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Hiawatha Insights

Thank You Hiawatha Volunteers!

Hiawatha volunteers enhance the quality and quantity of the services we provide by helping to acquire resources and building strong relationships through our Fire Department, Park & Recreation programs, City Boards and Commissions. Often volunteers want to give back to their community, fill in the gaps and share their talents.

The Fire Department is served by a mostly volunteer department, made up of 53 men and women who serve 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Currently, there are three full-time employees, three part-time employees, and 47 volunteers. The paid staff work Monday through Friday, between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m., the volunteer staff picks up.

Volunteers are assigned to be on duty one night a week, and one weekend out of five. This provides a set crew of 5-7 people who are committed to responding immediately to every call. The other 53 members will back them up when needed. Volunteer firefighters make a huge commitment to the community; each member has to attend two training sessions a month, one medical and one fire. When they are "on call" they are also assigned small training sessions to complete. Several times a year, we conduct hands on fire training in abandoned houses. We also host special training sessions with outside speakers at least twice a year. Last year, members had the opportunity to receive at least 570 hours of various classes. The normal member will average 50 hours a year in training. Each Firefighter is trained and certified at the nationally recognized Firefighter 1 level.

There are several different categories of members on the fire department. The two most common are resident and non-resident. Resident firefighters are the people who live in your neighborhood, and carry a pager. On their night, they stay at home until a call comes in. They drive to the fire station, pick up the truck or ambulance, and go to the call. Non-resident firefighters that live too far away stay at the station on their duty night. It appears that there are paid people staying at the station at night, but in reality, they are volunteer firefighters who are committed to helping us provide great service to the community.

It's been estimated that volunteer firefighters save the City somewhere between \$1.8 and \$2.2 million dollars a year in tax money. Last year, members of the fire department gave at least 11,333 hours to the community, an average of about 17 hours per month. This doesn't include the "on call" time, only actual documented time responding, training and completing station duties.

Park & Recreation volunteers provide their talents through: Adopt a Flower Bed program by making the flower bed areas around the City beautiful, Soccer and Blastball coaches are vital to the success of our Summer Recreation programs, Senior Dining and Activity volunteers who keep our seniors active and social all year round, tree planting volunteers such as Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Trees Forever and our supportive nonprofit organizations, the Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation along with Barbers Etc., Hiawatha HiCrew Kiwanis Club & Hawkeye Bicycle Club, these groups contributed 1,514 hours with an estimated value of \$15,140.00.

Many of our City Board, Commissions and Committees are not paid for their time to prepare for a meeting, complete their research and bring their expertise to the table. These members put in several hours per year to provide input and sound decisions on behalf of our City and it's citizens.

Volunteers are vital to the success of our City services and programs and for that we are thankful. We couldn't do what we do without you. The Mayor, Council and City Staff applaud and thank you for giving of your time and talents.

“Fly Again” Unveiling

On Wednesday October 19, 2011, the Cedar Rapids Mayor and Council presented to the City of Hiawatha a “Thank You” sculpture that represents unity and people coming together to achieve a goal. Mayor Corbett extended his appreciation and gratitude to the City of Hiawatha for their generosity to the City of Cedar Rapids during the Flood of 2008. The “Fly Again” sculpture is a symbol of their gratitude and thankfulness to the City of Hiawatha for their efforts in helping a neighbor through hard times. Mayor Theis and the City Council graciously accepted the sculpture and what the figure represents between the two cities. (Pictured in both photographs: Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett and Hiawatha Mayor Tom Theis)



Playing for Keeps 2011

It was another great year for the 3rd annual **Playing for Keeps** fundraiser held on October 1st at Cedar Rapids Toyota. With items such as trips, tools, gift cards and even a fire hydrant up for auction, over \$8,000 was raised for the Friends of Hiawatha Parks & Recreation. All those in attendance were able to sample some wonderful seasonal beers provided by 7G Distributors (Budweiser) as well as wines for tasting from Cedar Ridge Vineyards. Bata's Catering also supplied a variety of delicious heavy hors d'oeuvres to pair with our beverage selections. Nassor Cooper played familiar acoustic guitar favorites, adding to the entertainment for the evening. The funds raised will aid Hiawatha's Summer Adventure Camp with the purchase of supplies, field trips, and other necessary provisions for the year. The Friends of Hiawatha Parks & Recreation would like to thank all the sponsors that helped to make Playing for Keeps a success: Cedar Rapids Toyota Scion, Master Tool & Mfg., YMH - Torrance Inc., Roasters Coffee House, Hiawatha Bank & Trust Co., Personal Safety Corp., Midwest Janitorial Service, World Class Industries, Novak Design Group, DAD Manufacturing, Inc., University of Iowa Credit Union, Fleetcare Service Inc., and the HI-CREW Kiwanis Club.



Save the Date of October 6, 2012 so you will not miss this fun and worthwhile event!

Snowbirds and Vacationers

Snowbirds and vacationers should contact the Police Department to complete a house check form for while you are away. Our house check form is available on the city website, 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 free and we encourage you to take advantage of the program. You can feel secure knowing your residence is being checked while you are away and the police department can provide additional security for you and your neighborhood.

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.

Linn County Crime Stoppers



<http://linncounty.crimestoppersweb.com>
1-800-CS-CRIME (272-7463)

If any citizen has information concerning a crime that has taken place anywhere in Linn County, they can call the Crime Stoppers number to receive a number that will allow the citizen to keep track of their tip to see if it leads to an arrest and would qualify for a reward.

New Location Announcement

As of November 28, 2011, **Hollywood Tan** will be in operation at 2160 Blairs Ferry Road, located near H & R Block. Business hours will be Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Sunday Noon - 6:00 p.m.

The Hair Gallery will also have a new location as of November 29, 2011. They will be in operation at 760 North Center Point Road, located next to Metropolitan Family Medicine & Chiropractic. Business hours are Tuesday - Saturday by appointment only by calling 378-6326.

Snow Ordinance 2011-2012

Our Snow Ordinance will be in effect when the National Weather Service 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.

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. 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.



Tips for Snow Removal

Please, please, please - do not push, plow, pile, or deposit snow from your residential or commercial driveway, sidewalk, or parking onto the street. This is a violation of City Code 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. Keep driveway and sidewalk snow in your yard behind the sidewalk. If you have a contractor plow your driveway, sidewalk, or parking lot, please remind 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 don't 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 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 it 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 City Code 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.

Safe Winter Driving

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 an 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 snow plow, stay back at least 200 feet and don't pass on the right. Snow plows plow far and wide. The front plow extends several feet in front of the truck and may cross the center line and shoulders during plowing. Plows turn and exit the road frequently. On multiple lane roads, watch for snow plows operating in either lane. Snow plows can throw a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react. Never drive into a snow cloud - it could conceal a snow plow. A snow plow 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.

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

Don't use cruise control - Even roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and deactivating the cruise control can cause you to lose control of your 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.

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 forms on pavement surfaces and is difficult to see.

Drive with your headlights on.

Council Action

October 5, 2011

Resolution 11-223 - Approve Intent to Reimburse Capital Projects Fund for \$50,000 for a satellite fire station located at 700 Robins Road.

Resolution 11-224 - Authorize City Staff to proceed with design plans for North Center Point Road Streetscape Project in three phases: Boyson Road to Stamy Road; Stamy Road to Ketelsen Drive; Ketelsen Drive to Tower Terrace Road.

Resolution 11-225 - Authorize City Staff to proceed with Solicitation of Request for Proposals for furnishing and installation of trees for North Center Point Road Streetscape Project Phase A.

Resolution 11-226 - Authorize Park & Recreation Director to proceed with removal of splash pads at Guthridge and Tucker Parks for resurfacing to complete necessary repairs.

Resolution 11-227 - Authorize City Staff to proceed with renegotiation of contract for services for laundering of Public Works Department uniforms and City facilities' mats with City Laundering Company of Oelwein, IA.

Resolution 11-228 - Approve Fund Balance Policy pursuant to GASB54, new standard for Governmental Fund Balance reporting.

Resolution 11-236 - State City of Hiawatha opposition to Federal Standards related to Curb Ramps.

Resolution 11-237 - Authorize City Staff to move forward with plans, specs, request for proposals for traffic signals and an infrared camera video detection system at Boyson Road/I-380 interchange in estimated amount of \$30,000.

October 19, 2011

Resolution 11-239 - Pledge financial support with a 5% increase in amount not to exceed \$6,064 from the General Fund for FY2012-2013 to Neighborhood Transportation Service (NTS).

Resolution 11-240 - Pledge financial support in amount of \$10,000 from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Funds for FY2012-2013 to Entrepreneurial Development Center Inc. (EDC).

Resolution 11-241 - Fixing a date (November 2, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.) for a public hearing to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances to add Chapter 55A, Urban Chickens providing regulations for raising, harboring & keeping of chickens within the City of Hiawatha.

Resolution 11-242 - Fixing a date (November 2, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.) for a meeting on the proposition to authorize a Loan Agreement and the issuance of Notes to evidence the obligations of the City thereunder for Not to Exceed \$1,945,000 for an Essential Corporate Purpose.

Resolution 11-243 - Fixing a date (November 2, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.) for a meeting on the proposition to authorize a Loan Agreement and the issuance of Notes to evidence the obligations of the City thereunder for Not to Exceed \$120,000 for a General Corporate Purpose.

Resolution 11-244 - Amend Resolution 11-220 granting right-of-way permission to ImOn Communications, LLC., for the installation of fiber optics cable and authorizing an additional route change to the west half right-of-way between Pirie Drive to Chaffee Drive to accommodate underground utilities in the east half right-of-way under the approval recommended in letter provided by Hall & Hall Engineers with verbal approval from the Hiawatha Water Superintendent.

Resolution 11-245 - Approve the quote for infrared camera and equipment providing vehicle detection capabilities on traffic signals at the Boyson Road/I-380 Interchange in amount of \$25,000 from Traffic Control Corporation of Ankeny, Iowa from funding in FY2012 Local Option Sales Tax Dollars.

Resolution 11-246 - Authorize partial purchase of 100 Boyson Road, owned by Carmeletta Lentz, providing the City right-of-way and easements needed for realignment of Boyson Road and directs Mayor to sign the residential purchase agreement with total purchase price of \$20,250 and further authorize City Clerk to record purchase agreement with Office of Linn County Recorder.

Resolution 11-247 - Accept perpetual and continual storm sewer and storm water drainage easement requirements between City of Hiawatha and Carmeletta Lentz for purpose of constructing, reconstructing and maintaining said storm sewer and storm water drainage over and under portion of property at 100 Boyson Road.

Resolution 11-248 - Accept temporary construction and access easement and restoration requirements between City of Hiawatha and Carmeletta Lentz for facilitating construction of street pavement, sewer main, water main, storm sewers and other business utility lines for property at 100 Boyson Road.

Resolution 11-249 - Letter of support that City of Hiawatha is supportive of application by Linn County/Cedar Rapids to apply for TIGER grant funding to assist in construction of Iowa Highway 100 Bridge construction Project for four lane highway over Cedar River as an integral part of efficient beltway connecting I-380, US 30 and 151 and IA 13.

Resolution 11-250 - Authorize Flexible Benefits Plan Renewal for 2012 plan year with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

History Commission Looks Back at Guthridge Park

Formerly known as Hiawatha City Park, renamed Guthridge Park in 1983. A petition asking to rename the park as "Guthridge Park" in honor of Dale Guthridge, former mayor of 12 years in Hiawatha. He worked many hours day and night, grading and maintaining the park area, adding his own people friendly touches. A petition to change its name was composed by Hiawatha resident, Vivian Cerney, and taken door to door with the help of Vonda Darrow, Louis Vincent and Walt Moore. It was presented to Mayor Tom Patterson and the City Council.

Guthridge Park has been the site for Hiawatha Lions Club Hog Wild Days celebration since 1983. Also, several groups enjoy the use of the park through the Hiawatha Kids League and school football and soccer programs for practice, along with boys and girls little leagues using the park ball diamonds for their games. Over the years, the City has updated the park with picnic/pavilions sites, restrooms, play equipment, a splash pad, and baseball/softball diamonds for summer activities. Farmers Market is also held at Guthridge Park from April through October.





NOVEMBER 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Fire Dept. Chili Supper 11 am - 7pm
6	7	8 Parks 6:30 p.m. Library 7p.m.	9 Council 7pm Council Airs 7p.m. Channel 18	10 Council Airs 10a.m. Channel 18	11 Special Needs Movie Night 6:30 pm Movie: TBA	12
13	14 History 1:30 p.m. Board of Adj. 7p.m.	15 Water 6:30 p.m.	16 Council 7pm	17	18 Kids Movie Night 6:00 pm Movie: TBA	19
20	21 Final Leaf & Yard Waste Pickup curbside by 7am	22	23 Council Airs 7p.m. Channel 18	24 Library and City Hall Closed Council Airs 10a.m. Channel 18	25 Library Closed City Hall Closed	26
27	28 P&Z 6p.m.	29	30			



DECEMBER 2011



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

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**DELIVER BY:
SATURDAY,
11/12/2011**

Urban Chicken Ordinance

On November 2, 2011, the City Council held a public hearing regarding a new ordinance regarding the raising, harboring or keeping of chickens within city limits. The ordinance presented allows for no more than six (6) female chickens only; permits will be granted only for tracts of land located in residential districts such as R-1 (Single Family Residence District) or R-3 (Single Family Residence district): a permittee will not be allowed to engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes; chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse or chicken tractor during non-daylight hours; no person shall slaughter any chickens within the City of Hiawatha.

Note: This is only a partial definition of the proposed Chapter 55A Urban Chickens, setting guidelines for raising, harboring or keeping of chickens in the City of Hiawatha. Because the ordinance is a new thought, the City Council intends to read the ordinance more than once to allow for public comments.

For a copy of the entire Chapter 55A Urban Chickens Ordinance, contact the City Clerk's Office at 393-1515, email the Clerk at cityclerk@hiawatha-iowa.com or view the proposed ordinance on our City website at www.hiawatha-iowa.com under news.

Comments regarding the proposed ordinance may be received by mailing to the City Clerk at 101 Emmons Street, email at cityclerk@hiawatha-iowa.com or attend the following two Council Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. in the Hiawatha Council Chambers for the second and third readings.



Hiawatha Library Closed Dates

The Hiawatha Public Library will be closed on Wednesday, November 16th for staff development training. We will resume normal hours on Thursday, November 17th. The Library will also be closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for Thanksgiving but will be resuming normal hours on Saturday, November 26th. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



City Hall Closed Dates

Hiawatha City Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th.

We will resume normal hours on Monday, November 28th.



Library Meeting Space

Are you looking for meeting space for your club or organization? Consider calling the Hiawatha Public Library. The Library has both the Glenn Schminke Community Room and a small meeting room for use by the public. The Schminke Room holds 50 people and is available when the library is both closed and open. The small meeting room holds 6 people and is available when the library is open.

Because these rooms are busy, there are rules to booking them. We only book the rooms one month in advance, and any organization can have only one meeting booked at a time. Library events get first priority. There is no charge for non-profit organizations. For-profit organizations are asked to donate \$10.00 per hour to the library. The library cannot accommodate private parties, nor can admission be charged. Your group may serve food and drink.

So consider the Library for your next group function. Stop in, check out the rooms, and pick up our meeting room policy for the next time you are in need of meeting space.