

City Contacts

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# Hiawatha Insights

## Make your list and check it twice!

On Saturday, November 28, 2009, the Hiawatha Public Library, in partnership with Barnes and Noble Booksellers, will be hosting a bookfair to help raise money for collection development at the library. For every purchase made that day by our supporters, Barnes and Noble will donate a percentage of the net sale to the library. In return, our library is then able to purchase materials from Barnes and Noble that will benefit our collection.

So, how can you help? First, stop into the library prior to November 28th, to pick up your voucher. This voucher allows the sales clerks at Barnes and Noble to know that you are supporting the Hiawatha Public Library bookfair.

Second, make your list! Do you have a relative that is difficult to shop for? Or is there a self-professed "bookworm" in your family? Barnes and Noble offers a wide array of books, CDs, DVDs, games and more. There is literally something for everyone!

Third, stop out at Barnes and Noble on that Saturday, November 28th, to complete your holiday shopping and to participate in special events at the store sponsored by the Hiawatha Public Library. We will have storytimes, crafts, fun presentations with local presenters and music!

Finally, tell everyone you know! The more supporters we have, the better chance we have at a successful bookfair! We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, November 28, 2009.



## Tree Dedication

The City of Hiawatha was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,224 for the purchase of trees through the "Branching Out" program.

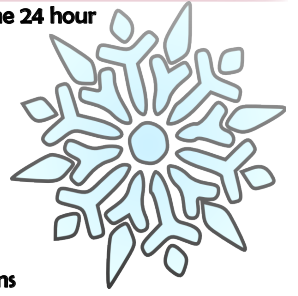
The Branching Out program is a three-way partnership between Alliant Energy, Trees Forever and the City of Hiawatha to carry out community-based tree-planting projects. This grant along with Pecks Landscaping and Nursery, made it possible to plant 12 trees at Fay M. Clark Memorial Park and 11 trees around our City hall.

Together, we can promote tree planting and care, encourage energy efficiency, beautify the community and inspire others to make a lasting commitment to improve the environment.



# Snow Ordinance Changes That Affect You

Changes for snow and ice control are in store for the 2009-2010 winter. The City has made the rules easier to follow by using the 24 hour predictions of the National Weather Service (NWS). The City will also monitor other local sources, however, the NWS officially becomes our backbone for planning efforts. Residents should know we unofficially have used this tool in the past and are now making the NWS part of our policy.



**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.

## Be Prepared! Winter is Coming!

### Safe Winter Driving Tips

**Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights** - even the hood and roof - before driving.

**Pay Attention** - Don't try to out-drive the conditions. Remember the posted speed limits are for dry pavement.

**Leave plenty of room for stopping** - Brake early. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions. If your car is equipped with anti-lock brakes, do not pump brakes in attempt to stop. The right way is to "stomp and steer!"

**Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows** - The law requires you to slow down or move over when approaching emergency or maintenance vehicles, including snow plows, parked on the side of the road when they have their flashing lights turned on. If you approach a parked emergency or maintenance vehicle during a winter storm and decide to change lanes be extra careful. The passing lane may be in worse shape than the driving lane. There may also be a snow ridge between the two lanes. Avoid making an abrupt lane change. If approaching a snowplow, stay back at least 200 feet (at least 15 car lengths) and don't pass on the right. Snowplows plow far and wide - sometimes very wide. The front plow extends several feet in front of the truck and may cross the centerline and shoulders during plowing operations. Plows turn and exit the road frequently. On multiple lane roads, watch for snowplows operating in either lane. Snowplows can throw a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react. **Drive smart.** Never drive into a snow cloud - it could conceal a snowplow. A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them but they may not see you.

**Know the current road conditions** - Call 511 or log onto the Iowa DOT winter road conditions web page. [www.iowadot.gov](http://www.iowadot.gov).

**Watch for slippery bridge decks** - even when the rest of the pavement is in good condition. Bridge decks will ice up sooner than the adjacent pavement.

**Don't use your cruise control in wintry conditions** - Even roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and the short touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control feature can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

**Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle** - Remember that your four-wheel drive vehicle may help you get going quicker than other vehicles but it won't help you stop any faster. Many 4x4 vehicles are heavier than passenger vehicles and actually may take longer to stop. Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle's traction. Your 4x4 can lose traction as quickly as a two-wheel drive vehicle.

**Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do** - Actions by cars and trucks will alert you quicker to problems and give you an extra split-second to react safely.

**Remember that trucks are heavier than cars** - Trucks take longer to safely respond and come to a complete stop, so avoid cutting quickly in front of one of them.

**Drive with your headlights on.**

**Go slow** - especially when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These are all candidates for developing black ice - a thin coating of clear ice that can form on the pavement surface and may be difficult to see.

### Tips On Snow Removal

**Please, please, please** - do not push, plow, pile, or deposit snow from your residential or commercial driveway, sidewalk, or parking lot onto the street. This is against our City Code to do this under Chapter 135.12. This includes pushing snow from your driveway across the street into your neighbor's right-of-way. The city snow plows will have to make extra passes to clean this up and the snow will end up in your neighbor's driveway. Try to keep driveway and sidewalk snow in your yard behind the sidewalk. Save as much room as possible in the right-of-way for street snow. If you have a contractor plow your driveway, sidewalk, or parking lot, please inform them of this. If you have no place to put the snow then you will have to have it hauled away. We will be issuing warnings and possible fines to violators. It is recommended that you do not clear the end of your driveway till the street has been cleared.

**Property owners** - have 24 hours to remove snow from their sidewalks after the cessation of snow fall, City Code Chapter 136.03. The City can remove the snow and assess the costs to your property taxes. Bear in mind this is contracted out. This is required so pedestrians and school children can have safe routes to walk on. If you want to report a sidewalk that needs to be cleared, call 393-1515.

**Check your mailbox** - be sure that your mailbox is BACK of the curb line, preferably about six inches. City Code Chapter 135.14. If a plow hits your mailbox and/or post, buy a new one if needed and bring the receipt to City Hall for reimbursement up to \$50.

**You can help out** - the Water Dept. and Fire Dept. by clearing snow from around fire hydrants that are near your property. This makes it easier for the firemen to find during emergencies.

**Check with your neighbors** - especially the elderly, to see if they need help with shoveling their sidewalks and driveway. It's a great way to build community spirit and check on neighbors.

**Keep your vehicles** - in your driveway or parking lot during snow events, per Hiawatha Code of Ordinances, Chapter 69, Parking Regulations. This makes it easier for the plow trucks to clear the street curb to curb.

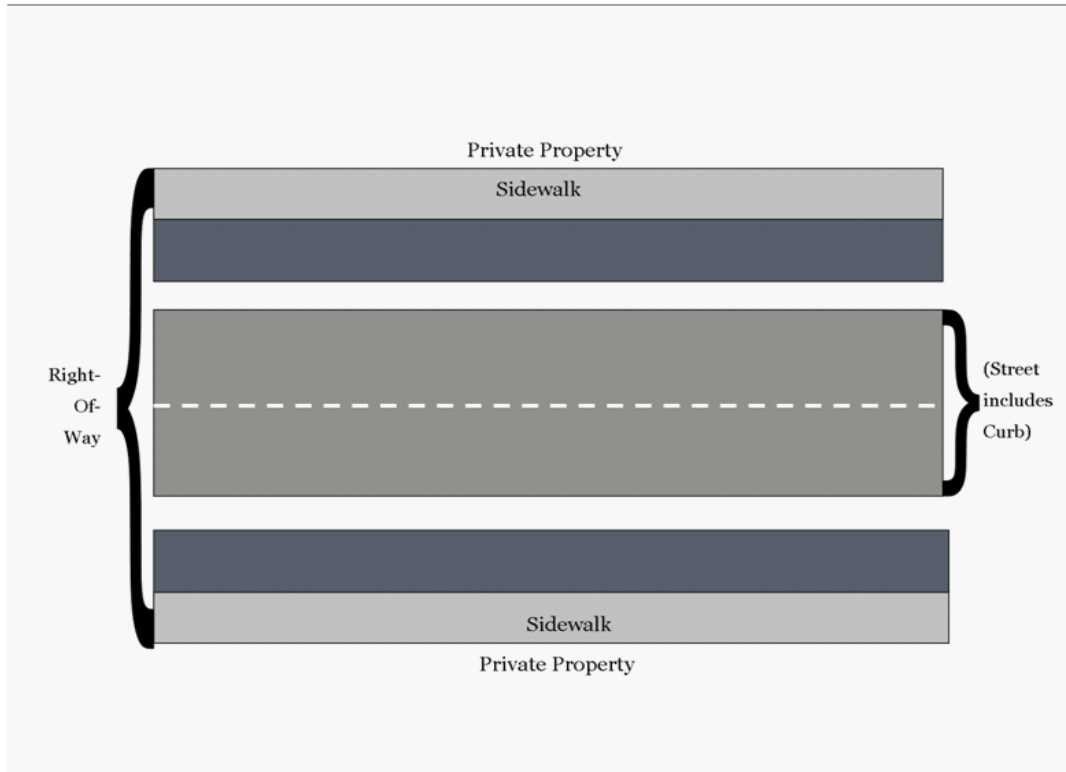
**Direct sump pumps and downspouts away** from hard surfaces so that water doesn't build up and freeze creating slippery conditions on driveways, sidewalks, or streets.



# Right-Of-Way...More Than a Street

Recent questions regarding the use of right-of-ways prompted a review and subsequent revision of the municipal code to make the purpose and definition of the right-of-way more clear.

The picture below identifies the typical right-of-way where sidewalks are present. A right-of-way with a rural cross section, the right-of-way will be on the home side of the storm water drainage area (ditch).



The picture identifies the visible public infrastructures; however, the right-of-way also is the location for sanitary and storm sewers; water, gas, and electric distribution systems. It can also be home to television and fiber optic cables.

Property owners adjoining public right-of-ways are responsible for care and safety of sidewalks or drainage areas.

## Countdown to the 2010 Census

**Census Day -- April 1, 2010** -- is less than six months away!

The 2010 Census questionnaire will be one of the shortest ever -- there are only ten questions, requiring about ten minutes to complete.

Census data is used to apportion congressional seats to states, to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year, and to make decisions about what community services to provide.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## Hiawatha Lions & Big Brothers Big Sisters



December 1, 2009, beginning at 7:00 p.m., Linda Henecke, President & CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters, will speak with the Hiawatha Lions Club regarding mentoring young children in our area. This organization, with the help of volunteers, strives to enhance children's lives through life-changing relationships that impact our children and community. The strength of the program provides each child with their very own mentor and friend. These one-to-one relationships help children feel special while volunteers focus on the child's unique need. Research reveals that children are more likely to show positive behaviors in school and at home than children not matched with a mentor. Children are mentored for a brighter future, helping them succeed in school and fulfill their dreams, including attending college. Envision the positive impact on our community as today's children grow up to be confident, socially well-adjusted, contributing members of our society. The minimal time spent with a child is four hours each month.



If you are interested in learning more, call 377-8993 or visit their website [www.BeABigCR.org](http://www.BeABigCR.org).

# Council Action

October 7, 2009

**Ordinance #650 - Approving the rezoning of property JOMO Investments, 915 Boyson Road from C-2 (Neighborhood Convenience District) to a C-4 (Central Service District).**

**Resolution 09-137 - Declaring an official intent under Treasury Regulations 1.150-2 to issue debt to reimburse the City for certain original expenditures paid in connection with specified projects: 405 West Clark Street for \$75,000.00.**

**Resolution 09-138 - Declaring an official intent under Treasury Regulations 1.150-2 to issue debt to reimburse the City for certain original expenditures paid in connection with specified projects: 407 West Clark Street for \$67,000.00.**

**Resolution 09-139 - Authorizing the city staff to proceed with the sale of the 1986 Pirsch Fire Truck No. 284 and miscellaneous equipment and to receive sealed bids and authorize the sale to the highest responsible bidder.**

**Resolution 09-140 - Proclaiming Tuesday evening October 20, 2009, as "An Evening of Gratitude for Volunteers" and to urge all citizens to recognize our shared tradition of volunteering and commit to volunteer involvement as a unifying force ultimately building stronger communities in the Metro Area of Cedar Rapids, Marion, Robins, and Hiawatha.**

October 19, 2009

**Ordinance #651 - Amending the Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 3 Boundaries §3.01 Corporate Limits adding newly annexed area.**

**Ordinance #652 - Amending the Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 69 Parking Regulations §69.11 Snow Removal and §69.12 Snow Routes adding 1.B. (2) and (6) and deleting Section 3.**

**Resolution 09-141 - Approving the Snow and Ice Control Policy and Procedures as Exhibit "A".**

## Project Updates

### 2008 Sanitary Sewer Slip Lining Project

Televising, line cleaning, and lining work have been completed. We have final inspection tapes and are reviewing them. Final quantities have been sent to the contractor for review.

### 2009 Northwest Sanitary Sewer & Water Main Extension Project

Design is currently underway. Property owners have been met with in the vicinity of the main pump station and reviewed the project, receiving their feedback. Residents concerns will be addressed.

### Mitchell Drive Pump Station and Force Main Extension/Bypass 2008-Design

The pump station supplier met with City Maintenance staff regarding the control and operation of this station. This project has been completed, final project cost - \$449,358.31.

### North Center Point Road Streetscape Project

The project along North Center Point Road from Boyson Road to the railroad tracks has been completed, final project cost - \$1,152,471.50.



## Meet Hiawatha's Newly Elected Officials

Terms of Office: 4 years, effective January '10

### City Council Member Marty Bruns: *Total 152 votes*

Retired

Served as Councilman, Mayor Pro-tem and member of City Hall Citizen's Committee

Involved in civic activities for the community

Campaign Agenda: Dispose of any personal agenda to understand and support what's best for Hiawatha.



### City Council Member Bob Rampulla: *Total 148 votes*

Retired

Served as Board Member, Commission Member and member of City Hall Citizen's Committee

Involved in civic activities for the community

Campaign Agenda: Provide transparency in City Council, keeping citizen's informed, economic development in commercial and residential properties to keep property taxes low and maintain Hiawatha as a viable city.



Write In Votes - Total 17

# NOVEMBER 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Council 7 p.m.	5	6	7 Annual Fire Dept Chili Supper
8	9 History 1:30 p.m. Board of Adj 7 p.m.	10 Parks 6:30 p.m. Library 7 p.m.	11 Council Airs 7 p.m. Channel 18	12 Council Airs 10 a.m. Channel 18	13	14
15	16	17 Water 6:30 p.m.	18 Council 7 p.m.	19	20 Kids Movie Night 6 p.m. TBA	21
22	23	24 P&Z 6 p.m.	25 Council Airs 7 p.m. Channel 18	26 Holiday-City Hall Closed Council Airs 10 a.m. Channel 18	27 Holiday-City Hall Closed	28
29	30					

# DECEMBER 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Council 7 p.m.	3	4	5
6	7	8 Parks 6:30 p.m. Library 7 p.m.	9 Council Airs 7 p.m. Channel 18	10 Council Airs 10 a.m. Channel 18	11 4th Annual Holiday Parade & Festival	12
13 History 1:30 p.m. Board of Adj 7 p.m.	14	15 Water 6:30 p.m.	16 Council 7 p.m.	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Council Airs 7 p.m. Channel 18	24 Holiday-City Hall Closed Council Airs 10 a.m. Channel 18	25 Holiday-City Hall Closed	26
27	28	29 P&Z 6 p.m.	30	31 Holiday-City Hall Closed		

## Walk Sequence

# Postal Customer Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

## Introducing Bonnie Galbraith....

Bonnie Galbraith is the newest member to the Hiawatha Public Library Board. Bonnie has lived in Hiawatha for the past 10 years and takes great pride in our community. Since retiring from the Cedar Rapids Community School District two years ago, she has become a constant patron of our library and knows what a great asset a library is to our community.

Bonnie has previously served our community in the following ways:

- Served on a committee when Ragbrai came to Hiawatha
- Member of the committee to build a new City Hall
- Volunteered two years planting and weeding a City flower bed.

Bonnie worked for a total of twenty years as a secretary for the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Part of that time as principal's secretary at Madison Elementary School and two years at Hiawatha Elementary school.

"Hiawatha is a great place to live and I would like to contribute to the positive things that are happening here."



## Vacationers and Snow Birds

Vacationers and snow birds should contact the Police Department to complete a house check form while you are gone. Our house check form is accessible on the city website [www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com) or at the police department during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Emergency contact, license plates of vehicles at the residence, and other pertinent information is needed to complete the form. While you are away, officers will check the exterior of the residence to ensure all appears to be in order. This service is utilized by many residents who plan to be out of town for the holidays, on winter vacation, or south for the winter months. The service is free and we encourage you to take advantage of the program.

**Water Department Note-** Don't forget to call the Water Department to hold your bills, forward your bills, or turn off your water while you are away. Call us at City Hall at 393-5556.



## Leaky Toilets and Water Softeners

Over the last few months, we have seen problems with bathroom toilets leaking and water softeners malfunctioning, as well as leaking faucets. All of these leaks will run up your water and sewer bill.

Just a very small leak, 1/32 of an inch, about the size of a pencil lead, running continuously, over three months, will cost you approximately \$123.48.

To help find a bathroom toilet leak, you can call or stop by the Water Department office and ask us for some dye tablets or strips to put in the tank of your bathroom toilet.

This chart will show just how much water can be lost from leaks of different sizes.

All customers are responsible for water lost due to these types of leaks.

A Continuous leak from a hole this size at an average household water pressure of 60 psi would, over a three month period, result in the waste listed below.

diameter of stream in:	diameter of stream in:		waste per quarter at 60 psi water pressure in:			
	inches	mm	gallons	liters	cubic feet	cubic meters
	1/4	6.5	1,181,500	4,472,000	158,000	4,475
	1/8	3.2	296,000	1,120,360	39,400	1,115
	1/16	1.6	74,000	280,100	9,850	280
	1/32	.8	18,500	70,020	2,465	70

Hiawatha Water Dept.  
 81 Emmons St.  
 Hiawatha, IA 52233