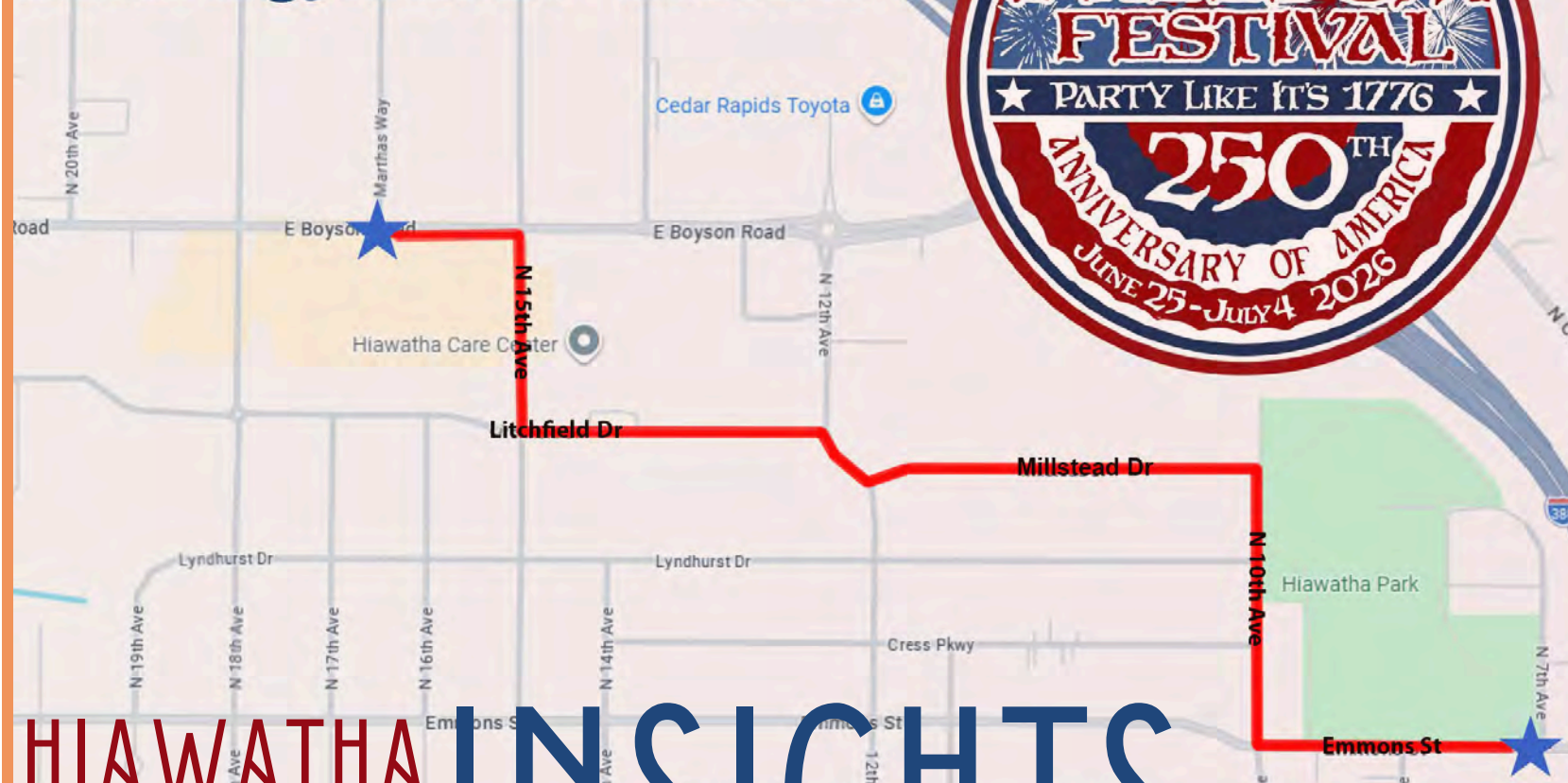


Parade Route

Saturday, June 27th at 10am

McGrath Ford



HIAWATHA INSIGHTS

June 2026 Vol. 215

HIAWATHA TO HOST 2026 FREEDOM FESTIVAL PARADE

Exciting news this summer as Hiawatha is now the official home of the Freedom Festival Parade! Just in time for the America 250 Celebration, the parade will take place on Saturday, June 27, 2026. Residents and visitors are invited to line the streets and celebrate one of Eastern Iowa's favorite summer traditions as colorful floats, marching bands, community organizations, local businesses, and patriotic spirit make their way through town.

The parade will follow the same route used during Hiawatha's memorable 75th Birthday Parade, with one exception, we will be using Milstead instead of Lyndhurst Dr. when coming off of N 12th Street. This allows families and guests the most amount viewing opportunities along the route. Community members are encouraged to arrive early, bring lawn chairs, wave their flags, and enjoy a morning filled with fun and patriotic pride!

The Freedom Festival Parade has long been a highlight of the summer season in Cedar Rapids. This year's parade comes with a twist as organizers are branching out to surrounding communities to join in Freedom Festival activities. We expect another strong turnout this year with a wide variety of parade entries and festive activities planned throughout the day. It will be a great day to showcase Hiawatha to all the citizens in the metro corridor.

City officials encourage parade-goers to help create a safe and welcoming atmosphere by following posted parking restrictions and being mindful of parade staff and volunteers along the route.

Additional details regarding parade timing, road closures, and event information will be shared closer to the event date through City communication channels and social media.

Mark your calendars now and join the community on Saturday, June 27, as the Freedom Festival Parade rolls through Hiawatha for a fun-filled day of celebration and community pride.



MAYOR
STEVE DODSON
mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
ROB ARCHIBALD
rarchibal@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
JEFF CATER
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COUNCIL MEMBER
BEN FIEDLER
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COUNCIL MEMBER
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COUNCIL MEMBER
CJ FLYNN
cflynn@hiawatha-iowa.com



FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Last year we hit the milestone of 75 years as a city. Hiawatha is relatively young compared to many communities, but reaching 75 years old also brings new challenges and responsibilities. Approximately 1,178 homes in Hiawatha were constructed prior to 1980, and many are beginning to require larger maintenance and improvement projects.

We recognize the importance of preserving and maintaining our housing stock at all price points so residents can continue to enjoy safe, quality housing throughout the community. Over the years, the City has applied for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners with making needed repairs. The city council recently approved our application submission for a CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Roofing Program Grant. If awarded, qualifying homeowners could receive up to \$30,000 for roof repairs.

A truly transformational project is also moving closer to reality with the proposed new downtown "Core" creation across from City Hall. The first phase will focus on a four-story building with retail space, including room for a restaurant, along with 39 housing units. Phase II is planned to include an additional 80 housing units. A presentation from Merit Development will take place during a public hearing before the council on June 17th, with more updates to come as plans continue moving forward.

Continuing our focus on housing, connectivity, and walkability, we have submitted plans to the Iowa DOT for a pedestrian/trail bridge over I-380 at Emmons Street. This project has been on our radar for nearly 15 years, and we were awarded nearly \$800,000 in state grant funds this past Fall to help make it possible. Once completed in 2027, the bridge will create a direct trail connection from the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to Guthridge Park. This is an exciting and transformational time for Hiawatha. We continue attracting new businesses and residents due in part to our focus on quality of life, thoughtful growth, and creating opportunities for all members of our community.

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/



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	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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Hiawatha!



This safe is located in City Hall amongst other History artifacts. It is locked and no one knows what is inside! We'll be opening the safe on June 12th for our birthday celebration!

June 12th
11:00 am-1:00 pm
Village Center Plaza
101 Emmons St.



Join the Hiawatha History Commission at Food Truck Friday on June 12th for a birthday celebration! Spin the prize wheel, win fun giveaways, and help us honor the story of our city.



HAPPY Anniversary

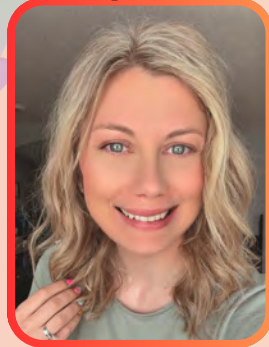
Celebrating our anniversary all-stars! Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and the many ways you help keep our organization running smoothly. Your contributions make a lasting impact on our team and community.



Rod Jasa
35 Years



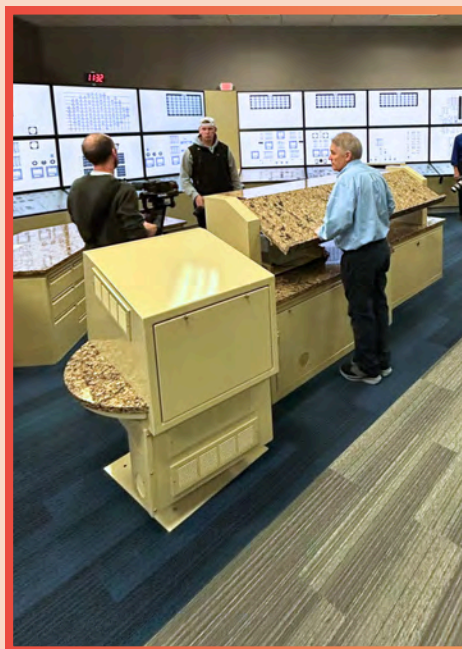
Pacer Langguth
5 Years



Miranda Gettle
5 Years

HEDCO

We joined NextEra Energy for the ribbon-cutting of their new training center at 929 Martha's Way, Hiawatha. NextEra is restarting the Duane Arnold Energy Center in Palo—Iowa's only nuclear power plant—to produce clean, reliable power for a new Google data center. The training center in Hiawatha, converted from a former call center, is where the next generation of nuclear workers will prepare to bring the plant back online. The numbers are remarkable: approximately 400 high-quality, full-time jobs coming to Eastern Iowa, and an estimated \$9 billion in economic impact to our region over the plant's operating life. The City of Hiawatha is proud to be part of it.



Hiawatha dignitaries:
Center - Mayor Steve Dodson; Second from right - Liz Mathis, HEDCO Executive Director; Far right - Sami Scheetz, Linn County Supervisor.

JOIN US FOR AN ENCHANTED NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

You are cordially invited to An Enchanted Ball at Hiawatha Public Library on Sunday, June 7th from 2pm - 5pm. As part of the library's Summer Reading Program, this special event transforms the library into a whimsical, storybook setting for an evening of creativity, connection, and fun.

This multigenerational program was created in response to community interest in more opportunities for all ages to gather and participate together, making it a truly shared experience for families, friends, and neighbors.

Guests of all ages are encouraged to dress in their finest fable- and fairy-inspired attire and step into a world where fantasy becomes reality. Whether you arrive as a daring knight, a mystical fairy, a beloved storybook character, or any enchanted persona your imagination can weave, attendees will become part of the magic that brings the evening to life.

The Enchanted Ball will feature a variety of activities designed to spark creativity and delight the imagination. Highlights include whimsical dancing in an enchanted atmosphere, hands-on crafts such as fairy house building, and the opportunity to design a sparkling fairy crown. Guests can also capture the moment with instant photos to take home as keepsakes and enjoy themed snacks fit for woodland royalty. Don't miss this enchanting adventure, where every guest becomes part of the story.

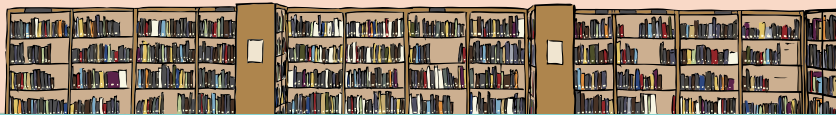
HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY SEEKS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

Do you love the Hiawatha Library and want to help its staff continue their mission to "nourish minds and bodies to help our community connect and grow"? Then we would encourage you to join the Library Board and help make a difference in your community! The Board meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM.

Major functions of the Board include:

- Hire and evaluate the Library Director
- Set salaries and benefits for the library's personnel
- Participate in the budget process and secure adequate financial support for the library's operations and services
- Set policies for the library's operations and services
- Engage in planning for the library's future
- Ensure Library Director and staff participate in training and continuing education
- Participate in Board training and educational opportunities
- Ensure the library's involvement in State Library, Library Service Area, and Metro Consortium initiatives.

For more information, contact Chris Stoner, Director of Hiawatha Public Library
cstoner@hiawatha-iowa.com (319) 393-1414



CONNECT:



HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY



HIAWATHAPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

SUMMER.....SUMMERTIME!!!!

It's hard to believe that it is already June. Soon kids will be getting out of school and we will all be busy with the sights and sounds of all things summer. It's no different here at your Parks and Recreation Department. We are entering our busiest time of the year. There are so many things for all the residents in Hiawatha to participate in. Among our offerings this year:

Youth Sports & Camps



Blastball

This is a high-energy introduction to baseball and softball for our youngest athletes! Using a foam bat and ball (no gloves required), Blastball teaches the fundamentals, while keeping kids involved and excited.



Rec United Soccer

In our 3rd year of partnership with Cedar Rapids & Marion Parks and Recreation, this recreational soccer program is designed to build skills in a fun, non-competitive environment.



Pickleball Camp

Perfect for kids looking to pick up the fastest-growing sport in the country! Our camp focuses on the basics of the game. It's a great way for youth to develop hand-eye coordination and meet new friends on the court.



Summer Day Camp

Our Summer Day Camp offers a safe and active environment for children to enjoy their summer break. Each week is packed with a variety of themed activities, outdoor games, arts and crafts, and local field trips. It's the ultimate summer experience for Hiawatha kids!



Can Play Adaptive Sports

We are proud to partner with Can Play to offer inclusive sports programming. These sessions are specifically designed for individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities, ensuring that everyone in our community has the opportunity to play, compete, and belong. Through modified equipment and specialized coaching, we focus on ability & empowerment.

JUNE EVENTS

STORY TIMES, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

The Hiawatha Public Library has a full month of activities planned for June, offering opportunities for kids and families to stay active, creative, and engaged. This month's schedule includes a variety of programs such as story times, crafts, hands-on activities, and special guest appearances. Many events take place in local parks, creating a relaxed and welcoming environment for families to connect and participate.

In addition to daily activities, select programs are offered specifically for tweens ages 9-12 and require registration. We encourage residents to review the full schedule and join the Library throughout the month.

Register for events at:
<https://www.hiawathapubliclibrary.org/>

JUN 1		10:00 AM - Llama Story Time: Guthridge Park
JUN 2		10:00 AM - Expressive Arts
JUN 5		10:00 AM - Songs from the Garden: Bugs and Butterflies
JUN 8		10:00 AM - Story Time with Master Gardeners
JUN 8		1:00 PM - Fantastic Foam and More
JUN 9		10:00 AM - Poop Happens
JUN 10		10:00 AM - Crafts for Kids
JUN 10		12:00 PM - Picnic & Pages @ the Pad: Guthridge Park
JUN 15		10:00 AM - Dog Story Time w/Special Guests from K9 Ambassadors
JUN 15		1:30 PM - Bigger Bang Bubbles
JUN 16		10:00 AM - Armadillo Story Time w/Andy the Armadillo
JUN 17		10:00 AM - Crafts for Kids
JUN 19		10:30 AM - Doodlebugs
JUN 22		10:00 AM - Prestige Dance Studio Story Time
JUN 24		10:00 AM - Crafts for Kids
JUN 24		12:00 PM - Picnic & Pages @ the Pad: Tucker Park
JUN 25		12:00 PM - Picnic & Pages @ the Park: Troy Park
JUN 26		10:00 AM - Story Time with Miss Rachel
JUN 29		10:00 AM - Farm Story Time w/Rod & His Tractor
JUN 29		1:00 PM - Mikayla Oz
JUN 30		9:30 AM - Story Time @ Stillwater Coffee
JUN 30		1:00-3:00 PM - STEM Discovery Stations

FOR TWEENS ONLY (AGES 9-12)

- JUN 9 @ 1:00 PM Expressive Arts*
 - JUN 16 @ 1:00 PM Diamond Painting*
 - JUN 18 @ 9:30 AM Healthy Snacks*
 - JUN 30 @ 1:00-3:00 PM STEM Discovery Stations
- * Registration Required

A limited supply of bagged lunches will be available for children Monday - Thursday from June 8 through June 30.



Community Events

Farmers Market

Join us every Sunday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Guthridge Park 10th Avenue parking lot. Our market features a number of local vendors offering fresh produce, flowers, honey, baked goods, and handmade crafts. It's the perfect place to enjoy a Sunday morning in the park.



Food Truck Fridays

Lunch is served! Every Friday throughout the summer, head over to the Village Center Plaza from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We host a rotating selection of local food trucks, offering everything from BBQ to sweet desserts. Enjoy lunch or a snack outside before kicking off the weekend.

Friday Night Concert Series

The concerts are back at Guthridge Park! Our series brings the community together for free, live entertainment under the stars. Grab your lawn chairs and blankets for an evening of local talent, great music, and community fun.



PART 4: SUPPORTING OUR EXPERIENCED OFFICERS

Over the past several months, we have outlined how individuals become Hiawatha Police Officers, the training required to reach solo patrol, and how we support development early in an officer's career. An equally important focus is how we continue to support and invest in our experienced officers. Experienced officers are essential to the success of any department. They bring practical knowledge to daily calls, provide guidance to newer officers, and develop long-standing relationships within the community. Their leadership, both formal and informal, helps ensure consistency in how we serve the public and contributes to the development of the next generation of officers.



We support continued growth through advanced and specialized training. Around the five-year mark, many officers begin to take an interest in a specific area of law enforcement. While all officers are expected to remain well-rounded, we provide opportunities to pursue additional training based on both departmental needs and individual interest. Officers who complete specialized training are often asked to serve as instructors. This allows them to share their knowledge and helps maintain strong and consistent training within the department. Current training areas include emergency vehicle operations, firearms, defensive tactics, Jiu-Jitsu, tactical medical, law enforcement tactics, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, ALICE, force-on-force training, and less-lethal tools. In addition to instructor roles, officers may also develop in specialized functions such as investigations, narcotics enforcement, crime scene processing, field training, peer support, and crisis negotiations. These assignments are based on departmental needs as well as an officer's demonstrated ability and interest. The department also offers opportunities for specialized assignments and advancement. Positions such as K9 handler, investigator, and records are not considered promotions but are critical to our overall operations and service to the community. For those interested in leadership, promotional opportunities include the ranks of sergeant, captain, and chief. These roles carry increased responsibility in supervision, decision-making, and department operations. Our current command staff averages more than 20 years of law enforcement experience, which provides valuable perspective in supporting our officers and guiding the organization. At every stage of an officer's career, we remain focused on steady and professional development. By continuing to invest in our experienced officers through training, mentorship, and growth opportunities, we strengthen our ability to provide consistent and reliable service to the Hiawatha community.

HIAWATHA WATER QUALITY REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Hiawatha's Yearly Water Quality Report (or Consumer Confidence Report) is now available online. To access the CCR Report go to the Hiawatha City Website (www.hiawatha-iowa.com) and select Water under Departments. On the Water page, scroll down select Consumer Confidence. This link will take you to the Iowa Rural Water Association Website where you can select "View CCR Report" at the top of the screen. You will be able to view reports from 2011 through 2025.

REMINDER: SIGNS NOT ALLOWED IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

In 2018 the City of Hiawatha adopted a Sign Code that prohibits unauthorized signs in the right-of-way. Per Chapter 166 "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" (for reference, private property typically begins ONE foot behind the sidewalk).

This is a friendly reminder that even small signs are not allowed to be placed on street corners or in the street right-of-way between the sidewalk and the street. Examples of improperly placed signs most often include open house signs, temporary business signs, garage sale signs and political signs. To ensure compliance with the City Code, City Staff may collect signs in the right-of-way and signs may not be available to be returned. If you have any questions regarding this matter contact the Community Development Department at 393-1515 x2. Please help us keep our rights-of-way clean and our community beautiful.



PUBLIC WORKS COMPLETES PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS FOR SUMMER EVENTS

Due to the overwhelming success of Food Truck Fridays over the past few years, the Hiawatha Public Works Team has been busy redesigning the east end of the front parking lot at the Village Center Plaza at City Hall to improve the layout and efficiency of food vendors. To better accommodate the growing size of food trucks and trailers, staff removed approximately 50 feet of the center island and replaced it with concrete. The remaining island area will be painted yellow. These improvements will allow vendors to park at an angle without needing to unhook from their vehicles, while also improving accessibility and traffic flow for patrons. The updated design creates additional room for vendors without reducing the number of available parking spaces and will help enhance the Food Truck Friday experience for residents and visitors this summer.



ANSWER THE CALL: JOIN THE HIAWATHA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S AUGUST 2026 RECRUIT CLASS

Are you looking for an exciting and rewarding way to give back to your community? The Hiawatha Fire Department is looking for new members from all walks of life—professionals, parents, young adults are all encouraged to apply to our team.

We are currently accepting applications for our next Recruit Academy that will begin in August. While we accept applications year-round, applying now ensures you have time to complete the interview, background check, and physical requirements before the academy begins. We will be starting the application review and interviews in June. You do not have to be a resident to join. If you know someone outside of Hiawatha that would be interested in joining, they can apply to be a member through our non-resident program.

No Experience Necessary

We provide the training and gear you need to succeed. As a member of a progressive, safety-first organization, you will have access to:

- All required basic training: Earn your Firefighter 1 and 2 certifications.
- Professional Certification: Ability to earn advanced certifications and attend state or regional training seminars
- Medical Training: We provide tuition assistance for those pursuing EMT and AEMT training.
- A Professional Network: Join a team built on our P.R.O.U.D. values: Professionalism, Respect, Open-Mindedness, Unity, and Dedication.

A Critical Need for EMS-Only Responders

Not every member of the department needs to be a firefighter. Did you know the Hiawatha Fire Department has EMS only members that are not firefighters?

With increased call volumes the department has a significant need for EMS-only responders. This is a vital way to provide life-saving care to your neighbors without having to be a structural firefighter.



More Than Emergencies: Community & Outreach

Being a member of the HFD isn't only about responding to emergency calls; it's about being a visible, positive force in Hiawatha. Our members are deeply involved in the community through:

- Public Education: Teaching fire safety to children and seniors.
- Community Events: Representing the department at local celebrations and event stand-bys.
- Outreach: Building relationships with the residents we serve during non-emergency times. If you enjoy people and want to be a "face" of the community, you will find plenty of opportunities here to give back through service and education.

To be considered for the August 2026 Recruit Class you can apply online to be a Fire and EMS Volunteer at: <https://hiawatha-iowa.com/job-opportunities/>



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MONDAY,
06/01/2026

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HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL ACTION

- RESOLUTION #** **MAY 6, 2026**
- #26-079** Sewer Waiver - 3007 Prairielight Ct
 - #26-080** Sewer Waiver - 3012 Prairielight Ct
 - #26-081** Plans for 2026 Street Improvement Project
 - #26-082** Plans for Kainz Dr Storm Sewer Project
 - #26-083** Application for Funding for CDBG Roofing Program
 - #26-084** Preliminary Site Plan - Core Village Center
 - #26-085** Final Site Plan - Lot 2 - Core Village Center
 - #26-086** Final Design - Core Village Center
 - #26-087** Support Housing Tax Credit - Core Village Center
 - #26-088** Competitive Bidding PH Date - Core Village Center
 - #26-089** Accept Proposal for 2026 GO CLN
 - #26-090** Setting PH to Consider FY26 Budget
 - #26-091** Setting PH to Amend Chapter 101.03 - Storm Water Rates
 - #26-092** LED Lights for Center Point Road
 - #26-093** Approving Contract for 2026 Tree Removal
 - #26-094** Contract for Turtle Creek Pickleball Courts
 - #26-095** HVAC Replacement for Fire Station #1
 - #26-096** Amendment to Mercy Medical Transport Agreement
 - #26-097** Award TSIP for Boyson Rd from Hawkeye to Robins
 - #26-098** Service Agreement with ECICOG for CDBG Grany
 - #26-099** Awarding CDBG Housing Fund Roofing Grant
 - #26-100** Agreement for Kainz Dr Storm Sewer Project
 - #26-101** 28E Agreement with Cedar Rapids for Blairs Ferry Rd Signal Replacement
 - #26-102** Amending Employee Policy Manual - Intro
 - #26-103** Amending Employee Policy Manual - Benefits
 - #26-104** Authorizing New Hiawatha Website

- RESOLUTION #** **MAY 20, 2026**
- #26-105** Sewer Waiver - 115 N Sandy Ridge Ct
 - #26-106** FY26 Budget
 - #26-107** Authorizing 2026 GO CLN
 - #26-108** Authorizing Transfer for FY2027
 - #26-109** Awarding Auditing Services

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

Hiawatha! Fay M. Clark Hall of Fame Award



The City of Hiawatha is now accepting nominations for the Fay M. Clark Hall of Fame Award, honoring individuals who have made a lasting impact on our community through leadership, service, and dedication to making Hiawatha a better place to live, work, and play. Community members may nominate individuals who live in, work in, or have made meaningful contributions to Hiawatha. If someone comes to mind, we encourage you to submit a nomination.

Submit Nominations online at hiawatha-iowa.com Now through July 31st

CELEBRATING FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS 0-5!

Since Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program began in the Hiawatha area, **305 children** have registered for free & 105 have graduated!



Sign up today, FOR FREE, at www.hiawathapubliclibrary.org/imagination-library



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!

JUNE 11 JULY 9 AUGUST 13 7:00 - 9:00 AM

