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Hiawatha Insights

Council and Mayor Employee Appreciation

The City of Hiawatha has an awesome team of employees that aid in our community's successes. We have 46 full-time, 8 part-time, 10 seasonal team members and 63 volunteers. These employees make up our Administrative, Community Development, Fire, Library, Park & Recreation, Police, Public Works and Water Departments.

Each of these team members gives us their very best each day. They pull together to produce effective and efficient end products: Public Works Department clearing the days snowfall no matter what time of day; Police Department insuring our streets are safe from criminals; Parks Department providing learning programs for our children; Community Development making sure that our homes are quality built; Fire that arrives at our homes at any time of the day to help a loved one or to protect our home from fire; Library providing us with additional networking resources; Water providing clean drinking water; the Administrative team that provides you with City information through our newsletters.

As a group, these teams of people work hard to provide safe, cost effective, best long-term results with our citizens' dollars and their safety in mind. Without each of these individuals, our City could not provide quality infrastructures, beautiful parks, safe streets and effective policies.

It is at this time that the City Council and myself would like to thank our City team members for their "can do" spirit and their hard working ethics to ensure our City is the best place to live, work and play. Your efforts are much appreciated and do not go unnoticed. Thank You!!!

Next time you see these individuals, stop and say thank you, they deserve it!

Hiawatha Water - Day and Night



The Hiawatha Water Department employees work day and night to maintain the water mains that serve the City. You may not realize this, but the employees in the Water Department get called out for emergency work at all hours, even weekends and holidays.

The majority of water main breaks come with the changing of the seasons and as we move through the winter. They come at the most inopportune times, such as night, on the weekends, and of course when it's very, very cold outside. So when you see the flashing, yellow lights, hear the Rata-Tat-Tat of the concrete breaker at 2:00 in the morning, or you are temporarily out of water, then it's probably the Water Department repairing a broken water main near your home.

Economic Development in Hiawatha

Most recently, an economic development group was formed, the Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation (HEDCO). Their mission statement is to develop a vibrant Hiawatha Economic Development Community utilizing - Public/Private Partnerships.

HEDCO consists of a 10 member board; 1-council member, 7-business owners and 2-developers. Each of their goals is to consistently maintain and sustain current commercial businesses and to promote new commercial development in areas the City of Hiawatha lacks. As Mayor, I have been a strong supporter of commercial development in our City for many years and that is why HEDCO will be a strong asset to economic development in our community along with several other factors, such as I-380 and the Tower Terrace Interchange.

In the past, I-380 played a significant role in developing our community. With the new road, the City began to grow from mostly residential homes to attracting commercial businesses. Companies wanted easy access to the nation's interstate system and we had the land and the access. We also had excellent developers that recognized our City's potential and brought companies to our vital city. As I-380 played a significant role in our growth, so will the Tower Terrace Interchange in respect.

As a City, we are often complimented on our "easy to work with" attitude, I like to call it our Partnership Attitude. Let me explain what I mean by partnership. From time to time, companies have to come to us and asked if there was some way the City could help temporarily offset some of their costs when moving their business to Hiawatha or as an entrepreneur starting up their new business. New buildings and massive moves become very costly and sometimes are what holds them back from moving forward. So with Hiawatha's "can do" spirit, the City created an economic development tool that we call "Tax Increment Financing" (TIF) that allows us to rebate a part of the new company's property tax for a short period of time with long term benefit for the City. This has worked very well for the past 22 years.

City sponsorships are another tool available to companies, such as the Midwest Disaster Bonds program. This grant was issued by the United States Congress allowing a company to apply for low interest loans. Additionally, there are state financial assistance programs in conjunction with educational training programs administered through our area's community college.

Economic Development is a wonderful tool for the City; it supplies us with a well rounded community that is not solely dependent on residential property taxes. Commercial development adds a great tax base and brings individuals to our community not only to work but to provide services that are needed in a community.

HEDCO's logo contest

HEDCO is a newly formed entity with a vision to further Hiawatha by encouraging economic development. The name is an abbreviation of the full legal name; the Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation. HEDCO will encourage development by engaging prospective businesses more completely, by marketing the community, by more completely identifying resources, and by creating public-private partnerships on key projects.

Q: Why is it important to encourage economic development? **A:** The cost and quality of life for residents is dependent on local economic conditions. By encouraging development in Hiawatha instead of one of the many alternatives, revenue is created to fund local services.

Q: Why is another entity needed to encourage economic development? **A:** HEDCO will focus on issues important to Hiawatha while supporting broader efforts. Hiawatha is blessed to be part of a group of communities that are so involved in development, so encouraging economic development is not a new idea in Hiawatha. **Q:** How do I get involved in HEDCO? **A:** One way to get involved is by sending your ideas for a HEDCO logo. HEDCO is only recently formed and is actively working to generate a visual identity. Your help in designing a logo would greatly help our efforts. The contest winner will receive a ride on a City of Hiawatha Fire truck. Contest Deadline: March 12, 2011, submit entries to Hiawatha City Clerk, 101 Emmons St., Hiawatha, Iowa, 52233, cityclerk@hiawatha-iowa.com.

We will be further publicizing HEDCO in March, but if you have suggestions or questions before, please don't hesitate to call City Hall.

WWW.veteranspetition.com

Our nation is blessed with men and women who have voluntarily sworn an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. These men and women make great personal sacrifices in the name of our Constitution thereby ensuring the perpetuation of our individual liberties. They carry democracy and extend the freedoms each of us enjoy and to those that live in underprivileged areas of the world.

These men and women will incur great personal hardships and catastrophic injury in the performance of their duties. On January 5, 2011, the City Council felt duty bound to honor, support and provide relief to these warriors and their families, and in doing so the City Council passed a resolution showing their support to the Union County Board of Commissioners' and the Veteran's Petition supporting a government bond, stamp and coin program. The proceeds will be used exclusively for those warriors and their families who have borne the brunt of preserving our freedoms and extending those freedoms throughout the world. For more information, please visit www.veteranspetition.com.

"THE HONOR COIN"



History Commission - Hiawatha School

The History Commission reminisces Hiawatha Schools. The first Hiawatha School was a country school built in the early 1900's, named the Center School #4. This school was located at approximately 1077 N Center Point Rd in Hiawatha. The average number of students attending Center School #4 was about 18. "After I graduated from Center School, a second building was moved onto the property to handle the extra students moving to the area". - Theresa Zeman Larson (photo to right was taken in 1938)

The Hiawatha School opened in the fall of 1958 with thirteen classrooms and an enrollment of 350 students in grades K-6. The cost of construction was \$17.52 per square foot and the total cost of construction was \$529,051. During the 1970's the school changed from a rural school to a small town school. In the 1980's its families became a combination of rural, city, and acreage dwellers. Over the years, many other changes have taken place at Hiawatha School. Trees have been planted, the front drive widened, playground drainage problems worked on, and classrooms added. In 2011, there are approximately 460 students at Hiawatha School in grades Preschool - 5th. A fitness trail, new computers, and new playground equipment have recently been added.

When Nixon School opened in 1970, surrounded by corn fields and dirt roads, a tree donated by President Nixon was planted to commemorate the event. Nixon was designated to accommodate the open space instructional concept. The instructional strategy was called I.G.E. (Individual Guided Instruction). Changing expectations have resulted in many changes in the facility. Walls have been put between classrooms and lockers have been moved to the classroom areas. Future plans include the development of a fitness-science trail that can be used by the community. Nixon is a place where learning occurs, and students are prepared to confront a future they will create. Enrollment at Nixon for the 2010/11 school year is approximately 325 students Preschool-5th grade.



Hiawatha Water Announces a New Way to Receive your Water Bill - By E-Mail

Beginning March 1, 2011, Hiawatha residents will have the option of receiving water bills by e-mail. But, before you will be able to receive e-bills, you must first fill out a new application card with a current e-mail address, they are located on our website for your convenience. When you receive your e-bill it will look just like the post card you currently receive. You may print out your bill and mail the bottom portion back or you can go to our website, www.hiawatha-iowa.com, and pay by credit card. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Water Department at 393-5556.

Hiawatha Library Offers Tax Help From the AARP



Tax preparation aid is available from the AARP at the Hiawatha Library. This free tax preparation is for taxpayers with low to moderate income, without restrictions on age (giving special attention to people over age 55), and e-filing is available at no cost. There are several sites available around the Metro area, including the Hiawatha Public Library and appointments can be made by calling 211, the United Way hotline or call 1-888-AARPNOW or visit www.aarp.org/taxaide.

Linn County Crime Stoppers granted 501c3 Status

The newly formed Linn County Crime Stoppers has been notified by the Federal government that the organization has been granted tax exempt status. "This is an important step for this new organization" explained Chairman Marty Bruns. "This status will allow us to begin the process of raising funds to support the rewards that are given to citizens when the information they provide assists area law enforcement agencies in apprehending criminals."

All reward funds for Crime Stoppers are raised from businesses and individuals who want to support the work of this grass roots organization. Crime Stoppers expanded to all of Linn County at the beginning of 2010. A board of directors consisting of representatives from all Linn County towns and rural Linn County has worked throughout the year to set up the organization and to gain exempt status. Chairman Bruns went on to explain, "Now that this status has been achieved, the real work of the organization can truly begin. We are asking folks to help law enforcement agencies by being their eyes and ears in the community. When a person assists law enforcement by providing valuable information they should be rewarded, and this organization is the vehicle that can deliver that reward completely anonymously."

Linn County Crime Stoppers is cooperating with all of the law enforcement agencies in the county including, Cedar Rapids Police Department, Marion Police Department, Lisbon and Mount Vernon Police Departments, the Central City Police Department, Hiawatha Police Department and the Linn County Sheriff's Department. If any citizen has information concerning a crime that has taken place anywhere in Linn County they can call the Crime Stoppers number - 1-800-CS-CRIME - to receive a number that will allow the citizen to keep track of their tip to see if it led to an arrest and would qualify for a reward.

"We appeal to all business owners and individuals who want to insure that we keep criminals off the streets and keep businesses and the public safe," explained Chairman Bruns. Tax deductible contributions can be made to the Linn County Crime Stoppers organization by sending checks c/o Cedar Rapids Police Department, 505 1st St. S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404-2103. "I want to emphasize that this is a community wide organization" continues Chairman Bruns. "The Cedar Rapids Police Department has volunteered to be the permanent address of the group, but this is truly a county wide organization with cooperation from all Police Departments as well as the Sheriff's Department. If you see crime anywhere in Linn County, we want to know about it."

For more information, please contact Chairman Marty Bruns at marty_bruns@msn.com.

Council Action

January 5, 2011

Ordinance #692 - Amending Code of Ordinance Chapter 160 Fire Code in its entirety and adopting a revised Chapter 160 Fire Code implementing the International Building Code 2009 Edition with amendments, effective March 1, 2011.

Resolution 11-001 - Adopting as amended by schedule of amendments attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and made a part thereof by reference.

Resolution 11-002 - Approving annexation applications of Jane Ellen Fink Revocable Trust dated May 22, 1997, Pines at Turtle Creek, LLC, Patrick & Diane Kilburg and adjoining roadways Loggerhead Road and Hunt Road.

Resolution 11-003 - Approving agreement between the State of Iowa (Iowa Department of Transportation) and the Cities of Cedar Rapids and Hiawatha, Iowa and Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad Company for the purpose of installing a 12" LED flashing light signals, automatic gate units and walk-out cantilevers controlled by prediction circuitry and other necessary track circuit equipment at the Blairs Ferry @ I-380 crossing of Company tracks in Cedar Rapids and Hiawatha.

Resolution 11-004 - Authorizing the Mayor to give a 90+ day notice of termination to Scott Turkal (owner of Merry Maids) regarding the Parking Lot Lease Agreement for the use of city property parcel #2 (old Graybill building parking lot) for parking executed on November 7, 2007.

Resolution 11-005 - Supporting a government bond, stamp and coin program, the proceeds from which shall be used exclusively for those warriors and their families who have borne the brunt of preserving our freedoms and extending those freedoms throughout the world.

Resolution 11-006 - Approving the amendment to Final Plat, Development Agreement and Sanitary Sewer Easements Pines at Turtle Creek First Addition due to Scrivener's error to reflect final plat map street name change from Fitzroy Road and Diamondhead Road as detailed within the map.

Resolution 11-007 - Approving relocation assistance dollars for Philip Parmer, 195 Boyson Road in connection with the Boyson Road/Robins Road Intersection Project, \$24,628.00 to Philip Parmer and \$6,183.00 to Itens, Inc., total amount not to exceed \$30,811.00.

January 19, 2011

Ordinance #693 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinance Chapter 156 Plumbing Code in its entirety and adopting a revised Chapter 156 Plumbing Code implementing the International Plumbing Code 2009 Edition with amendments, effective March 1, 2011.

Ordinance #694 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinance Chapter 158 Mechanical Code in its entirety and adopting a revised Chapter 158 Mechanical Code implementing the International Mechanical Code 2009 Edition with amendments, effective March 1, 2011.

Resolution 11-009 - Setting a public hearing date (February 2, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.) to consider adopting and placing plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost on file and direct publication of notice to bidders on Thiher Drive Drainage Improvements Phase 2.

Resolution 11-010 - Rescinding Resolution Nos. 10-113, 10-114 and 10-255 relating to the necessity and schedule of assessments against benefited properties to accommodate two agricultural deferments on North Center Point Road Water Main and Sanitary Sewer Extension Project.

Resolution 11-011 - Rescinding Resolution No. 10-236 accepting work and fixing amount to be assessed and adopting new Resolution accepting work and fixing amount to be assessed to accommodate two agricultural deferments on North Center Point Road Water Main and Sanitary Sewer Extension Project.

Resolution 11-012 - Adopting and placing on file the Corridor MPO 2040 Transportation Plan including design standards, levels of service, safety criteria, and list of improvements timelines.

Resolution 11-013 - Adopting and placing on file the Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan including basic alignment, roadway cross sections, and cost estimate.

Resolution 11-014 - Establishing Just Compensation Value prior to the start of negotiations in connection with the Boyson Road from Hawkeye Drive to CN Railroad Pavement Reconstruction Project at 935 Boyson Court and 100 Boyson Road.



Special Needs Movie Night Recap

The Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Department and Barbers Etc., sponsored Special Needs Movie Night on January 6, 2011. There were many people in attendance, ages 4 - 40, with friends, family and respite workers bringing blankets and pillows to relax and enjoy *The Tooth Fairy*, starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in the Hiawatha Community Center. Popcorn and juice were provided free of charge to all in attendance.

Mark your calendars for our next Special Needs Movie Night, October 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.



FEBRUARY 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Council 7pm			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Parks 6:30 p.m. Library 7p.m.	Council Airs 7p.m. Channel 18	Council Airs 10a.m. Channel 18	Kids Movie Night 6:30 pm	Hiawatha Night @ the RoughRiders
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	History 1:30 p.m. Board of Adj. 7p.m.	Water 6:30 p.m.	Council 7pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Council Airs 7p.m. Channel 18	Council Airs 10a.m. Channel 18		
27	28					
	P&Z 6p.m.					



MARCH 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Council 7pm			Womens Street Smart Self De- fense 10 a.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Parks 6:30 p.m. Library 7p.m.	Council Airs 7p.m. Channel 18	Council Airs 10a.m. Channel 18	Kids Movie Night 6:30 pm	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	History 1:30 p.m. Board of Adj. 7p.m.	Water 6:30 p.m.	Council 7pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Senior Dance 5:30 PM Council Airs 7p.m. Channel18	Council Airs 10a.m. Channel 18		
27	28	29	30	31		
	P&Z 6p.m.					

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www.hiawatha-iowa.com

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SATURDAY,
2/12/2011

Driving Responsibly: A Sobering Reminder

Remaining vigilant of our responsibilities as licensed drivers is an obligation we have to ourselves and our community that has to be revisited from time to time. Unfortunately, it is easy to become too comfortable with driving and forget that the privilege of being a licensed driver in Iowa comes with great responsibility.

According to the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, the leading cause of death for Iowans aged 16-20 is fatal car crashes. The Iowa Department of Public Health identifies injuries from motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death for those aged 1 to 34 years and 55 to 64 years.

Some of the most significant contributing factors identified by the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau are: distracted driving, texting while driving, alcohol use, speeding, no seatbelt, and inexperience.

You may also be surprised to learn the amount of traffic in Hiawatha. The Iowa Department of Transportation reports that 3,940 vehicles pass by Hiawatha Elementary every day on Emmons Street. Another 42,600 vehicles pass Emmons Street on Interstate 380 every day. Moreover, the United States Department of Energy reports that in 2006 the average weight of a light-duty truck is 4,712 pounds and the average weight of a car is 3,563 pounds. With the amount of traffic and sheer weight of that traffic, your efforts to focus on your driving and the driving of those around you is paramount. As always, obey the posted speed limits, wear your seatbelt, and refuse to drink and drive. Parents, please be thorough in the training and experience your child has before you give the responsibility of driving to them.

Informational links:

<http://www.iowadotmaps.com/msp/traffic/2009/cities/hiawatha.pdf>

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/facts/2007_fcvt_fotw475.html

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/common/pdf/injury_prevention/burden_of_injury_exec_summary.pdf

<http://www.dps.state.ia.us/commis/gtsb/youth/index.shtml>

Special Needs Luau/Hiawatha Night at the Roughriders

This year's Special Needs Dance took place in the Hiawatha Community Center on Friday, November 12, 2010. Participants brought their families, friends, and respite or group home workers to join in the fun. The dance was a Hawaiian Luau theme with everyone dressed in their best Hawaiian gear, grass skirts and leis. Pizza, popcorn, soda and snacks were provided while everyone danced the night away to their favorite tunes. This annual event was sponsored by Hiawatha Parks and Recreation, Barbers Etc., and All Good Things Therapeutic Massage.



Invite your friends and enjoy discounted rates at the Hiawatha Night at the Roughriders! On Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. the Cedar Rapids Roughriders are playing the Dubuque Fighting Saints. This is also Armed Forces Night at the Roughriders stadium, so members of the military and their families receive tickets at a discounted rate. Ticket order deadline is Friday, February 18, 2011. To order tickets, call Larissa at 319-247-0340.

