

Hiawatha Insights

January 2014

Mayor's Annual Report

Volume 70

2013 was a momentous year!

I say momentous because there were goals that have been before us for over ten years that have now become reality! First with the passing of the Center Point Road/Robins Road/Emmons Street moratorium that ran 300 feet on each side from Blairs Ferry Road to Boyson Road. The City Council implemented this to allow for time to discuss what the development along this area should look like. We only had one chance to do it right and with the help of a ten member steering committee; we set standards on such things as road access, signs, set-backs and certain architectural characteristics. On September 4th, the City Council passed the ordinance rezoning the Center Point Road/Robins Road area into three (3) districts referred to as CPR-1, CPR-2, and CPR-3.



As you know, economic development is one of my loves and there is development happening in the northeast quadrant of the Center Point/Robins Road intersection. We have been waiting for this very type of development in which the City formed a public private partnership that assisted Hawkeye Communications to build and expand their alarm and security access business in the heart of this intersection. It is exciting to watch old buildings come down and be replaced with new ones. I believe between City Hall and the Hawkeye Communications building that this will be the catalyst for future development in the other area quadrants of the Town Center development. Also the completion of the third and fourth phases of the reconstruction of Center Point Road will add to the means of development in this area. The phase just north of the railroad tracks to Fisher Street will be completed in the spring, just in time for us to start planning for the fourth and final reconstruction phase, the intersection. The final phase was approved by Council in our Capital Improvement Plan and allows us to move forward in the spring. This project will take up to three years to complete.

Street infrastructure and accessibility is very important to many of us and because of that, in April, we made our third presentation to the Department of Transportation (DOT) Commission to thank them for three RISE (Revitalizing Iowa's Sound Economy) grants given to the City in the past year and a half for the reconstruction of North Center Point Road and Stamy Road in the amount of \$2.3M. While we were there, we spoke to the Commission about the status of the Tower Terrace Interchange Justification Report (IJR), which had positive remarks and asked for feedback, guidance on financing and development. The Commissioners shared that they have toured the area and thanked us for keeping them up to date with the status of the IJR. This project is a local project and should be locally driven. However, with the DOT Commission's support, we can gain the assistance from our federal and local DOT and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Recently, the MPO did approve adding the Tower Terrace Interchange Project in their Fiscally Constrained Plan. This positively affects our ability to apply for funding for the project. By having the interchange within the plan, it demonstrates the importance of the project and its priority within the community. Recently, we have heard the IJR is ready to be sent off to the Federal DOT for approval.

We will have two interchanges to concentrate on for the next couple of years - Boyson and Tower Terrace Roads. According to the IJR, we will need to add lanes and reconfigure the south bound loop for the Boyson Road Interchange before the Tower Terrace Interchange can happen. The interchange improvements will stimulate economic development, transportation safety and congestion relief. Our focus for the next couple of years will be to increase public awareness and develop metro area partnerships/support to seek and secure: local jurisdictions' financial support, MPO federal transportation funding and congressional directed funding.

Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOSST).....First I would like to thank you for your vote. Overwhelmingly voters of Hiawatha joined the four bordering cities on November 5th to extend a 1 cent local option sales and service tax for ten (10) years. I'm so happy with the vote! With an estimation of \$8M in added revenue in the next ten (10) years, this 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 and pay as we go.

Lastly, I would like to express my enthusiasm in the appointment of our newly named City Administrator, Kim Downs. Kim has been a part of the City for the past eight years. Her hard work and dedication to the City has landed her the City Administrator position and will be written into history as our first female City Administrator. Every day, along with all the department team members, I see the hard work they put forth to ensure our City runs smoothly and our citizens concerns are acknowledged and when able, remedied with kindness and respect.

As a City, we enter our 65th year stronger than we have ever been. I have absolutely no doubt our community will continue to be progressive and fiscally responsible as we set our eyes on the future of Hiawatha.

Hiawatha Fire Department Chili Supper Recap

THANK YOU! The Hiawatha Firefighters want to extend a word of thanks to all those that participated in the Annual Chili Supper, held on November 2, 2013. Over 750 people attended this annual fundraiser. Dozens of door prizes were donated by local businesses. This year over \$4,000 was raised that will go toward purchasing supplies and equipment.

Winter Fire Safety. As we enter the winter season, the fire department wants to offer some winter safety tips.

- 1) Cooking remains the leading cause of fires during the winter. Never leave cooking food unattended. Turn pot handles in, to avoid children grabbing them or bumping them, and keep your stove top clear.
- 2) The number of candle fires increases during December. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and blow them out when leaving the room. Where possible, use battery powered candles for decoration and during power outages.
- 3) Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can't be detected by the human nose. Have an electrically powered Carbon Monoxide detector with a battery backup on every level of your home, and outside of sleeping areas.
- 4) Space heaters need space. If you use a space heater, make sure there is 36 inches of clearance. Unplug it when you leave the room or go to bed.
- 5) Plan ahead for winter storms. Have plenty of batteries on hand should the power go out, and a battery powered radio for communications.
- 6) Check your smoke detectors.

If you need assistance with your smoke detectors, or have any other fire safety questions, please call the fire department at 393-4180.

North Center Point Road Crosswalk

The intersection of Willman Street and Center Point Road in Hiawatha has been signed with a standard pedestrian crosswalk for many years. This is considered an uncontrolled mid-block pedestrian crossing. These types of pedestrian crosswalks have experienced a higher rate of driver-pedestrian conflict. Standard crosswalk signs have not proven to be effective at these type of crossings.

Improved pedestrian safety is in order, although the City has not experienced any issues at this location, the City has installed solar powered lighted crosswalk signs. These signs have flashing warning lights that are activated by pushing a wireless crosswalk button. The sign will then flash in both directions for 30 seconds, if you are the pedestrian, always proceed with caution when crossing the street. Please take note of these new signs when driving on Center Point Road through this intersection and be watchful of crossing pedestrians.



Hiawatha Recognizes Two Area Businesses

C.J. Cooper & Associates, Inc., is a privately owned and operated business specializing in Third Party Administration of Public and Private Sector Drug and Alcohol testing. They are recognized by the State of Iowa as a Targeted Small Business. They assist businesses of all sizes in the development, implementation, and management of a drug-free workplace. They perform drug and alcohol collection and testing services as well for their clients maintaining a professional atmosphere and confidentiality for their donors as well as their clients either at your office or theirs. Their staff is qualified in the collection of Federal urine and breath specimens that meet the requirements set forth in the Federal Regulations 49 CFR Part 40. In addition, they are able to perform DOT Physicals by appointment.

C.J. Cooper & Associates, Inc., is also an authorized distributor of DrugChek on-site screening devices. These devices can provide you with negative test results in as little as five minutes! Their team of account managers assist you every step of the way, giving you the personal attention you and your company deserve. Find them at www.cjcooper.com or their location: 1325 Stamy Road (319) 377-5373

CJ Cooper
& Associates Inc.



Presentations, Inc.

is an environmental graphic design and build firm. They are a creative resource to help you visually extend your brand and message into any space. They specialize in creating highly customized solutions for interior branding, donor recognition, history displays, trade show, wayfinding, digital displays, and interactive exhibits.



Presentations

Their commitment to professional relations in consulting, design, fabrication and installation provides a complete package of services to answer all of your project's needs. They integrate their creative thinking with their dynamic production capabilities to provide original designs that are completely thought out. The result is that your project will represent who you are, be relevant to your space, and have a one-of-a-kind impact you can be proud to showcase. Located at 935 Boyson Ct., Ste B, they can be contacted at 396-8101 or on their website www.p-egd.com.



Hiawatha Public Library Offers LearningExpress!

The Hiawatha Public Library offers FREE and unlimited online access to over 770 career and academic-oriented courses and practice tests through LearningExpress Library.

Improving the job search process, preparing for career certification, raising college entrance test scores, and improving 21st century basic skills are all possible with just the click of a mouse at your local library!

Visit the Hiawatha Public Library or access it from home, log on to a computer, and enjoy free, unlimited access to interactive skill building courses in math, reading, and writing as well as a broad range of practice tests based on official exams such as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB Core, and EMT Basic, as well as firefighter, police officer, paramedic, Allied Healthcare, U.S. Citizenship, postal worker, cosmetology, and real estate agent and broker exams. This valuable service is available 24/7 from any Internet-enabled computer - in your library and even from your home! All you need is a Metro Library Network library card (Hiawatha, Marion, and Cedar Rapids).

The LearningExpress Library online learning platform provides over 770 of the most up-to-date test preparation and skill-building resources, helping both students and adults prepare for a wide range of academic and career-oriented exams as well as improve basic skills in reading, writing, and math. In addition, job-skills tutorials are available to assist in creating a great resume, honing interviewing techniques, and improving business communications. Patrons also have the option of selecting from more than 130 e-book titles to help learners of all ages prepare for success. This innovative platform includes self-paced study, instant scoring, and diagnostic feedback and can be accessed from any computer than has an Internet connection.

LearningExpress, LLC, is a leading provider of print and online educational and professional resources that are used in over 4,000 libraries and 5,000 schools and benefit over one million students, teachers, administrators, and career professionals around the country.

Funding for LearningExpress comes from money the legislature provided so that Iowa Workforce Development could coordinate with Iowa Library Services to provide access to lowans through local libraries.

To find out more about how you can access LearningExpress Library, call the Hiawatha Public Library at 319-393-1414.

Council Appointments

At the December 18, 2013 Council meeting, the following people were appointed by the Mayor to Boards and/or Commissions:

Parks & Recreation Commission: Shannon Zweber, effective Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2015

Planning & Zoning Commission: Tyler Nugent, effective Jan 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2018

In addition, the following people were re-appointed by the Mayor to Boards and/or Commissions:

Board of Adjustment: David Matthews, effective Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2018

Parks & Recreation Commission: Bill Hornett, effective Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2015

Planning & Zoning Commission: Mark Ross, effective Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec 31, 2018

Water Board: Gary Casady, effective Jan 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2019

Housing Inspection Board: Tom Belin, effective Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2016

History Commission: Bev Daws and Dick Larson, effective Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2016



We are so grateful that these members of the community are willing to volunteer their time and efforts. They are the reason we continue to be a progressive and responsive community. Thank you!

Live Healthy Iowa

Live Healthy Iowa 10 Week Challenge: The Live Healthy Iowa 10 Week Wellness Challenge is a fun, easy and affordable way to engage lowans in healthy behaviors. This team-based physical activity, nutrition and weight loss program is designed to promote positive changes leading to a healthier lifestyle.

The challenge starts January 27, 2014 and ends April 4, 2014. Prizes and incentives are offered throughout the program on a team and individual basis. Friends, families and co-workers form teams that track weight loss or minutes of activity.

Hiawatha has set up a Group ID for teams to register and all Hiawatha residents and businesses are encouraged to assemble your team and register under Group ID LHIHIA at www.livehealthyiowa.com. Join us in making Hiawatha a healthier place to be!

Activity Brochure: The 2014 Activity Brochure will come out in January! Brochures will be available at Hiawatha City Hall and online at www.hiawatha-iowa.com. Registration for all programs will open January 1st! Don't forget to register for all the great programs we have to offer!

History Commission



Do you know what this is???

Pictured: Pappy Waddington, Dick Semelroth, Gene Vanderlinden, T.J. Jones, Steve Carley, Bob Wheeler, Don Labs (hidden), Lee Waddington

Council Action

December 4, 2013

Ordinance 762 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 115 Transmission Lines changing the chapter title to Utility Lines, establishing the requirements for the installation, maintenance and repair of utility lines in the right-of-way, and adding language to allow utility/transmission lines to be installed on existing overhead utility poles when appropriate.

Resolution 13-290 - Set public hearing date (December 18, 2013 @ 5:30 p.m.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 134 Right-Of-Way by providing reference to Chapter 115 for utility work performed in the right-of-way and Chapter 135 non-utility work performed in the right-of-way.

Resolution 13-291 - Set public hearing date (December 18, 2013 @ 5:30 p.m.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 135 Street Use and Maintenance adding language for excavation in the right-of-way, adding restoration requirements for the permit holder, and adding language for compliance with Federal and State laws, City Codes/Ordinances and Metro Standard Specifications.

Resolution 13-292 - Approve a 5K Splash a Smile Color Run on September 20, 2014.

Resolution 13-293 - Authorize staff to proceed with Requests for Proposals for Printer/Copier replacement for the upper level of City Hall.

Resolution 13-294 - Approve Cost Sharing between the City of Hiawatha and HEDCO for Back-End Development including the creation of a Business Directory Development Module on the HEDCO website.

Resolution 13-295 - Review, acknowledge and place on file the FY 2012-2013 Audit.

Resolution 13-296 - Approve Blood-Borne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan and Procedures providing employees with policies and procedures to reduce or eliminate exposures.

Resolution 13-297 - Approve the Excavation and Trenching Safety Manual providing employees with policies and procedures for excavation and trenching operations.

Resolution 13-298 - Amend Emergency Action Plan adopted on April 2, 2003, adding updated employee procedures during emergency situations.

December 18, 2013

Ordinance 763 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 134 Right-Of-Way by providing reference to Chapter 115 for utility work performed in the right-of-way and reference to Chapter 135 for non-utility work performed in the right-of-way.

Ordinance 764 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 135 Street Use and Maintenance adding language for excavation in the right-of-way, adding restoration requirements for the permit holder, and adding language for compliance with Federal and State laws, City Codes/Ordinances and Metro Standard Specifications.

Resolution 13-302 - Authorize payment for the Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet.

Resolution 13-303 - Approve a letter of support on behalf of Neighborhood Transportation Service (NTS) to encourage legislators to pass the Iowa Employment Rides Initiative bill being introduced during the 2014 session.

North Center Point Road Project

The closure of North Center Point Road at the CC&P Railroad, which began on September 30, 2013 and due to improvements to North Center Point Road, ended in November 2013, with the two center lanes re-open to traffic, and the two outer lanes re-opened prior to Christmas 2013. Access to all businesses are also re-opened. Along with the re-opening of all four lanes, a new concrete median has been constructed at the railroad tracks, separating traffic and allowing for a possible future Quiet Zone, reducing the use of train horns within Hiawatha, one of the first such Quiet Zones in Iowa. New streetlights, matching the current North Center Point Road lights, north and south of the project, have sprung up along the road, too. These ornamental street lights will increase safety and visibility for drivers, as well as for bicyclists and pedestrians on a new 10' Cedar Valley Trail on the east side of North Center Point Road.

Public transportation users will notice an architectural bus shelter has been replaced the previous concrete slab, now providing shelter from inclement weather.

Parsons Drive, re-graded, repaved, and has also been re-opened, along with a new 5' sidewalk connecting to the Cedar Valley Trail, increasing route options for pedestrians within the region.

Observant users will also notice several block columns rising from the earth on the west side of North Center Point Road. These are the first sneak peek at the future stone wall to be finished in the spring. Once completed, the wall will materially and thematically continue both the Blairs Ferry Road and Boyson Road monumental signage, giving users the unique visual sense of being in Hiawatha.

A new future 5' wide sidewalk will be completed on the west side, paralleling North Center Point Road and connecting to the current sidewalk north of the railroad tracks. Currently, there are parts of this sidewalk installed, but we ask users to use the Cedar Valley Trail until this sidewalk is completed in the spring.

As stated above, all four lanes will be open to drivers, but there may be ephemeral traffic delays, as the lighting on the west side is installed as the poles become ready for installation. We ask that drivers please follow the signage directing them to each business and to detours. Your cooperation and patience through this project has been much appreciated, and we look forward to a vastly improved North Center Point Road come this spring.



JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 City Hall Closed	2	3	4
Please note: Council schedule changes for January due to the holiday.						
Visit our website: www.hiawatha-iowa.com						
5	6	7	8 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18 Council 5:30pm	9 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	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	16	17	18
19	20	21 Water 5:30 pm	22 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18 Council 5:30pm	23 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	24	25
26 Lil Cougar Dance Clinic 1-2:30pm	27 P&Z 6 pm	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2014

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

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www.hiawatha-iowa.com

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SATURDAY,
1/11/2014**

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.



Mark Powers Retires after 31 Years of Service to Hiawatha

After 31 years of service in some way, shape or form, Community Development Director, Mark Powers has retired from City government. Mark came to us as a volunteer fire fighter, then became assistant fire chief, fire chief, building official and lastly but not least, as our Community Development Director.

Mark has dedicated himself to the City and his knowledge of the community is of great abundance. His hard work and contribution to the City has been priceless.

Mark, we will miss you! You are one of a kind, and will not easily be replaced. Congratulations on your retirement!!



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