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# Hiawatha Tree Trimming

The Hiawatha City Code requires that trees be kept trimmed 8 feet above sidewalks and 15 feet above streets.

Now, while tree branches are weighed down with full foliage, fall is the perfect time for property owners to identify branches that need to be trimmed.

Karen Brook, Trees Forever, said "it is important to keep trees trimmed for clearance, and it's very important to prune properly to promote the health of the tree. Poor pruning can cause harm to

trees and shorten their life span. It's better to prune potentially conflicting limbs when they are young because small pruning cuts make smaller wounds that will seal over faster." More information can be found at [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com) and at the library.



Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of trees on their property and in the right-of-way.

We do encourage property owners to keep their trees trimmed before they get out of hand.

The City does send out notices to property owners when we receive complaints about low branches.

## From the City Administrator.....

The first 30 days—These days have flown by and a number of positive projects, including economic development, public works, and parks amenities have been identified.

I have had the pleasure of meeting several residents and business representatives. People are proud of the community, community accomplishments and the ability to do business here.

The staff has also contributed to the welcoming atmosphere. I have found the Department Heads to be very knowledgeable and dedicated to serving our community.

We all have similar concerns regarding development, state transfer funds, and growth. A

recent article in the Des Moines Register identified the Cedar Rapids—Iowa City Corridor as a growth area in the State of Iowa.



The demographic shift from rural communities will be a positive

force in the continuing development of Hiawatha.

Based on my first thirty days, I have been impressed with the following positive aspects of the community:

1. Beautification of major streets and intersections;
2. The use of volunteers who have managed the plantings in the parks and right-of-way;
3. The aesthetics of the non-residential areas;
4. The "can do" spirit of the Council and Staff.

I continue to look forward to meeting the citizens and being a part of Hiawatha opportunities.

# Remote Water Valve Control System

Hiawatha Water Department has established a new policy in accordance with Hiawatha's Code of Ordinances. The policy is as follows: Any rental property within Hiawatha, where there is only one (1) water service for multiple meters, will be asked to put in a new service line for each meter within the property. Or, a Landlord will have the option to have the Water Department install a remote water valve control system on each individual meter at the property so each meter can be shut off in the event of non-payment or any other water issue. Landlords will be responsible for any installation costs incurred in either process. If the Landlord so chooses to put in the remote water valve control system (RVS), the cost will be for each individual system installed. The remote water valve system will be the property of the Hiawatha Water Department.

The Water Department has experienced trouble collecting payment from tenants where there is only one (1) service line.

Here's how it works: should a tenant neglect to pay his or her water bill, the Water Department must contact the landlord and make arrangements to meet with them after the tenant has been served with a 24 hour notice of disconnection from the landlord. With more than one (1) service line, or the RVS, we are able to terminate water immediately after the appropriate steps have been taken.

The RVS option is an economical alternative to a new service line, as a new service line can cost thousands of dollars. The RVS will only cost the landlord \$200 per unit. As delinquent accounts arise, the Water Department will contact landlords to discuss which option would be appropriate for their rental property.

# Protect Yourself and Your Family Today!

In the event of a fire, properly installed and maintained smoke alarms will provide an early warning alarm to your household. This alarm could save your own life and those of your loved ones by providing the chance to escape.

## Why Should My Home Have Smoke Alarms?

In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are a very important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal -- so you and your family can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home.

## Okay, Where Do I Put Them?

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

## Where Would I Get Smoke Alarms?

Many hardware, home supply, or general merchandise stores carry smoke alarms. If you are unsure where to buy one in your community, call your local fire department (on a non-emergency telephone number) and they will provide you with some suggestions. Some fire departments offer smoke alarms for little or no cost.

## Are Smoke Alarms Hard to Install?

If your smoke alarms are hard wired, that is wired into the electrical system, you will need to have a qualified electrician do the initial installation or install replacements. For battery powered smoke alarms, all you will need for installation is a screw driver. Some brands are self adhesive and will easily stick to the wall or ceiling where they are placed. For all smoke alarm installations, be sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions because there are differences between the various brands. If you are uncomfortable standing on a ladder, ask a relative or friend for help. Some fire departments will install a smoke alarm in your home for you. Call your local fire department (on a non-emergency telephone number) if you have problems installing a smoke alarm.

# Benches on Center Point Road

Have you noticed the new benches and trash containers along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail on Center Point Road?

In response to residents requests, two benches and trash containers were recently installed to provide a rest area and hopefully make your trip along the trail more enjoyable. The placements were done so that any future construction on Center Point Road would not effect their location.



# Hiawatha's New Finance Director

2009 is a good year for the newly appointed Hiawatha Finance Director. Cindy Kudrna of Delhi was hired as the Deputy City Clerk in 2007. As a former City Clerk of Delhi, Cindy was asked to perform the duties of the City Finance Director in 2008.

As the Interim Finance Director, Ms. Kudrna oversaw the development of the budget; accounts payables, and investments of the City.

Ms. Kudrna recently received the Certi-



fied Municipal Clerk designation from the International Municipal Clerks Association in July 2009.

This is a significant accomplishment for the new Finance Director and speaks well for the team in the City of Hiawatha.

Congratulations Cindy on your accomplishments and the unanimous vote of the Council as the new Finance Director for the City of Hiawatha.

## Loebsack Representative Office Hours

Congressman Dave Loebsack will have a member of his staff in Linn County for open office hours. Kirsten Running-Marquardt, Loebsack's district representative covering Linn County, will be at the Hiawatha City Hall on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 from 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Constituents are urged to come in and discuss health care, economic recovery, as well as other concerns and issues.

The current health care system is on an unsustainable path that hurts families and puts businesses at a global disadvantage. Premiums have doubled over the last 9 years, rising three times faster than wages. The average Iowa family already pays an extra \$1,100 in premiums every year for a broken system. In the upcoming debate, health care reformers such as Congressman Loebsack, who sits on the Education and Labor Committee, will work to reduce costs, increase choices, and promote access to affordable, quality health care. Iowans are encouraged to come in and share their thoughts on health care reform.

If you are unable to attend these office hours, please call our district office toll-free at 1-866-914-IOWA (4692).

## Moving Mailbox in City Hall Parking Lot

We have had a number of customers, over the last few months, drop their water payment in the U.S. mail box. Because the payments do not have postage, we do not always receive your payment.

To aid with this problem, the U.S. Post Office has agreed to let us move the mailbox to the other end of the parking lot.



## Census 2010: A Snapshot

**What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

**Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

**When:** Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. More detailed socioeconomic information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the **American Community Survey**.

**Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**How:** Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

## Council Action

August 5, 2009

**Ordinance #645—Amending the Hiawatha UDC §165.15:2 Land Use Matrix Figure I: permitting the storage use only; §165.16:13 (A) I-1 Restricted Industrial District permitting storage site plan w/restrictions; §165.16:14 (A) I-2 General Industrial District permitting storage site plan use w/restrictions.**

Resolution 09-107—Approving and authorizing the execution of a 5-year agreement for private redevelopment by and between the City of Hiawatha and Personal Safety Corporation (PSC)

Resolution 09-108—Amending the City of Hiawatha Economic Development Policy Statement to allow for more discretion in evaluating economic development applications.

Resolution 09-109—Waiving the City of Hiawatha's right to review final plat of Airy First Addition to Linn County, Iowa

Resolution 09-110—Authorizing staff to proceed with the solicitation of the City Attorney Services Request for Proposals

Resolution 09-111—Designating Ambulance Service Rates

Resolution 09-112—Approving the issuance of an "At-your-own-risk" Geothermal Well Permit at 1350 Lyndhurst Drive for St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic Church.

Resolution 09-113—Authorizing certification to the Linn County Treasurer's Office for collection of a delinquent account of services performed by the City of Hiawatha for mowing of long grass and weeds at 1005 Eisenhower Road in the amount of \$170.00

August 19, 2009

**Ordinance #646—Amending Chapter 165 §165.20 (I) Supplemental Regulations by adding a listing of regulations for lots zoned I-1 and I02**

**Ordinance #647—Amending the Hiawatha City Code of Ordinance Chapter 167 Grading, Filling, and Erosion Control in its entirety**

**Ordinance #648—Amending the Hiawatha City Code of Ordinance Chapter 102 Illicit Discharge §102.2 (I)**

Resolution 09-114—Approving Hiawatha Building Regulations TABLE I-A Building Permit and Inspection Fee Schedule

Resolution 09-115—Establishing Filing and Meeting Fees

Resolution 09-116—Approving a 28E Agreement with Iowa Alcohol Beverages Division for Tobacco Enforcement

Resolution 09-117—Authorizing staff to proceed with the replacement of eight (8) stairwell light fixtures at a cost not to exceed \$7,210.00

Resolution 09-118—Authorizing the purchase of ten (10) sets of Fire Fighter turnout gear for the Fire Department at a cost not to exceed \$16,500.00

Resolution 09-119—Supporting the Hiawatha Fire Department in their efforts to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association

Resolution 09-120—Approving the Community Center Rules and Regulations as amended in "Exhibit A" and is hereby approved and effective as of August 20, 2009

Resolution 09-121—Approving the Health Insurance/Dental/Vision Coverage effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

## Kids Against Hunger

This summer Hiawatha Playground, Tot-Lot and Youth in Parks programs raised money for Kids Against Hunger. This organization helps to feed starving children all over the world by raising money and organizing packaging events. The meals they send out consist of rice, soy, dried vegetables and



vitamin and mineral supplement powder. Kids Against Hunger International has shipped food to over 40 countries, including the USA.

Children in these programs actually raised \$410 for Kids Against Hunger, with Hi-CREW Kiwanis donating \$170 to the project. On August 11, 2009, participants of the Hiawatha programs packaged food that will feed nearly 1600 starving children. Thank you to all who participated in our fundraisers (can drive, penny wars, and pie in the face) and Hi-CREW Kiwanis for their large donation towards this cause.



# September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Council 7 p.m.	3	4	5
6	7 History 1:30 p.m. Board of Adj 6p.m.	8 Parks 6 p.m. Library 7 p.m.	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Water 6:30 p.m.	16 Council 7 p.m.	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Kids Movie Night 6p.m. TBA	26 Placekick, Punt & Kick Competition
27	28	29 P&Z 6p.m.	30			

# October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Council 7 p.m.	8	9	10
11	12 History 1:30 p.m. Board of Adj 6p.m.	13 Parks 6 p.m. Library 7 p.m.	14	15	16 Kids Movie Night 6p.m. TBA	17
18	19	20 Water 6:30 p.m.	21 Senior Evening Dance Council 7 p.m.	22	23	24 Playing for Keeps Fund-raiser
25	26	27 P&Z 6p.m.	28	29	30 Amateur Photo Contest Deadline	31

## City of Hiawatha

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Phone: 319-393-1515  
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www.hiawatha-iowa.com

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Permit No. 33

## Walk Sequence

# POSTAL CUSTOMER HIAWATHA, IOWA 52233

### BENEFIT FOR THE HIAWATHA CHILDREN'S SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS

October 24, 2009

Beer Sampling/Art Show/Auction

Location: Cedar Rapids Toyota-Scion

1200 Boyson Road, Hiawatha

6:00—9:00 p.m.

\$20/ticket

Playing  
for  
Keeps

Hiawatha Parks &  
Recreation Department

To volunteer contact:

Angie Cole

Park & Recreation Director

parkdirect@hiawatha-iowa.com

319-393-1515

Tickets can be purchased at

City Hall or

mail checks made

payable to:

Friends of Parks & Recreation

101 Emmons St

Hiawatha, IA 52233

## Branching Out—Trees Forever Grant Award

Hiawatha has been awarded a \$1,224 grant from the *Branching Out* program. The *Branching Out* program is a three-way partnership between Alliant Energy, Trees Forever, and Hiawatha for carrying out community-based tree-planting projects.

Trees will be planted at Fay M. Clark Memorial Park and around Hiawatha City Hall.

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

