



HIAWATHA INSIGHTS

November 2025 Vol. 208

REMINDER: CITY/SCHOOL ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 4TH

Hiawatha residents will have the opportunity to participate in City and School elections on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. The election gives community members the chance to vote for local leaders and fill important positions. On this year's ballot, the Hiawatha City Council is looking to fill three seats. However, one of these seats will be decided entirely by write-in votes. First, "For City Council At Large Hiawatha" there are two seats open to fill four year terms with candidates seeking re-election. Second, "For City Council At Large Hiawatha - To Fill Vacancy" there is one seat open to fill the remaining two year term from a vacancy.

Two seats to fill four-year terms with candidates seeking re-election.



City Offices	School District Offices	Public Measures
For City Council At Large Hiawatha <i>Vote for no more than Two</i> ☐ Robert Archibald ☐ Jill Weigel ☐ Write-in vote, if any ☐ Write-in vote, if any	For Director At Large Alburnett Community School District <i>Vote for no more than Two</i> ☐ Robby Morrison ☐ Jeremiah Kruckenberg ☐ Tom Flannery ☐ Terry Chostner ☐ Write-in vote, if any ☐ Write-in vote, if any	Public Measure B Public Measure B Shall the following public measure be adopted? Shall the City of Hiawatha, Iowa be authorized to impose by Ordinance a Local Hotel and Motel Tax at a rate of seven percent (7%), effective July 1, 2026, with at least fifty percent (50%) of the revenues derived from the Local Hotel and Motel Tax to be used for the promotion and encouragement of tourist and convention business in the City and surrounding areas; and the remaining revenues derived from the Local Hotel and Motel Tax to be used for all other purposes permitted pursuant to Chapter 423A of the Code of Iowa? ☐ Yes ☐ No
For City Council At Large Hiawatha - To Fill Vacancy <i>Vote for no more than One</i> ☐ Write-in vote, if any	Community College Offices For Director District 1 Kirkwood Community College - Merged Area X <i>Vote for no more than One</i>	

One seat to fill the remaining two-year term from a vacancy.



For City Council At Large Hiawatha - To Fill Vacancy
Vote for no more than One

☐ Write-in vote, if any

If you plan to write in a candidate, it's important to carefully review the ballot before marking your choice. The ballot will include a dedicated section labeled "For City Council At Large Hiawatha - To Fill Vacancy." Any write-in candidate for the vacant two-year term must be written on this specific line for the vote to count toward that seat. Write-ins entered under the other City Council race will only apply to those positions. Taking a moment to double-check the correct section helps ensure that your vote is counted as intended. To help ensure your ballot is filled out correctly:

- Review a sample ballot before Election Day.
- Double-check that you are writing in names under the correct office.
- Contact the Linn County Auditor's Office for sample ballots, polling places, absentee voting, and other election information.

PUBLIC MEASURE B: HOTEL AND MOTEL TAX REFERENDUM

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.

Under Iowa Code Chapter 423A, at least 50% of revenue from the proposed lodging tax must support recreation,

convention, cultural, or tourism-related purposes—such as parks, trails, community facilities, and promoting tourism. The remaining funds may be used for other City needs.

Hiawatha plans to dedicate at least 50% of the revenue to recreation improvements, including trails, athletic facilities, and park projects.

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

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

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Two current Hiawatha City Council members are seeking re-election in the November 4, 2025 City/School Elections. To give residents an opportunity to learn more about each candidate, we asked them to share information about their background, experience, and perspectives. See what they have to say, in their own words, on page 3.

CONNECT:



CITY OF HIAWATHA, IOWA



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HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM/ALERT-SIGNUP/

Hiawatha!™

CITY COUNCIL



MAYOR
STEVE DODSON

mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
ROB ARCHIBALD

rarchibald@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
JEFF CATER

jcater@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
BEN FIEDLER

bfiedler@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
JILL WEIGEL

jweigel@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
BILL BENNETT

bbennett@hiawatha-iowa.com



One of my responsibilities as a city council member includes serving as a liaison to the Hiawatha Library Board. I have always enjoyed visiting the library, but I soon recognized that my awareness of what the library provided was very limited. Every time I go to the library, I am amazed at how many people are there, and for so many different reasons!

There are activity coordinators for all age groups, from young children through adults. Outside of the front doors, you will notice the vending machine provided by the Substance Misuse Committee of Linn County. This machine contains free harm reduction supplies for any citizen who wants these supplies. Inside the front doors of the library, you will immediately find the free food pantry that is available to all. This pantry is operated in conjunction with HACAP and Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, and has been heavily utilized since its opening in August, 2024. Once inside the library, you can find so many resources and such great information! There are activities, crafts, events and games for people of all ages. From movie nights to author visits, to summer reading programs and story time, you will not be bored when you visit the library! There are seed libraries and puzzle exchanges, and clothing giveaways for special holidays and events. In addition, you can find author visits, therapy dog visits, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program for our youngest readers! I haven't even mentioned the wide range of books, movies, and music available in multiple formats that you wouldn't expect to find in any library. The Hiawatha Library partners with Cedar Rapids and Marion to form the Metro Library Network. This allows the three libraries to provide more collaboratively than any of the individual libraries could do on their own. The librarians and staff are so knowledgeable and can help guide you in about any direction you need to go. If you are looking for a resource that is not available at the Hiawatha Library, they will help you to find it elsewhere. I encourage you to check out the library, either in person or on their webpage. I guarantee that you will find something that interests you! The library is also always looking for volunteers, so keep them in mind if you have time for that as well. We are fortunate to have such a vibrant and robust library in Hiawatha! It is truly a model of community collaboration and provides support for all Hiawatha citizens who need or want it



Jill Weigel, Hiawatha City Councilmember

CONNECT WITH THE HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY ONLINE OR IN PERSON!



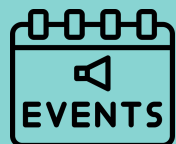
HIAWATHAPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG



[HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY](https://www.facebook.com/hiawathapubliclibrary)

ADDRESS: 150 W WILLMAN ST, HIAWATHA, IA 52233

PHONE: (319) 393-1414 LIBRARY@HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM



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

hiawatha-iowa.com/calendar/



City Calendar



Library Calendar

CITY DIRECTORY

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
City Manager	Dennis Marks	319-393-1515	dmarks@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Clerk	Kari Graber	319-393-1515	kgrabere@hiawatha-iowa.com
Finance Director	Cindy Daack	319-393-1515	cdaack@hiawatha-iowa.com
Parks & Recreation Director	Matt Boggess	319-393-1515	mboggesse@hiawatha-iowa.com
Community Development Director	Kesha Billings	319-393-1515	kbillings@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Engineer	Jon Fitch	319-393-1515	jfitch@hiawatha-iowa.com
Public Works Superintendent	Rod Jasa	319-393-6601	rjasa@hiawatha-iowa.com
Water Superintendent	Marty Recker	319-393-1515	mrecker@hiawatha-iowa.com
Police Chief	Ben Kamm	319-393-1212	chief@hiawathapolice.com
Fire Chief	Matt Powers	319-393-4180	mcpowers@hiawatha-iowa.com
Library Director	Chris Stoner	319-393-1414	cstoner@hiawatha-iowa.com

MEET THE CANDIDATES: HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL ELECTION



Rob Archibald

Occupation: Industrial Safety Professional adjacent

Years as a Hiawatha resident: 12 years as a resident, life-long Hiawatha

Years serving on City Council: 2 terms (8 years)

What motivated you to first run for City Council? I like being involved in the process of shaping the community for future generations. Hiawatha has a bright future and I want to make sure it continues to be a place for everyone.

During your time on the Council, what accomplishments or projects are you most proud of? There are so many good things the city has accomplished in the last few years it's very hard to pick just one. I feel the library expansion/remodel and the I380/Tower Terrace Interchange are two projects that I was happy to see completed. As a council member my goal is to improve the life of residents and these both achieved that.

What have you learned about Hiawatha and its residents through your service so far? I have learned that many people end up being residents of Hiawatha by accident but end up staying residents on purpose. Hiawatha provides people the amenities of a bigger city but has the feel of the small town.

Looking ahead, what goals or priorities would you focus on if re-elected? I will continue to focus on improving the daily lives of residents, keep public safety a top priority (fire, police, water, streets) and look for ways to continue with our history of demonstrating fiscal responsibility.

What do you enjoy most about living and serving in Hiawatha? The people - Over the course of the last 8 years as a council member and the last 20+ years as a community member I have learned and witnessed that Hiawatha residents truly care for one another. I have witnessed during the flood of 2008, flood of 2016, covid pandemic, and the 2020 derecho that Hiawatha leads the way. During all of these times of need the Hiawatha community rose to meet the moment and helped to everyone get through the hard times. #hiawathalocal



Jill Weigel

Occupation: Forensic Interviewer, St Luke's Child Protection Center

Years as a Hiawatha resident: 12

Years serving on City Council: 2 years

What motivated you to first run for City Council? I was motivated to run in 2023 due to my excitement about the growth and development in Hiawatha, and I wanted to be a part of helping to move that forward. I love being a part of ribbon cuttings and ground breaking at local businesses, because it demonstrates the vibrant, expanding community of Hiawatha and all that it offers. We are fortunate to have the support of HEDCO to support businesses in our community and to help with continued development.

During your time on the Council, what accomplishments or projects are you most proud of? I am very proud of all the work that has been done in our beautiful parks, including the signage, trail extensions, splash pad upgrades, pickleball courts, and mini pitch court. It has also been great to see the roundabout and interstate connection on Tower Terrace Road, along with other road improvements that are ongoing. I am proud that Hiawatha is proactive about things that you don't always notice, such as water main upgrades, and sidewalk and street improvements.

What have you learned about Hiawatha and its residents through your service so far? I am continually impressed with all the departments within the city of Hiawatha. As I learned more within my role as a council member, it is evident that all staff and directors want to serve the city and to continually improve upon its services. I have found city staff to be enthusiastic and caring within their roles. Regarding Hiawatha residents, I have seen that people take pride in their community as a whole and are happy to be a part of Hiawatha. I feel a true sense of connection in my neighborhood as well as within the city itself.

Looking ahead, what goals or priorities would you focus on if re-elected? I want to focus on the continued planful development within Hiawatha, and I hope that we have more recreational and entertainment opportunities moving forward. Hiawatha already offers many amenities such as bike trails, parks, and opportunities for wellness and entertainment. However, I would like to see more of a developed "downtown" area that includes more dining, retail and entertainment opportunities. I would also love to see a hotel within Hiawatha, which may be on the horizon one of these days! That too will help to spur further growth in the area. I also want to continue the council and city's focus on efficient use of public funds as we make decisions about the city budget.

What do you enjoy most about living and serving in Hiawatha? I most enjoy the small-town feel that Hiawatha offers, while still being connected to a larger urban area. Hiawatha provides effective and efficient public services to residents, including the Fire/Ambulance and Police Department. These services and coordination of all public departments are critical to an effective and efficient city. We are fortunate to live in a city that I love watching and participating in the continual growth around us, and look forward for what's to come!

WINTER IS COMING, STAY INFORMED

The City of Hiawatha has snow removal rules in place to help keep our community safe.

Here is what you need to know before winter weather strikes:

- Make sure sump pumps and downspouts don't drain to sidewalks. The drainage can freeze causing icy buildup and slippery conditions on driveways, sidewalks, and streets.
- Sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours after a snowfall event ends. Remember to clear the area around fire hydrants as well.
- When removing snow from your property, do not place it in streets, alleys, driveways, or on sidewalks.
- Commercial Properties - Make sure you have a snow removal plan in place this winter season. If there is not enough room to store pushed snow on the property, you must have a plan for snow removal from the site before snow clearing may take place.

Snow Ordinance

Hiawatha's snow ordinance helps ensure safe, effective, and rapid snow removal of our streets. You can help! Do not park in the street when:

- The National Weather Service predicts three (3) or more inches of snow within 24 hours OR three (3) or more inches of snow has fallen and your street has not been cleared.
- Vehicles parked in the street during an active snow ordinance will be issued a \$25 ticket. If vehicles are parked on City streets during overnight snow removal operations, they will be towed. When in doubt, move your vehicle off the street.
- Note: The City does not conduct snow removal operations on all city streets for snowfall less than two (2) inches.

Stay Informed

If a snow emergency is declared, local media outlets will be informed. This includes, but is 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.

Scan the QR code to sign up for City Alerts!



SPREAD THE WARMTH CLOTHING DRIVE RETURNS TO HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

**CELEBRATING
FREE BOOKS FOR
KIDS 0-5!**



Hiawatha Public Library's Spread the Warmth Clothing Drive is back! Throughout the winter months, consider helping those in need to stay a little warmer by donating new or lightly used winter clothing. We are accepting sweaters, coats, scarves, gloves, boots, hats, and any other winter apparel you can think of for both kids and adults.

Last winter, we received 1,462 clothing items from generous members of the public. With your help, we would love to make this year's drive just as successful as last year's. Please bring any donations to the library's front desk.

Are you or someone you know in need of warm clothes? Our stock of winter clothing items will be available for pickup in the library's lower level as donations become available. Stop by and make sure that you and your loved ones have what they need to stay warm this winter!



Since Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program began in the Hiawatha area, **284 children** have registered for free & 69 have graduated!



Sign your 0 - 5 year-old up today, **FOR FREE**, at www.hiawathapubliclibrary.org/imagination-library

THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL

Paws to Read

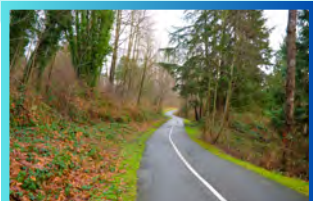
MONDAYS 6:30-7:00
SEPTEMBER 8, OCTOBER 13,
NOVEMBER 10, AND DECEMBER 8

CONNECT:



HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE GREEN PREMIUM: HOW HIAWATHA'S TRAILS AMENITIES ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITY AND PROPERTY VALUES



In a vibrant and growing community like Hiawatha, investments in quality of life are investments in economic stability. When our city considers new public spaces, whether it's a tranquil walking path or an exciting new bike park, one of the most frequent and important questions that arises is: how will this affect the value of nearby homes? The answer, supported by decades of real estate analysis and economic studies from across the nation, is overwhelmingly positive. Amenities like multi-use trails, greenways, and well-designed recreational parks are not just nice additions to a neighborhood; they are significant drivers of property value and a hallmark of a desirable community.

The Fundamental Value of Green Space

The core principle that connects parks and recreation amenities to property values is called "hedonic pricing." In simple terms, people are willing to pay more for a home that offers more benefits. Proximity to high-quality amenities—like good schools, low crime rates, and, critically, green spaces—is one of the most highly-valued benefits in the housing market. Studies consistently show that homes located near trails and parks sell for a premium compared to comparable homes further away. This is the "green premium," and it has a direct, quantifiable impact on a city's overall property tax base.

A Look at the Research: Trails as Economic Assets

For years, some residents have voiced understandable concerns about potential negative impacts of trails, such as increased traffic, reduced privacy, or a rise in crime. However, extensive research on multi-use trails and greenways largely debunks these fears, while confirming the positive economic effects:

- **The Price Premium:** Across various U.S. markets, studies indicate that properties in close proximity to a well-maintained trail or greenway typically see a 3% to 15% increase in value. For example, some studies found that for every foot closer a home was to a scenic greenway, its value increased by several dollars. This premium is a powerful incentive for homebuyers.
- **Easier to Sell:** Beyond the selling price, real estate agents consistently report that homes near trails are significantly easier to sell. They use trail access as a major marketing point, knowing that buyers prioritize active lifestyle options.
- **Quality of Life Outweighs Concerns:** The vast majority of residents living near trails report that the amenity increases their quality of life. The perceived benefits of recreation, convenience, and aesthetics simply outweigh fears about safety or privacy, especially when trails are well-designed with appropriate barriers, sightlines, and maintenance.

For Hiawatha, this translates directly to our local multi-use path network, including connections to the broader Cedar Valley Trail system.

CONNECT:



CITY OF HIAWATHA PARKS AND RECREATION

DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF STORY TIME AT HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to engage your little one? Story time at Hiawatha Public Library offers more than just an entertaining morning — it's a valuable opportunity for young children and their caregivers to grow, learn, and connect together in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Held twice weekly for most of the year, each story time session is thoughtfully crafted to spark imagination, build essential early skills, and create joyful shared experiences.

Start Your Week with Monday Morning Story Time

Join us every Monday at 10:00 a.m. for an energizing start to the week! This session features a lively mix of stories, songs, movement, and creative activities designed to keep young minds and bodies active.

Enjoy Tuesday Tales with a Twist

Tuesday Tales meets at 10:00 a.m. and brings a fresh, engaging experience to the library with a unique blend of storytelling and hands-on STEM activities — perfect for curious little learners.

Each session supports key areas of early childhood development:

- Cognitive Development: Encouraging early literacy, listening, and problem-solving skills.
- Physical Development: Promoting motor skills and coordination through movement and hands-on play.
- Social Development: Fostering cooperation, confidence, and friendships in a group setting.

Whether you come for the stories, the songs, or the smiles, story time at Hiawatha Public Library is where imaginations flourish and cherished memories begin.

We can't wait to see you there!



HIAWATHAPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

Story Time @ Stillwater
1275 North Center Point Rd. Hiawatha, Iowa
Something's brewing for kids and their caregivers!
Perk up your morning with stories, songs, and movement with Alicia from Hiawatha Public Library!
August 26, September 23, October 21, November 18, December 16
9:15 - 9:45

THANKFUL GATHERING
Stories, songs, fingerplays, and a craft
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 @ 10:15

Friends of Hiawatha Public Library
FALL BOOK & BAKE SALE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
10:00AM - 1:00 PM
FILL A BAG FOR \$5/ADULT BOOKS OR \$3/KID'S BOOKS OR SHOP FOR THE PERFECT BOOK AT A BARGAIN PRICE! ALSO, BRING THE KIDS SO THEY CAN EXPLORE OUR HOLIDAY SHOP. CASH ONLY PLEASE.

The Added Value of Recreational Parks and Bike Facilities

When we look beyond linear trails to purpose-built recreational facilities, the economic benefits become even more pronounced. This is where features like bike parks, playgrounds, and community centers add a layer of destination value.

- **Family Attraction:** Parks with varied amenities—playgrounds for different age groups, shaded areas, picnic tables, and specialized features like bike parks—are a huge draw for young families. These facilities are seen as an essential extension of a home's living space, creating an immediate recreational value. In some areas, proximity to a well-equipped park has been shown to boost home prices by as much as 8% to 20%.
- **Bike Parks and Specialized Amenities:** While bike parks might be viewed as highly specialized, they draw an enthusiastic and dedicated user base. When integrated properly into a park system, they signal a community that values recreation, health, and modern amenities. This reputation makes the city itself more attractive to new residents, particularly young professionals and families seeking an active lifestyle.
- **Proximity is Key, But So is Design:** Research suggests that the highest premium is placed on homes a block or two away from a busy park entrance—close enough to enjoy the access without the minor inconveniences of adjacent properties. This highlights the importance of smart urban planning, ensuring that these amenities are integrated into the community with careful consideration for neighborhood boundaries and accessibility.

Conclusion: Investing in Hiawatha's Future

Our city's parks, trails, and recreational facilities are much more than budgeted expenses; they are strategic infrastructure investments. They represent a powerful tool for economic development, drawing in residents and families who value a high quality of life and are willing to pay a premium for it.

Every time we pave a stretch of trail, install new playground equipment, or maintain a multi-use path, we are adding quantifiable value to our community's property wealth. This ultimately leads to a stronger tax base, generating additional revenue that can be reinvested in our city, creating a virtuous cycle of community improvement.

The data is clear: in Hiawatha, our green spaces and recreational amenities are not hindrances to property values—they are the foundation of a richer, healthier, and more valuable place to call home.

YOU'RE INVITED TO
Hiawatha!
INTERNATIONAL RHYTHMS with **TARA**
DANCE FITNESS
6:00 PM | HIAWATHA COMMUNITY CENTER

Hiawatha! REINDEER RUN
FUN RUN & WALK
LOCATION: Fay M. Clark Park, 1200 N 18th Ave, Hiawatha, IA 52233
BRING A NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY TO SUPPORT THE HOPE FOR KIDS
SUPPORTING HIAWATHA PARKS, PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS
DEC 6TH 2025



HIAWATHA.ACTIVITYREG.COM

HIAWATHA POLICE OFFER TIPS TO PREVENT PACKAGE THEFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As the holiday season approaches, a time for family, joy, and in some cases gift-giving, residents are reminded to take precautions when receiving online packages. Nothing dampens the spirit of the season quite like a “porch pirate,” and Hiawatha Police Chief Kamm refers to these thieves as “the modern-day Grinch.” Fortunately, there are ways to protect yourself and your deliveries. Most online retailers and shipping carriers offer secure delivery options to keep packages safe until you can retrieve them. For Amazon orders, customers can use Amazon Lockers or Amazon Key In-Home and In-Garage Delivery services. Lockers allow for secure, self-service pickup using a unique code, while Amazon Key offers delivery inside your home or garage for added protection. UPS customers can utilize UPS Access Points, which are secure locations where packages can be held for pickup instead of being left at your door. Similarly, FedEx offers delivery to secure locations, including FedEx Office stores, for added safety. The Hiawatha Police Department encourages residents to make use of these options whenever possible. Tracking deliveries, requiring signatures for high-value items, and arranging to have packages held at secure locations are simple steps that can prevent theft. If you do become a victim of a porch pirate, the Hiawatha Police Department urges you to report the crime by calling the non-emergency line at (319)393-1212. If you have security cameras, make sure to preserve any footage, as it can help officers identify the thief and recover stolen items. By taking these precautions, residents can enjoy the holiday season without the worry of stolen packages. The Hiawatha Police Department remains committed to keeping the community safe and ensuring the joy of the holidays isn’t stolen by thieves.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE THE SNOW FALLS

The snow season is fast approaching. Here are a few reminders for the upcoming winter.

- **City Code states** that ALL vehicles are to be removed from the street when 3 inches or more of snow has fallen or is predicted by the National Weather Service. Chapter 69.11.
- **Please, please, please** do not push, plow, pile, or deposit snow from your driveway, sidewalk, and parking lot (residential or commercial) into the street. It is against our City Code to do this. 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 (area between the sidewalk and street) 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. It is recommended that you not clear the end of your driveway until the city clears the street.
- **Property owners have 24 hours** to remove snow from their sidewalk 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. This is done 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 319-393-1515 and press #601.
- **Check your mailbox** to be sure that it is behind the BACK of the curb line, preferably about six inches. City code Chapter 135.14. If a plow hits your mail box and/or post, call 319-393-6601 and report it. Staff will look at it and determine if a new one is needed. We will either fix it or replace it with a standard one. If you want to replace your own, you can be reimbursed up to \$75. Just bring receipt to City Hall.



- **You can help** out the Water Department and Fire Department by clearing snow from around fire hydrants that are near your property. This makes them easier 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. This makes it easier for the plow trucks to clear the street curb to curb.

MEET OUR TWO NEWEST FIRE-MEDICS!

The Fire Department is happy to introduce you to our two newest full-time Firefighter/Paramedics.



Mike Morris

Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Morris has recently transitioned from a part-time role on the department to an open full-time position. Mike has been with the department just over a year, starting as a volunteer. Mike completed his Paramedic internship with the fire department and after graduating from his Paramedic program, joined the department as a volunteer. Mike’s dedication, skills, and leadership abilities have allowed him to quickly transition from his volunteer role to a part-time role earlier this year and then recently to his current full-time position.

We have also added Maddie Vaske to our team as an additional full-time Firefighter/Paramedic. Maddie has been a Paramedic for almost 5 years and has experience in both hospital and 911 emergency settings. Maddie also worked for the National Park Service at Grand Teton National Park as a Paramedic and Search/Rescue Technician. Maddie is currently finishing up her masters in Emergency Management and Fire Service Education and her Firefighter 1 certifications.

Both Maddie and Mike have been great additions to the Fire Department and we are happy that they are a part of our team.



Maddie Vaske

KEY FURNACE MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR WINTER

During winter, the furnace is one of the most important components in your home if you want to keep your family warm, it is important the furnace runs properly. A properly maintained system will deliver maximum heat output to the home without wasted energy or risk of harmful emissions. To ensure your home furnace operates optimally when it's cold outside, you should employ the following maintenance tips.

Start Your Maintenance Early

The coldest nights always seem to present the perfect opportunity for a spontaneous furnace failure. Prevent this with a proactive approach by conducting your furnace maintenance at least once a year. Doing maintenance work before the heating season begins is best. If the unit cools as well, a second maintenance check should be done in the spring before warmer weather arrives.

Administer the Eye Test

Before you start work on your furnace, give it a quick visual inspection. The venting pipe should be securely fastened and angled. In addition, other tubes – such as the drainage tubes for the air conditioning system – should be securely fastened as well. This is also a good time to smell the system's gas flex. If an aroma of rotten eggs is detected, it means the furnace has a gas leak.

Inspect the Thermostat Wires

Once the power has been shut off and the furnace doors removed, begin your furnace maintenance by giving the furnace wires a slight pull to ensure they are tight and properly fitted.

Dust and Vacuum

Dust, dirt, and debris can cause a furnace to work sub-optimally or, in some cases, not at all. To ward against this, use a soft-tipped paint brush applied gently against the inner components of the furnace. This practice will loosen dust and debris without damaging the furnace's interior. Once the brushing is complete, remove the material with a portable vacuum.

Ongoing Maintenance

Whether you decide to handle portions of the furnace's maintenance yourself or trust it all to the skills of a professional, there are still upkeep tasks to be accomplished once the initial inspection is complete. This is especially true of furnace filters. The furnace's filter was likely replaced when it was last inspected, but it should be replaced every month (unless otherwise instructed by the manufacturer of the furnace).

Consider a Professional for any Mechanical Maintenance

If you feel uncomfortable handling any of these tasks, bring in a professional furnace maintenance technician. Proper maintenance tasks relating to your home's furnace may be difficult if you don't have a mechanical background. Even in cases where you feel you can accomplish most maintenance steps alone, it is still a good idea to hire a professional to thoroughly inspect the system and ensure it is running properly.



HELPING HIAWATHA'S FERAL CATS RESPONSIBLY

The Hiawatha City Council recently revisited the topic of feral and stray cats, responding to resident feedback and ongoing concerns about animal welfare, public health, and neighborhood impacts.

Following thoughtful discussion, the Council approved Resolution No. 25-157, which directs city staff to pause issuing fines related to the City's Animal Protection and Control ordinance for a period of three years. During this time, residents are encouraged to participate in Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts to help humanely manage the city's feral and stray cat population. Those who trap cats but do not participate in TNR may continue to contact the Cedar Valley Humane Society for assistance.

Council members emphasized the importance of taking a measured, enforceable approach that balances compassion, practicality, and respect for all community members. The city will continue evaluating long-term strategies to improve animal management while ensuring ordinances remain effective and realistic.

Residents who wish to support outdoor cats are encouraged to follow responsible care practices:

Be a Good Neighbor

- **Communication:** Address any concerns or complaints from neighbors promptly and respectfully. Explain your efforts to manage the cats you feed.
- **Litter Areas:** Create designated litter boxes using sand or peat moss in a secluded, sheltered area to prevent cats from using neighbors' yards or gardens as latrines.
- **Deterrents:** Employ humane deterrents to discourage cats from areas where they are unwelcome, such as gardens or porches. Options include deer netting, plastic carpet runners, or motion-activated devices.
- **Record Keeping:** Maintain records of the cats you are feeding, including their spay/neuter status, vaccinations, and any health issues.

Responsible Feeding Guidelines

- **Consistency:** Feeding at the same time and in the same location daily helps them learn to expect food and will reduce scavenging behavior.
- **Timing:** Feed during daylight hours only.
- **Wildlife Interactions:** Prevent unintended feeding of wildlife. Do not leave food out overnight. This can attract nocturnal animals like raccoons and skunks, potentially creating conflicts with cats and neighbors.
- **Duration:** Provide only as much food as the cats will consume within 30 minutes.
- **Leftovers:** Remove any uneaten food, bowls, and containers after the designated feeding time to prevent attracting insects and other pests.
- **Water:** Always provide fresh, clean water in sturdy bowls.
- **Hygiene:** Keep the feeding area clean and free of debris.
- **Health Care:** Ensure that any sick or injured cats receive proper veterinary care.

Preventing Feral Cat Over-Population

It's important for the person feeding feral cats to realize their responsibilities:

- **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR):** This is the preferred humane method to manage feral cat populations by preventing uncontrolled breeding. The feeder should be willing to trap and bear the expenses of having the cat spayed or neutered and vaccinated (including for rabies).
- **Health Benefits:** TNR improves the cats' overall health by reducing the risk of diseases, infections, and injuries associated with mating and pregnancy.
- **Behavior Improvements:** TNR reduces nuisance behaviors such as fighting, and spraying.

By following these guidelines, residents can help create a healthier, more harmonious environment for both people and animals in Hiawatha.

DELIVER BY
WEDNESDAY,
11/01/2025

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HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL ACTION

RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 1, 2025

- #25-194 Sewer Waiver 3531 Reed Road
- #25-195 Change Order #2 for Daws Clymer Thiher Water Main Improvements Project
- #25-196 Final Pay Estimate #6 Daws Clymer Thiher Water Main Improvements Project
- #25-197 Final Pay Estimate #5 Guthridge Park Pickleball Courts Phase II
- #25-198 Change Order #3 Edgewood Road Extension
- #25-199 Change Order #2 North Center Point Road Force Main Project
- #25-200 Change Order #2 Ravine Restoration
- #25-201 Pay Estimate #2 Ravine Restoration
- #25-202 Final Pay Estimate #3 Ravine Restoration
- #25-203 PSA With Shive Hattery for Emmons Street Trail Bridge
- #25-204 Temporary Street Lights on Edgewood Road
- #25-205 At Your Own Risk Building Permit for 111 Miller Road
- #25-206 Authorizing County Treasurer for Collection of Delinquent Funds
- #25-207 Setting PH for 2025 Statewide Urban Design & Specification
- #25-208 Setting PH for Tree Planting Project
- #25-209 Setting PH for Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 155 Building Code
- #25-210 Setting PH for Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 156 Plumbing Code
- #25-211 Setting PH for Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 157 Electrical Code
- #25-212 Setting PH for Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 158 Mechanical Code
- #25-213 Setting PH for Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 159 Fire Code
- #25-214 Setting PH for Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 163 Housing Code
- #25-215 Setting PH for Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 164 Property Maintenance Code

RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 15, 2025

- #25-216 Adopting 2025 Statewide Urban Design & Specification
- #25-217 Adopting Tree Planting Project
- #25-218 Change Order #2 2025 ADA Ramp Project
- #25-219 Pay Estimate #5 2025 ADA Ramp Project
- #25-220 Change Order #3 Center Point Road Force Main Project
- #25-221 Final Pay Estimate #4 Center Point Road Force Main Project
- #25-222 Design Amendment #1 General Wastewater Engineering Services
- #25-223 Final Pay Estimate #6 Turtle Creek Gateway Sign Project
- #25-224 PSA With HDR Consultants for Sanitary Sewer Capacity Analysis
- #25-225 Change Order #1 Library Project
- #25-226 Pay Estimate #6 Library Project
- #25-227 Final Pay Estimate #7 Library Project
- #25-228 Emergency Operations Plan for the City of Hiawatha
- #25-229 Employee Benefit Renewal
- #25-230 Deputy Clerk / Executive Assistant Job Description

HIAWATHA HISTORY COMMISSION



Does this stool look familiar? This month we'd like to know what business had this stool (and others!) as part of it's interior for many years in Hiawatha?

Call Marilyn with your answers at
319-721-7077

Answer to October's Mystery:

Benjamin Franklin started the first volunteer fire department in the United States in 1736.

Thank you Rayon Wediri for contacting us with the correct answer!

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.

2025 CLEAN UP DATES

November 10 - Leaves Only Collection

November 24 - Leaves Only Collection

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!

NOVEMBER 13 | DECEMBER 11 | JANUARY 8

7:00 - 9:00 AM

