



November 2019

Volume 140

What is a Roundabout?

On October 16, the Hiawatha City Council approved moving forward with the Tower Terrace Roadway Expansion design work to include a roundabout at Tower Terrace Road and North Center Point Road.

A modern roundabout is a circular intersection where drivers travel counterclockwise around a center island. There are no traffic signals or stop signs in a modern roundabout. Drivers yield at entry to traffic in the roundabout, then enter the intersection and exit at their desired street. Studies by the Federal Highway Administration have found that roundabouts can increase traffic capacity by 30 percent to 50 percent compared to traditional intersections. Roundabouts are designed to make intersections safer and more efficient for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. There are two types of roundabouts: Single-lane roundabouts and multi-lane roundabouts.

Driving Single-Lane Roundabouts

As you approach a roundabout, you will see a yellow “roundabout ahead” sign with an advisory speed limit for the roundabout. Slow down as you approach the roundabout, and watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Continue toward the roundabout and look to your left as you near the yield sign and dashed yield line at the entrance to the roundabout. Yield to traffic already in the roundabout. Once you see a gap in traffic, enter the circle and proceed to your exit. If there is no traffic in the roundabout, you may enter without yielding. Look for pedestrians and use your turn signal before you exit, and make sure to stay in your lane as you navigate the roundabout.

Driving Multi-Lane Roundabouts

In a multi-lane roundabout, you will see two signs as you approach the intersection: The yellow “roundabout ahead” sign and a black-and-white “lane choice” sign. You will need to choose a lane prior to entering the roundabout. You choose your lane in a multi-lane roundabout the same way you would in a traditional multi-lane intersection. To go straight or right, get in the right lane. To go straight or left, get in the left lane. More information on roundabouts can be found at iowadot.gov/traffic/roundabouts/roundabouts-in-iowa. Here are a few key things to remember about driving roundabouts:

- Yield to drivers in the roundabout
- Stay in your lane; do not change lanes
- Do not stop in the roundabout
- Avoid driving next to oversize vehicles

Truck Traffic Benefits

Roundabouts are designed with truck aprons, or slightly raised sections between the roads and the inner circle of the roundabout, which accommodate truck traffic.



Regular City Council Meetings Now on Youtube

We are excited to announce the City Hall Council Chambers audio-visual equipment was updated in October and we now offer the option to stream Regular City Council meetings live on Youtube. Connect to our Youtube channel by going to www.youtube.com and searching for City of Hiawatha. Tune in live on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM or visit our channel at your convenience to watch later!

Snow Ordinance Reminder

Our snow ordinance is in effect when the National Weather Service (NWS) predicts a snowfall in which three (3) or more inches of snow are expected. While the Snow Ordinance 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 notice of declaration will be sent 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. Sign up on the Hiawatha website to receive notifications for snow ordinance declarations to your cell phone or email. 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.

When in doubt about parking, just move your vehicle off the street. The City will NOT conduct snowfall clearing operations on all streets for a snowfall of less than two (2) inches. Sidewalks must be shoveled within 24 hours of the cessation of snowfall, 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

Lightfoot Junior Achievers Donate to Hiawatha Public Library

When both Kaylin and Beckett Lightfoot outgrew afternoon naps, their mother Tabitha instituted Quiet Time (with a capital QT!) in the Lightfoot household. Tabitha shared, "During Quiet Time, the kids are alone in their rooms and decide for themselves how they wish to spend the time." From this moment of reflection, a larger idea grew.

During Quiet Time in early summer, Kaylin began drawing Disney princesses and villains with colored pencils. She created so many engaging pieces of art, she decided she was going to start a business and aptly named it Pics 'R Us. Seeking a business partner, Kaylin shared her drawings and business idea with her brother Beckett. Soon, he got busy with the colored pencils as well, creating original works of his own. Pics 'R Us was growing and was ready to go public.

Efforts to sell their pictures at 50 cents each in the Lightfoot driveway were not successful. "We had no takers so our Dad suggested we load up our wagon with our wares and make a Pics 'R Us sign," thus taking their sales pitch directly to the people of their neighborhood. When Kaylin further proposed that they donate their earnings to Hiawatha Public Library, their Dad said he would match whatever profit they made and let the two kids split the money. And to sweeten the pot, Dad promised that he would make spaghetti quesadillas and PB & J sandwiches for dinner and they would all eat outside. It was on!

On August 21, Kaylin and Beckett proudly walked into Hiawatha Public Library and presented an envelope of bills and coins totaling \$42.40 to go towards the Library's building project. Pics 'R Us was a success! They said they chose the library as their benefactor because they both love to read and have enjoyed Hiawatha Public Library's programs and books for years. In addition, Kaylin said that many of their neighbors purchased their artwork not only because they loved it, but also because of their affinity for the library. "People told us that what we were doing was cool and would give us \$5.00 rather than 50 cents!" exclaimed Beckett.

With colder weather coming, the Pics 'R Us wagon is parked in the garage. However, Kaylin and Beckett plan to utilize their Quiet Time wisely and share their talents and generosity with neighbors and the library again next summer.



Hiawatha Council Action

The Hiawatha City Council meeting minutes may be obtained on-line at 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. 524.

The Sidewalks of Hiawatha - Part 3

Because the City of Hiawatha, and many of our residents, view sidewalks as an important asset to our community, the Council has directed staff to take actions to enhance our sidewalk maintenance program. This series of articles is intended to raise the awareness of our sidewalks and the value they hold in our community in order to encourage and promote sidewalk maintenance and sidewalk usage.



Sidewalk Maintenance Problem:

In November 2017 staff requested support to initiate a sidewalk maintenance program for Hiawatha due to a growing number of concerns and complaints. Council authorized an evaluation of Hiawatha's public sidewalk deficiency standard and a sidewalk study to determine the extent of the problem. These two components would allow staff to quantify and develop possible solutions based on new acceptable standards. Action was taken to amend Hiawatha Code Chapter 136 to a new standard. Tolerances for vertical and horizontal separations defining a "defective sidewalk nuisance" were increased to 1" and allowable slopes and dips were slightly increased. These changes aligned Hiawatha's standard with other area city standards.

ICAP; Hiawatha's liability insurance carrier, was enlisted to perform the assessment in the defined area between Miller Road and 10th street and between Boyson Road and Emmons. The area includes about six miles of street and 12 miles of sidewalk. (About 20% of the total sidewalks in Hiawatha) This is an area where complaints are regularly received. The study revealed 120 defects in the sidewalks in this area. Most of the issues were due to vertical separations of 1" or more:

Vertical separation only	77
Horizontal separation only	8
Holes/cracks/separations	35

The program photos also revealed 14 accessibility curb ramps with deficiencies. The ramps were not assessed for compliance to the Americans with Disability Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) but will require completion by our engineering or inspection departments familiar with the standards. This standard includes specific ramp width, slopes, and truncated warnings. Given the number of deficiencies found, staff recommended Hiawatha begin a sidewalk maintenance program. The goal is to maintain and improve our existing public sidewalks. The total estimated cost of making the repairs associated with this limited area of the City for the noted deficiencies (not including accessibility ramps) was \$85,000 using the calculation:

- 10 (average repair linear footage)
- X 120 (the number of defects noted in the report)
- X \$70 (estimated cost of sidewalk for each linear foot at 5' wide).
- \$85,000 (estimated total cost of defects from the assessment)

This does not include recommended upgrades to the accessibility ramps excluded from the program. The assessment indicates the City of Hiawatha is not adequately addressing the sidewalk defects in our current policy which is solely complaint driven. As a result, defective sidewalks are detracting from the walkability and safety within our community. So what is the solution? Our next newsletter article will detail a proposal to proactively address these issues over a ten year period and beyond in an effort to preserve this valued asset.

November Calendar

- 11 History Committee Meeting 1:30 PM
- 11 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 PM
- 12 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 12 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 13 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 19 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 20 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 25 P&Z Meeting 5:30 PM
- 27 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 28 City Offices Closed
- 29 City Offices Closed

December Calendar

- 04 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 09 History Committee Meeting 1:30 PM
- 09 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 PM
- 10 Parks Commission Meeting 6:00 PM
- 10 Library Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 11 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 16 P&Z Meeting 5:30 PM
- 17 Water Board Meeting 5:30 PM
- 18 City Council Meeting 5:30 PM
- 24 City Offices Closed
- 25 City Offices Closed
- 25 Council meeting airs 6:00 - 7:30 PM Ch 4 (IMON) 7:00 PM Ch 18 (Mediacom)
- 31 City Offices Closed
- 1 City Offices Closed

Be Careful of Frozen Pipes this Winter

Here at the Water Department we know the importance of having water available when you open the tap or flush a toilet. We also understand the frustration you experience when the water is not present. It's that time of year for water main breaks to occur. If you should see or suspect a water leak please report it to the Water Department at 319-393-5556. Or if it is after business hours please contact the non-emergency Police Department number 319-393-1212. We will promptly investigate your concern.

The Water Department wants to make sure our residents know what to do if or when this happens. When a water main break occurs it requires the Water Department employees to close down several water main valves to isolate the main and control the leak. We do our best to inform our customers when a water main break occurs. Many times these main breaks are emergencies or they occur after hours and our customers don't become aware of the leak until water is not available. Rest assured, the Water Department employees will be working diligently to find the source of the leak and correct the issue to re-establish water to your property in a timely manner. We appreciate your patience when a situation like this arises.

Firefighters Host Chili Supper

Hiawatha Firefighters hosted their annual Chili Supper on Saturday November 2 at the Hiawatha Fire Station. Firefighters served more than 25 gallons of chili to more than 800 visitors. Money raised during the Chili supper goes to support the Fire Department through the purchase of equipment and support to the members. Most recently, the money from past Chili Suppers was used to equip a John Deere Gator (all-terrain vehicle) with emergency lights, pump, water tank, and cab. The Gator was purchased with a grant from Firehouse Subs. "The businesses and citizens of Hiawatha are very supportive," said Paramedic/Firefighter Micah Powell. "The support we receive from the community has been fantastic. A lot of donors gave to this event." Powell was the chairperson of this year's event. The supper, which is held annually on the first Saturday in November, raises money for the Hiawatha Firefighters Association. The association is a 501c3 organization made up of members of the Fire Department. The association's purpose is to act as the fundraising arm of the Fire Department and to support the department and the members.

Firefighters Score Big with MDA Drive

Hiawatha Firefighters had another record year collecting for MDA this year. Members of the Fire Department hit the street in early September, boot in hand, to collect money to donate to MDA. This year, several local businesses donated services or money via the Hiawatha Fire Department including Sam's Club, CCB Packaging, McGrath, Farmers State Bank, Big 10, and Oscar's. Altogether, firefighters raised more than \$17,000. Since 2011, Hiawatha Firefighters have raised more than \$117,000 for MDA.

October was Fire Prevention Month

Hiawatha Firefighters had a busy month in October with a variety of fire prevention activities. Hiawatha visited with 230 preschoolers at Little Lambs Preschool, Hiawatha Day School, Hand in Hand Daycare, and Mother Goose. Firefighters demonstrated the gear they wear, helping the kids remember that firefighters may look a little scary, but they are friends. Firefighters also told the students that firefighters have a job to go inside and fight fire, but that kids have a job to get out and stay out if there is a fire. Finally, they are taught that lighters and matches are tools, not toys. The firefighters also visited Nixon and Hiawatha elementary schools. Firefighters showed off the fire truck, something the kids are always interested in. They also talked about smoke detectors, having exit plans, getting low to avoid smoke, and sleeping with the door closed. The Red Cross and the Hiawatha Fire Department volunteers reached out across the city October 26 to help replace smoke detector batteries for those who can't do so themselves. Firefighters visited 45 homes in Hiawatha, and replaced about 200 smoke detector batteries. A few homes had smoke detectors that were more than 10 years old. They replaced 17 smoke detectors in all. Just a reminder that fall is a good time to replace your smoke detector batteries and replace the detectors if they are more than 10 years old. Firefighters will help residents who cannot change the batteries themselves due to physical difficulty. If you need assistance with a smoke detector call 319-393-4180.





DONATE YOUR NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS HERE!

TOYS FOR TOTS

Deadline: December 6, 2019

For more information:
cedar-rapids-ia.toysfortots.org

Thank you to these sponsors:










Peggie Bader: the Driving Force Behind Kids League

Peggie Bader is a woman who has a heart for others and goes above and beyond to give back to her community. Peggie is a Hiawatha resident who has spent the last 37 years assisting with Hiawatha Kids League, a baseball/softball league that brings hundreds of families out to Guthridge Park during the spring and summer months. Many people know her as Peg, or the HKL Secretary who is behind much of the

efforts to get the league organized. She is your “go to” that takes registrations, organizes teams, schedules team pictures, runs the concession stand and every once in a while, you may even catch her dragging the diamonds and smoothing out the fields. She is not afraid to dig right in and help out in any way she can!

Throughout her 37 years she has watched her three children participate in the program, four grandchildren, and now has two great-grandchildren playing at the present time. Not only has Peggie put a lot of time and effort into the program, her husband, and now-grown children have too. Her husband Dick has served on the HKL board many times, along with her son, Scott, who helps with the field and grounds. Their goal has been to help all children get a good start to learn, play and enjoy the sport of softball/baseball. We thank Peggie and her family for all their efforts in making HKL a success. Your service to the community does not go unnoticed and your passion for helping kids succeed and enjoy the outdoors is outstanding! Thank you!



The Hiawatha Kids League is now taking registrations for the 2020 season. For more information visit <https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=hkl> or the Hiawatha Kids League Facebook Page.

Want to get involved?

Please consider joining the board or volunteering!

There are so many opportunities. Help Hiawatha Kids League continue for many years to come!



Reindeer Run Scheduled for Dec. 7

Join us for the 3rd annual Hiawatha Reindeer Fun Run/Walk December 7, 2019 at 9 AM. The race will start and end at Fay M. Clark Memorial Park (located at the north end of 18th Avenue next to AirFX). Each runner will receive a stocking hat with their registration fee, along with hot cocoa, candy canes, cookies and be greeted by Santa when they cross the finish line. Registration is \$20 per participant, \$25 the week of the race. The money raised during this event will be put towards the new Hiawatha Dog Park, scheduled to open spring of 2020. Come join the fun and help raise some funds for new park amenities!

A winter clothing and hygiene drive to collect mittens, hats, socks and new hygiene products to donate to area shelters in need this holiday season will also be held during the Fun Run/Walk.

Hiawatha History Commission

The History Commission Says Goodbye to Jerry Seifried

The Hiawatha History Commission is sad to recognize the passing of Jerry Seifried, a long-time Hiawatha resident. Jerry served on the Hiawatha History Commission, the City Council, and in several civic groups. Jerry and his family moved to Hiawatha in 1960. Jerry worked at Collins as a finance manager. He was also was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic Church. Our thoughts are with Jerry's family during this sad time. (Jerry is pictured with the History Committee in the middle with the blue shirt.)



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 SATURDAY,
 11/16/2019**

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Fall Cleanup
November 25 - Leaves only pick up




**New City Hall Business Hours
 as of January 1, 2020:
 Monday through Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM**



**LETTERS
 FROM SANTA**

\$3 per letter

Add a little magic to the season and sign your child up to receive a Letter from Santa. Santa will write a letter in an easy to read format with references of the child's name, age, Elf on the Shelf, accomplishments, and desired present! The letter will be mailed directly from Santa's workshop so your child will be overjoyed to see his or her name on the envelope! Visit Hiawatha City Hall to sign up today!

CITY DIRECTORY

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
City Administrator	Kim Downs	319-393-1515 x523	kdowns@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Clerk	Kari Graber	319-393-1515 x526	kgraber@hiawatha-iowa.com
Finance Director	Cindy Kudrna	319-393-1515 x522	ckudrna@hiawatha-iowa.com
Parks & Recreation Director	Kelly Willadsen	319-393-1515 x251	kwilladsen@hiawatha-iowa.com
Community Development Director	Patrick Parsley	319-393-1515 x229	pparsley@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Engineer	John Bender	319-393-1515 x511	jbender@hiawatha-iowa.com
Public Works Superintendent	Rod Jasa	319-393-6601	rjasa@hiawatha-iowa.com
Water Superintendent	Marty Recker	319-393-1515 x232	mrecker@hiawatha-iowa.com
Police Chief	Dennis Marks	319-393-1212	chief@hiawathapolice.com
Fire Chief	Mike Nesslage	319-393-4180	mnesslage@hiawatha-iowa.com
Library Director	Jeaneal 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.

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



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