



# HIAWATHA

October 2026 Vol. 219

# INSIGHTS

## NEW ROOF REPAIR PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE TO HIAWATHA HOMEOWNERS

The City of Hiawatha is excited to announce the launch of a new Roof Repair Program designed to help eligible homeowners make necessary improvements to their roofs. Through the program, qualifying Hiawatha homeowners may receive grant assistance for eligible roof repairs at no cost to the homeowner. The program is funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and is being administered in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG).

Eligible repairs may include replacement of roofing materials, roof decking when needed, soffit, fascia, gutters and downspouts, as well as other eligible roof-related improvements. To qualify, applicants must meet program requirements, including:

- Own and occupy a single-family home within the city of Hiawatha
- Have owned the home for at least six months
- Have a household income at or below 80% of the area median income
- Be current on property taxes, mortgage payments and homeowners insurance
- Have a home located outside of the 100-year floodplain

Mobile homes, rental properties and homes currently listed for sale are not eligible for assistance.

If your roof is aging, deteriorating or in need of replacement, we encourage you to reach out even if you are unsure whether you meet all of the program requirements. ECICOG staff can help determine whether your household and home may be eligible. Funding is limited, so interested homeowners are encouraged to apply.

For more information about the Hiawatha Roof Repair Program or to request an application, please contact:

Nicole Beuc, Housing Grant Specialist, East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)  
319-289-0074      nicole.beuc@ecicog.org

## LINN COUNTY

### Income Limits Effective May 2026

Households must have an income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) based on household size.

| HOUSEHOLD SIZE | 80% AMI   |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1              | \$59,000  |
| 2              | \$67,400  |
| 3              | \$75,850  |
| 4              | \$84,250  |
| 5              | \$91,000  |
| 6              | \$97,750  |
| 7              | \$104,500 |
| 8              | \$111,250 |

## CLARK PARK TO CLOSE OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> FOR LAKE CONSTRUCTION

Clark Park will be closed to all users beginning October 5, as construction begins on the new Clark Park Lake and reconstruction of the existing trail. The closure includes the pavilion, restrooms, playground, and disc golf course.

Construction fencing and gates will be installed at the entrance on 18th Avenue and at the southwest corner of the park on Miller Road. Work will begin with removal of the existing trail and tree transplanting, followed by mass grading.

The City awarded the construction contract to JNC Construction of Clearfield, Iowa in August, with work discussed at a preconstruction meeting on September 17. **Please do not enter Clark Park after October 5 while construction is underway.**

CONNECT:



CITY OF HIAWATHA, IOWA



HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM

HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM/ALERT-SIGNUP/



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**CJ FLYNN**

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## OCTOBER MEETING SCHEDULE

- 7th** - City Council Meeting
- 8th** - Library Board Meeting
- 8th** - Park Board Meeting
- 14th** - Board of Adjustment Meeting
- 15th** - Water Board Meeting
- 21st** - City Council Meeting
- 17th** - History Commission Meeting
- 28th** - Planning & Zoning Meeting



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/)



## FROM THE MAYOR



Dolly Parton understood something very important: giving a child a book is giving that child an opportunity to dream. Here in Hiawatha, we are proud to continue that vision through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Even following Dolly's passing on August 25, her remarkable commitment to

children and early literacy continues to touch families in our community.

Through our local Imagination Library program, children from birth through age five who live in Hiawatha or Robins receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book delivered to their home every month—completely free to their families.

This wonderful program is possible because of the generosity and commitment of 26 local business leaders and citizens, called the Founder's Club, who have chosen to invest in our youngest residents. Their support, along with the Friends of the Hiawatha Public Library and our community, helps put books into the hands of children and creates opportunities for parents and children to read, learn and grow together. As a community, we can honor Dolly's legacy not simply by remembering her, but by continuing the work she cared so deeply about. Every book delivered represents another opportunity to spark curiosity, strengthen a child's love of reading and help prepare them for the years ahead.

In just two and a half years, we have reached 438 registrations which means 76.3% of the 534 eligible children in Hiawatha are now registered. This is an extraordinary milestone!

Per one of the members of the Founder's Club, "the Dolly Parton Imaginary Library at the Hiawatha Public Library is here to stay. It will continue to be enthusiastically supported as a public-private partnership in perpetuity."

I encourage families with young children to take advantage of this wonderful program and I encourage our entire community to support the Hiawatha Public Library and the Imagination Library as we continue building a community of lifelong readers.

Dolly's legacy lives on, one child, one book and one family at a time.

**Steve Dodson**, Hiawatha Mayor



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 | kgraber@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 | mcpowers@hiawatha-iowa.com  |
| Library Director               | Chris Stoner   | 319-393-1414 | cstoner@hiawatha-iowa.com   |



# HIAWATHA FIRE-RESCUE CHILI SUPPER

Saturday, November 7th  
11AM-6:30PM

or until we are sold out

Hiawatha Fire Station #1  
60 10th Ave



## Draining Pools and Spas



IOWASTORMWATER.ORG

- Chlorine is deadly to aquatic life.
- Before draining, test to make sure chlorine is below 0.1 mg/L and pH is between 6.5 and 8.5.
- Do NOT drain pool or spa water into the storm drain.
- Drain water into sanitary sewer drain or across a vegetated area.
- Drain salt water into the sanitary sewer.

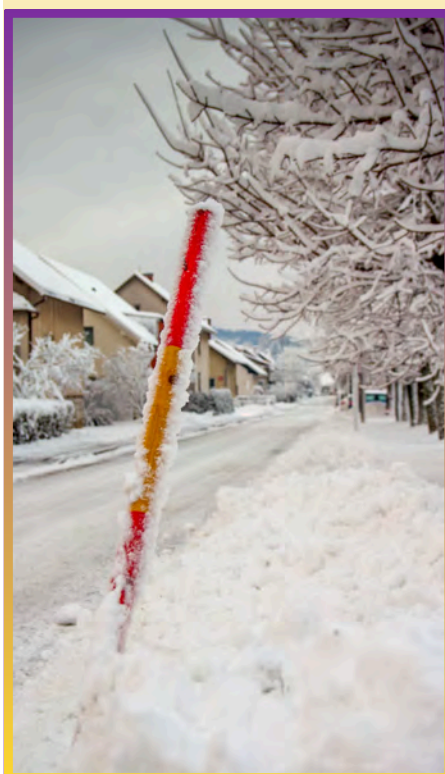
## PARKS & RECREATION WELCOMES LIBBY MCGOVERN

Libby McGovern is the newest member of the Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Department, joining the team as the department's Recreation Coordinator. Before coming to Hiawatha, Libby gained experience in parks and recreation while earning her degree in Health Studies with a minor in Sport and Recreation Management from the University of Iowa. She worked part-time with both Iowa City Parks and Recreation and Coralville Parks and Recreation, taking on a variety of roles including customer service, youth sports, and concessions. Libby also brings two years of coaching experience, having coached girls lacrosse with Kingfisher Lacrosse Club.



Originally from Minnesota, Libby grew up as an avid Minnesota sports fan and has carried that love of sports with her throughout her life. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with friends, hiking, and playing sports, especially pickleball and lacrosse. Please join us in welcoming Libby to the Parks and Recreation team!

## MARK YOUR CURB: HIAWATHA PUBLIC WORKS PILOT PROGRAM



Winter is coming, and the Public Works Department is trying something new to help make snow removal a little easier.

For the 2026-27 snow removal season, the Public Works Department is launching a pilot Curb Marker Program. As part of the program, City crews will place curb markers in critical areas to help snowplow drivers see the edge of the roadway, particularly along streets with low curbs and streets with curves.

Starting in December, staff will place markers at selected locations where they can help snowplow operations. Not every street or location will be marked, but residents are welcome to request that their property be considered for the program!

To request a curb marker, contact the Public Works Department at 319-393-6601 or [publicworks@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:publicworks@hiawatha-iowa.com). Please provide your name, phone number, and address. Staff will contact residents within one week of their request.

Once a request is received, the location will be inspected by staff, who will determine whether curb markers are needed. If the location is accepted into the program, City staff will place the markers.

The curb markers are intended to be used season after season. After the winter season, residents will be responsible for removing and storing the markers, as well as placing them back out for the following winter season. The City will remove the markers from locations maintained by City crews in the spring.

# HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES ACCREDITATION FROM THE STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



The State Library of Iowa announced that the Hiawatha Public Library has met the conditions for state accreditation as outlined in "In Service to Iowa: Public Library Standards Sixth Edition."

Achieving accreditation requires a significant, ongoing local commitment to high quality library services. The Hiawatha Public Library has been recognized for its efforts in all areas of library operations including governance and funding, staffing, library collection, services, public relations, access, and facilities. The accreditation status began July 1, 2026 and is valid through June 30, 2029.

"This achievement reflects Hiawatha Public Library's dedication to providing exceptional service and resources to its community," said State Librarian Brenda Hall. "Accreditation is a testament to the library's commitment to meeting the highest standards in library service and continuing to grow and adapt to the needs of Iowans."

Of Iowa's 543 public libraries, 416 – including the Hiawatha Public Library – are accredited. Iowa's accredited public libraries are recognized for being responsive to their communities and for exhibiting excellence in their provision of library services. Almost two-thirds of all Iowans have active public library cards.

CONNECT:



HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY



HIAWATHAPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

## MUD, SPEED, AND COWBELLS: THE ARCHMAKER CX COMES TO GUTHRIDGE PARK THIS NOVEMBER

What if road racing and mountain biking came together and had a baby?? Well, you'd get Cyclocross. Cyclocross blends road bike speed, mountain bike handling, and all-terrain dirt and grit. Riders tackle tight circuits featuring grass straights, sand pits, hillside turns, and wooden barriers requiring riders to dismount, shoulder their bikes on the run, and remount without breaking stride ... and it's coming to Hiawatha this Fall!

On the weekend of November 7–8, Guthridge Park will be transformed into a premier off-road cycling arena as Hiawatha Parks & Recreation and the Corridor Devo Junior Cycling Team, put on the 1st Annual ArchMaker CX event.

### **Weekend Schedule & Highlights**

- Two Full Days of Racing: Gates open at 8:00 AM both Saturday and Sunday, with rolling starts spanning 18 competitive categories each day—from Masters (35+, 45+, 55+) and Juniors to elite Men's and Women's Cat 1/2/3 fields.
- Free Kids Fun Race: At 12:15 PM both days, young riders can take to the course for their own race. Helmets are mandatory, entry is free, and every finisher leaves with a prize.
- Reversed Course Sunday: Same venue, totally different rhythm as racers take on the hills, gravel, and hurdles backward.



CONNECT:



CITY OF HIAWATHA PARKS AND RECREATION



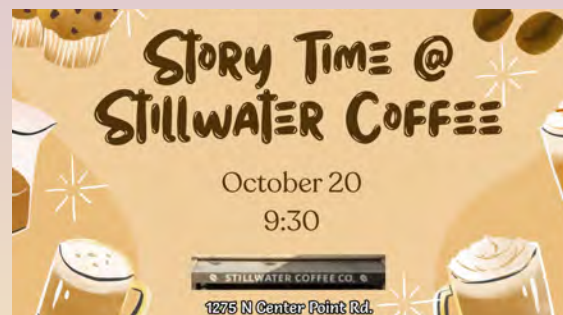
HIAWATHA.ACTIVITYREG.COM

Iowa libraries play key roles in workforce and economic development, lifelong learning and e-government activities. Iowans use their libraries to find jobs, do homework, locate a good book to read, research legal information, access government information, and more.

Accredited libraries receive a higher rate of compensation through the State Library's Enrich Iowa program. They also receive a Certificate of Accreditation signed by Governor Kim Reynolds, Lieutenant Governor Chris Cournoyer, State Librarian Brenda Hall, and Director of the Iowa Department of Administrative Services Mark Campbell.

### About the State Library of Iowa

The State Library of Iowa improves library services in Iowa and delivers specialized information services to state government and Iowans. Learn more about the State Library of Iowa at: [www.StateLibraryofIowa.gov](http://www.StateLibraryofIowa.gov)



### A Spectator Sport Like No Other

You don't need to race to join the fun. Cyclocross is famously one of the most spectator-friendly formats in all of cycling. Admission for spectators is completely free all weekend.

Because the course loops tightly within the park, fans can stand in one spot and see racers flash past multiple times per lap. Ring your cowbells, grab a spot along near the barrier runs, and cheer on racers of all ages as they battle through Iowa's crisp November elements.



**Where:** Guthridge Park (704 Emmons St, Hiawatha)

**When:** Saturday, November 7 & Sunday, November 8 | Course opens at 8:00 AM

**Spectator Entry:** Free (leashed dogs welcome)

**Registration & Details:** Racers can find category times and preregister online via BikeReg.

Questions may be directed to Hiawatha Parks & Rec at (319) 393-1515.

# HALLOWEEN SAFETY IN HIAWATHA

Halloween is always a fun night in Hiawatha, with neighborhoods filled with kids in costumes, families out walking, and plenty of candy being handed out. As our community gets ready for trick-or-treating, the Hiawatha Police Department would like to share a few simple reminders to help everyone enjoy the evening safely.

**For our trick-or-treaters:** Carry a flashlight or glow stick, use sidewalks whenever possible, and cross streets at intersections or crosswalks. Make sure your costume allows you to see and walk safely. Most importantly, watch for vehicles and stay with your group. Parents should inspect candy before children start eating it.

**For our drivers:** Please slow down and pay extra attention in Hiawatha's neighborhoods. Children may be excited and distracted, and they can unexpectedly enter the roadway. Watch carefully at intersections, driveways, and areas where groups of trick-or-treaters are gathered.

**For our residents:** If you're handing out candy, please keep your sidewalks, steps, and walkways well-lit and free of obstacles. It is also a good idea to secure pets for the evening.



Halloween is a great opportunity to enjoy time with family, friends, and neighbors. We hope everyone has a fun evening and, most importantly, gets home safely.

From all of us at the Hiawatha Police Department, have a safe and happy Halloween!



## Fall Clean Up Dates

**Yard Waste & Brush Pick Up**  
**Leaf Pick Up Only**

**October 26th**  
**November 9th & 23rd**

## GUIDELINES

### YARDWASTE INCLUDES:



leaves



brush and limbs

### plant materials



grass clippings

### NOT INCLUDED:



landscaping rock  
river rock  
pea gravel



- Leaves and yard waste must be put in paper bags and placed curbside by 7:00 AM on Monday, on collection days.
- Crews will not collect landscaping rock, brush or branches larger than 12" in diameter and will not collect tree demolition.
- All other branches should be spread along the curb to facilitate easier pickup.
- Do not stack branches.

**Pick up will  
take crews a  
couple days to  
complete.**

# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup>

Every year the Fire Department celebrates Fire Prevention week with departments across the country. Locally, the Hiawatha Fire Department uses the opportunity to visit preschoolers and school aged kids and teach them about the importance of taking fire safety seriously, demonstrate our equipment and connect with students so they can learn who we are and how Firefighters and Paramedics help within our community. This year's Fire Prevention week theme is "Charge into Fire Safety™: Safe Charging Is a Superpower".

As we continue to rely more and more on batteries in everyday life this year's theme is especially important. Phones, tablets, laptops, power tools, toys, e-bikes, and scooters all rely on rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. These batteries pack a lot of energy into a small space, which is exactly what makes them so convenient — and also why they need to be treated with care. When they're damaged or charged improperly, lithium-ion batteries can overheat, catch fire, or even explode.

On the importance of this year's theme Chief Powers shares that "Battery failures and electrical fires related to charging items is quickly becoming a leading cause of home fires within Hiawatha. The way you charge your battery devices can make a difference in helping prevent a home fire. It comes down to using simple habits each time you plug in."

The fire department encourages everyone to follow these six simple habits for safer charging of your batteries:

- Use the right charger. Stick with the cord and charger that came with your device, or one approved by the manufacturer. A mismatched charger can damage the battery and raise the risk of fire.
- Charge on a hard, flat surface. Keep devices on a table or desk — not on a bed, couch, or under a pillow. Chargers and devices give off heat while charging, and soft surfaces trap that heat and block airflow, which can cause a battery to overheat.
- Watch for warning signs. If a device feels unusually hot, starts to swell, smokes, or gives off a strange smell, stop using it immediately. These are signs the battery may be damaged or failing.
- Unplug once it's charged. Leaving a device plugged in longer than necessary adds heat and stress to the battery over time.
- Charge e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside and away from exits. These larger batteries store much more energy, and if something goes wrong, a fire can spread quickly. Keeping them outside and clear of doorways helps protect your home and your escape routes.
- Stay alert while flying. If you're charging a device on a plane, keep it where you can see it — never in an overhead bin — and never charge e-cigarettes or vapes in flight. Quick access means the flight crew can respond fast if a battery starts to fail.

Keep an eye out on the Hiawatha Fire Department's Facebook page for additional safety tips and reminders throughout the month of October.



DELIVER BY TUESDAY  
10/01/2026

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Hiawatha, IA  
Permit No. 33  
ECRWSS

## HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL ACTION

### RESOLUTION #

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

**#26-149** Sewer Waiver for 3534 Reed Road

**#26-150** Development Agreement Between Hiawatha and Murray, Wilson & Rose Counseling and Behavioral Services, LLC

**#26-151** Design Amendment #1 with Hall & Hall for Clark Park Urban Fishing Pond Project

**#26-152** Amendment #1 - 28E Agreement between Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids for Tower Terrace Life Station Improvements

**#26-153** Site Plan & Building Materials for New Commercial Building Located at 1465 Mitchell Dr

**#26-154** Approving Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) Contract

**#26-155** Authorizing certification to the County Treasurer Office for collection of a delinquent account of lawn care services performed by the City of Hiawatha

### RESOLUTION #

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

**#26-156** Approving the voluntary annexation application submitted by Dignified Journeys, LLC for property locally known as 3541 Todd Hills Road, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**#26-157** Approving a Contract Amendment No. 2 with Braun Intertec for Construction Materials testing and Special Inspection Services related to the Clark Park Pond Project

**#26-158** Promoting Temporary Public Works Superintendent Position

**#26-159** Approving a Chapter 28E Agreement between the City of Hiawatha and the City of Robins for Water Operations Testing, Maintenance and Services

**The Hiawatha City Council meeting minutes may be obtained online at [hiawatha-iowa.com](http://hiawatha-iowa.com) or by request to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall at 319-393-1515 x526**

## HIAWATHA HISTORY COMMISSION

### September's Answer:

Originally, called Hiawatha Trailer Court, in the 1940's before Hiawatha was officially incorporated. In the 70's it was renamed Oakbrook Trailer Park. It was on the east side of Robins Road, where it intersects with N. Center Point Rd. This site has been empty for many years until "The Core" building just broke ground in August. Thank you for the many responses!

### October's Question:

Hiawatha built this fire station next to a corn field. Where is it located?

Email us your answers at  
[jfiedler@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:jfiedler@hiawatha-iowa.com)

## COFFEE TALK WITH MAYOR DODSON

7:00 - 9:00 AM

OCTOBER 8 NOVEMBER 12 DECEMBER 10

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!

## CELEBRATING FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS 0-5!

Since Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program began in the Hiawatha area, **318 children** have registered for free & 122 have graduated!



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

