

# Hiawatha! **HIAWATHA INSIGHTS**

February 2026 Vol. 211

## SPEED LIMIT REDUCED ON TOWER TERRACE BETWEEN ROBINS ROAD AND NORTH CENTER POINT ROAD



Drivers traveling on Tower Terrace Road will notice a change in traffic conditions as a new speed limit takes effect between Robins Road and North Center Point Road. The posted speed limit along this stretch has been reduced from 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour.

New speed limit signs have been installed in the area and are currently marked with safety flags to increase visibility and alert motorists to the change.

City officials say the updated speed limit reflects the continued growth of Hiawatha and the expansion of Tower Terrace Road to accommodate increased traffic and development.

In addition, the reduced speed limit now allows for the legal use of utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) on this portion of Tower Terrace Road, in accordance with local and state regulations. Motorists are reminded to remain alert and share the roadway safely with all authorized vehicles.

## CITY CONDUCTS ROUTINE TREE TRIMMING IN PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

The city is continuing its routine tree trimming program within the public right of way to promote safety, accessibility, and infrastructure protection. This work is done every 2-3 years and focuses on maintaining proper clearance above streets and sidewalks where public travel and city services occur. The program will start the week of February 2nd and be completed by April 3rd. As part of the program, tree branches are trimmed to maintain a minimum clearance of 15 feet above streets and 8 feet above sidewalks.

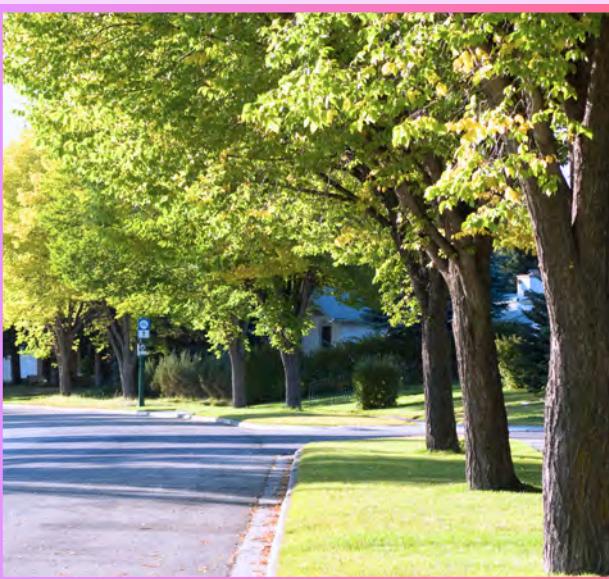
These standards are in the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 151.14.

Keeping trees trimmed helps ensure safe passage for vehicles, including emergency and service vehicles, while also providing adequate space for pedestrians, cyclists, and individuals using mobility aids.

Proper trimming also reduces the risk of damage during storms, improves visibility of traffic signs and streetlights, and helps prevent interference with overhead utilities. While the city makes every effort to preserve the health and natural shape of trees, safety and public access remain the top priorities.

Residents may notice crews working along roadways and sidewalks during this process. Temporary disruptions can occur, but the city works to complete trimming efficiently and with minimal impact. Property owners are encouraged to be aware that trees extending into the public right of way are subject to these clearance requirements.

This proactive maintenance helps keep streets safe, walkable, and accessible for everyone in the community.



CONNECT:



CITY OF HIAWATHA, IOWA



HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM

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  
CJ FLYNN**

cflynn@hiawatha-iowa.com

## FEBRUARY MEETING SCHEDULE

04 City Council 5:30 PM  
10 Library Board 7:00 PM  
19 History Commission 9:00 AM  
17 Water Board 5:30 PM  
18 City Council 5:30 PM  
23 Planning & Zoning 5:30 PM



Interested in community events? Find out what's happening in Hiawatha by checking out our city calendars!  
[hiawatha-iowa.com/calendar/](http://hiawatha-iowa.com/calendar/)



## Hiawatha!™

One of the things that makes Hiawatha such a great place to live is the people who step forward to help shape our community. I'm continually grateful for the residents who choose to serve on our boards and commissions, and I'd love to invite more of you to consider getting involved.

Our boards and commissions play an important role in advising the City Council, shaping policies, and helping guide the future of Hiawatha. From planning and parks to community development, these volunteer groups give residents a direct voice in how our city grows and thrives. Serving on a board or commission is a meaningful way to share your skills, experiences, and passion for Hiawatha while also learning more about how local government works. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, and no prior experience is required — just a willingness to listen, collaborate, and contribute. Many people find the experience personally rewarding, whether through leadership development, new connections, or simply the satisfaction of giving back to the place they call home. We currently have several vacant seats on the Parks & Recreation Board, and this is an especially exciting time to get involved. This spring, the City will be working with a consultant to explore best uses for Guthridge Park. The Parks & Recreation Board will play an important role by providing perspective and input throughout that process. The consultant will also review our other city parks to identify opportunities to enhance the overall park experience for our community.

By serving on a board or commission, you help ensure that Hiawatha benefits from a wide range of voices, ideas, and viewpoints. If you care about our city's future and want to be part of the conversation, I encourage you to consider applying when openings are available. Current board and commission opportunities in Hiawatha include:

- Board of Adjustment
- Board of Appeals
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Parks & Recreation Board
- Water Board
- Library Board
- History Committee
- Storm Water Committee

In addition to these opportunities, the Friends of the Library and Friends of the Parks groups are always looking for new volunteers who want to support these important community assets.

I hope you'll consider getting involved. Your time, ideas, and commitment truly make a difference in Hiawatha.

Dennis Marks, Hiawatha City Manager



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 Gruber	319-393-1515	kgruber@hiawatha-iowa.com
Finance Director	Cindy Daack	319-393-1515	cdaack@hiawatha-iowa.com
Parks & Recreation Director	Matt Boggess	319-393-1515	mboggess@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	mkpowers@hiawatha-iowa.com
Library Director	Chris Stoner	319-393-1414	cstoner@hiawatha-iowa.com

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

On February 25<sup>th</sup> between 4:30pm and 6:30pm, representatives from the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization will be in the Hiawatha Public Library's entry vestibule seeking community feedback about Hiawatha's transportation needs. Please drop by and let them know your thoughts on how to improve transportation in our community, and help them plan for the future! They are seeking input on what to prioritize for their Transportation Improvement Program (more information on which can be found in the MPO's section of the cedar-rapids.org website).

The Corridor MPO is an organization made up of elected officials and appointed representatives from Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Marion, Hiawatha, Robins, Ely, Fairfax, and Palo. They are responsible for reviewing and approving transportation investments in the Cedar Rapids metro area.



## MILITARY AND VETERAN BANNER PROGRAM INFORMATION

The City of Hiawatha is proud to continue our community tradition honoring those who are serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces. Now in its third year, the Military and Veteran Banner Program recognizes past and present military personnel with personalized banners displaying the honoree's name, branch, years of service, and the names of those honoring them.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Honoree is an active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Honoree is a retired or honorably discharged service member who currently lives in Hiawatha, previously lived in Hiawatha, or once lived here and is now deceased.
- Applicant is a current Hiawatha resident or Hiawatha-based business. If this applies, the honoree does not need to have lived in Hiawatha.

### BANNERS

- 30" x 63", double-sided, full color, one honoree per banner.
- Displayed along Center Point Road, Emmons Street, and the new Edgewood Road extension from Memorial Day through Veterans Day in 2026, and again in 2027.
- Limit of 80 new banners for 2026; first-come, first-served. Payment is required to reserve.
- Banners will be returned to the honoree or applicant after the display period. The City is not responsible for loss or damage due to weather, vandalism, or other factors.

### COST & DEADLINE

- \$125 per banner (covers both years).
- Applications due March 6, 2026, or until full.

### TO ORDER

- Access the application can be found under the "News" section at [www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com) or the Hiawatha Facebook page.
- Submit the completed application and/or honoree photo in person, by direct mail c/o Jamie Fiedler, or by email. High-resolution photos and applications can be emailed to [jfiedler@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:jfiedler@hiawatha-iowa.com), or physical copies can be brought to City Hall to be scanned.



### QUESTIONS?

- Jamie Fiedler, Deputy Clerk - [jfiedler@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:jfiedler@hiawatha-iowa.com)
- Rod Jasa, Public Works Superintendent - [rjas@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:rjas@hiawatha-iowa.com)  
Or call 319-393-1515.



CITY OF HIAWATHA, IOWA



HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM

## WINTER IS HERE, STAY INFORMED

- 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

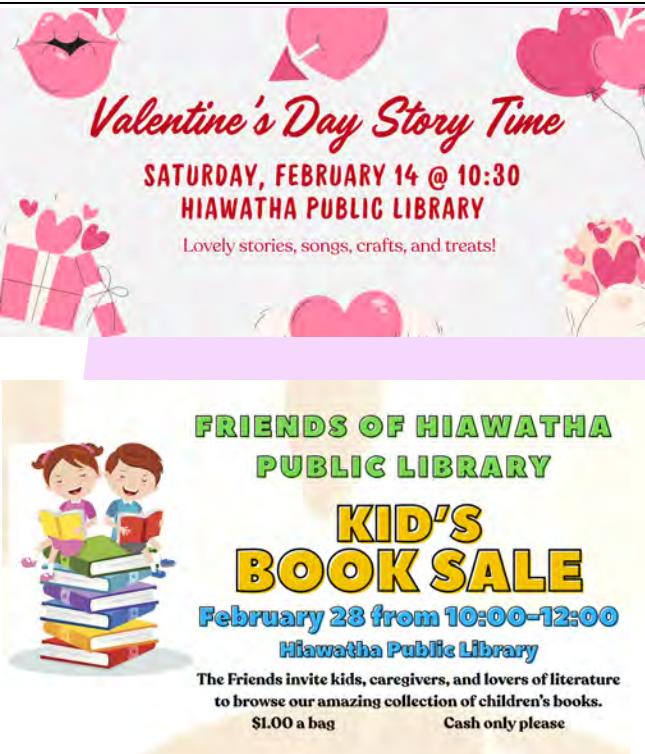
Hiawatha's snow ordinance helps ensure safe, effective, and rapid snow removal of our streets. You can help! Do not park in the street when:

- 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.

Scan the QR code  
to sign up for City  
Alerts!





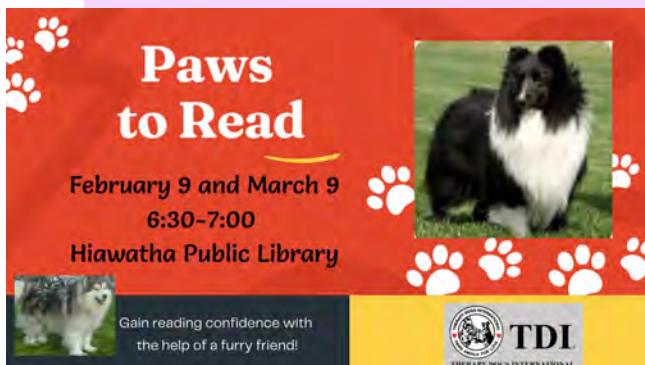
**Valentine's Day Story Time**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @ 10:30  
HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Lovely stories, songs, crafts, and treats!



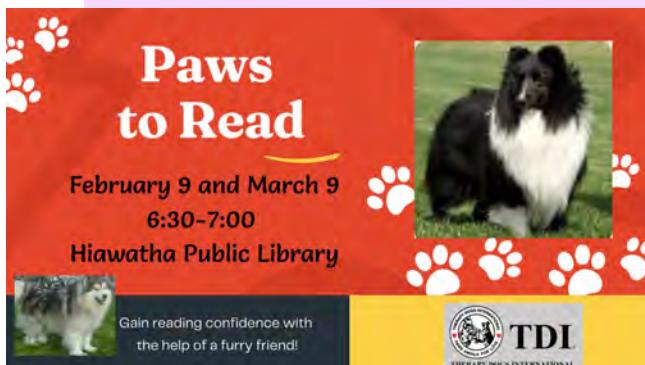
**FRIENDS OF HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**KID'S BOOK SALE**  
February 28 from 10:00-12:00  
Hiawatha Public Library  
The Friends invite kids, caregivers, and lovers of literature to browse our amazing collection of children's books.  
\$1.00 a bag      Cash only please



**Art with Words**  
10:30 @ Hiawatha Public Library  
February 27  
Diddlebugs  
MUSEUM-ART



**Pied Piper Concert**  
February 14 @ 9:15  
Percussion  
Hiawatha Public Library  
Hear Every Note, Feel Every Note  
Pied Piper Concerts introduce young children to the orchestra through fun and interactive musical experiences.  
Presented by Orchestra Iowa



**Paws to Read**  
February 9 and March 9  
6:30-7:00  
Hiawatha Public Library  
Gain reading confidence with the help of a furry friend!  
TDI THERAPY DOGS INTERNATIONAL

Hiawatha Public Library is excited to expand the offerings in our Harm Reduction Vending Machine. Project ChildSafe, a national organization focused on firearm safety and education, donated free gun locks to the Cedar Rapids Police Department. Through a collaboration between Linn County Public Health and the CRPD, these gun locks are now stocked in six vending machines throughout the county:

- Linn County Mental Health Access Center, Cedar Rapids
- CRUSH Recovery Community Center, Cedar Rapids
- Hiawatha Public Library, Hiawatha
- Marion Public Library, Marion
- Gary's Foods, Mount Vernon
- Linn County Community Services, Cedar Rapids



In June 2024, the Substance Misuse Committee of Linn County launched seven harm reduction vending machines. These machines distribute free Naloxone, a drug that reverses opioid overdoses, as well as other harm reduction supplies (sharps containers, hygiene kits, wound care kits, condom packs, tampons). The goal of this program was to reverse increasing trends of drug overdoses and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Linn County.

The addition of gun locks is an expansion of our harm reduction strategy to address multiple public health crises simultaneously: opioid overdoses and gun violence. According to CRPD, from 2020-2024 there were 34 gun-related deaths in the city, including death by suicide. Additionally, 144 people were injured in gun-related incidents during that same time span. Gun locks prevent accidents, suicides, and thefts related to unsecured firearms, potentially saving lives.

Hiawatha Public Library's harm reduction Vending Machine offers all of these life-saving supplies free of charge to the community, and the machine is accessible 24 hours a day.



CONNECT:



HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY



HIAWATHAPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

YOUTH

# ACTIVITY GUIDE

## HIAWATHA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### SLIME TIME NEW!!

- February 4

Put on some old clothes and be ready to get messy!! We will make a few fun slimes to take home.

Location: Community Center  
Age: K - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Cost: \$25

### SWEETHEART DANCE

- February 27

We invite you and yours to attend Hiawatha's sweetheart dance. This semi-formal dance includes a dj, dancing, photo booth, snacks, desserts, and more!

Location: Community Center  
Age: All Ages  
Cost: \$5/person

### HIAWATHA KIDS LEAGUE

- Mid- April - Mid-July

Coach pitch/T-Ball through Major Baseball and Softball is offered through Hiawatha Kids League. Guarantee your child a spot on a team by registering before January 31, 2026. For more information visit: [www.HiawathaKidsLeague.com](http://www.HiawathaKidsLeague.com) or call Peg Bader at 319-393-9175.  
Age: AK - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### HIAWATHA SOCCER

- End-May - June

Hiawatha Soccer introduces your child to organized soccer in a friendly and non-competitive environment. Coaches will help players learn a variety of soccer skills including ball control, shooting and passing. They will also learn teamwork and sportsmanship. Sessions will consist of practices and scrimmages.

Age: 3-4



### EGG HUNT BEFORE EASTER

- April 4th

The annual Hiawatha Easter Egg Hunt is a free event filled with surprises! Search for eggs in the grass at Guthridge Park. The Hiawatha Easter Bunny will be on site for pictures too! Event is held rain or shine.

Location: Guthridge Park  
Age: All Ages  
Cost: Free

### EGG MY YARD

- April 5

Wake up Easter morning to find fun filled eggs hidden throughout your yard from the Easter Bunny!

Find more information at [www.2026eggmyyard.eventbrite.com](http://www.2026eggmyyard.eventbrite.com)

### BIKE HELMET GIVEAWAY

- May 3

Join us at the First Farmers Market of the year for a FREE Bike Helmet Giveaway!

Location: Guthridge Park  
Age: All Ages

CONNECT:



CITY OF HIAWATHA PARKS AND RECREATION



HIAWATHA.ACTIVITYREG.COM

## WELCOME TO HIAWATHA!

Eldred Baseball & Performance is setting up shop for as a new high performance training center. Their training is designed to support athletes at every stage of their baseball journey. From fundamentals to advanced skill work, each session is intentional and tailored to what the player needs most. They combine high-level instruction with a big-picture approach so athletes build confidence, consistency and the tools they need to compete at a higher level.



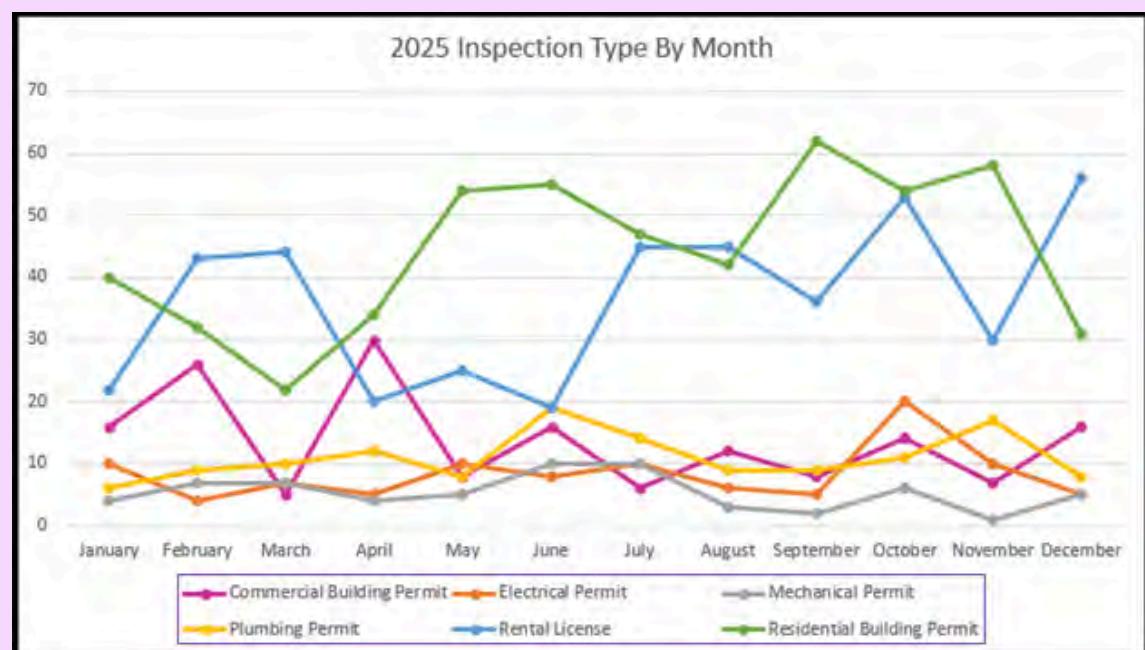
K3 Performance is a premier indoor baseball and softball facility in Iowa, built to serve athletes at every level—from youth development to high school competition and elite training. Every cage is fully equipped with professional-grade training tools, including tees, balls, ball caddies, and protective screens, so athletes can train with confidence from the moment they arrive.

# HIAWATHA ANNUAL PERMIT REPORT: 2025

With the exception of two unique projects in 2023, the 2025 calendar year was the highest year of project valuation. Total valuation of projects in calendar year 2025 exceeded \$47 million and permit fees over \$327,000 for the year.

The year included the greatest number of new single-family dwellings applied for at 49 units, exceeding the 48 applied for in 2024, and 32 in 2023. Hiawatha also saw applications for three 4-plex units, and a 3-plex in 2025.

In addition to reviewing plans, answering public inquiries, and sending out notices of compliance, Community Development staff spends a significant amount of time in the field performing inspections. In 2025, Community Development staff performed 1,429 inspections of multiple trades.



## ENGINEERING UPDATES

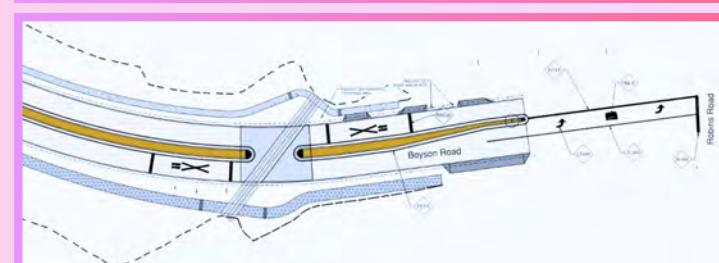
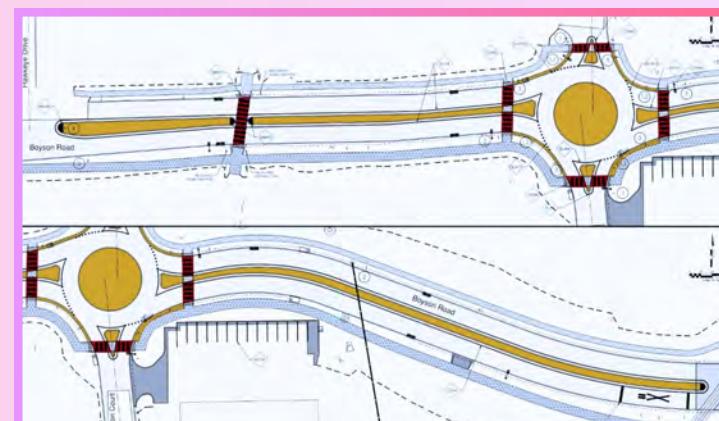
### Boyson Road Reconstruction from Hawkeye Dr to Robins Rd

Final design of the roadway reconstruction is nearing completion.

The reconstruction will include a mini roundabout at the intersection with Boyson Cr as well as constructing a 5-ft sidewalk on the north side and an 8-ft trail on the south side. In addition, the project will include a mountable center median with concrete, with the exception of an 8" high median that will extend a minimum of 100 feet either side of the railroad crossing. The railroad crossing itself will be upgraded to include Half-Barrier Gates extending over each half of the roadway to allow for a future quiet zone crossing.

At this time, there are numerous franchise utilities that have been relocating their underground infrastructure into the utility easement to hopefully eliminate conflicts during construction. We expect utility companies to be working through April.

Final plans will be submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation for final review and preparation of a bid letting in May 2026. We fully expect this project to start construction in July 2026. Closures and related details will be provided prior to start of construction.



# FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH

February is Heart Month, and we at the Hiawatha Fire Department wants to remind everyone about the importance of Heart Health.

Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of medical emergencies. When someone experiences chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness, sudden weakness, or collapses unexpectedly, every second matters. Calling 911 immediately is vital so emergency responders can begin life-saving care the moment they arrive, reducing heart damage and improving the chances of recovery.

Cardiovascular disease includes conditions such as heart attacks, cardiac arrest, and strokes. While not all heart emergencies can be prevented, healthy daily habits can reduce risk at any age. Staying physically active, eating heart-healthy foods, taking your prescribed medications, and having continual care with your primary care provider are all important steps for prevention.

Equally important is recognizing when something is not right and knowing when to seek help. Heart-related emergencies do not always look the same for everyone. While chest pain or pressure is common, seniors may experience more subtle symptoms. These can include shortness of breath, unusual fatigue, dizziness, nausea, cold sweats, or pain in the arm, back, neck, or jaw. Sudden confusion, weakness, or trouble speaking may also signal a serious emergency.

If any of these symptoms appear, call 911 immediately. One of the most important messages we want to share is this: you are never wasting our time by calling 911. If something does not feel right, calling early is the safest decision. We are a close-knit community and we encourage you to help look out for your family and friends. Family members, neighbors, and caregivers play a vital role. Learn the signs of heart attack and cardiac arrest.

- Check on neighbors, especially seniors and those living alone
- Encourage friends and family to take heart symptoms seriously
- Learn CPR and how to use an AED if available in your workplace or community

Our EMS crews and firefighters are proud to serve this community, but you are an important part of the response, too. Your quick call and calm action can make all the difference.

## THE SCOOP... ON DOG POOP



Not the most glamorous subject to think about, however, when it comes to protecting the water quality of our streams and lakes it's worthy of discussion. So what's the harm in a little poop left behind every once in a while? Turns out to be a bigger problem than most people think. Both rain events and periods of winter thaw can create fecal pollution in water samples collected from local streams.

Fecal coliform bacteria and more specifically Escherichia coli or E. coli is the "canary in the coal mine" so to speak when it comes to water pollution. What should be more concerning than E. coli is the fact that dog poop also contains a host of other parasites, viruses, worms and worm eggs that can cause illness, especially in children. In addition to polluting water, these bacteria and viruses can linger in the soil long after the poop is gone, which can easily be transmitted to other dogs or even people.

Please do the right thing and scoop the poop, even on the cold days. Once scooped, there are three preferred methods for final disposal. Throw it in the trash, flush it down the toilet or bury it. All three protect our streams and lakes from fecal pollution.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR WATER STOPS FLOWING

It's that time of year! What should you do if you discover your home does not have water?



1. Check your water meter for leaking or spraying. Your meter is typically located in your basement, crawlspace or under your mobile home. If water is leaking, the base plate may be cracked or your water meter could be frozen. The base plate is designed to be sacrificial to prevent the meter from freezing, however sometimes the entire meter will freeze before the plate gives way. Call the Hiawatha Water Department at 319-393-5556 as soon as possible.

2. Feel the pipes to see if there is frost or if they are cold to the touch. Pipes located along exterior walls are the most susceptible to freezing. Open cabinet doors in order to expose them to warmer air. You can also use hot towels or a hair dryer, but never use an open flame to thaw pipes as this could cause a fire. In extreme cases, you may need to contact a plumber.

3. Check with your neighbors. If you and your neighbors do not have water service, there may be a water main break that has caused a stoppage in water. Service will be restored as soon as able. Call the Hiawatha Water Department at 319-393-5556. If you believe there is a water main break and it is outside of our office hours (Monday -Friday 7:30am-4:00pm), contact the Police Department at 319-319-1212.



DELIVER BY  
MONDAY,  
02/09/2026

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
HIAWATHA, IOWA 52233  
HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL ACTION

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

ECRWSS

RESOLUTION #

JANUARY 7, 2026

- #26-001 DA Between Hiawatha and Servpro of Cedar Rapids
- #26-002 Setting PH to Consider Plans, Specs, Form of Contract and Estimate for Edgewood Road Lighting
- #26-003 Accepting Permanent Access and Utility Easement on Lot 12, Auditor's Plat No. 372 Except Parcel A
- #26-004 Accepting Permanent Access and Utility Easement on Lot 12, Auditor's Plat No. 372 Except Parcel A
- #26-005 Approve Payment of an Excavator for Public Works
- #26-006 Acknowledging and Placing on File Future Annexation for Lot 2 Loggerhead Hills 1<sup>st</sup> Addition

RESOLUTION #

JANUARY 21, 2026

- #26-007 Approving Plans, Specs, Form of Contract and Estimate for Edgewood Road Lighting
- #26-008 Approving 28E Agreement with IDOT for I-380 repairs
- #26-009 Approving 28E Agreement with Iowa ABD
- #26-010 Approving Construction and Maintenance Agreement with Hiawatha and Chicago Central Pacific RR
- #26-011 Approving Public Works to Purchase One Trailer
- #26-012 Authorizing City Attorney to Proceed with Condemnation Proceedings for 935 Boyson Court

The Hiawatha City Council meeting minutes may be obtained online or by request to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall at 319-393-1515 x526



<https://www.hiawatha-iowa.com/government/city-council-documents/>



## HIAWATHA HISTORY COMMISSION

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

Call Marilyn with your answers at 319-721-7077

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

FEBRUARY 12

MARCH 12

APRIL 9

7:00 - 9:00 AM



## CELEBRATING FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS 0-5!



Since Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program began in the Hiawatha area, **298 children** have registered for free & 82 have graduated!



Sign your 0 - 5 year-old up today, FOR FREE, at [www.hiawathapubliclibrary.org/imagination-library](http://www.hiawathapubliclibrary.org/imagination-library)