



June 2020

Volume 147

## When Did You Last Count Your Blessings?

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly consumed much of our time and will continue to be as the numbers of coronavirus cases in the U.S. is now approximately 1.9 million and the death toll is over 107,000. In our continued efforts to protect our city staff and our citizens city staff have worked through a Phase I and Phase II Reopening Plan. These plans are subject to change if Linn County numbers increase vs. decrease.



### Reopening Phase I: City Hall and Library Reopening Plan Summary with a soft opening as of June 15-

- 90% of staff are on site
- Public Access - limited access by appointment only
- Essential meetings only; boards, commission and council meetings when in session will follow the mass gathering criteria which includes limited capacity, social distancing, practice best hygiene and public health measures as prescribed by Iowa Department of Public Health. Virtual meetings will continue.
- Encourage citizens to continue to utilize online services and the drop box in front of city hall for utility bill and permitting payments
- Staff is preparing for limited and reduced public occupancy placing personal protective equipment such as sneeze guards at counters, signage and floor markings placed to encourage social distancing
- Masks will be required as you enter city hall. Hand sanitizing and mask stations will be available to citizens at the entrance of city hall
- Community Center rentals continue to remain closed through July 13
- Library Curbside pickup available M-Th 10AM-7:30PM; F-S 10AM-4:30PM. Closed on Sunday
- Library Phone Service available M-Th 10AM-8:00PM; F-S 10AM-5PM. Closed on Sunday
- Library book drop is open

The complete reopening plan can be found at [www.hiawatha-iowa.com/news/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DRAFT-Update-Reopening-Plans-Phase-I-II-Council-6-17-2020.pdf](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com/news/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DRAFT-Update-Reopening-Plans-Phase-I-II-Council-6-17-2020.pdf).

As we continue to navigate COVID-19, we understand it brings added stresses. COVID-19 not only affects our individual physical health but we are seeing the increased effects of mental health, suicides and domestic abuse. Some of us have chosen to cope by removing ourselves from social media platforms, reduced our 24-hour news intake, others are donating time or funds to related causes, and many are getting on bicycles. According to CBS News, bicycle sales are up 700%!

Right now it may seem as though the United States is ripping apart at its seams, but all hope is not lost; there are glimmers of optimism as our country races to develop a vaccine to address the virus, and restaurants and other venues start to open again.

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Continued from Page 1

Even though social distancing may become more challenging as we open the country, many are still donating masks to protect one another. I think it is important to recognize if we are feeling blue or lost in all the chaos, consider resources available through the workplace or in your community to help you through. Many resources can be found at [www.thegazette.com/corona-virus-resident-resource](http://www.thegazette.com/corona-virus-resident-resource).

Even amongst all the chaos we have NASA astronauts in space right now; they are in the International Space Station. Families are having dinner at their dining room tables, young people are helping deliver groceries and prescriptions to those in need, businesses are finding new ways to innovate and conversations about the value of people's lives, more specifically "Black Lives Matter." Take a moment to ponder the awesomeness that is surrounding you. You can even look up into the sky and watch the Space Station move through it. No better time than now to count our blessings.

Stay Safe,

Mayor Bennett



**"Thank you for all you're doing during this difficult time! We appreciate your every effort!"**



**"We are all in this together! ❤️"**







“Thank you all for what you do! Grocery stores, medical workers, gas stations, truck drivers, first responders, and police officers. We couldn’t do it without you!!”



“You are all AMAZING people! We are sending a HUGE virtual hug to everyone!! Stay Healthy and Safe!”





## Universal Masking Guidance for All

Together we can all help stop the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a face covering, practicing social distancing and limiting our speaking time when we go out in public.

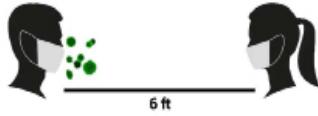
### GOOD

Two people wearing masks



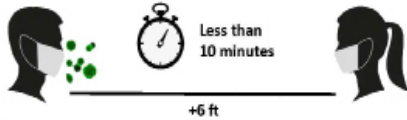
### BETTER

Two people wearing masks 6 feet apart, both wearing masks



### BEST

Two people, both wearing masks, standing beyond 6 feet apart and speaking to each other less than 10 minutes



## Hiawatha Police Department COVID-19 Response

For nearly three months now beginning on March 15th, the Hiawatha Police Department (HPD) has taken thoughtful steps to ensure the safety of its employees in order to maintain the level of service expected of us. COVID-19 brought unprecedented concerns into the community and workplace, and in order to continue the level of service we deliver to the community a number of precautions were implemented. The HPD offered exposure reducing guidance and equipment based on recommendations and findings from the CDC, Linn County EMA, Hiawatha Fire Department, and medical director Dr. Timothy Sagers.

With one of the first known warning signs of COVID-19 illness being fever, we began by requiring employees to report to the Hiawatha Fire Department for fever screening at the beginning of every shift. This continued until we were able to obtain a, suddenly in short supply, non-touch thermometer of our own. We secured our own thermometer in an effort to avoid potential exposure from other first responders at the HFD.

We then began with requirements for wearing a face mask, and eventually added goggles as well. Masks were initially provided by Linn County EMA followed by departmental purchases and generous donations from a number of sources. We implemented increased hand washing procedures and hung signage as a reminder to wash upon every entry to the HPD. We also increased sanitizing efforts at work stations and in squad cars. The HPD purchased hand sanitizer from Cedar Ridge Winery/Distillery, in addition to purchasing items needed to make our own sanitizing wipes in anticipation that our supply of Clorox wipes may run out. The department purchased an air purifier that utilizes ultraviolet light to destroy airborne viruses. We used this air purifier in the police department in addition to using PPE and other sanitizing efforts.

Finally, the HPD modified the work schedule for normal operations. We limited the rotation of shifts so that potential exposure on one shift would not lead to exposure on another, in addition to limiting contact at shift change and observing social distancing recommendations when possible.

## Hiawatha Parks Become Trash-Free June 1

Trash-Free Parks began June 1. This is an opportunity for us not only to help with the spread of germs, but for the safety of our staff and users too. It will be an educational piece, as this comes with any change, but we hope park users will continue to take pride in our City parks as we do. Like State Parks, we are simply asking for users to take home what they brought in.



## ENROLL IN AUTO PAY

Pay your Hiawatha Utility Bill on time, every time.

Never miss another bill! Simple and secure payments from your bank account on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

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

**Hiawatha!**

**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 at 319-393-1515 ext. 526.

**Fireworks and Summer Safety Tips**

Public Safety Officials from the City of Hiawatha want to remind you that the display and use of consumer fireworks are allowed in Hiawatha, on a very limited basis during the times below. This does not include the display of commercial fireworks. It is important to remember that fireworks may only be used by someone age 18 or older, on their own property, or the property of someone that has consented to use. Do not assume you have permission. Fireworks cannot be used on streets, roads, or other public right-of-ways. That also means the use of fireworks is forbidden in all city parks without a permit. It is your responsibility to know what you are doing and what you are using is legal. The fine for violating any of these laws will be \$250. If you cause an injury, fire, or damage to property, you may be charged with additional crimes. The display of consumer fireworks is allowed only during the following designated times:

- July 4th - 12:00 PM. to 11:00 PM
- December 31st - 6:00 PM to 12:30 AM on January 1

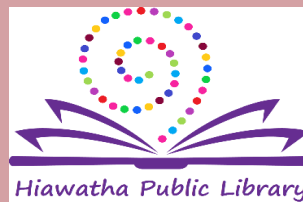
Here are a few summer safety tips to go along:

- Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.
- Enjoy outdoor celebrations and cookouts but remember to keep a three foot “safe zone” around grills and campfires.
- Build campfires at least 15 feet away from buildings, shrubs or other materials that burn.
- Fireworks must only be used with proper adult supervision and never shoot fireworks while intoxicated or impaired. Always expect the firework to do something unexpected.
- When lighting fireworks or having a campfire, keep a garden hose or fire extinguisher nearby in case of problems.
- Keep a bucket of water to put wire sparklers in. Sparklers account for nearly 1/4 of all fireworks injuries. Sparklers can burn at 1,200 degrees, can cause 3rd degree burns in a fraction of a second and improperly discarded sparklers can cause fires.
- DO NOT AIM bottle rockets, roman candles and other fireworks toward people, buildings, vehicles or others property. Keep a distance of 20 feet from buildings or people when lighting fireworks.



**Hiawatha Public Library Reopens for Curbside Pickup**

After being closed for nearly two months, Hiawatha Public Library is excited to welcome patrons back for curbside pickup service by appointment. If you have items on hold, please call the library at 319-393-1414 to schedule a time to pick them up. If you would like to place items on hold, you may use our online catalog available on our website at [hiawathapubliclibrary.org](http://hiawathapubliclibrary.org). You are welcome to call us for assistance.



We are set up in our parking lot with a table and totes displaying appointment times. If the outside staff member is helping another patron, you may take your items from the appropriate tote. Your materials will be bagged and have a hold tag attached with the first three letters of your last name, and the last four digits of your card number. All items will have already been checked out on your account.

Though we are not able to let patrons in the building just yet we’re happy to print, copy, and fax for you. Email any prints to [library@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:library@hiawatha-iowa.com). You can call to set up a time to pick these up as well. For copies and faxes, please bring your materials to the library, and we will provide the service and return them to you outside the library. We are also providing reference service by phone, email, and live chat (when available). Thank you for your patience and understanding. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**June Calendar**

- 10 Council meeting airs  
6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON)  
7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 14 Farmers Market 10:00 AM -  
1:00 PM Guthridge Park
- 16 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 17 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 21 Farmers Market 10:00 AM -  
1:00 PM Guthridge Park
- 22 P&Z Meeting 5:30 PM
- 24 Council meeting airs  
6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON)  
7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 28 Farmers Market 10:00 AM -  
1:00 PM Guthridge Park

**July Calendar**

- 01 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 05 Farmers Market 10:00 AM -  
1:00 PM Guthridge Park
- 08 Council meeting airs  
6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON)  
7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 12 Farmers Market 10:00 AM -  
1:00 PM Guthridge Park
- 13 Board of Adjustment  
Meeting 5:30 PM
- 13 History Committee  
Meeting 1:30 PM
- 14 Parks Commission  
Meeting 6:00 PM
- 14 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 15 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 19 Farmers Market 10:00 AM -  
1:00 PM Guthridge Park
- 20 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 22 Council meeting airs  
6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON)  
7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 26 Farmers Market 10:00 AM -  
1:00 PM Guthridge Park
- 27 P&Z Meeting 5:30 PM

City of Hiawatha  
 101 Emmons Street  
 Hiawatha, Iowa 52233  
 Phone: 319-393-1515  
 Fax: 319-393-1516  
 www.hiawatha-iowa.com

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 SATURDAY,  
 6/20/2020**

# Postal Customer

## Hiawatha, Iowa 52233



### CITY DIRECTORY

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
City Administrator	Kim Downs	315-353-1515 x523	kdowns@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Clerk	Karl Graber	319-393-1515 x526	kgraber@hiawatha-iowa.com
Finance Director	Cindy Kudrna	319-393-1515 x 522	ckudrna@hiawatha-iowa.com
Parks & Recreation Director	Kelly Willadsen	319-393-1515 x252	kwilladsen@hiawatha-iowa.com
Community Development Director	Patrick Parsley	315-353-1515 x229	pparsley@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Engineer	John Bender	319-393-1515 x511	jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com
Public Works Superintendent	Rod Jasa	319-393-1660	rjasa@hiawatha-iowa.com
Water Superintendent	Marty Becker	319-393-1515 x232	mbecker@hiawatha-iowa.com
Police Chief	Dennis Marks	315-353-1212	chief@hiawathapolice.com
Fire Chief	Mike Messlage	319-393-1180	mmesslage@hiawatha-iowa.com
Library Director	Janecal Weeks	319-393-1414	weeksj@hiawatha-iowa.com

For more information about the City of Hiawatha and its services, call **319-393-1515** or visit [www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com).

### CITY COUNCIL | City of Hiawatha Regular Council Meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month.



**MAYOR**  
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