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Hiawatha Insights

2009

Volume 10

January 2009

2008 Hiawatha Accomplishments

2008 was a very interesting year – floods, tornados, stock market concerns; factors that affected our personal lives and also affected your city.

This report will focus on a list of the many positives that happened in Hiawatha in 2008.

Policy & Administration

- Very successful neighbors helping neighbors campaign for flood victims
- Monthly newsletter totally produced by City staff
- Totally new Website online
- Citizens survey completed
- The dedication of your new City Hall

Park & Recreation Department

- Dedication of Fay M. Clark Memorial Park
- Hiawatha received three grants to plant trees at the New City Hall, Fay M. Clark Memorial Park and along Center Point Rd. from the trail to Boyson Rd.
- There has been a significant increase in the attendance of programming in the Community Center including senior meals, bingo, Thursday dance and other new programs.
- Smart Discipline program was held for parents with children with over 100 in attendance.

Streets Department

Hiawatha Streets Crew was very busy spending 1105 man hours clearing away nearly 72 inches of snow this past winter season. They also completed the landscaping and sod work at the new City Hall, cleared brush and debris from the Dry Creek channel and repaved bumpy sections of Boyson Rd. and the Emmons St. railroad crossing.

Community Development Department

- Hiawatha's 2008 Commercial Activity:
New Buildings—9 Existing Businesses with Building Additions—6
Numerous Remodels of Existing Floor Space
- Hiawatha's 2008 Residential Activity:
15 New Single Family Homes Over 200 Permits for Residential Improvements
- Housing and Code Enforcement Activity:
66 Housing Registration Fees, 190 Housing Inspections, 364 Code Violation Inspections

Water Department

- 8th Avenue Water Main & Subdrain Project
- 9th Avenue Water Main Project
- Well #9 in Guthridge Park

Fire Department

- Addition of second full time Fire Department employee, Deputy Chief for Safety and Training.
- Addition of a new ambulance to the fleet
- Addition of 9 new volunteer members
- Assisted Palo with flood response activities

Police Department

- Promoting two officers to Sergeant—reorganizing the supervisory structure
- Completed field training newest officer
- Expansion of training program and implementation of additional tools for officers safety

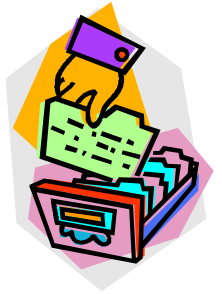
Infrastructure

- North Center Point Road Streetscape Project from South of Boyson Road to R.R. tracks completed
- 12th Avenue Sewer Basin Sanitary Sewer Repair & Reconstruction Project
- Mitchell Drive Pump Station and Force Main Extension/Bypass
- Demolition of Buildings and Grading at 94 & 98 Emmons Street
- 2008 Sanitary Sewer Slip Lining Project

Finally, thank you to the Council and Staff for their hard work and dedication and to the citizens of Hiawatha, for their patience and support in our efforts in keeping Hiawatha a great place to live, work and play.

Hiawatha Public Library

This year has been a challenging one for us at the Hiawatha Public Library. While we were certainly not victims of the flood, we have been impacted in a big way at the library. Because of the destruction of the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library, we have seen our circulation increase by 20%. Pre-flood, the Hiawatha Public Library accounted for about 9.5% of the total Metro Network circulation, Post-flood, our circulation accounts for 16% of the total Metro Network circulation. Needless to say, we've been busy, and you might have noticed this by longer lines, fewer parking spaces, and an increase in the general activity at the library. We could not have handled these increases without the help of the Cedar Rapids Public Library staff. Immediately after the flood, Cedar Rapids offered their employees to us at no cost to us to help us with the increased business.



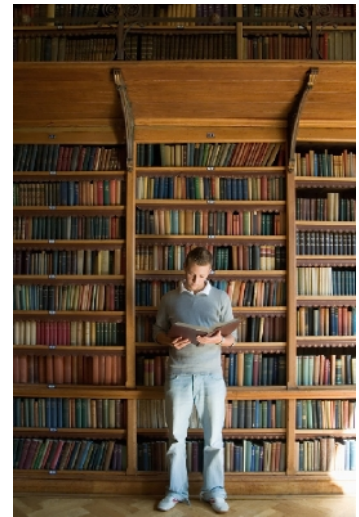
For the past six months, we've hosted one or two CR people each day. They help us with cataloging, circulation duties, shelving, and so much more. Of course, this arrangement benefited the Cedar Rapids library in that we were able to use some of their employees, giving them somewhere to work and help since the library space at Westdale Mall is much smaller than they were used to.

In the meantime, we've established a much closer relationship to our sister libraries in the Metro Network. We've made many new friends and have had wonderful help with anything we've asked them to do.

The time has come to return to "normal" however. The Cedar Rapids Public Library is renovating the old Osco Drug store and is calling their employees home. We will lose our extra help at the beginning of January. While we are sad to



see them go, we wish them the best with their new work space and new library. We also wish them the speediest of recoveries because the entire community misses them. In the meantime, we will work hard to keep up with the wonderful demand placed on us. We're happy to be busy, and we hope that you'll find time to visit the library and see how we are doing.



Water Suggestions

Just a few friendly suggestions to our vacationing or snowbird residents:

- ** When you plan to be out of town for an extended period of time, it might be 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.
- ** Another way to avoid a running toilet would be to turn the water control valve off for your toilets. This will cut water off to your toilet and help prevent it from running while out of town.
- ** Check your water heater for a "vacation mode" setting or turn to a lower heat setting.
- ** It's always a good idea to check any manufacturing literature for water heating or softening units.
- ** Residents can always call to have their water turned off at the curb stop. This free service will need to be done during normal department hours. It is always a good idea to call and set up an appointment for this service, we can be reached at 393-5556, but please take caution as the Water Department is not responsible for any damage to home devices that may require water at all times.



Credit Card Water Payment Update



Effective February 5, 2009, the Hiawatha Water Department would like to remind it's customers that we will have the new credit card system in place for bill payment. The number for you to call to make your payment is 1-(800)- 272-9829, the number will also be available on our website, listed under the Water Department. A user's fee of \$1.50 will be added to your bill amount.

Please remember that there are also several other ways to pay your bill: automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account (this occurs each month on the 15th), E-payments, dropping your payment in the night deposit box in the City Hall parking lot and paying your bill at the Customer Service counter of the Hy-Vee on Edgewood Road.

Musical Notes and Holiday Floats



Musical Notes and Holiday Floats was the theme for this year's Holiday Festival and Parade.

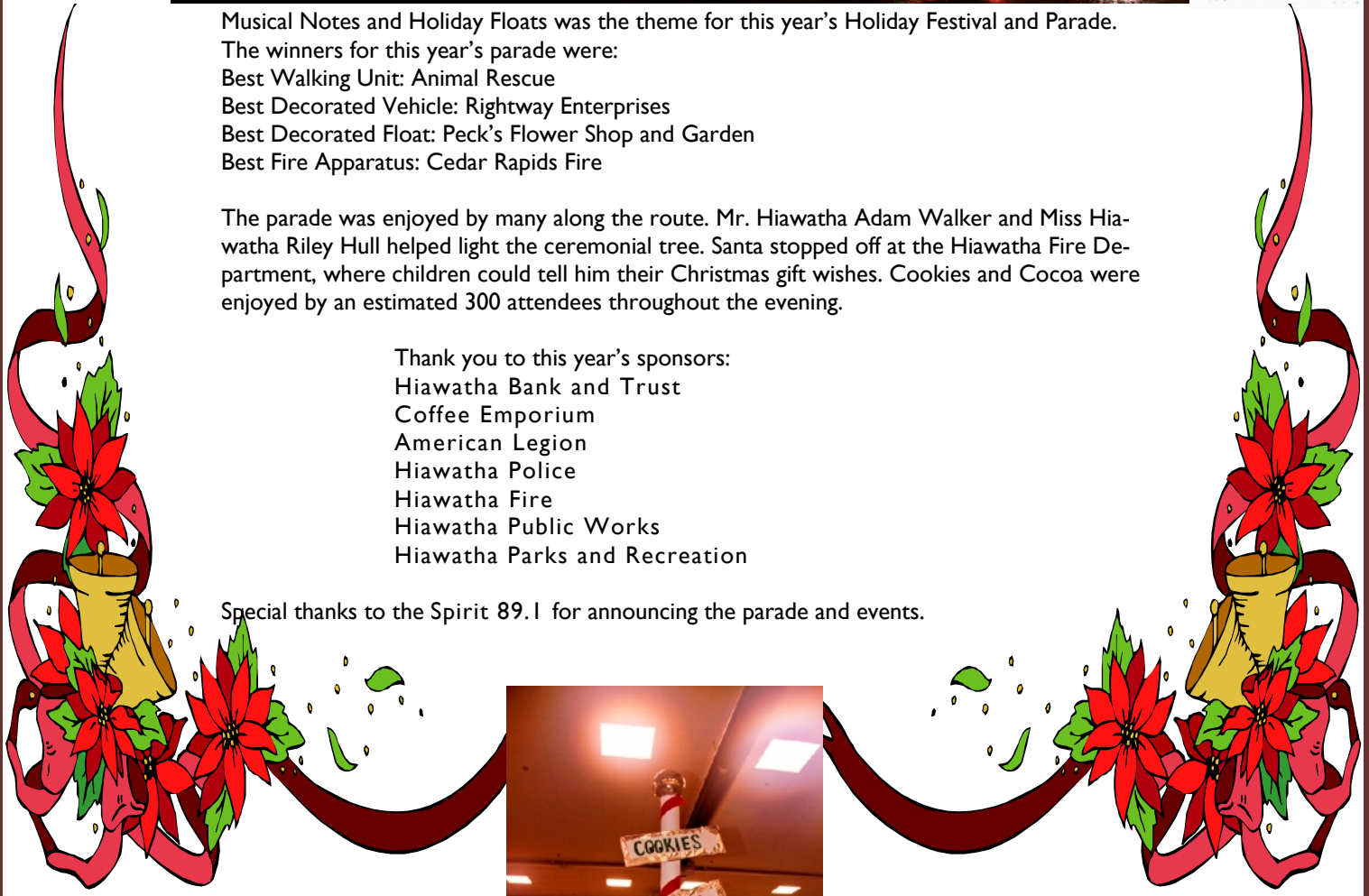
The winners for this year's parade were:

- Best Walking Unit: Animal Rescue
- Best Decorated Vehicle: Rightway Enterprises
- Best Decorated Float: Peck's Flower Shop and Garden
- Best Fire Apparatus: Cedar Rapids Fire

The parade was enjoyed by many along the route. Mr. Hiawatha Adam Walker and Miss Hiawatha Riley Hull helped light the ceremonial tree. Santa stopped off at the Hiawatha Fire Department, where children could tell him their Christmas gift wishes. Cookies and Cocoa were enjoyed by an estimated 300 attendees throughout the evening.

- Thank you to this year's sponsors:
- Hiawatha Bank and Trust
 - Coffee Emporium
 - American Legion
 - Hiawatha Police
 - Hiawatha Fire
 - Hiawatha Public Works
 - Hiawatha Parks and Recreation

Special thanks to the Spirit 89.1 for announcing the parade and events.



Council Action Summary

**November 10, 2008
Special Meeting**

Council affirmation of decision made to terminate employee Holecek.

November 19, 2008

Ordinance 626—Adoption of Ordinance 626 amending Code of Ordinance Chapter 157 Electrical Code; an Ordinance relating to the adoption by reference ICC Electrical Code, 2006 Edition, and the National Electrical Code, 2008 Edition, and providing penalties.

Ordinance 627—Adoption of Ordinance 627 amending Chapter 110 Natural Gas Franchise that grants MidAmerican Energy Co., the right and franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain, and operate in the City of Hiawatha a natural gas system, and to furnish and sell natural gas to the city and its inhabitants for a period of 25 years.

Resolution 08-177—Approving and authorizing the execution of an agreement for private redevelopment between the City of Hiawatha and Ahmann Properties, L.L.C.

Resolution 08-178 Authorizing the Fire Department to purchase a new rescue engine in the amount of \$549,521.00 from Clarey's Safety Equipment of Rochester MN and additionally authorizes the pre-payment of \$400,000.00 towards the purchase of the new rescue engine pumper.

Resolution 08-179—Declaring an official intent under treasury regulations 1.150-2 to issue debt to reimburse the City for certain original expenditures paid in connection with the specific project.

Resolution 08-180—Awarding the City of Hiawatha Comprehensive Plan Update contract to Veenstra & Kimm with an estimated contract cost of \$31,942.00.

Resolution 08-181—Accepting improvements for Longfellow Square 6th Addition and releases the development agreement executed on July 2, 2008.

Resolution 08-182—Approving Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2009 Tax Increment Financing Indebtedness.

Resolution 08-183—Approving the Certification of TIF funds to the Linn County Auditor by December 1, 2008 in the amount of \$1,852,824.00 for Fiscal Year 2010 collections.

Resolution 08-184—Approving the 28E Agreement for the sanitary sewer slip lining project participation along the Ushers Ferry and 6th Avenue Collector System.

Resolution 08-185—approving the timeline schedule for the FY 2010 Heritage Green Creek Maintenance Project (Alwine Ct.) as submitted by the City Engineer with possible acceleration date.

Resolution 08-186—Directing the City Administrator to proceed with the process for the purchasing of a vacant parcel of land located at the southeast corner of Fisher and North Center Point Road.

**December 1, 2008
Special Meeting**

Council moves to accept the resignation of City Administrator, Dave Van Dee, effective December 1, 2008, and that the terms of resignation include three months of severance pay.

November 12, 2008
Council, Boards & Commission Retreat

Council, Boards and Commissions reviewed discussion from last year retreat meeting, including staff publication of the city newsletter and revamping of city's website. City Administrator, Dave Van Dee stated that those comments were taken seriously and have been implemented.

Van Dee reviewed statistical analysis of the 2008 Citizens Survey and parts of the Town Center Master Plan presentation.

Mayor Theis shared with members that he had been working with surrounding communities and groups to make the Tower Terrace interchange a possibility.

Theis also noted that the City will have three (3) future major street projects: Edgewood Rd, Boyson Rd and Tower Terrace, all three will include partnerships between the IDOT and the City of Hiawatha and its surrounding communities.

December 3, 2008

Resolution 08-187—Authorizing the City of Hiawatha's participation in the EYE 380 Grant Application.

Resolution 08-188—Authorizing the travel expenses for two (2) individuals (Mayor Tom Theis, and Council member Dick Olson) to attend the Washington D.C. Corridor Federal Issue Trip 2009.

Resolution 08-189—Approving (Balancing) Change Order #1 with a decreased amount of \$872.00 with a revised contract amount of \$47,537.50.

Resolution 08-190—approving (Final) Pay Estimate #2 for the 94&98 Emmons St Building Demolition and Grading Project and direct City Clerk to make payment to Ricklefs Excavating, LTD in the amount of \$4,799.37.

Resolution 08-191—approving Pay Estimate #4 for the 12th Avenue Sewer Basin Sanitary Sewer Repair & reconstruction Project and direct city Clerk to make payment to Municipal Pipe Tool Co., in the amount of \$22,420.00.

Resolution 08-192—approving (Balancing) change Order #7 for the 2006 City Hall Project with an increased amount of \$781.00 with a revised contract amount of \$5,317,635.57.

Resolution 08-193—approving Pay Estimate #20 for the 2006 City Hall Project and direct City Clerk to make payment to Knutson Construction Services in the amount of \$59,266.40.

Resolution 08-194—Amending the current 28E Agreement for the planning, construction, and maintenance participation for the Indian Creek/Dry Run Creek sanitary sewer system program and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement.

Resolution 08-195—Authorizing the multi-jurisdictional 28E Agreement for the planning, construction, and maintenance participation for Segment Two (2) of the Indian Creek/Dry Run Creek Sanitary Sewer Capacity Improvements and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement.

Resolution 08-196—Authorizing engineering services to proceed with the preparation of plans and the specifications for the Usher's Ferry and 6th Avenue Sewer Line Project.

January 2009

Don't forget to check our website for ALL the upcoming events and information that may not be listed here in our newsletter.
www.hiawatha-iowa.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 City Offices Closed	2	3
4	5 Budget Work Session 6pm	6	7 Council 7pm	8	9	10
11 Public Safety 6pm	12 Board of Adj 6pm	13 Parks 6pm Library 7pm	14	15	16 Kids Movie Night 6pm Kung Fu Panda	17 Recipe Swap & Dessert Tasting 4:30pm Register @ Library 393-1414
18	19 Budget Work Session 6pm	20 Friends of the Library 6:30pm Water 6:30pm	21 Council 7pm	22	23	24
25	26 Budget Work Session 6pm	27 P&Z 6pm	28	29	30	31

February 2009

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Council 7pm	5	6	7
8 Public Safety 6pm	9 History 1:30 pm Board of Adj 6pm	10 Parks 6pm Library 7pm	11	12	13 Kids Movie Night 6pm Over the Hedge 2	14
15 Street Smart Self Defense 1:30pm Register @ City Hall—\$20.00	16	17 Friends of the Library 6:30pm Water 6:30pm	18 Council 7pm	19	20 Hiawatha Night @ Roughriders 7:05pm Star Wars Night!	21 Lil MMC Dance Clinic 9:15 am Register @ City Hall—\$25.00
22	23	24 P&Z 6pm	25 Senior Evening Dance/Dinner 5:30pm Call Mary @ 393-9348	26	27	28

Postal Customer Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

Walk Sequence

Your Responsibility Regarding Snow Removal

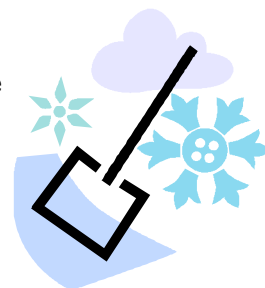
Each year we receive numerous phone calls with questions regarding the resident/landlord's responsibilities toward snow removal and other related snow items.

The following is a reprint from the October Insights as a reminder of what the City Ordinance's state:



- **Please, please, please**—do not push, plow, pile, or deposit snow from your driveway, sidewalk, and parking lot (residential or commercial) into the street. It is against our City Code to do this. Chapter 135.12. This includes pushing snow from your driveway across the street into your neighbor's right-of-way. The city snow plows will have to make extra passes to clean this up and the snow will end up in your neighbor's driveway. Try to keep driveway and sidewalk snow in your yard behind the sidewalk. Save as much room as possible in the right-of-way (area between the sidewalk and street) for street snow. If you have a contractor plow your driveway, sidewalk, or parking lot, please inform them of this. If you have no place to put the snow then you will have to have it hauled away. Because of the problems we had last winter, we will be issuing warnings and possible fines to violators. It is recommended that you do not clear the end of your driveway till the street has been cleared.

- **Property owners**—have 24 hours to remove snow from their sidewalks after the cessation of snow fall. City Code Chapter 136.03. The City can remove the snow and assess the costs to your property taxes. Bear in mind this is contracted out. This is done so pedestrians and school children can have safe routes to walk on. If you want to report a sidewalk that needs to be cleared, please wait the 24 hours, then call 393-1515.



- **Check your mailbox**—to be sure that it is behind the BACK of the curb line, preferably about six inches. City Code Chapter 135.14. If a plow hits your mailbox and/or post, buy a new one if needed and bring the receipt to City Hall. You can be reimbursed up to \$50.

- **You can help out**—the Water Dept. and Fire Dept. by clearing snow from around fire hydrants that are near your property. This makes it easier for the firemen to find them during emergencies.



- **Keep your vehicles**—in your driveway or parking lot during snow events. This makes it easier for the plow trucks to clear the street, curb to curb. Residents in violation of removing their vehicles from the street during a snow emergency will be tagged or possibly fined.

- **Check with your neighbors**—, especially the elderly, to see if they need help with shoveling their sidewalks and driveway. It's a great way to build community spirit and check on neighbors.

