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Hiawatha Insights

Earth Day Recap

The City of Hiawatha hosted our 8th annual Earth Day Event on April 21, 2012, to honor our home planet by recycling various items. "Shred-It" Company of Cedar Rapids, Linn County Solid Waste Agency, Midwest Electronics Recovery, Hiawatha Legion Post #735, Hiawatha Lions Club and Hy-Vee TAKEAWAY assisted our community in it's disposal of paper, electronics, hazardous household waste, unserviceable flags, glasses, hearing aids and prescription waste.

Our Community saved approximately 2 trees; shredding 280 lbs of paper, collected 13,150 lbs of electronic equipment to be recycled, collected a 33 gallon bag full of unserviceable flags, several pairs of glasses and hearing aids for donation, prescription waste and a total of 245 individuals participated in the Hazardous Household waste drop off by dispersing 2002 lbs of chemicals.

Many thanks to all who participated in this event, especially City staff. Each year our goal is to educate our citizens on the benefits of recycling and add to our number of participants. As you participated in this event and see the value this events holds, please invite your neighbors to come along and support Hiawatha's efforts in Earth Day.



I-380 Cleanup Recap

Forty-seven volunteers participated in the Interstate 380 cleanup on Saturday April 28, 2012. The volunteers filled an average of 1.5 bags of litter each, for a total of 68 bags of litter collected. Collecting litter is a tough job and the City of Cedar Rapids Solid Waste & Recycling Division and the City of Hiawatha would like to thank the dedicated citizens, Chrome Divas, and Americore, as the City of Hiawatha's representatives, that attended Saturday's event.

If you see litter happening, whether it is someone tossing material from a private car or a professional driving down the road with an unsecured load, call 1-888-NOLITTER (1-888-665-4887) with the license plate number of the vehicle. By working together, we can help keep our community clean.

Area businesses provided refreshments to the volunteers including: Sam's Club and Quaker Oats. Thank you for your generosity and support of our mission.



Mayor & Council Meet and Greet Recap and Council Open to Public

The City held its first Mayor & Council Meet and Greet on April 18, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Fifteen citizens were in attendance. Citizens had the opportunity to meet a Council Member or the Mayor face to face. They asked questions and discussed City issues they have been wondering about and gained valuable information regarding daily operation and projects. Some even took the opportunity to offer thanks to the elected officials for their time and for the efforts in keeping the City a vital community.

Arbor Day

Hiawatha Named Tree City USA Community by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Arbor Day Foundation today announced that Hiawatha, IA, was named a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry.

It is the 3rd year Hiawatha has earned this national honor from the Arbor Day Foundation, the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees.

"We all benefit when communities like Hiawatha place a high priority on planting and caring for trees, one of our nation's most beautiful resources," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees shade our homes and add beauty to our neighborhoods, and they also provide many environmental, economic and social benefits. We applaud Hiawatha's elected officials, volunteers and citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest."

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Hiawatha has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community. Tree City USA communities must have a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Communities that earn Tree City USA recognition not only have taken the time to meet the four standards, they know that trees:

- Promote healthier communities by filtering the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles.
- Moderate climate, conserve water and provide vital habitat for wildlife.
- Reduce the heat island effect in urban areas caused by pavement and buildings.
- Reduce energy use and increase property values.

More information about Tree City USA can be found at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.



Tree City USA

The National Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Forestry Bureau are proud to announce that the City of Hiawatha has received the 2011 Tree City USA Award at the 22nd Annual Community Forestry Awards Luncheon, held at the Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston on April 17, 2012.

State Forester Paul Tauke commented, "The Tree City USA award is a symbol for communities who have made a commitment to the management of public trees." The City of Hiawatha has provided an outstanding example for other Iowa communities, by enhancing our forest resources and demonstrating the great value of trees in providing multiple benefits for future generations.

Hiawatha was one of 86 Iowa communities to qualify for Tree City USA status.



Trees Forever

As part of the statewide Trees Forever and Alliant Energy Branching Out community tree-planting program, volunteers and community leaders in Hiawatha recently planted trees to provide more shade and save energy. Trees provide many other long-term health, economic, social, and environmental benefits. The Branching Out Grant amount is \$8,550 for 57 trees, reaching from Stamy Road to Ketelsen Drive on North Center Point Road. We had 15 volunteers helping us plant trees, including several local Cub Scouts, parents, Trees Forever and City staff. The trees will be maintained by the City of Hiawatha.



Thank You Cedar Rapids Toyota!

The Hiawatha Police Department would like to extend a Thank You to Cedar Rapids Toyota for donating a new police bike. The Cannondale Law Enforcement Model was purchased and outfitted with Cedar Rapids Toyota's generous donation.



During the first week of May, Officer Bartels attended a week long training class in Des Moines, IA. He spent forty hours learning various maneuvers and techniques designed to enhance the patrol officer's agility to perform their duties from a bicycle. Upon completion of the training Officer Bartels was certified as a bicycle patrol officer. Officer Bartels is the fourth Hiawatha Police Officer certified as a bike patrol officer.

Hiawatha's Newest Officer

Reso becomes the newest member of the Hiawatha Police Department. Reso is a German Shepherd police service dog. Reso arrived in Hiawatha the second week of May and is assigned to newly selected K-9 Handler Naaktgeboren. Officer Naaktgeboren and Reso began their five weeks of intense training in Michigan on May 21, 2012. Reso and Officer Naaktgeboren will arrive back in Hiawatha just prior to Hog Wild Days. The entire cost to purchase, train, and equip Reso has been donated by the Estate of Diane Strathman (Martin). Ms. Strathman loved animals and lived in the metro area for many years. Representatives of her estate felt Ms. Strathman would be very happy to be able to donate a service dog to the community. We are very thankful to have this financial support and believe the donation will benefit the citizens of Hiawatha.



American Legion Post #735 Essay Contest Winners

Have you ever thought about what the flag means to you? Well, 179 5th grade students from Viola Gibson, Hiawatha and Nixon Elementary Schools have done just that. These students were participating in the Hiawatha American Legion Post 735's annual Essay Contest. The students have up to 300 words to get their thoughts across to the judges. One winner is chosen at each school and is then entered in The 2nd District Contest for further judging.

The purpose of the American Legion of Iowa Essay Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for The United States Flag on the part of elementary-level students. Other objectives of the contest include the ability to gain knowledge of flag etiquette and respect for the flag.

This year's winners and recipients of \$25 checks from the Hiawatha American Legion Post 735 are:

Sam Lawrence, Viola Gibson Elementary, son of David and Ann Lawrence of Cedar Rapids.

Blake Helle, Hiawatha Elementary, son of Joe and Becky Helle of Hiawatha.

Elijah Horton, Nixon Elementary, son of Jeremy and Sarah Wright of Cedar Rapids.

The success of this contest is a direct reflection of the commitment of the teachers at each school, and has continued to grow each year.



Tree Trimming Season is Here Again!

City staff has noticed trees that overhang streets and sidewalks becoming an issue in our City neighborhoods. The City Code requires that trees be kept trimmed eight (8) feet above sidewalks and fifteen (15) feet above the street surface. It is much easier to trim branches when needed and before they are damaged by larger truck traffic, resulting in broken branches and injury to the trees.

Trimming maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner to perform. The City will send out notices to property owners if we receive complaints of low hanging branches. We would encourage property owners to be proactive and keep their trees trimmed.

Below are some examples of trees that are in need of trimming as they hang lower than the Code allows.



Council Action

May 2, 2012

Ordinance 726 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinance Chapter 101 Storm Water Drainage System §101.03 Rates, increasing the monthly rate for business, commercial and industrial City water meters from \$2.00 to \$2.50 and increasing the monthly rate on residential, apartment and dwelling units in mobile home parks from \$1.50 to \$1.75.

Resolution 12-105 - Approve sewer waiver on second water meter for 216 Willowood Dr.

Resolution 12-106 - Award contract for storage, installation and removal of holiday decorations to Greg's Lawn & Landscaping Winter Wonderland of Cedar Rapids, IA, for an amount not to exceed \$3,550.00.

Resolution 12-107 - Approve pay plans for FY12-13.

Resolution 12-108 - Approve FY12-13 Wage/Salary Schedule.

Resolution 12-109 - Amend 2010 Employee Policy Manual Sections VII Dress Code changing section name to Dress Code/Personal Appearance of Employees.

Resolution 12-110 - Authorize the submittal of an 80/20 Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) application and authorize local matching funds for design and construction.

Resolution 12-111 - Authorize City Staff to proceed with design plans as prepared by Hall and Hall Engineers for Clymer Road Storm Sewer Extension Project.

Resolution 12-112 - Award contract for Boyson Road and Robins Road Intersection Water Valve Installation Project to BWC Excavating LLC of Solon, IA, for an amount not to exceed \$15,578.55.

May 16, 2012

Resolution 12-113 - Amend FY2012 Budget.

Resolution 12-114 - Award contract for Fire Department Washer/Extractor and Dryer system to Washburn Commercial Laundry and Dry Cleaning Equipment of Cedar Rapids, IA., for an amount not to exceed \$10,543.00.

Resolution 12-115 - Acknowledge Council support and encourage participation/work of the Hiawatha Police Officers/Fire Fighter Volunteers at the 2012 Hiawatha Hog Wild Days Event.

Resolution 12-117 - Authorize staff to proceed with Trees Forever and Alliant Energy Branching Out Grant Application to assist with funding for the purchase of trees for Phase C of the North Center Point Road Streetscape Project.

Resolution 12-118 - Approve amended design plans and authorize staff to proceed with RFP for Phase C of the North Center Point Road Streetscape Project.

Resolution 12-119 - Establish Just Compensation Value prior to Start of Negotiations of property in connection with Boyson Road and Robins Road Intersection Project.

Resolution 12-120 - Amend 2010 Part-Time/Temporary/Seasonal Employee Policy Manual Sections VII Dress Code changing section name to Dress Code/Personal Appearance of Employees and amending Uniforms changing section name to Uniforms/City Provided Clothing.

Resolution 12-121 Authorize fifth full-time Public Works Employee.

Storm Water Ordinance Passed

On May 2, 2012 the City Council held a public hearing amending Chapter 101 Public Storm Water Drainage System **§101.03 Rates**.

The rates for operation and maintenance of the Storm Water Management Facility is collected by imposing a monthly rate on every City water meter and every residence, apartment, and dwelling unit in mobile home parks.

The funds collected provide services, such as street sweeping, engineering, various drainage projects and catch basin repairs.

The City Council reviewed and discussed the storm water budget expense and revenues. Due to EPA requirements, and maintenance upkeep of infrastructure, Council deemed it necessary to increase those rates as follows effective July 1, 2012.

- **Business, Commercial & Industrial City Water Meter \$2.50, an increase from \$2.00.**
- **Residence, Apartment and Dwelling Unit in a mobile home park \$1.75, an increase from \$1.50.**

Ordinance 726 amending Chapter 101 Public Storm Water Drainage System §101.03 Rates was passed and approved on May 2, 2012.

Service Club Award

The Hi-CREW (Hiawatha, Cedar Rapids, Edgewood) Kiwanis Club was awarded the Service Club Award of Excellence. Their commitment to our community adds to the success of our Parks & Recreation Department.

The Hi-CREW Kiwanis Club provides support in several of our activities which include the Hiawatha Bike Rodeo, and annual "Playing for Keeps" fund raiser. This year, the Club established a partnership with Nickelodeon National Day of Play to encourage children to get outside to play with other children in the community.

Their fundraising and donation efforts have provided elementary schools with dictionaries, pediatric trauma kits for our Fire Department, bell ringing for the Salvation Army and storm cleanup/flood relief for neighboring communities.





JUNE 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visit our website: www.hiawatha-iowa.com					1	2
3 Farmers Market 11-2 pm	4	5	6 Council 7pm	7	8	9
10 Farmers Market 11-2 pm	11 History 1:30 pm Board of Adj. 7pm	12 Parks 6:00 pm Library 7pm	13 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	14 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	15	16
17 Farmers Market 11-2 pm	18	19 Council 7pm Water 6:30 pm	20	21	Hog Wild Days June 21 - 24	
24 Hog Wild Days	25 P&Z 6 pm	26	27 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	28 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	29	30



JULY 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Farmers Market 11-2 pm	2	3 Council 7pm	4 City Hall Closed	5	6	7
8 Farmers Market 11-2 pm	9 History 1:30 pm Board of Adj. 7pm	10 Parks 6:00 pm Library 7pm	11 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	12 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	13	14
15 Farmers Market 11-2 pm	16	17 Water 6:30 pm	18 Council 7pm	19	20	21
22 Farmers Market 11-2 pm	23	24	25 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	26 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	27	28
29 Farmers Market 11-2 pm	30 P&Z 6 pm	31				
				Visit our website: www.hiawatha-iowa.com		

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SATURDAY,
06/09/2012

Blairs Ferry Road History

The name Blairs Ferry Road came from the ferry route that crossed the Cedar River. The dirt road was the trade path taken by locals from west of the Cedar River to Marion to purchase food, clothing and merchandise. Local Indians also used this road from their living areas to get their supplies. You could say this trail was the lifeline for all families west of Marion.

In the 40's and 50's, it was possible to ride a bike down Blairs Ferry Road and see only farm land and pasture with lots of wildlife. It was rare to see a vehicle. This unpaved, partially gravel road was dusty in dry weather and a muddy bog in the spring. Travel was very difficult, presenting a huge problem for the Hiawatha Fire Department.

Sometime in 1961-62, Blairs Ferry Road became a two lane hard surface road. When two lanes were added east of the railroad tracks, making that area a four lane road, it became apparent that the road would be a main east-west road for Hiawatha and surrounding residents and businesses.

Thirty years of growth and progress has completely changed the landscape on the south side of Blairs Ferry Road. The commercial area started by Wal-Mart in the 1980's has replaced the soybean and corn fields that were predominantly west of the railroad tracks. The north, or Hiawatha side has experienced some commercial growth, but the City has worked hard at maintaining the residential characteristics for the property owners along this area.



Free Events at Hog Wild Days 2012!

The Lions Club of Hiawatha presents **FREE** events at Hog Wild Days this June 21-24, 2012.

June 21, Thursday - 6:00 pm - JR. MR. & MISS HOG WILD DAYS CONTEST. All boys and girls, ages 6 - 12 years old, are welcome to apply. Write a 50 word essay "My Favorite Way to Spend a Day in Hiawatha is:" with your name, age and phone number by June 15, 2012 and mail to Lions Club, PO Box 262, Hiawatha, IA 52233.

Again this year, we are having the **HIAWATHA'S MOST FAVORITE GRANDMOTHER CONTEST.**

Write a 50 word essay on why your grandmother is the best, include her name and phone number, your name and phone number by June 15, 2012 and mail to the above address. Prizes will be awarded to all and the winners will ride in the 10:30 am Hog Wild Day Parade on Saturday, June 23, 2012.

Also each evening, we are having **FREE** music in the park.

June 21, Thursday - 5:30 - 9:00 pm - Groove Ship - Funk

June 22, Friday - 5:30 - 9:00 pm - Lockren - Country

June 23, Saturday - 5:00 - 9:00 pm - Helforstout - Classic Rock/Rock

June 24, Sunday - 6:00 - 9:45 pm - Twist & Shout - Rock & Roll

June 24, Sunday - Approximately 10:00 pm - Fireworks

June 23, Saturday - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm - AFTER PARADE PARTY. Everyone is invited, young and young at heart, for FREE popcorn, frozen treats, face painting, tattoos, balloons and music in the park.

June 23, Saturday - 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm - IOWA KIDSIGHT. Lions Club FREE vision screening for children ages 6 months to 4 yrs old. See website for details. www.hogwilddays.com

June 24, Sunday - 2:30 pm - PING PONG DROP. FREE for all children 12 years old and younger. Every child wins a prize.

Fireworks donations can be sent to **LIONS CLUB, POBOX 262, HIAWATHA, IA 52233. Website: www.hogwilddays.com**

