

SIGNS IN RIGHT OF WAY PROHIBITED



The City of Hiawatha adopted a sign code in 2018. The signs in the right-of-way regulations in Section 166.10.3A are included in the regulations. The Hiawatha Sign Code; Chapter 166 states "No sign or sign structure other than official traffic, street, or related sign approved for placement by the controlling public agency shall be placed on any street or highway right-of-way". The "street or highway right-of-way" includes the street/curb,

boulevard and sidewalks. Private property usually begins about one foot inside the sidewalk. This is a friendly reminder that small signs are not allowed to be placed on street corners or in the street right-ofway between the sidewalk and the street.

Examples of the signs most often improperly placed in the right-of-way are open house signs, temporary business signs, garage sale signs and political signs. If you are placing a sign of this nature it is required that it be on your property and not in the right-of-way. If these types of signs are found in the Public right-of-way, they may be collected by City of Hiawatha Staff. If you have any questions regarding this issue contact the Community Development Department at 393-1515.

We are asking for the cooperation of the residents of Hiawatha regarding the placement of these signs especially during this election year. Please assist us in maintaining a safe and beautiful community with proper sign locations.

HOTEL AND MOTEL TAX REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER 4TH BALLOT

On August 6, 2025, the Hiawatha City Council approved a resolution allowing the Linn County Commission of Elections to conduct a public referendum on imposing a local hotel and motel tax. The vote will appear on the November 4, 2025 ballot.

What the Tax Means

- Who Pays the Tax: Visitors staying in hotels or motels
- Rate: A fixed 7%
- Impact on Residents: None. Residents' taxes will not increase

How the Revenue Will Be Used

Under Iowa Code Chapter 423A, at least 50% of the revenue must be used for:

- Recreation, convention, cultural, or entertainment facilities (such as parks, trails, auditoriums, cultural centers, memorial halls, or community gathering spaces)
- Promotion and encouragement of tourism and convention business

The remaining revenue may be used for other City purposes. The City of Hiawatha intends to use at least 50% of the funds for recreation improvements, including trails, athletic facilities, and park projects that benefit the community.

Why It Matters

Many surrounding communities already have a 7% lodging tax in place, including Cedar Rapids, Marion, Mount Vernon, Lisbon, Solon, Tiffin, University Heights, Coralville, Iowa City, and North Liberty.

Mark Your Calendar

Vote November 4th and decide how Hiawatha grows stronger, safer, and more connected for years to come.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK FOCUSES ON LITHIUM—ION BATTERY SAFETY Every year we celebrate Fire Prevention week in October. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety, Lithium—Ion Batteries in your home. It highlights

Every year we celebrate Fire Prevention week in October. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety, Lithium-Ion Batteries in your home. It highlights how important it is to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely. Over the past several years the fire department has responded to several fires that were caused by lithium-ion batteries. For Tips for Safe Use of Lithium-Ion Batteries - turn to page 6!

CONNECT:









MAYOR STEVE DODSON

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<u>COUNCIL MEMBER</u> BILL BENNETT

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OCTOBER MEETING SCHEDULE

- 01 City Council 5:30 PM
- 14 Parks Commission 5:30 PM
- 14 Library Board 7:00 PM
- **15** City Council 5:30 PM
- 18 History Commission 9:00 AM
- 21 Water Board 5:30 PM
- **27** Planning & Zoning 5:30 PM



Wow! What a summer it has been in Hiawatha! From road construction to new recreational spaces, we've all experienced some level of inconvenience these past few months with lane reductions, detours, and even major interchange closures. But as the season winds down, we can proudly say the progress we've made is setting Hiawatha up for years of safe, efficient, and enjoyable travel.

Was it worth it? Absolutely. This summer's road improvements were designed with one goal in mind: to keep traffic moving safely and smoothly. The lowa Department of Transportation is making significant progress on the Boyson Road Interchange reconstruction. Once complete, it will look and operate just like the Tower Terrace Interchange, giving drivers a more familiar and efficient experience. The project will also improve the flow at the Center Point Road intersection, reducing daily backups and stress for commuters.

The first section of Edgewood Road at Blairs Ferry is set to open soon, along with its adjoining trail connection. This marks the beginning of a much larger effort, with the remaining sections of Edgewood Road in Hiawatha scheduled to begin construction in 2029.

One section of Boyson Road, between the nature trail crossing and Scooters, is also in need of full reconstruction. This project is scheduled for 2027 and will require an extended road closure lasting several months. While it will be an inconvenience, this will be the last major reconstruction project currently on the horizon, allowing us to focus on maintenance and enhancements moving forward.

Our accessibility improvements are another highlight of 2025. The City has been hard at work making intersections ADA compliant, this year alone we upgraded 30 intersections to meet federal standards. The work doesn't stop here—the remaining intersections will be addressed in the next few years.

Of course, this summer wasn't all about traffic cones and roadwork. Our new pickleball and mini pitch courts have been a major hit with residents of all ages. They're so popular, in fact, that the originally planned 19-space parking lot would have been full on day one. Anticipating this, the City made the decision to add 10 additional spaces during construction and all while keeping the project under the engineer's cost estimate.

As we reflect on the summer, we want to thank our residents for their patience and understanding throughout the disruptions. Construction is never easy, but these projects represent progress, safety, and community investment. Every new stretch of road, accessible intersection, and recreational space strengthens Hiawatha's future. We encourage you to continue using and enjoying the new facilities, to explore the improved routes, and to take pride in the city we are building together.

Here's to a season of progress and to many more improvements still to come.

Dennis Marks, Hiawatha City Manager



Interested in community events? Find out what's happening in Hiawatha by checking out our city calendars!

hiawatha-iowa.com/calendar/

Chris Stoner



319-393-1414



EMAIL ADDRESS



Library Calendar



DIRECTOR

TITLE
City Manager
City Clerk
Finance Director
Parks & Recreation Director
Community Development Director
City Engineer
Public Works Superintendent
Water Superintendent
Police Chief
Fire Chief
Library Director

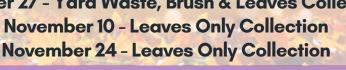
NAME **PHONE** Dennis Marks 319-393-1515 Kari Graber 319-393-1515 Cindy Daack 319-393-1515 Matt Boggess 319-393-1515 Kesha Billings 319-393-1515 Jon Fitch 319-393-1515 Rod Jasa 319-393-6601 Marty Recker 319-393-1515 Ben Kamm 319-393-1212 Matt Powers 319-393-4180

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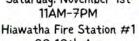
cstonerehiawatha-iowa.com

2025 CLEAN UP DATES October 27 - Yard Waste, Brush & Leaves Collection

November 10 - Leaves Only Collection















awatha! EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Job Title / Department: Water Clerk II

How long have you been with the City?: 23 years as of May!

About you: I'm married to TJ with three daughters - Emma, Alana and Claire and our red lab Lena. I enjoy gardening of all kinds (veggies & flowers). I also enjoy a good movie and popcorn night.

What does an average day in your role look like? I work mostly on internal finance of the water department. Making sure payments have been applied correctly and match between our system and the bank. I also assist customers with questions and bill concerns.

What's an activity or hobby you enjoy outside of work? Spending time with family and friends. Also staying at our cabin and boating.

What's the most adventurous thing you've ever done? Zipline obstacle course. So fun, but so scary! I didn't know I was afraid of heights.

What's a nickname you've had, and how did you get it? Ma. Everyone calls me "ma", I've had the nickname since I was 16.

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three items would you want to have? Water

Sara Ries

of course. A deck of cards - to keep you occupied. A blanket - I don't like being cold.

WATER TOWER MAINTENANCE COMPLETE

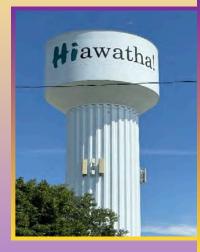
Following up on our August newsletter, we're excited to share that the infrastructure project on Hiawatha's water tower is now complete. Crews sandblasted the wet interior to remove old coatings and applied new protective layers, while also touching up the dry base area to ensure the tank remains in top condition.

This specialized work helps control corrosion, protects the steel structure from the elements, and ensures the water tower continues to meet state and federal safety standards. Proper maintenance also prevents potential water contamination and supports reliable service for residents and

Beyond function, a freshly painted tower enhances the community's appearance, proudly displays the Hiawatha logo, and contributes to air traffic safety. Water towers are a major investment, and routine upkeep like this helps protect that investment and manage long-term costs.

Check out the interior photos to see the completed work

firsthand.





<u>FREE ONLINE TEST PREPARATION RESOURCE AT HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY</u>



CELEBRATING FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS 0-5!



Since Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program began in the Hiawatha area, **252 children** have registered for free & 59 have graduated!



The State Library of Iowa is now providing free online access to Mometrix for all Iowa residents. Mometrix is a collection of fully digital study guides for over 1,500 common standardized tests. This service can provide users with assistance in passing tests, gaining certifications, and advancing their careers.

Each study guide includes instructions lessons, practice tests, and answer explanations, as well as study strategies and test-taking tips.

To access Mometrix for free, go to <u>hiawathapubliclibrary.org</u>, and select "Databases" under the "Resources Tab". Be sure check out all the other free online resources Hiawatha Public Library has to offer, while you're at it!

With your library card, you get free access to services like Consumer Reports, Auto Repair Source (service and repair information for thousands of vehicles), Mango Language Learning (instructional courses for over 70 languages, including ASL), and more, all from the comfort of your own home.



CONNECT:



<u>HIAWATHA'S URBAN FOREST GROWING STRONGER WITH TREE PLANTING PROJECT</u>







The City of Hiawatha is proud to announce the launch of a major tree planting initiative made possible through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award. This project will add more than 400 new trees to public right-of-ways and parks across the city, greatly enhancing the community's green spaces for generations to come.

The tree planting effort reflects Hiawatha's commitment to environmental stewardship, community health, and long-term sustainability. Trees are more than a natural feature — they are an essential community asset. According to the U.S. Forest Service, a single mature tree can absorb up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide each year, provide enough oxygen for two people annually, and intercept up to 1,000 gallons of stormwater runoff during heavy rains.

CONNECT:



DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF MUSIC WITH PIED PIPER CONCERTS





Looking for a fun (and free!) way to introduce your little one to the joy of music? The Pied Piper Concert Series is the perfect first step!

These 30-minute chamber concerts are specially designed with preschoolers in mind, giving them a chance to see, hear, and even interact with real orchestral instruments.

Children can get up close to the musicians, watch how the instruments work, and join in on the fun with clapping, wiggling, and plenty of giggles. The concerts are short and engaging—just the right length for curious young minds with boundless energy.

Organized by Orchestra Iowa in partnership with the Hiawatha Public Library—the Pied Piper Concerts are a playful, welcoming way for families to experience live music together. For many children, it's their very first concert experience, and one that often sparks a lifelong love for

The first concert in this year's series will take place on Saturday, October 18, at 9:15 a.m. at the Hiawatha Public Library and will feature a string quartet, giving little listeners the chance to experience the beautiful sounds of violins, viola, and cello.

So grab the kids, bring their big imaginations, and join us for a morning filled with rhythm, laughter, and discovery. With the Pied Piper Concert Series, music isn't just heard—it's felt.



HIAWATHAPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

Studies also show that neighborhoods with tree-lined streets can see property values rise by 7% to 15%, while shaded areas can be as much as 10-15 degrees cooler during summer months. A diverse mix of species has been selected to strengthen Hiawatha's urban canopy and guard

Some of the trees being planted include:

- Bur Oak
- Northern Red Oak
- American Sycamore
- Quaking Aspen
- White Pine
- Prairie Crabapple
- Scarlet Oak
- American Elm



As these 400 trees take root, Hiawatha residents will begin to see a stronger, greener community take shape. The project stands as a powerful example of how grant partnerships can help cities grow in sustainable and meaningful ways.















COMMON SCAMS AND FRAUD

Halloween is a time for costumes, candy, and community fun, but the Hiawatha Police Department is reminding families that safety should be part of the celebration. Officers encourage parents, children, homeowners, and drivers to work together so the evening can be both enjoyable and safe.

For parents, visibility is key. While costumes like Black Panther or a ninja may look impressive, they can also make children harder for drivers to see. Adding glow sticks, light-up toys, or other bright accessories can both enhance a

costume and improve visibility. These items are inexpensive, easy to find at local stores, and add to the fun of the night.

Homeowners can also contribute by turning on exterior lights, keeping walkways clear, and avoiding parking vehicles along the street during trick-or-treat hours. Parked cars can block sightlines and make it harder for drivers to

see children crossing the road. Drivers play one of the most important roles in keeping the night safe. Children are often excited and may cross streets without looking. The department urges drivers to use extra caution, similar to driving in icy conditions, by slowing down, being prepared to stop suddenly, and taking turns carefully.

"Halloween is about community, and safety needs to be a community effort," said Captain Kremer of the Hiawatha Police

Department. "If everyone does their part, we can make this Halloween safe for all."



Traffic signs play a crucial role in keeping roads safe and orderly. They act as silent guides, giving drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians essential information. Without them, roadways would be chaotic, increasing accidents and confusion. A main function of traffic signs is regulating flow. Signs like "Stop,"

"Yield," and "Speed Limit" manage vehicle movement, showing drivers when to slow down, give way, or stop.

This reduces collisions and promotes smoother travel. Signs also warn of hazards. Sharp turns, school zones,



and pedestrian crossings alert drivers to adjust behavior, preventing accidents, especially in unfamiliar areas. In addition, traffic signs guide drivers to destinations, exits, and detours. This is vital in complex road systems or during construction, helping reduce stress and congestion. In short, traffic signs protect lives, prevent accidents, and keep traffic moving efficiently.

Understanding and respecting them is every road user's responsibility.



Traffic control signs are regulated by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), managed by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The MUTCD sets instructions and requirements for all signs, giving motorists consistency across cities, counties, and states as they travel.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY

As society continues to embrace modern technology, from electric vehicles (EVs) to personal devices, the use of lithium-ion batteries has skyrocketed. While these batteries power much of our daily life, they also pose a fire risk if not handled properly. When damaged or misused, these batteries can overheat, potentially catching fire or even exploding. To ensure your safety and the safety of our community, it's important to stay informed about the potential hazards and how to reduce the risk of fire.



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Tips for Safe Use of Lithium-Ion Batteries

- Buy only listed products: When purchasing battery operated products ensure the product is stamped and has been tested by a nationally recognized testing lab such as UL.
- Don't Overcharge: While modern devices often have built-in safety features, we strongly encourage you to unplug your devices once they reach 100% to avoid stress on the battery.
- Use the Right Charger: Always use the charger that comes with your device or one that is recommended by the manufacturer. Avoid cheap or third-party chargers that may not meet safety standards.
 - Inspect Batteries Regularly: Check for any signs of damage such as cracks, swelling, or leakage. If your battery appears damaged, replace it immediately.
- Store Batteries Safely: Keep batteries in a cool, dry place and avoid exposing them to extreme temperatures. Never leave batteries in direct sunlight or in hot areas like a car during the summer.
- <u>Dispose of Old Batteries Properly:</u> Do not throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Take them to a certified recycling center that accepts batteries to ensure they are safely disposed of.

WINTER IS COMIN'

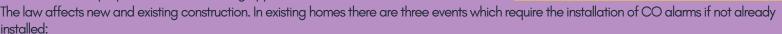
October is my favorite month of the year. The weather is balmy during the day and the nights are cool for great sleeping. The colors are vibrant and the mosquitoes are not!

The only disrupting thought might be the impending reality of winter which means preparing to live in and with the cold. We should also be thinking about winterizing our homes. Nothing can be worse than a needless cold draft or a malfunctioning furnace when it comes to being safe and comfortable on those long winter nights.

According to lowa Public Health lowa has "...an average of 35 deaths and 300 emergency department visits from exposure to carbon monoxide (CO) occur each year." Home furnaces and heating appliances are common sources of carbon monoxide. Furnace maintenance and timely replacement is an important component in the prevention of CO poisoning.

Additionally installing and maintaining CO glarms are key to winter-time safety in the home. In

Additionally, installing and maintaining CO alarms are key to winter-time safety in the home. In much the same way as smoke alarms; CO alarms save lives. The State of Iowa requires all homes and rental properties with fuel burning appliances to have CO detectors.



- 1. When a home is qualified for homestead tax credit.
- 2. When a building permit is issued of the home.
- 3. When a new furnace is installed in the home. (Added effective 2022).

The Hiawatha building department is hoping you have a wonderful winter! Make it safer with the installation and maintenance of smoke and CO alarms.

ENGINEERING UPDATES

As we start to wrap up the 2025 construction season, staff wants to thank our residents for their patience throughout the year from delays, noise, dust, and general inconvenience as we tackled quite a number of projects. Projects included:

- Edgewood Rod Extension from Pecks Blvd to Emmons St Scheduled to open in October
- North Center Point Road Force Main Replacement Scheduled to be completed in October
- Street Improvements on Rainbow Blvd, 13th Ave and Pirie Dr
- ADA Ramp Replacements 15th Ave to east city limits and Clymer Rd to Blairs Ferry Rd
- Robinwood Ravine Restoration
- Tucker Park Splashpad
- Guthridge Park Pickleball Courts Phase II including parking lot, mini-pitch and lighting
- Turtle Creek Park Trail Connection to Edgewood Village Subdivision
- City Generators Reed Rd Lift Station, 2 Water Wells, Library
- Turtle Creek Park Gateway Sign
- Daws Clymer Thiher Water Main Replacement
- Sidewalk Maintenance Program
- Edgewood Village Phase II Development

Improvements Project list for 2026 and associated budgets. This process will include street and parking lot overlays, sidewalk replacements, traffic signal replacements with the City of Cedar Rapids, Emmons Street Pedestrian Bridge, Boyson Road upgrades from Hawkeye Drive to Robins Rd, potential park trail lighting, street lighting, subdrain installations and other considerations. Staff will also be updating our Global Information System (GIS) by gathering more data on our older storm and sanitary sewer systems and making this available to staff and consultants.

Staff is now working on our Capital



Ever wondered what the codes on your water bill mean? Read the key to learn more about what you are paying for each month!

- WA
- WATER Gallons of water used during the billing period.
- SW SE rat

SEWER - Based off of water use at a 107% rate.

- MP
- MAINTENANCE PROGRAM Funds utilized to maintain city well sites and towers.
 - STORM WATER Flat charge that is utilized to maintain storm sewer system.
- TREE FEE Flat charge that is utilized in maintaining the city's trees.
- IRRIGATION Gallons of water used through an irrigation meter during the billing period.

- CUSTOMER DEPOSIT Added to new customer accounts or returned after 2 years of good credit.
- MISCELLANEOUS CHARGE Includes a variety of charges including reconnection or knock fees, labor charges, etc.
- PN PENALTY 10% charge on the total of your bill if it is not paid by the 20th of the month.
- TAX Charged on non-water sales.
- ET EXCISE TAX Charged directly on the sale of water.

DELIVER BY WEDNESDAY, 10/03/2025

POSTAL CUSTOMER HIAWATHA, IOWA 52233

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Hiawatha, IA
Permit No. 33

ECRWSS

HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL ACTION

RESOLUTION #

<u>SEPTEMBER 3, 2025</u>

#25-173 Sewer Rates for Non-Water Users per Hiawatha Code Chapter 99 Sewer Service §99.03 Rates

#25-174 Fixing Dates for Public Hearing on Proposal to Enter DA with Igram Family, LLC

#25-175 Change Order #1 for Ravine Restoration Project

#25-176 Change Order #1 for Turtle Creek Park Gateway Sign Project

#25-177 Authorizing Certification of County Treasurer Office for Collection of Delinquent Account of Lawn Care

#25-178 Setting a PH Date (Sept. 16, 2025) to Consider a Vacation of a Drainage and Storm Sewer Easement

#25-179 Approving a Joint Agreement Between Hiawatha and the City of Center Point

RESOLUTION #

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

#25-180 Approving and Authorizing DA between Hiawatha and the Igram Family, LLC

#25-181 Approving Request to Vacate Storm Sewer Easement

#25-182 Special Event Application Update

#25-183 Accepting Improvements Installation for Edgewood Village Second Addition

#25-184 Change Order #1 for Daws, Clymer, Thiher Water Main Replacement Project

#25-185 Pay Estimate #5 for Daws, Clymer, Thiher Water Main Replacement Project

#25-186 Change Order #1 for North Center Point Road Force Main Project

#25-187 Pay Estimate #2 for North Center Point Road Force Main Project

#25-188 Change Order #3 for Guthridge Park Pickleball Courts Phase II

#25-189 Pay Estimate #4 for Guthridge Park Pickleball Courts Phase II

#25-190 Change Order #1 for 2025 ADA Ramp Replacement Project

#25-191 Pay Estimate #4 for 2025 ADA Ramp Replacement Project

#25-192 Approving Partial Release of Retainage Payment Application #11 for Robins Road Water Main Replacement Project

HIAWATHA HISTORY COMMISSION



Fay Clark started the Hiawatha Volunteer Fire Department when a fire destroyed his manufacturing facility in 1946.

Who founded the first American volunteer fire department?

Call Marilyn with your answers at 319–721–7077

Answer to September's Mystery:
The sculpture, "Fly Again" was presented by the Cedar Rapids City Council to Hiawatha in appreciation for allowing their meetings to be held in Hiawatha's Chambers following the 2008 Flood.

Do you like history?
Would you be
interested in helping
preserve Hiawatha's
History?
The Hiawatha History
Commission would
love for you to join
them!

Meetings are the 3rd
Thursday of the month
at 9:00 AM.

COFFEE TALK WITH MAYOR DODSON

It's time to talk. Do you have ideas, solutions or thoughts about the City of Hiawatha?

Mayor Dodson wants to hear from you!

Join him at Roasters Coffee House in Hiawatha!

OCTOBER 9 | NOVEMBER 13 | DECEMBER 11

7:00 - 9:00 AM

