



January 2019

Volume 130

**FROM THE MAYORS DESK - A Review of 2018**



Recently, City Administrator Kim Downs and I, looked back over the past year to assess our accomplishments, projects completed and next steps. By all accounts 2018 has been a remarkable year. We have seen more blessing than I can count but I will attempt to share with you our accomplishments.

In this space we have learned that success is never easy. It requires diligence and the ability to overcome hurdles. And, as we have seen, there are always hurdles that bring knowledge and then success. It's true in life and it's true in city government.

The following list is presented to you with pride and a sense of satisfaction.

**Infrastructure Improvements**

- Finalizing out Emmons Street/Robins Road/North Center Point Road Reconstruction Project
- Completed the reconstruction of North Edgewood Road
- Completed reconstruction of Emmons Street from 9th-10th Avenue and then from North Center Point Road to railroad tracks
- Completed the Robins Road overlay from Bali Hi to Stonegate Court
- Received Iowa Department of Transportation confirmation of the construction of the Tower Terrace Interchange beginning construction in Fiscal Year 2022
- Continue-sanitary sewer televising/slip lining inspection program

**Beautification**

- Established an ash tree removal and tree trimming program
- Final streetscape project along the Emmons Street/Robins Road/North Center Point Road
- Secured our first Housing Rehabilitation Program; six homes will be rehabbed. Construction to begin in February.

**Public Safety**

- Began the Fire/Ambulance Master Plan Study
- Implemented an improved inspections and preplanning building of commercial/light industrial facilities
- Entered into contracts with both area hospitals providing community paramedicine in-home care plan services

**Recreational/Educational Amenities**

- Purchased property along North Edgewood Road for future park expansion
- Raised over \$2M for and began developing specifications for construction of the library remodel and expansion project to bid in March
- Signed agreement with Linn County to develop our first dog park; Dave Wright Nissan Subaru donated \$100,000 for development of park
- Added 10 acres of park land to Tucker Park donated by Hodge Construction
- Successful 3- Year Fun Fest Event
- In progress-Park & Recreation Master Plan Study

**Finance**

- Lowered city taxes by .21 cents
- Maintained our A1 bond rating

**Economic Development**

- Annexed 50 acres along Todd Hills Road
- North Edgewood Road/Todd Hills Road Housing Development expansion north of Pines at Turtle Creek-Turtle Reserve
- 26 Single Family Homes built
- Third highest annual valuations since 2013
- Marked our fourth year in a row of over \$30M in valuation growth
- In progress: Village Center Redevelopment - completed a \$4M development agreement with PAKAR for the northeast corner of Emmons Street/Robins Road/North Center Point Road; finalizing the sale of the Oakbrook property with interested developer
- In progress: established a Robins Road Rehabilitation Steering Committee and began the study process.

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- Approached Smart Series Housing developer to meet our essential housing needs
- In a 2 ½ year period we added:
  - o 493,608 square feet commercial property
  - o \$60M in property value
  - o 400 full-time employees; 117 retained
  - o 100 part-time employees; 20 retained
  - o Hiawatha population growth projections - 2010 grew by 8%; 2020 projections 12%
- 380 active businesses are located in Hiawatha
- An estimated 10,711 employees work in Hiawatha daily
- Our community grows during the day. Hiawatha's population 7200 during the day we double in size with an estimated number of 14,181

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Much has been accomplished and much more in progress. 2019 will prove to be an enthusiastic year. Our primary focus will be on the library remodel and expansion project, village center redevelopment along with the relocation of the public safety storage garage.

We are excited about our community's growth and are so grateful for our energetic staff and the many volunteers who make up our boards, commissions, and our fire department. In addition, would like to recognize our business partners-business owners, developers and non-profit organizations along with our citizens who support our decisions and our daily efforts to provide a beautiful, safe and active community.

**Staff Training/Professionalism**

- City Administrator Kim Downs named Corridor Business Journal Influential Women
- Deputy City Clerk Kari Graber earned Certified Clerk's designation
- Deputy Fire Chief Matt Powers earned his bachelor degree in Fire Science
- 2018 Strategic Plan developed by City Council, Mayor, and City Staff

Looking forward to seeing you all right here in 2019.



# Stay Current

Be the first to know about snow emergencies, leaf pick-up, deadlines, events, announcements, and more! Subscribe to our email newsletter and text alerts.

**Get Alerts**



City of Hiawatha, Iowa

[www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com)

## Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation Announces the Hiawatha Hustle Winners

Exciting news the winners have been voted by the Corridor for the first Hiawatha Hustle!



The city of Hiawatha and Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation teamed up to showcase some of our outstanding local business, during Small Business Month last November. We asked people to vote for their favorite Hiawatha business by industry. 832 votes were received with the winners named below. Congratulations to our 2018 Hiawatha Hustle Award winners!

- Advertising/Marketing:** Channel Fusion
- Industrial/Manufacturing:** Hawkeye Communication/Fandel Alarm
- Personal Services:** Bella Capelli Salon
- Health/Well Being:** Balanced Fitness & Health
- Real Estate/Construction:** Skogman Realty
- Education/Day Care:** Hiawatha Elementary
- Food/Drink:** That One Cupcake Place
- Senior Living/Group Home:** Hiawatha Care Center
- Automotive:** Dave Wright Nissan
- Finance/Insurance:** Farmers State Bank
- Shopping:** Farmer's Daughter's Market



Hiawatha Care Center  
Joni Oltmanns and Ken Walton

**Hiawatha Council Action**

The Hiawatha City Council meeting minutes may be obtained on-line at [www.hiawatha-iowa.com/government/city-council-documents/](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com/government/city-council-documents/) or by request to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.

**Hiawatha Library to Offer Financial Literacy Classes**

Happy New Year! Do you have a holiday hangover?

The Hiawatha Public Library can help. Hiawatha Public Library is partnering with First Federal Credit Union Foundation to offer financial literacy classes. Tom Chalstrom, President and CEO of First Federal Credit Union in Hiawatha will teach free, quarterly classes at the library.

Financial education is an identified need for many students, youth, and adults of all ages. Furthering the financial literacy in the community is a targeted cause by the First Federal Credit Union Foundation. This partnership is the result of a conversation regarding the Make Room for Imagination capital campaign for the expansion and remodel of the Hiawatha Public Library.

In addition to a \$10,000 monetary gift to the Hiawatha Public Library capital campaign, First Federal Credit Union will provide financial literacy education to patrons of the Hiawatha Public Library. The Foundation will provide all support, including personnel, instructional materials, workbooks and any other associated need required for providing proper financial literacy.

**The next class will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. and will focus on the following:**

**Banking Services**

- Savings vs. Checking Accounts
- Managing a checking account
- Debit cards vs. Credit Cards

**Water Main Break Information**

Here at the Water Department we know the importance of having water available when you open the tap or flush a toilet. We also understand the frustration you experience when the water is not present. It's that time of year for water main breaks to occur. The Water Department wants to make sure our residents know what to do if or when this happens.

When a water main break occurs it requires the Water Department employees to close down several water main valves to isolate the main and control the leak. We do our best to inform our customers when a water main break occurs. Sometimes, actually many times, these main breaks are emergency's or they occur after hours and our customers don't become aware of the leak until water is not available.

Rest assured the Water Department employees work diligently to find the source of the leak and correct the issue to reestablish water to your property in a timely manner. We appreciate your patience when a situation like this arises.

If you should see or suspect a water leak please report it to the Water Department at 319-393-5556. Or if it is after business hours please contact the non-emergency Police Department number 319-393-1212. We will promptly investigate your concern.

**JoJo Siwa Dance Clinic - Hiawatha Community Center  
Sunday, January 27 - 1:00-2:00 PM**

Learn how to dance like JoJo at this fun, interactive dance clinic taught by Coach Miranda and the Kennedy Cougars Dance Team. Perform for your family and friends immediately following the clinic!

Boys and Girls Kindergarten through 5th Grade - \$25 fee

Register at [www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com) - Deadline January 18



**January Calendar**

- 01 Holiday - City Hall Closed
- 02 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 08 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 08 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 09 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 14 History Committee Meeting 1:30 PM
- 14 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 PM
- 15 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 16 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 23 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 28 P&Z Meeting 5:30 PM

**February Calendar**

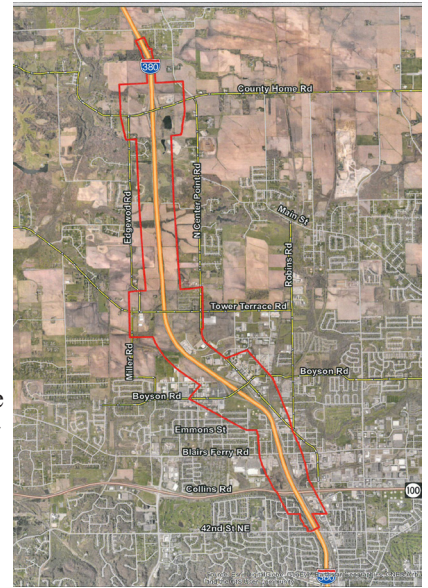
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- 11 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 PM
- 12 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 12 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 13 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
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- 19 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 20 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 25 P&Z Meeting 5:30 PM
- 27 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)

### Iowa DOT Schedules Public Hearing January 22, 2019

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) will hold a public hearing Tuesday, January 22, to discuss the proposed improvements to I-380 between Collins Road/Iowa 100 and County Home Road, which includes 6-laning I-380, rebuilding the Boyson Road interchange and adding an interchange at Tower Terrace Road. The completed environmental assessment will also be available.

The public hearing will be conducted using a combined open forum and formal format. During the open forum, from 5 to 5:45 p.m., IDOT staff will be present to informally discuss the project. After the open forum, a formal presentation will be displayed beginning at 5:45 p.m. and followed by a question-and-answer session.

Persons wishing to make a formal statement or ask questions will need to note that at the time of registration. There will be a three-minute limit per speaker during the question-and-answer session. Oral and written statements will be accepted during both the open forum and the formal public hearing. To submit a comment online about this project, go to: <https://bit.ly/iowadot9212223>.



### Hiawatha Approves Design Contract for New Traffic Signal at Center Point Road and Willman Street

The City Council approved a contract with Shive Hattery Engineers to start the design work for the new signal at Center Point Road and Willman Street. The new signals will replace the existing 4-way stop installation with signals that will be actuated by pedestrians or side street traffic. The goal is to have the new signals installed by late summer.

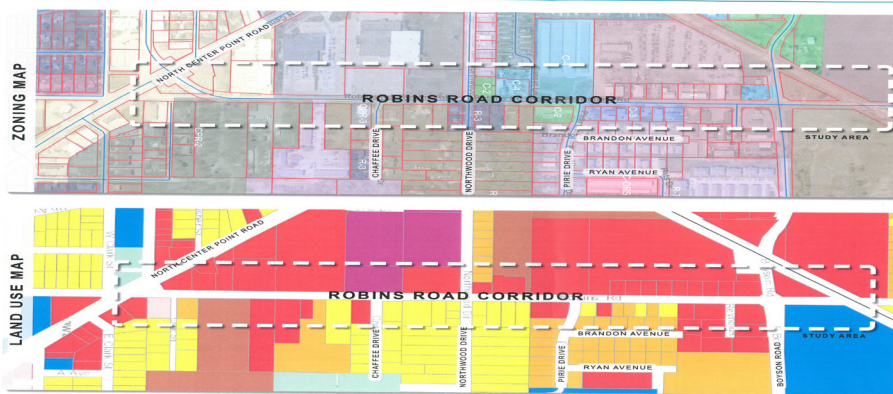
Any questions please contact the City Engineer at [jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com).

### Open House scheduled for the Robins Road Planning Study

Council has authorized moving ahead with the Robins Road Planning Study for the area between the new intersection at Center Point Road and Boyson Road. A contract has been awarded to Bolton Menk, of Cedar Rapids. A steering committee was formed and meetings scheduled for the next four months holding their first public open house on January 10th, 2019.

Any questions please contact the City Engineer at [jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com).

#### LAND USE & ZONING MAPS



### Tower Terrace Road Design from I-380 to Center Point Road Moving Ahead

With the new Tower Terrace Interchange design moving forward, the City is ready to proceed with the design of the roadway improvements of Tower Terrace east of the new intersection to North Center Point Road. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been posted for interested firms to submit their information to provide the needed environmental studies, preliminary and final design, and bidding documents. The timing is very important for this work, as the plan is to coordinate construction with the Iowa Department of Transportation construction of the new interchange.

Any questions please contact the City Engineer at [jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com).

**Focal Point Interiors New Location**

We're celebrating Focal Point Interiors new location - 1305 Boyson Loop, Hiawatha! Focal Point Interiors offers everything from floor coverings to furniture, window treatments to home and office design consultation and space planning. Whether you are furnishing a new home, redecorating an office space, or looking for those perfect touches, they understand you want your space to be personal, comfortable, and appealing to you.

In business since 1998, Focal Point Interiors offers comfortable service, personal attention, showroom and/or browse their special order catalog and let them work with you on your next interior design project.



**Hiawatha Fire Department holds recognition event**

Hiawatha Fire Department held its annual recognition ceremony on Tuesday January 8th. During the event the achievements and actions of the members through the previous year were recognized. The community center was filled with firefighters, along with friends and families.

Steve Craven was awarded the Volunteer Member of the Year Award. The Volunteer Member of the Year is awarded annually to the volunteer who best demonstrates their commitment to the department through demonstrating the departments five pillars; Reliability, Proficiency, Professionalism, Commitment, and Trust, through their dedication to the department in response, training and contributions to the department.

Dan Veerhusen was awarded the Paid Member of the Year Award. The Paid Member of the year is awarded annually to the paid member, who best demonstrates the departments five pillars; Reliability, Proficiency, Professionalism, Commitment, and Trust through their daily work, and demonstrate a constant effort to improve the department through their personal efforts. Deb Rasmussen was recognized as the 2018 Rookie of the Year, given to a new member who demonstrates a commitment and dedication to the department during their first year.

Taylor James Brown received the EMS Provider of the Year award. The EMS Provider of the Year is awarded annually to the EMS Provider who best demonstrates the department's five pillars through a dedication to their personal training, reliability in their response, and commitment to quality patient care.

Shay Minear received the Caring for the Community Award which is presented each year to a member who shows a commitment and dedication to Caring for the Community by reducing injury through the departments outreach activities.

Zach Brunscheen and Greg Brenneman received the Brotherhood Award. The brotherhood award is awarded to the member or members who best represent our commitment to each other, by going above and beyond the call of duty in caring for another member of the fire department.

Chris Gelski, Frank Tarasi, and Jeff Daley were awarded letters of commendations to the following for their ongoing leadership in the MDA Fill The Boot Program. This year the program raised \$16, 113 for research and care. This is a record! In the last 5 years Hiawatha Fire Department has raised more than \$72,000 for MDA, and has been one of the top performing departments in Iowa.

Two promotions were announced: Zach Brunscheen and Jed Hobbs were formally appointed to the rank of lieutenant.

Significant anniversary's were celebrated; Mike Hook for 35 years of service. Mike Nesslage for 25 years of service. Scott Studt and Stephen Craven for 20 years of service, and Andrew Sweeney for 15 years of service.

The following firefighters were recognized for obtaining their Firefighter 1 Certification: Doug Cole, Aaron Hartke, and Payton McCarty.

The following firefighters obtained certification as Instructor 1; Zach Brunscheen, Jed Hobbs, and Frank Tarasi

The following firefighters were certified as Officer 1; Zach Brunscheen and Deb Rasmussen.

Greg Brenneman was certified this past year as Driver Operator.

Eight new members joined the fire department this past year. They have successfully completed their orientation training and were sworn in by Mayor Bill Bennett. Tanner Ayers-Berry, Stefan Bentley, Coleman Cross, Elliana Lane, Israel Lightner, Alex Potter, Micah Powell and Kyle Thoreson!

Another group of members, Jared Barth, Doug Cole, Joey Kennally, Shaylee Minear, and Deb Rasmussen all received their badges after successfully completing their first year.

Congratulations to everyone! We are proud to have each of you on our team!

City of Hiawatha  
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 www.hiawatha-iowa.com

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## Thank You to our Past and Present Board Members!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals who have served and are serving as a city board/commission member. We are so fortunate to not only have you as part of our community but also your commitment to serving our community with the best interests of the City and its citizens in mind.

### Board and Commission Appointments and Re-appointments:

Pat Semelroth	History Commission Member	Expires 12/31/2021
Tim Wilson	Board of Appeals Member	Expires 12/31/2021
Dick Whitmore	Board of Appeals Member	Expires 12/31/2021
Brian Vogel	Board of Appeals Member	Expires 12/31/2021
Tom Day	Board of Adjustment Member	Expires 12/31/2023
David Matthews	Board of Adjustment Member	Expires 12/31/2023
Lisa Jepsen	Planning and Zoning Member	Expires 12/31/2023
Mark Ross	Planning and Zoning Member	Expires 12/31/2023
Dawn Ewoltdt	Parks and Recreation Member	Expires 12/31/2020
Dan Wilkes	Parks and Recreation Member	Expires 12/31/2020

A special thank you to Deb Theis for her 13 year length of service as a Park and Recreation Commission Member!

## City Directory

### Main Phone: 319-393-1515

#### Mayor:

Bill Bennett X525  
 mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com

#### Council Members:

Aime Wichtendahl  
 aimew@hiawatha-iowa.com

Dennis Norton  
 dnorton@hiawatha-iowa.com

Dick Olson  
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Rob Archibald  
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Steve Dodson  
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#### City Administrator:

Kim Downs X523  
 kdowns@hiawatha-iowa.com

Deputy City Clerk:  
 Kari Graber X524  
 kgrab@hiawatha-iowa.com

Finance Director:  
 Cindy Kudrna X522  
 ckudrna@hiawatha-iowa.com

Park & Recreation Director:  
 Kelly Willadsen X251  
 kwilladsen@hiawatha-iowa.com

Community Development Director:  
 Patrick Parsley X229  
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City Engineer:  
 John Bender X511  
 jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com

#### Public Works Superintendent:

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 rjasa@hiawatha-iowa.com

Water Superintendent:  
 Marty Recker X232  
 mrecker@hiawatha-iowa.com

Police Chief:  
 Dennis Marks 319-393-1212  
 chief@hiawathapolice.com

Fire Chief:  
 Mike Nesslage 319-393-4180  
 mnesslage@hiawatha-iowa.com

Library Director  
 Jeaneal Weeks 319-393-1414  
 weeksj@hiawatha-iowa.com