fiber optics cable for the locations of 1350 N Compton Drive, 740-920 N 15th Avenue and 1750 Progress Drive.

Resolution 13-287 - Set Holiday Schedule for FY 2014-2015.

Resolution 13-288 - Approve Council Meeting Schedule for 2014.

Resolution 13-289 - Authorize City Attorney to Inform Property Owner of City's Decision not to exercise it's right to purchase property at 1100 N 18th Avenue.

Santa Claus at the Hiawatha Fire Station!

Santa Claus is coming to town!!!!!!!

Santa will be at the Hiawatha Fire Station on Saturday, December 14, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

There will be drawings for toys for the boys and girls, with each receiving a bag of goodies. There will also be drawings for turkeys and hams for the adults.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and don't miss your visit with Santa!!!!!!



The Hiawatha History Commission.....

The History Commission wishes you a Happy Holiday season!

Pictured:

Bev Daws, Dick Larson, Edith Wheeler, Roberta Hamdorf, Clarence Sampson, Pat Semelroth, Don Gabel and Jerry Seifried



Hiawatha Holiday Greeting & Hours

During the holiday season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to you, the citizens of our community, who have made our community's progress possible.

To our business community, HEDCO, our boards and commissions, your partnerships are a gift to our community as well.

It is in this spirit that we say, simply, but sincerely....Thank you and best wishes for the Holiday season. Your Mayor, City Council, and City Staff.

Hiawatha City Hall will be closed on the following dates for holidays:

- December 24 and December 25.
- December 31 and January 1.

Also please remember the City **does not pick up Christmas trees after the holidays are over. Make this arrangement with your garbage hauler.





DECEMBER 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Council 5:30pm	5	6	7
8	9 History 1:30 pm Board of Adj. 6pm	10 Parks 6:00 pm Library 7pm	11 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	12 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	13	14 Santa @ Fire Station 9am - Noon
15	16	17 Water 5:30 pm	18 Council 5:30pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 City Hall Closed	25 City Hall Closed Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	26 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	27	28
29	30 P&Z 6 pm	31 City Hall Closed	Visit our website: www.hiawatha-iowa.com			



JANUARY 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visit our website: www.hiawatha-iowa.com			1 City Hall Closed	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Council 5:30pm	9	10 Kids Movie Night 6:30pm Movie: TBA	11
12	13 History 1:30 pm Board of Adj. 6pm	14 Parks 6:00 pm Library 7pm	15 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	16 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	17	18
19	20	21 Water 5:30 pm	22 Council 5:30pm	23	24	25
26	27 P&Z 6 pm	28	29 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	30 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	31	

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**DELIVER BY:
THURSDAY,
12/12/2013**

Snow Ordinance Reminder

Our Snow Ordinance will be in effect when the National Weather Service (NWS) predicts a snowfall in which three (3) or more inches are expected. While the Snow Emergency is in effect, **there is no parking on any city street**. Vehicles found parked in violation of this ordinance will receive a **\$25** parking ticket and/or be impounded. **During overnight snow removal operations, vehicles found in violation on City streets will be towed.**

The Snow Emergency declaration will be given to all the local media including but not limited to: KGAN (Channel 2), KCRG (Channel 9), and KWWL (Channel 7). The declaration will also be posted on the City website, www.hiawatha-iowa.com. Your cooperation is appreciated.

REMEMBER - Don't park in the street if:

The 24 hour (or less) prediction by the NWS is for three (3) or more inches of snow.

Three (3) or more inches of snow has fallen and/or your street has not been cleared.

Also, the City will **NOT** generally conduct snowfall clearing operations for a snowfall of less than two (2) inches.

This policy remains unchanged from prior years. Please remember: Sidewalks must be shoveled with 24 hours of the cessation of snow fall, clear snow from around fire hydrants that are near your property, check with your neighbors regarding snow removal and direct sump pumps and downspouts away from hard surfaces so that water doesn't build up and freeze, creating slippery conditions on driveways, sidewalks, or streets.

For the current road conditions: call 511 or log onto the Iowa DOT winter road conditions web page. www.iowadot.gov.



Introducing - City Engineer John Bender

After a nine month study assessing the benefits of an in-house city engineer, City Administrator, Kim Downs asked City Council to approve a permanent part-time City Engineer position. The study revealed positive efficiencies and cost reductions in project development, construction and daily operations. On October 16th, the City Council approved John Bender as our permanent part-time City Engineer. John has over 37 years of experience in the civil engineering field. He has been very active, serving on many professional, technical, and community organizations and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the states of Iowa and Illinois. John is very active in Rotary International and appreciates the chance to provide part-time assistance to the City of Hiawatha.



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