

Hiawatha!

Insights

February 2015

Volume 83

Hiawatha Awarded RAGBRAI Overnight Stop!



RAGBRAI 2015: We are pleased to announce that Hiawatha will be an overnight stop during RAGBRAI 2015! RAGBRAI, the Biggest and Oldest bicycle touring event in the world. RAGBRAI XLIII from July 19 to 25, 2015.

City Administrator, Kim Downs and Parks and Recreation Director, Kelly Friedl attended the RAGBRAI announcement on Saturday, January 24th in Des Moines at the Iowa Events Center. Hiawatha will be the sixth stop of the week on Thursday, July 23rd. About 15,000 riders from across the country and even other continents will take a two wheel tour traveling 462 miles and nearly 16,000 feet of climb, the 2015 ride falls in the middle of the road for difficulty, relative to past rides. The overnight towns stick slightly north of state center for five days dipping just south of Interstate Highway 80. The riders



will spend their overnights in Sioux City, Storm Lake, Fort Dodge, Eldora, Cedar Falls, Hiawatha and Iowa River Landing/Coralville before the ride ends in Davenport.

RAGBRAI has made one stop in Hiawatha throughout their travels in 2004, we are excited to show off the best that our community has to offer, so much has changed since then.

This event will also give us an opportunity to see our community work together as a whole and when we do this it will make for a successful RAGBRAI event. RAGBRAI additional benefits is the economic impact it will have on our community with thousands of visitors in our town all in one day.



We had our first meeting with the RAGBRAI event specialist on February 4th. An advisory committee of community leaders was formed to serve like a board of directors in overseeing RAGBRAI's visit here. There will be four to six co-chairs of a special RAGBRAI committee who will help coordinate the planning and preparations, working with about 20 committees focusing on different aspects of the visit. Then the RAGBRAI committee will begin coordinating plans for campgrounds, entertainment, food opportunities and all the other logistical arrangements.

The July 23, 2015 stop will be the second time that Hiawatha has hosted RAGBRAI since 2004. The City is excited to get the community involved with plenty of opportunities available over the next six months. Organizers are planning a brief public program February 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Hiawatha Community Center to provide more information about RAGBRAI's overnight stop in Hiawatha. The event will be an opportunity to learn more about the entertainment, housing, food, planning, and other aspects of the event, or an opportunity to volunteer. For more information about the event, contact Kelly Friedl, Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Director at parkdirect@hiawatha-iowa.com or (319) 393-1515 X 251.

Hiawatha Keeps Growing!!

On November 2, 2014, the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board (EDAB) approved our voluntary annexation petition submitted by Cliff A. Bowers, Diane M. Bowers, Thomas A. Burd Trustee of Thomas A. Burd Revocable Trust U/D/O August 21, 1997 and Edith M. Burd, Trustee of the Edith M. Burd Revocable Trust U/D/O August 21, 1997 for property located west of Interstate 380 and north and south of County Home Road totaling 122.8 acres. As of January 12, 2015 the approved documents pursuant to the requirements of Subsection 368.7 and 368.20 of the Iowa Code, by the City Development Board were filed and recorded with the Iowa Secretary of State. Effective January 13, 2015, the Secretary of State received and accepted the EDAB's resolution, plat map and legal description pertaining to the voluntary annexation of the territory to the City of Hiawatha and boundary changes were made, effectively.

The City will begin to review our 2010 Comprehensive Plan late this summer adding in the newly annexed area to our maps. A Comprehensive Land Use Plan, also known as a general plan, master plan, or land use plan, is a document designed to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future; with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government. This includes guidance on how to make decisions on public and private land development proposals; the expenditure of public funds; availability of tax policy (tax incentives); cooperative efforts; and issues of pressing concern (such as wet land preservation, or the rehabilitation of older neighborhood areas). Most plans are written to provide direction for future activities over a ten to twenty year period after plan adoption. However, plans should receive a considered review and possible update every five years.

Snow Ordinance Reminder

Winter 2014 has blessed us with little snow fall but inevitably in 2015 we will see future snowfalls. As a reminder, our snow ordinance will be in effect.

Our Snow Ordinance will be in effect when the National Weather Service (NWS) predicts a snowfall in which three (3) or more inches of snow 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 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

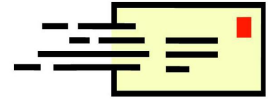
not been cleared. When in doubt about parking, just move your vehicle off the street. Also, the City will **NOT** generally conduct snowfall clearing operations on all streets for a snowfall of less than two (2) inches. This policy remains unchanged from prior years. Please remember: Sidewalks must be shoveled within 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.



Get Connected to City Hall via E-mail for Breaking News!

The City of Hiawatha knows their residents/businesses like to be kept updated regarding important announcements. We are in the process of conducting a test to determine which and how many of our residents/businesses would be interested in receiving email notifications in regards to breaking news and weather related emergencies such as the declaration of a snow emergency.

To be a part of this test group, please send an email to adminit@hiawatha-iowa.com and enter the phrase "email notices" in the subject line.



We are excited about this new opportunity and would love your input.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® LINN COUNTY

invites you to the 2015 Legislative Forums

The forums are a venue for legislators to discuss issues of concern and answer questions from constituents.

All Linn County legislators have been invited.

Saturday, February 21

Saturday, March 21

Saturday, April 18

All forums are 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. in the Hallagan Center at Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids

www.lwvlinncounty.org




Hiawatha Recognizes Two Area Businesses


CI3
Control Installations of Iowa (CI3) is a 100% employee owned company that installs hardware and creates custom software to fully integrate and manage building systems.

No matter what size the facility, CI3 can implement any level of building automation from the simplest intuitive system to a sophisticated system requiring management reports, diagnostics, and documentation that results in a higher level of safety, comfort and convenience for the building's occupants while substantially reducing operating costs.

They specialize in many different building automation systems:

- Card Access (Proximity, BioMetric and more)
- Video Surveillance /CCTV
- HVAC Temperature Control & Energy Management
- Nurse Call System
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- Lighting Control
- Sound Masking

and more.....



Securian Advisors MidAmerica, Inc.

Securian Advisors MidAmerica, Inc. is a full service financial planning firm. Their team of professional advisors has the expertise and capabilities to guide and direct you in the areas of life insurance, investments and the full scope of retirement-funding options. The 12 advisors in Hiawatha have years of experience helping individuals, families and businesses achieve their financial goals. Securian Advisors MidAmerica is currently located at 1327 Boyson Road.

The commitment to their clients is demonstrated by their integrity, expertise, proven strategies and exemplary service. They are committed to the success of their clients.

In today's complex world, the expertise and clear vision of a financial professional can help you reach your financial goals. Contact them at 319.378.1074 or visit their website at www.securianmidamerica.com to learn more.



SECURIAN®

Libraries Matter



Literacy begins at home. However, many parents don't know how, or when, to start teaching their children these important skills. Luckily parents don't have to go it alone. There are programs at the Hiawatha Public Library designed to give parents the information and skills to help prepare their children, not just for school, but for a lifetime of success.

"Research shows that reading, talking, and signing regularly with young children from birth stimulates brain development. This stimulation in turn builds language, literacy, and children's motivation to learn. A young child's early language experience predicts their early academic skill; however, national data reveals that many parents have not heard about or acted on this important message."

Hiawatha Public Library Youth Services Librarian, Alicia Mangin, states that all of the programming at the library for preschoolers (children who are not yet in kindergarten) is done with the early literacy skills in mind. It is the goal of the Hiawatha Public Library to have preschool programming Monday through Friday in 2015. One such program is held on Thursday mornings: Play and Learn of East Central Iowa.

Play & Learn is funded by a Grant from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. The grant is endowed by World Class Industries, a Hiawatha business, and is facilitated by Iowa State University Extension - Linn County.

The program has reached 367 people at the Hiawatha Public Library since October 2014, and is designed to help caregivers connect with children from birth to 5 years through reading, singing, talking, writing and playing. The program encourages free play to teach such things as sharing, working together and imagination. A parent lesson at the end of each session gives caregivers tools they can use at home to help prepare their children for future success. According to Play & Learn of East Central Iowa program facilitator,

Meredith Hershner, the goal of the program, which was started in Seattle, WA, is to get parents involved. Natalie, a home-school parent, has been bringing her children, ages 4 and 2, to Play & Learn since March of 2014. When asked about the value of the program for her family she said, "Socially it's huge because they really enjoy interacting with others. They won't go to preschool, they really won't have that school atmosphere, so this gives them something outside of our home. ... Being here with others and sharing and learning how to take turns and ... watching other kids have good behavior is really good for them." Kelly's 3 1/2 year old son is busy "shopping for groceries" during free play. They have been coming to Play & Learn since October 2014. Kelly said that they come for the interaction with others and that having her son learn to take direction from someone other than her was important. Kelly stated that if Play & Learn was not offered at the Hiawatha Public Library, they would not be inclined to go someplace else for the program because they are already familiar with the library.

Ata attends Play & Learn with her 2 1/2 year old twins. During free play the twins enjoy stacking plastic cups and knocking them over with beanbags. They have been coming to the program since the boys were 1 1/2 years old. They come to the program to socialize, learn to share and be around other children. Because they speak mostly Polish at home, practicing their English language skills is also important. Ata stated that if Play & Learn was not offered at the Hiawatha Public Library, they would have to try to find it somewhere else, but they like that it is offered at the Hiawatha Public Library because it is close to home. Their family also attends other preschool programming at the Hiawatha Public Library such as Alphabet Crafts, and they are excited for two new programs at the library: Mini Math for Mighty Minds and Simple Science Story Time.

In fiscal year 2013-2014, 12,540 people attended 350 programs for children at the Hiawatha Public Library. In addition to programs such as the Summer Reading Program, special holidays or literary anniversaries, the Hiawatha Public Library offers these fun and educational children's programs on a weekly basis:
Monday 10:00 am: Alphabet Crafts: Preschoolers are exposed to the alphabet, one letter at a time. Each week, a letter is introduced. Its sound(s) are discussed and practiced and those are reinforced through stories. Alphabet Crafts also tackles the writing aspect of early literacy. Through a craft, children learn what the letter looks like in its written form.

Tuesdays 10:30 am: Toddler Time: Kids 12 - 36 months of age and their caregiv-

ers are treated to stories that center on a weekly theme. The early literacy skills of talking, singing, reading, and playing are emphasized and encouraged through interaction with books, songs, finger plays, dancing and movement.

Wednesday 10:30 am: Story Time: Kids 3-5 years of age and their caregivers are treated to stories that center on a weekly theme. Again, the early literacy skills are emphasized. This story time may feature more books than Toddler Time but we still engage in songs, finger plays, dancing and movement.

Thursday 10:00 am - 11:30 am: Play & Learn is an organized play group for young children (0-5 years old) and the people who take care of them - their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, other family members and family friends. It is an effective way to help caregivers learn more about child development, how children learn and what they can do at home to help the children in their care to grow and learn.

Friday 10:30 am (Rotating): Learning Safari: Preschooler and their caregivers learn and play together as we read stories and find fun ways to learn about African and African American culture. Children explore these topics through stories, hands on activities and crafts that encourage sharing and interacting.

Mini Math for Mighty Minds: This program for preschoolers intertwines the early literacy skills with the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curriculum. Through books, activities, songs, and crafts, children learn simple math concepts. We wish to emphasize at the earliest age that reading ability enhances math and that math is not frightening but essential for girls and boys.

Simple Science Story Time: Again, this program mixes the early literacy skills with the science aspect of STEM. Using stories, activities, songs and games, kids learn the wonder of the scientific world and its influence around them. Like Mini Math, we believe that success in STEM starts with literacy skills.

Doodlebugs: This art-making series for preschoolers includes a literary component. Its goal is to introduce beginning art skills and concepts to emerging artists and their adult companions.

165.70 Nonconforming Buildings, Structures and Uses

The Hiawatha Unified Development Code (UDC) and Comprehensive Plans are living documents. The City is continually striving to clarify the intent and keep the documents aligned with the community development envisioned by our founding fathers, our current leaders and our citizens. Updating these documents on a regular basis assures the community's values these documents strive to protect are maintained.

One of the difficult issues faced as the community develops is the treatment of existing buildings, structures and uses which are not aligned with the comprehensive Plan referred to as legal nonconforming uses. The City Council recently amended the UDC section 165.70 allowing more latitude when dealing with nonconforming uses in Hiawatha.

Section 165.70 of the UDC gives limits for terminating legal nonconforming uses and gives direction for extending legal nonconformance to different uses. This section in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan, indicate nonconforming uses are intended to be eliminated in a manner which protects pre-existing uses while at the same time encourages eventual conformity. Recent changes to this section of the code have been adopted to clarify the implementation of this delicate balance.

The previous language in the Nonconforming uses section of the UDC was not coordinated with the definitions supporting the code thus making it difficult to agree on the interpretation. The references to "more restricted" and "same classification" were used in the text of the Code but were not defined. However the UDC definitions include "Degree of nonconformity" and "more intensive uses" but neither term was used in the text of the UDC. As a result, the interpretation of this section was called into question by two recent appeals to the Hiawatha Board of Adjustments.

The changes to the definition and the changes to the language in this section make the intent clear and coordinated. The text changes in this section state the nonconformity may be extended to a different use if it is the "same classification" or if it has less of a "degree of nonconformity". These terms are now defined in the code.

The new definition "same classification" in the UDC describes a method for determining when a different use can replace an existing legal nonconforming use. In the past this section could be

interpreted in two ways.

- strictly; limited to the exact same use which is very limiting in terms of extended legal nonconforming status to a different use or,
- liberally; allowed any replacement use that had the same zoning designation in at least one zone which could perpetually extend the nonconformity.

The new text in this section references the definition for "degree of nonconformity" which contains a scale for measuring nonconformity as use designations relate to zoning districts. When a new use moves closer to the allowable use designation in a given district the nonconformity is reduced. As long as this objective criterion indicates more conformity the new use can be permitted.

The definition of "same classification" and the new reference to "degree of non-conformity" will protect existing nonconformities while at the same time limit their over extension. This aligns with the certain and deliberate intent to bring nonconforming uses to an end thus allowing the City to progress toward the vision encapsulated within the Comprehensive Plan for orderly community development.

Hiawatha Ranks in Top Ten in Healthiest Housing Markets in Iowa



A healthy housing market is both stable and affordable; homeowners in a healthy market should be able to easily sell their homes, with a low risk of losing money over the long run. In order to find the healthiest housing markets in the country, four factors are considered: stability, affordability, fluidity and risk of loss.

Stability is measured with two equally weighted indicators: the number of years people remain in their homes and the percentage of homeowners with negative equity (as homeowners with negative equity are more likely to go into foreclosure). To account for the second factor, risk, the percentage of homes sold at a loss is used. To determine housing market fluidity, data on the average time a for-sale home in each area spends on the market is used - the longer it takes to sell, the less fluid the market. Finally, affordability is calculated as the monthly cost of owning a home as a percentage of household income in each county and city. Affordability accounted for 40%

of the housing health index, while each of the other tree factors accounted for 20%. When data on the above four factors was unavailable for cities, they were excluded from the final rankings of healthiest markets.

With the combined results, Hiawatha ranks number 7 due to the relatively low number of days a home is on the market, the higher than average number of years residents live in the homes, and the low number of homes sold at a loss.

Parents, do you ever need a night away from the kids?
We have a solution for you!

Proudly Sponsored by

Parents, do you ever need a night away from the kids? This is the perfect opportunity for you to spend a few hours away and enjoy yourself! Drop the kids off at the Hiawatha Community Center from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. where they will be able to meet new friends, socialize, play games, make arts and crafts, watch a movie and have dinner!

Ages: Kindergarten through 5th grade

Registration limited to 20 kids. Minimum of 6 children.

Fee: \$10.00 per child includes the cost of craft supplies and dinner.

2015 dates: February 13, October 19, and December 11th. Signup deadlines: February 11, October 7, and December 9th.

Spring Master Gardener's Series

Wednesday's 6:30-7:30pm
at Hiawatha Public Library

- 2/4 Feed the Birds with Deb Walser
- 2/11 Ornamentals with Sylvia Kelly
- 2/18 Starting Seeds with Phil Pfister
- 2/25 The Zen Garden with Jean Murray

Hiawatha Council Action

January 7, 2015

Ordinance 821 - Amend Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.70 Nonconforming Buildings, Structures and Uses and 165.96 Definitions.
 Ordinance 822 - Amend Chapter 52 Drug Paraphernalia by Deleting 52.07 Nuisance and adding Regulations for Synthetic Drugs.
 Resolution 15-001 - Authorize Parks and Recreation Department Purchase of a Ride On Spreader/Sprayer.
 Resolution 15-002 - Authorize Official Newspaper(s) for the City of Hiawatha, Iowa.
 Resolution 15-003 - Authorize Application to Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for Regional Transportation Funds and Commit to Provide Local Matching Funds Contingent upon Award and Acceptance of Transportation Grant Funds.
 Resolution 15-004 - Authorize Application to Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for Regional Transportation Funds and Commit to Provide Local Matching Funds Contingent upon Award and Acceptance of Transportation Grant Funds.
 Resolution 15-005 - Authorize Application to Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization for Regional Transportation Funds and Commit to Provide Local Matching Funds Contingent upon Award and Acceptance of Transportation Grant Funds.
 Resolution 15-006 - Authorize Joint Application with Linn County Conservation for Metropolitan Planning Organization Regional Transportation Funds and Commit to Provide a Local Matching Funds Contingent upon Award and Acceptance of Transportation Grant Funds.
 Resolution 15-009 - Accept the 14th Avenue and Eisenhower Road Pavement Reconstruction Project.

January 21, 2015

Resolution 15-011 - Set Dates of a Consultation and a Public Hearing on a Proposed Amendment No. 10 to the Hiawatha Urban Renewal Plan in the City of Hiawatha, State of Iowa.
 Resolution 15-012 - Fix Amount to be Assessed for the construction of a new sidewalk in connection with the 14th Avenue and Eisenhower Road Pavement Reconstruction Project.
 Resolution 15-013 - Authorize Submittal of a Grant Application Requesting Replacement of Regulatory Signs Through the Iowa Department of Transportation All Town Replacement Program.
 Resolution 15-014 - Approve the Building Materials for a New Commercial Development Located at 1210 North Center Point Road as submitted by Brian Fanton.
 Resolution 15-015 - Approve and Adopt a Directional Sign in the Right-of-Way Policy.
 Resolution 15-016 - Amend the 2010 Employee Policy Manual Section VII Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace, Business Travel and Amend Section VIII Continued Education for Position (Credits).

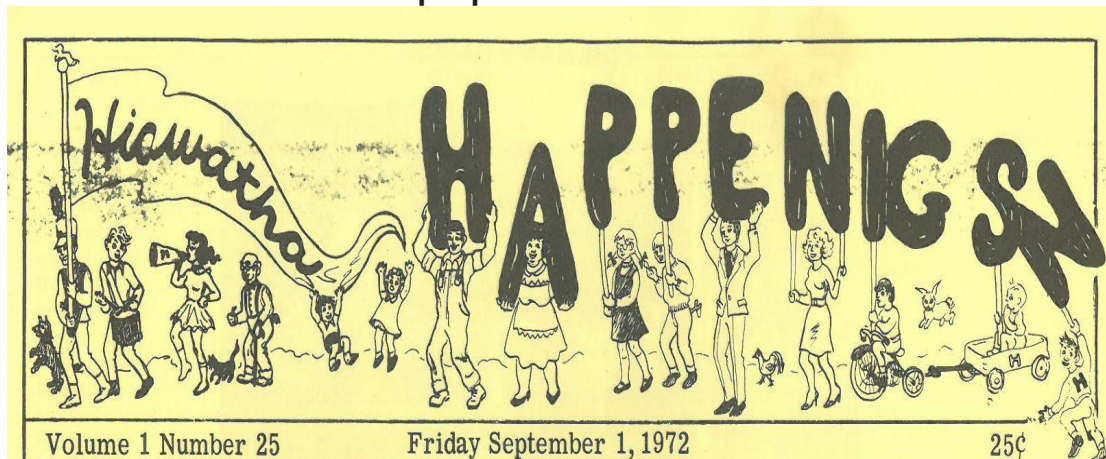
February Calendar

- 04 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 09 History Commission Meeting 1:30 pm
- 09 Board of Adjustment Meeting 6:00 pm
- 10 Parks Board Meeting 6:00 pm
- 10 Library Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 11 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 12 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 13 Parents Night Out 5:30 pm Community Center
- 14 Kiwanis Valentines Pancake Breakfast Community Center
- 16 Holiday - City Hall Closed
- 17 Water Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- 18 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 23 P&Z Meeting 5:30 pm
- 25 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 26 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18

March Calendar

- 04 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 09 History Commission Meeting 1:30 pm
- 09 Board of Adjustment Meeting 6:00 pm
- 10 Parks Board Meeting 6:00 pm
- 10 Library Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 11 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 12 Cork N Canvas 6:00 pm Community Center
- 12 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 13 Kids Movie Night 6:30 pm Community Center
- 17 Water Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- 18 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 24 Super Sitters 8:30 - 2:30 Community Center
- 25 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 26 Salad Prep Class 6:15 pm Community Center
- 26 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 30 P&Z Meeting 5:30 pm

Did you know that one of the first Hiawatha newspapers was created in 1972?



Hiawatha Water Department Water Meter Change Out Program

The Hiawatha Water Department is currently working on our water meter change out program. Per AWWA standards, our current water meters keep accurate water usage for at least 10 years. We completed our last change out program in 2002 so the time has come to update. The new meters come with a 20 years life cycle and look a bit different than the old style. Our old water meters are a brass body style that uses a chamber system to measure the water used. The new meters are made of thermal plastic and water flow is measured by electromagnetic flow sensors.



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**DELIVER BY:
SATURDAY,
02/14/2015**

Hiawatha Police Participate in Training

In November, Officer's Kremer and Allaire traveled to Skokie Il., for a two day school to become certified ALICE instructors. ALICE is an acronym ALERT LOCKDOWN INFORM COUNTER EVACUATE. The ALICE is not a check list of what to do, but a concept that gives unarmed citizens options during a violent intruder or active shooter situation. Both officers spoke highly of the training content and exercises they experienced. Officer's Kremer and Allaire will train all city employees, as well as Hiawatha board members in the coming months. For more information on Alice, go to their website at www.ALICETRaining.com.

In December of 2014, Officer Keeney and Investigator Fiser attended a three day course on the Essentials of Criminal Investigations. This course was sponsored by the Marshalltown Police Department.

Course instructors included Gary Graff and Iris Dalley. Mr. Graff is a retired FBI agent with 23 years of service in criminal investigation. Ms. Dalley is a retired crime scene investigator with 25 years of service with the state of Oklahoma.

This course provided officers with a hands on approach to learning. During this course officers were involved in a historically based investigation involving murder, fraud and embezzlement. Officers learned to use investigative skills to do an initial assessment of a crime scene, and prepare a search warrant based on this assessment. They were shown techniques for managing a complex case involving several suspects, and methods for developing intelligence in their investigations. Officers also learned advanced interview and interrogation techniques and how to conduct multi agency investigations. The information gained from this training will benefit these officers in their daily assignments.

January Kids Movie Night Recap

January's Kids Movie night was a lot of fun! We had many parents and children who enjoyed a free viewing of Dolphin Tale 2 while munching on free popcorn, juice and water. Several in the audience even won Hiawatha T-Shirts! The Parks and Recreation Department enjoys putting on this affordable family event and hopes your family can join us on March 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. for Big



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Hiawatha!