

SNOW IS COMING - ARE YOU PREPARED?

Snow Removal Reminders

The City of Hiawatha has snow removal rules in place to help keep our community safe. Here is what you need to know before winter weather strikes:

- Make sure sump pumps and downspouts don't drain to sidewalks. The drainage can freeze causing icy buildup and slippery conditions on driveways, sidewalks, and streets.
- Sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours after a snowfall event ends. Remember to clear the area around fire hydrants as well.
- When removing snow from your property, do not place it in streets, alleys, driveways, or on sidewalks.
- Commercial Properties – Make sure you have a snow removal plan in place this winter season. If there is not enough room to store pushed snow on the property, you must have a plan for snow removal from the site before snow clearing may take place.

Snow Ordinance

Hiawatha's snow ordinance helps ensure safe, effective, and rapid snow removal of our streets. You can help! Do not park in the street when:

- The National Weather Service predicts three (3) or more inches of snow within 24 hours
- Three (3) or more inches of snow has fallen and your street has not been cleared

Vehicles parked in the street during an active snow ordinance will be issued a \$25 ticket. If vehicles are parked on city streets during overnight snow removal operations, they will be towed. When in doubt, move your vehicle off the street. Note: The City does not conduct snow removal operations on all city streets for snowfall less than two (2) inches.

Stay Informed

If a snow emergency is declared, local media outlets will be informed. This includes, but is 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.

Signup for texts and e-mail alerts at the city website at <https://hiawatha-iowa.com/alert-signup/>

Snowbirds

Just a few friendly suggestions to our vacationing and snowbird residents from the Water Department:

- Be sure to contact the Water Department if you are a snowbird and will be away for an extended period of time to make arrangements to have your water bill forwarded, paid in advance, or held for your return. The Post Office does not forward the water postcard bill.
- When you plan to be out of town for an extended period of time, it's a good idea to have someone check on your house to be sure you don't have any running water within the house, for example a running toilet.
- To avoid a running toilet, it's a good idea to turn the water control valve to your toilet off. This will help to prevent it from running while out of town.
- Check your water heater for a "vacation mode" setting or turn to a lower setting.
- It's always a good idea to check any manufacturing literature for water heating or softening units.

Please take caution as the Water Department is not responsible for any home devices that may require water at all times. Be sure to contact the Water office at 319-393-5556 for any questions or concerns.

WATER CLERK EARNS THE 2022 WATER PROFESSION AWARD



The Hiawatha Water Department is pleased to announce Sara Ries as a recipient of the 2022 Service to the Water Profession Award. Sara has worked with the Hiawatha Water Department since 2000, and has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence and a passion for the water profession. Sara is smart, ambitious, and friendly to all staff and customers alike. Water Superintendent Marty Recker had this to say about Sara: "I would recommend that every government department has a 'Sara' working on their behalf." If you come to Hiawatha City Hall in the next few weeks, don't forget to wish Sara congratulations on this outstanding award!

RECREATION COORDINATOR EARNS CERTIFIED PUBLIC COMMUNICATORS CERTIFICATE



Recreation Coordinator, Ambyr Severson, recently graduated from the Certified Public Communicator Program at Texas Christian University. The program is a post-baccalaureate, graduate-level residential program designed for public sector communication professionals. The program is part of the Bob Schieffer College of Communications' School of Strategic Communications and TCU Extended Education and is the first of its kind in the country. The CPC participants meet with professors at TCU over two summers (one week each summer) and a two-day winter session. They receive leadership training and specific coursework in strategic communications theory designed for the challenges facing public communicators. CPC graduates also develop three-year comprehensive communication plans for their organizations during the program. Congratulations, Ambyr!

DELIVER BY
THURSDAY
12/01/2022

Postal Customer
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Hiawatha, IA
Permit No. 33
ECRWSS



CITY DIRECTORY

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
City Manager	Dennis Marks	319-393-1515 x523	dmarks@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Clerk	Kari Graber	319-393-1515 x526	kgrabera@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	mrecker@hiawatha-iowa.com
Police Chief	Ben Kamm	319-393-1212	chief@hiawathapolice.com
Fire Chief	Matt Powers	319-393-4180	mkpowers@hiawatha-iowa.com
Library Director	Jeanal 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
DICK OLSON
dolson@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
AIME WICHTENDAHL
aimew@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
ROB ARCHIBALD
rarchibald@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
STEVE DODSON
sdodson@hiawatha-iowa.com

Sign up for
Hiawatha text
and e-mail
alerts today!

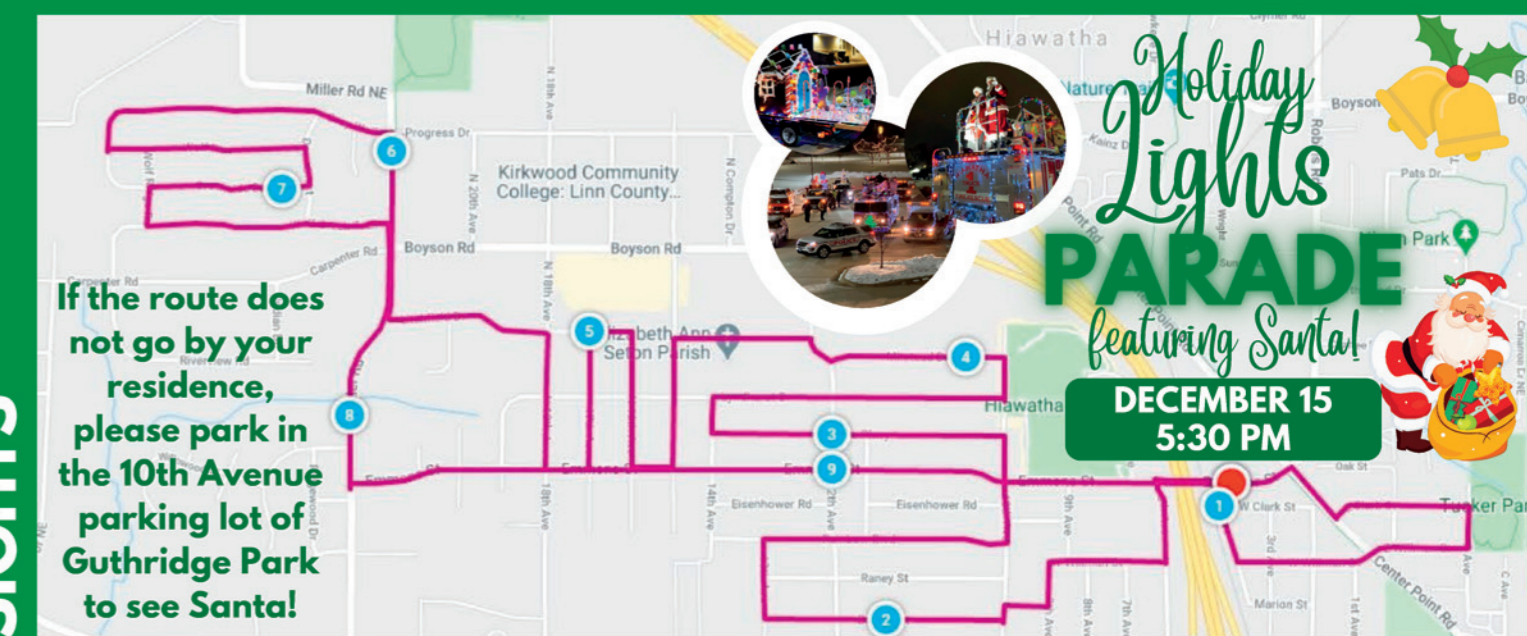


Hiawatha Council Action
The Hiawatha City Council meeting minutes may be obtained online www.hiawatha-iowa.com/government/city-council-documents/ or by request to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall at 319-393-1515

Hiawatha!
Say hello to a great place to live, work and play

DECEMBER 2022

VOLUME 173



If the route does not go by your residence, please park in the 10th Avenue parking lot of Guthridge Park to see Santa!

HIAWATHA INSIGHTS

INTRODUCING CHIEF BEN KAMM



The City of Hiawatha is excited to introduce Ben Kamm as its 7th Chief of Police.

Kamm has resided in Iowa for his entire life. He attended Wartburg College and graduated with Bachelor's degrees in both Psychology and Community Sociology along with a Leadership Certificate. He then began his public service career in 2004 when he was hired as a police officer here in Hiawatha and began attending the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

In his 18 year tenure with the Hiawatha Police Department, Kamm has served as a field training officer, a taser instructor, an implicit bias instructor and is certified in Peer Support. Kamm's investigative skills earned him a Letter of Commendation from former Chief of Police Dennis Marks in relation to a kidnapping investigation. Kamm serves as the president and co-founding member of the Iowa Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #10.

In 2008, Kamm was promoted to Sergeant and was promoted again in 2016 to Police Captain. His appointment as Police Chief occurred on October 19, 2022 at the City Council Meeting where Mayor Bennett also administered Kamm's Oath of Office.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my entire law enforcement tenure serving our great community. I am both humbled and proud to take on this new responsibility of continuing the tradition of delivering excellent Police services to Hiawatha," said Kamm.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO



PAT KRAMER
POLICE INVESTIGATOR
-15 YEARS-



DENNIS MARKS
CITY MANAGER
-15 YEARS-



TRENT COBERLY
PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN
-30 YEARS-

Hiawatha!
Say hello to a great place to live, work and play

Coming Soon!



The Crossing on Boyson, located at Boyson Road and Robins Road, will include seven 28-unit buildings with "tuck under" attached and detached garages. Residents amenities including a large central clubhouse, free hi-speed wi-fi and a fully equipped business center. The opening for the project is scheduled for summer 2023, with pre-leasing to begin in the spring of 2023. For additional information, please contact: Colleen O'Hare, Perry Reid Properties. 319-264-1590; info@perryreid.com

Stay up to date with projects and traffic detours on www.Hiawatha-Iowa.com under the "News" section

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Fitzroy Road - Fitzroy Road has been completed with a new roadway from Forrest Meadow Drive to Turtle Creek Park. The contractor has finalized all concrete work including new sidewalk crossings and has completed site restoration. The contractor was expected to finalize any remaining items before the beginning of December.

Tower Terrace Road and North Center Point Road - Traffic is open on both North Center Point Road and Tower Terrace Road. Tower Terrace Road west of the roundabout to Edgewood Road is limited to two lanes until the south bridge and interchange work are completed in the spring of 2023. The contractor was expected to finalize work on the south bridge in November. Alliant Energy and Linn County REC have been installing electrical for the new street lights east of Interstate 80. The City anticipates that the new light poles will be operating by the beginning of December. All remaining work, including the interchange, will be finalized in late spring or early summer of 2023.



Libraries provide access

Libraries level the playing field. As great democratic institutions, they serve people of every age, income level, location, ethnicity, and physical ability, and they provide the full range of information resources needed to live, learn, govern, and work.

Libraries played a key role in keeping their communities connected during the pandemic by:

- providing Wi-Fi 24-7 outside of library buildings and in library parking lots;
- bringing connectivity to neighborhoods-in-need with Wi-Fi-enabled library vehicles and hotspots;
- loaning hotspots and other devices such as tablets and laptops to students, teachers, parents, job seekers, veterans, and others for home use;
- offering virtual and in-library support for the tasks that library users need to complete online;
- partnering with local government, non-profits, businesses, and other groups to identify and fill connectivity gaps.

2022 Home Rehabilitation Block Grant Pilot Program

In 2020, a Housing Study and Needs Analysis was conducted for the City of Hiawatha. This study identified owner-occupied rehabilitation in areas near Hiawatha's Village Center to be a key need. 61.5% of Hiawatha's housing stock is owner-occupied with nearly 55% being built prior to 1989.

In 2018 the City secured a \$236,994 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to rehabilitate homes in the targeted Village Center neighborhood. Six homes were selected and rehabilitated through this grant. Demand for the 2018 program was greater than the grant capacity, further demonstrating the level of need for this type of program.

In October, the City began the process of applying for another rehabilitation grant. The City began with outreach efforts to find 12 owner-occupied residences to apply for the 2022 Home Rehabilitation Block Grant Program through the Iowa Finance Authority. Each participating homeowner may qualify for up to \$25,750 to make improvements to their homes. Eligible repairs include improving the exterior appearance of the property, correcting code violations, addressing health and safety issues, and/or extending the useful life of the property.

Once again, there was greater interest in this grant than spots available. 12 qualified owner-occupied residences were included in the grant application which was submitted on October 28th with the help of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG). The remaining applicants were placed on a waitlist for potential future grant opportunities. The total project cost is \$345,000 and the City should receive notification on the status of our application in the near future.

City staff, with the assistance of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, has completed the 2022 tree inventory of 2,681 trees in the rights-of-way, parks, and city owned properties. The previous inventory was done in 2016-17. The data collected includes: location, land use, tree diameter at 4.5 feet, recommended maintenance, priority of that maintenance, leaf health, and wood condition. The information was gathered using our GIS system and is now in our GIS database.

Here is data about the inventory:

- 73% of the trees have a diameter of 12 inches or less. 25-50% is recommended.
- 22% of the trees are in the Maple genus. No more than 20% of any one genus is recommended.

Top 5 tree genera are:

- Maple 22%
- Apple(Crabapple) 14%
- Oak 12%
- Ash 6%
- Honeylocust 6%



- 166 ash trees are left and they will be removed this year by a contractor. All are showing some signs of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.
- 254(9%) total trees need to be removed. 184 will be removed by contractor and the rest by city staff.
- 24% need some sort of maintenance which includes trim, raise, reduce, or clean the canopy of the tree.

This inventory will help guide the City for future tree planning.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony



DECEMBER 7TH VILLAGE CENTER PLAZA



5:00 - 8:00 PM
Hiawatha Holiday Market
Community Center

Free Crumbl Cookies while supplies last!

5:30 - 6:15 PM
Pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus
Village Center Plaza

Free Hot Cocoa for the first 100 in attendance!

6:30 PM
Tree Lighting Ceremony
Village Center Plaza
101 Emmons Street

Letters from SANTA

ADD A LITTLE MAGIC TO THE SEASON AND RECEIVE A LETTER FROM SANTA! SANTA WOULD LOVE TO WRITE YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, NIECES, OR NEPHEWS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE!

Fee: \$3
Deadline: December 15

Register today at <https://bit.ly/3TOYgpE>

Give the gift of HIBRAI

In need of a gift for someone that has everything? Give the gift of a HIBRAI 2023 registration!

VOLUME 173

December Calendar

- 03 Reindeer Run 9:00 AM
- 07 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 07 Tree Lighting Ceremony 5:30 PM
- 12 History Commission Meeting 1:30 PM
- 12 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 PM
- 13 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 13 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 15 Holiday Lights Parade 5:30 PM
- 19 Planning & Zoning Meeting 5:30 PM
- 20 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 21 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 23 City Hall Closed
- 26 City Hall Closed
- 30 City Hall Closed

January Calendar

- 02 City Hall Closed
- 04 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 09 History Commission Meeting 1:30 PM
- 09 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 PM
- 10 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 10 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 17 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 18 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 23 Planning & Zoning Meeting 5:30 PM

BOOK EXCHANGE

Drop off: December 15-18
Pick up: December 19-22

KEEP THEM CLEAR

If there's a fire hydrant near your house, do your part to keep it accessible this winter:

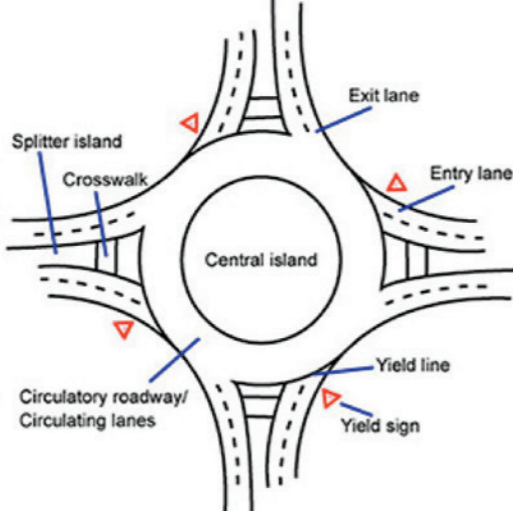
3 ft. 3 ft.

CLEAR-AWAY ZONE
Remove any snow and ice
Clear a wide enough perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to work (about 3 feet)
Clear a path from hydrant to street

Snow will be falling soon, and it will be piling up near the streets. The Fire and Water Departments are asking for your help in being a Hydrant Hero this winter. Locate the nearest hydrant to your house or business and keep the hydrants clear of snow. Snow accumulation and drifts can hide fire hydrants and make them hard to find quickly in emergencies. If hydrants are not clear firefighters have to shovel them out before they are able to use them which can cause a delay in their actions while every second counts.

NAVIGATING ROUNDABOUTS

At roundabouts, the traffic circulates counter-clockwise and moves toward vehicles at the yield line. Vehicle operators should always yield at the entry to circulating traffic. In practice, that means yield to traffic from the left, similar to the action that is necessary when entering a freeway or turning right at a red traffic light/signal.



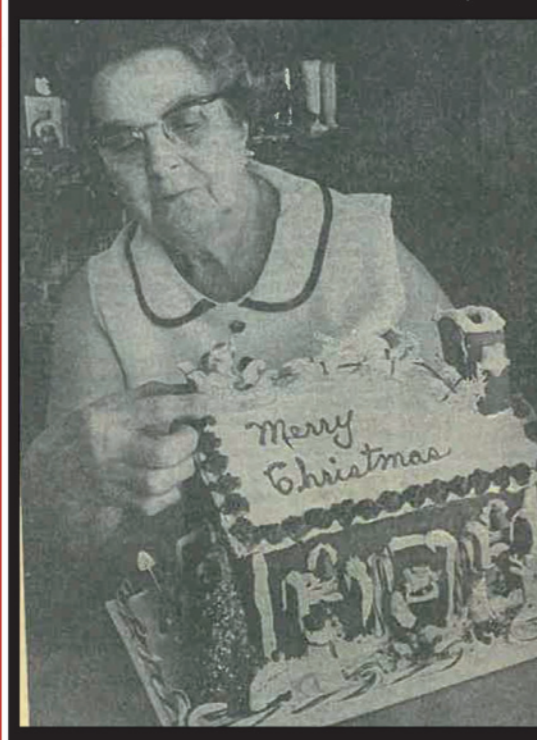
A detailed explanation and various scenarios can be found at <https://www.hiawatha-iowa.com/news/navigating-roundabouts/>

Welcome to Hiawatha!



KNOT JUST LUMBER - 1730 Robins Road
Knot Just Lumber is a full-service hardwood lumber supplier. They serve the Midwest's hobby and professional woodworkers. Stop in today to see their full selection of domestic and exotic hardwood lumber, kiln dried slabs, turning blanks, epoxy and molds, finishes and more to finish your next woodworking project.

Hiawatha History Commission



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Ethel Wheeler lived in Hiawatha for many years. She baked wedding, birthday, and even Easter cakes. For holidays, she made gingerbread houses with a lot of edible trees, candy bells, and candy canes. One house went to Vietnam filled with cookies and it arrived intact. One of her Christmases was in July when her presents finally arrived from Japan!



A New Year always brings excitement and celebration. Remember that the use of consumer grade fireworks within city limits is only allowed from December 31 at 6 p.m. to January 1 at 12:30 a.m. In order to help keep this holiday and the beginning of the new year enjoyable and safe, remember that fireworks need to be handled with care by adults over 18 years old. Never light fireworks inside or near structures and make sure you have a fire extinguisher or bucket of water nearby. Fireworks and sparklers debris can remain hot after use and should be soaked in water before disposal. We hope you have an enjoyable and safe start to 2023!

HEALTHCARE OPTIONS | FOOD ASSISTANCE | RENT/UTILITIES ASSISTANCE | SUPPORT GROUPS

DIAL 211

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, ALWAYS AVAILABLE

TOYS FOR TOTS TOY DRIVE

DONATE NEW TOYS TO GIVE CHILDREN A BETTER HOLIDAY

Drop-Off Location: Hiawatha City Hall
101 Emmons Street Hiawatha, IA 52233

ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL THURSDAY, DECEMBER 09

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY DECORATED HIAWATHA HOME TO WIN \$150 GIFT CARD!

- Home must be located within Hiawatha city limits
- Winner will be notified December 20

WWW.TINYURL.COM/MAKINGHIAWATHABRIGHT

Do you have a favorite book that you would like to share? Bring it to the Hiawatha Public Library for a Book Exchange.

Write a note to the new book owner about why you love the book. Drop it off at the Hiawatha Public Library then come back to find a new book.

Drop off your book(s): December 12-18
Pick up a book(s): December 19-22

Crafts Kids | Hiawatha Public Library

HAT AND MITTENS YARN CRAFT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
3:15 - 3:45 Ages 3 - 9
150 W Willman Street Hiawatha, IA 52233

City Hall HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holiday
Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2 in observance of New Years Day