



# Hiawatha Insights

March 2014

Legislative Day 2014

Volume 72

Each year the Iowa League of Cities hosts Legislative Day in Des Moines to provide the opportunity for city staff and elected officials to learn more about what is taking place at the Capitol and how it affects our City. While attending Legislative Day, city officials also get the chance to visit the Capitol building and meet with our local legislators to bring our concerns and issues to their attention so they will have them fresh in their minds as they are going into session.

This year, City Council Member Marty Bruns, City Engineer John Bender, City Administrator Kim Downs, and City Clerk Kelly Kornegor attended Legislative Day on February 4th. The day included an educational briefing on issues that are currently being discussed at the Capitol presented by Iowa League staff, key legislators, representatives of state departments and bonding attorneys.

Bob Josten of Dorsey & Whitney, Pat Martin of Ahlers & Cooney, and Director Debi Durham from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) discussed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and economic development policies. There are no major TIF reforms planned for the 2014 session. House subcommittees are reviewing an economic development bill repealing the Enterprise Zone Program and replacing it with an enhanced High Quality Jobs Program and Workforce Housing Tax Incentives Program. The bill will change wage thresholds, expand the 1% limitation of the county's area to the entire county, and allow tax credits for non-profits and public buildings.



Senator Jeff Danielson, State Government Committee Chair and Representative Dawn Pettengill, Co-Chair of the Pension Systems Committee discussed current pension issues. The Senate and House are working on bills that affect both the Iowa Public Employee Retirement System (IPERS) and the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRSI). The IPERS bills focus on technical corrections and IRS updates, while the MFPRSI bill proposes a state contribution of 3.79%. This amount was promised by the state through required increased benefits in 1976 and offers a direct dollar for dollar property tax relief for all 49 cities who are part of the MFPRSI. The City of Hiawatha only falls under the required IPERS portion of the discussion.

Senator Tod Bowman and Representative Josh Byrnes, Chairs, spoke on the direction they believe their Transportation Committees will take over the new few months and also discussed their support of increasing the gas tax in order to repair road and bridge infrastructure. The House Transportation Subcommittee is reviewing a bill to increase the rate of the excise taxes on motor fuel and most diesel fuel by a total of 10 cents over a three year period beginning July 1, 2014. An additional three cent tax would be added beginning July 1, 2015 and an additional four cent tax would begin July 1, 2016. \$230M in revenue generated on an annual basis gets placed into the TIME-21 fund. At this time, they do not know how it will break down but it would assist the local governments.

Gerald Schnepf of Keep Iowa Beautiful and Alex Moon of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources covered the topic of abandoned buildings. In his condition of the state address, Governor Branstad called for repurposing abandoned public buildings. The Senate has several bills in play regarding the Real Property Enhancement Fund. The bills deal with the IEDA redevelopment legislation expanding the use of redevelopment tax credits to be used for abandoned public buildings, not limited to industrial or commercial properties. Additional authority would also be given to the Economic Development Board and Redevelopment Advisory Council to determine award amounts. Credits would be capped at \$10M.

City Council Member Marty Bruns, City Engineer John Bender, City Administrator Kim Downs, and City Clerk Kelly Kornegor met with Legislators Liz Mathis, Kraig Paulsen, and Dan Zumbach to discuss the importance of the Tower Terrace Road Interchange project and establishing connections with the Iowa Department of Transportation to make it happen. Other discussion included promoting new economic development to the City, and our continuing concerns with the implementation of commercial rollback and its effects on the services provided to citizens and businesses of Hiawatha.



## Presentations Launches Arreya

**NEWS RELEASE:**

Presentations Launches Arreya, a revolutionary Cloud-Based Digital Signage Suite

Arreya, as the name implies, provides an array of visual communication opportunities to wi-fi-enabled digital devices simply and instantly. Arreya is the only cloud-based digital signage system of its kind. Before Arreya, creating, editing and managing content on a variety of devices had been tedious and expensive. Now it is seamless and affordable.

“The inspiration for Arreya came from years of experience using complex third party platforms with limited abilities to control and manage our clients digital displays,” says Jill Burgess, Presentations President. “We now can instantly manage content, maintain multiple devices simultaneously and know what the system is actually presenting. We are marketing Arreya directly to digital signage users as well as partnering with digital signage companies to resell to their clients.”

**ABOUT PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations, Inc., is an environmental design and build firm based in Hiawatha, Iowa, specializing in creating custom solutions in interior branding, donor recognition, history displays, trade show, wayfinding, digital displays and interactive exhibits.

For more information, visit [www.arreya.com](http://www.arreya.com)



## Police Department Synthetic Drug Alert

A new synthetic drug compound has been identified as being involved in three separate deaths of young Iowans, according to authorities at the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy. The Iowa Poison Control Center says the three deaths occurred in 2013, and were recently reported as involving the new synthetic cannabinoid known as 5F-PB-22. “This tragic news demonstrates once again the degree to which these quick-changing products are unsafe, and the importance of educating our youth about their dangers,” said Steve Lukan, Director of the Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy. “Even though state and federal officials have strengthened laws to protect Iowans from dozens of different synthetic drug types, makers of these poisonous products keep skirting the law,” said Lukan. “For now the best defense against synthetic drugs is prevention, which means parents talking with children and other forms of education to help young Iowans make safe choices. The important message for young Iowans is that even though some new synthetic drug products may still be sold by a few stores, the contents of those packages can be very dangerous, and even deadly.” <http://www.iowa.gov/odcp/docs/DrugAlertSyntheticDrugs.pdf>

**SYNTHETIC DRUG PACKAGING**



## Hiawatha Recognizes Two Area Businesses

**Mother Goose Learning Center**

The mission at Mother Goose Learning Center (MGLC) is to foster a learning environment where all children develop a love for learning that will last them a lifetime. At MGLC, they treat every opportunity as a learning one, creating a rich and stimulating learning environment where children are given the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential. Their program provides early childhood education and care for children from infancy through five years-old.



Mother Goose Learning Center is located at 1355 Boyson Loop in Hiawatha and can be reached at their website [www.mgoose1.net](http://www.mgoose1.net) or by calling (319) 892-1247.

**Cabinets Galore**

Cabinets Galore is a kitchen and bath design center and has been in Hiawatha for 10 years. Their showroom is located at the corner of Boyson Road and North Compton Drive. Marci and Greg Wertzberger are the owners and they also have enjoyed living here in Hiawatha for 20 years.



If you are building a new home or remodeling your current home, the designers at Cabinets Galore can help make your project easy. They supply cabinets that fit all ranges of budgets as well as counter tops, hardware and cabinet accessories. There are four designers on staff. “We have enjoyed working with many Hiawatha residents and businesses already and look forward to meeting many more.” Stop by and see all that is new in the kitchen and bath world. Call them at (319) 378-0114, visit their showroom at 1450 Boyson Road, Suite B11 or find them online at [www.cabinetsgalore.com](http://www.cabinetsgalore.com).

## Hiawatha Public Library Receives Giacoletto Foundation Grant

The Hiawatha Public Library is the proud recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Giacoletto Foundation. The grant was used to help replace 14 outdated computers in the building. Among the devices being replaced are five staff and nine public use computers. The library is hopeful that these new computers will provide better service and access to the community they serve. The Giacoletto Foundation is devoted to awarding grants exclusively for public, charitable purposes, with preferences given to those that support higher education and lifelong learning.



## Dead Authors Society debuts at Hiawatha Public Library

The Dead Authors Society debuted to a full house on Friday, January 17th with their rousing radio theatre performance of Agatha Christie's "The Case of the Careless Client." What is the Dead Authors Society, you ask? Each quarter, the Hiawatha Public Library and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art select an author to highlight. However, the one requirement for being selected for the society is that the author must be deceased.

Our next featured author is French novelist and playwright Jules Verne. We will be hosting a radio theatre performance of "Around the World in Eighty Days" at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 11th at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. In addition, the museum is also featuring a new exhibition called *Papier Francais: French Works on Paper* which adds a special French connection to the performance.



## Police Department Acquires New Radios

On February 3, 2014, the Hiawatha Police Department benefited from a multi-million dollar, County-led radio initiative. The initiative was intended to improve the radio communication and reception throughout the county, improve the security of those communications, and also to improve communications between agencies.

The flood of 2008 brought to light how serious communication issues throughout Linn County were. All three dispatching centers in Linn County used different radio frequencies. Emergency responders from different departments and disciplines also used different radios that did not support simple, reliable communication amongst dispatchers and emergency responders. Those responding to incidents could not easily communicate with responders that were not from the same agency. On a day to day basis, dispatchers and emergency responders would minimize this as much as possible but the sustained inter-agency response to the flood showed how critical these issues really were.



Because of our participation in this initiative, emergency responders in Hiawatha can communicate efficiently and securely with their own dispatch center, other dispatch centers at incidents that involve multiple agencies, and other emergency responders. The new radio system and new radios have worked simply and reliably since their implementation. The City of Cedar Rapids joined the initiative on February 11, 2014, and that day the new system and radios proved useful at an incident on Blairs Ferry Road that involved agencies from both Cedar Rapids and Hiawatha.

## Hiawatha Business Summit

If you are an owner or employee of a company located in Hiawatha, this special event is for you. You're invited to a morning of networking with the Hiawatha business community.

Hosted by the City of Hiawatha and cohosted by Rud Chain, the morning event includes time to network, as well as a short program.

Our program this month includes a presentation by City of Hiawatha officials on the status of the Tower Terrace exit project. The update will include time for questions from the audience. There is no cost to attend this event but registration is requested.

The Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation, the City of Hiawatha and the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance look forward to seeing you.

Register for this FREE event at [CedarRapids.org](http://CedarRapids.org).

**Hiawatha**  
**BUSINESS**  
*summit*

7:30-8:30 a.m. • March 11th  
@ Hiawatha Community Center

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## History Commission Remembers Fire Station Dedication



**1972 Dedication of the New Fire Station on 10th Ave.**  
Pictured (L-R): Fay Clark, first Mayor, founder of Hiawatha; Mayor Dale Guthridge presenting portrait to the Fire Department; Former Mayor Ron Wagner.

## Council Action

February 5, 2014

**Resolution 14-013 - Set public hearing date (February 19, 2014 @ 5:30 p.m.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 57 Dangerous and Vicious Animals §57.01 Definitions - updating chapter to correspond with Iowa Code regulations for Dangerous Animals.**

**Resolution 14-014 - Set public hearing date (February 19, 2014 @ 5:30 p.m.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code amending §165.59 Public Service Areas, Parks and Open Spaces deleting (5.) Fee in Lieu of Dedication requiring a subdivider or developer to pay a fee in lieu of land dedication or reservation.**

**Resolution 14-015 - Award contract for preparation of design plans and specifications for the 2014 Street Repair Project to Hall and Hall Engineers of Hiawatha, Iowa, for an amount not to exceed \$35,000.**

February 19, 2013

**Ordinance 778 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 57 Dangerous and Vicious Animals §57.01 Definitions - updating definitions to correspond with Iowa Code regulations for Dangerous Animals.**

**Ordinance 779 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code amending §165.59 Public Service Areas, Parks and Open Spaces deleting (5.) Fee in Lieu of Dedication requiring a subdivider or developer to pay a fee in lieu of land dedication or reservation.**

**Resolution 14-018 - Set dates of a consultation (February 26, 2014 @ 2:00 p.m.) and a public hearing date (March 19, 2014 @ 5:30 p.m.) on a proposed Amendment No. 9 to the Hiawatha Urban Renewal Plan in the City of Hiawatha, State of Iowa.**

**Resolution 14-019 - Preliminary resolution for the Construction of street and sidewalk improvements in connection with the 14th Avenue and Eisenhower Road Pavement Reconstruction Project in the City of Hiawatha, Iowa.**

**Resolution 14-020 - Fix value of lots and adopt preliminary plat and schedule, estimate of cost and proposed preliminary plans and specs for the construction of the 14th Avenue and Eisenhower Road Pavement Reconstruction Project.**

**Resolution 14-021 - Set public hearing date (March 19, 2014 @ 5:30 p.m.) to consider resolution of necessity (proposed) in connection with the 14th Avenue and Eisenhower Road Pavement Reconstruction Project.**

**Resolution 14-022 - Approve payment of invoice for maintenance at grade Railroad Crossing Repair on N. Center Point Road.**

**Resolution 14-025 - Approve funding for an Electronic Recycling Event (Earth Day) with Midwest Electronic Recovery.**

**Resolution 14-026 - Approve a Community Collection Event (Earth Day) for Household Hazardous Waste with Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency.**

**Resolution 14-027 - Approve a Community Collection Event (Earth Day) for the shredding of confidential materials with Heartland Shredding, Inc.**

\* Complete minutes can be found online at [www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com).

## Backflow Prevention Devices

REMINDER TO HIAWATHA RESIDENTS: If you have an RPZ valve (Backflow Prevention Device) on your water line, please remember that this needs to be tested yearly (preferably in the spring) by a registered technician per City Ordinance. Inspection forms may be picked up at City Hall or your registered technician should have similar forms. If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 319-393-5556 opt. #4.

## Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency Disposal Rates

Rates and programs in fiscal 2015 budget that will remain unchanged from the current 2014 budget are as follows:

- Finished compost - No charge up to 1 ton per visit for Linn County residents; purchases greater than 1 ton will be charged the standard rate of \$15.00 per ton;
- Standard landfill tip fee - \$38.00 per ton;
- Leaves, grass, wood waste, etc. - \$18.00 per ton;
- Asphalt shingles for recycling - \$30.00 per ton; acceptable material includes asphalt shingles, nails, felt paper, wood, metal flashings/gutters, plastic wrap and roofing materials (non-asbestos);
- Bulk recycling materials delivered to the County Home Road Resource Recovery Building - \$20.00 per ton;
- Acceptable are various types of wood wastes used in the bio-mass waste-to-energy program - \$15.00 per ton;
- Community Credit Program - allocation will remain the same for Member Communities;
- White goods disposal fee - \$9.00 per unit;
- Waste tires for Linn County residents - up to eight (8) car, SUV, pickup, or minivan tires per visit for \$1 per tire or \$2 per tire if the rim is still on. Quantities over eight (8) car, SUV, pickup, or minivan will be weighed and charged \$140 per ton. All larger-sized tires (semi, tractor) will be weighed and charged \$140 per ton;
- Residential Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off (Resource Recovery Building) - Free drop-off of residential household hazardous wastes for Linn County residents;
- Residential Recycling Drop-off (Resource Recovery Building) - Free drop-off of residential recycling materials for Linn County residents;
- Residential Recycling Drop-off (Resource Recovery Building) - Free drop-off of electronic equipment to Linn County residents;
- Landfill cover dirt - No longer accepting cover dirt for free;

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency's fiscal 2015 budget, please contact Tim Lukan at (319) 377-5290, ext. 109, or for more information about the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency, visit their website at [www.solidwasteagency.org](http://www.solidwasteagency.org).

# MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visit our website: <a href="http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com">www.hiawatha-iowa.com</a>						1
2	3	4	5 Council 5:30pm	6	7	8
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 Kids Movie Night 6:30pm Movie: TBA	15 Hiawatha Night at the RoughRiders
16	17	18 Water 5:30 pm	19 Council 5:30pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	27 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	28	29
30	31 P&Z 5:30 pm					

# APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Council 5:30pm	3	4	5
6	7	8 Parks 6:00 pm Library 7pm	9 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	10 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	11	12 Live Healthy Iowa 5K and 1K Kids Run 8am
13 Disc Golf Tournament Clark Park 8am	14 History 1:30 pm Board of Adj. 6pm	15 Water 5:30 pm	16 Council 5:30pm	17	18 City Hall Closed Holiday	19 Easter Egg Hunt Guthridge Park 9am
20	21	22	23 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	24 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	25	26 Earth Day Guthridge Park 9-11 am
27 Farmers Market Begins 11-2 Guthridge Park	28 P&Z 5:30 pm	29	30	Visit our website: <a href="http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com">www.hiawatha-iowa.com</a>		

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Hiawatha, Iowa 52233  
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**DELIVER BY:  
SATURDAY,  
3/08/2014**

## 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](http://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](http://www.iowadot.gov).



## Park & Recreation Newly Appointed Board Member Lynda Hembera

On January 22, 2014, City Council accepted the appointment of Lynda Hembera to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Lynda will serve a two year term ending December 31, 2015.

Lynda and her husband Robert have two children and six grandchildren.

Lynda and Robert have done a wide range of volunteer work including working with the Emerald Knight Drum and Bugle Corp when her kids were members, helping with the food wagon, and providing 10 years of service at the C&W Rustic Hollow Animal Shelter in Nashua, IA. For over 35 years, Lynda and her husband have also sponsored children from different countries. They currently sponsor nine girls in Central and South America. Welcome Lynda!



## City Contacts

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### Council Members

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Dick Olson  
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Bob Rampulla  
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Bob Wheeler  
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### City Staff

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**Hiawatha!**