



**WE'RE HAVING A PARTY  
& YOU'RE INVITED!**

**June 14th**  
**Guthridge Park**

**12:00 PM to 10:00 PM**

### HIAWATHA TURNS 75!

This summer marks a major milestone for our community — Hiawatha is turning 75! On Saturday, June 14, the City of Hiawatha invites residents and visitors alike to help celebrate our city's history and bright future with a full day of free festivities in the heart of town.

From a spirited parade and live music to family-friendly attractions and a grand fireworks finale, the celebration promises fun for all ages. Guests can enjoy a variety of entertainment, including dance performances, a fire show, games, inflatables, food trucks, and activities for kids like a petting zoo, face painting, and trackless train rides. There will also be a special history display honoring the people and stories that helped shape Hiawatha over the past 75 years.

The story of Hiawatha began with a vision. In 1946, Fay Clark stood looking over farmland and imagined a city. That vision became reality in 1950 when Hiawatha became the 17th incorporated town in Linn County. A businessman, engineer, and spiritual thinker, Clark helped veterans find homes, provided essential services, and served as Hiawatha's mayor for nearly a decade. His legacy lives on in Fay M. Clark Memorial Park and the spirit of innovation and community he fostered.

As longtime resident Bev Daws recalled, "There are probably not enough words in the English language to describe Fay Clark. He believed in helping young people start their lives here in Hiawatha." Former mayor Tom Theis added, "He did not take credit for this city, but I don't know who else the credit would go to."

This year's 75th anniversary celebration is being brought to life by the City of Hiawatha's History Commission and numerous City staff, along with the help of many volunteers and community business partners.

"We're excited to welcome the community for a day that honors our past and celebrates the present," said Mayor Steve Dodson. "It's a chance to gather, have fun, and feel proud of how far we've come."

Whether you're a lifelong resident or a first-time visitor, this is your invitation to be part of something special. Join us on June 14 for Hiawatha's 75th birthday party — a celebration of community, progress, and the enduring power of a great idea.



**JOIN US FOR ALL OF THIS & MORE!**





**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



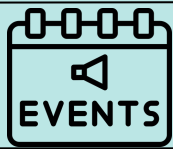
**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**JILL WEIGEL**  
jweigel@hiawatha-iowa.com



**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**BILL BENNETT**  
bbennett@hiawatha-iowa.com

### JUNE MEETING SCHEDULE

04	City Council	5:30 PM
10	Parks Commission	5:30 PM
10	Library Board	7:00 PM
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/)

## CAUGHT IN THE ACT... OF KINDNESS!

While driving down Edgewood Road recently, Council Member Jeff Cater noticed a group of people hard at work cleaning up litter from the roadside ditches. Curious and impressed, he stopped to learn more—and was delighted to find that the volunteers were students from Andrews Christian Academy. The group had already collected several bags of trash by the time the photo was taken, and by the end of their cleanup, they had filled a total of 13 bags. Their efforts are a great example of community pride and environmental stewardship. Thank you to these students for helping keep Hiawatha beautiful!



## EXPANSION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME IN HIAWATHA!



HEDCO and the city of Hiawatha celebrated the addition of a new service building for Junge Cedar Rapids with three generations of the Junge family: Gary and Jason Junge and Garrett Ries. Hiawatha's Mayor, Steve Dodson presented a plaque thanking them for their dedication to Hiawatha's growth. HEDCO Board member Heidi Sands and City Council members, Rob Archibald and Ben Fiedler, along with City Manager Dennis Marks and HEDCO Coordinator Liz Mathis assisted with the ribbon-cutting.

HEDCO and the city of Hiawatha also celebrated the new McGrath Hyundai Dealership grand opening. The McGrath family including Lindsey McGrath and Pat McGrath were joined along by Trevor Arnold, Connor Haskell, Katie Huebner, and multiple other McGrath employees. Along with a ribbon cutting, Mayor Steve Dodson presented a plaque commemorating McGrath's continued growth in Hiawatha. Along side Mayor Dodson where City Council Members Jeff Cater, Ben Fiedler, Bill Bennett, City Manager Dennis Marks and HEDCO Coordinator Liz Mathis.



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		319-393-1515	
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	mreckere@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



## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE!



Amy Scheer

The City of Hiawatha is proud to announce that Amy Scheer, Deputy Clerk, has officially received the Iowa Certified Municipal Finance Officer Certification. This prestigious designation, awarded by the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association (IMFOA), recognizes a high level of professional achievement in municipal finance management. To earn the Certification, Amy completed thorough training in key areas such as governmental

accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, and compliance with state and federal regulations; achieved five years of governmental finance experience; and continues ongoing professional development. The IMFOA's certification program is recognized across Iowa for promoting strong financial leadership in local government and ensuring a continuous educational commitment to establish and maintain competent administration for city government in Iowa. "Amy's dedication to excellence and continued professional growth is a tremendous asset to the City of Hiawatha," said Dennis Marks, City Manager. "Her achievement reflects our commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and high standards in public service." This certification not only recognizes Amy's skills, but also helps strengthen our city's financial practices and transparency with residents. Please join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved accomplishment!

The City of Hiawatha is thrilled to congratulate Ambyr Severson, Recreation Coordinator, on achieving her Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification! This prestigious credential, awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), is a significant achievement in the field of parks and recreation. To earn her CPRP, Ambyr dedicated countless hours to studying best practices as defined by the NRPA and demonstrated her ability to apply

this knowledge through a rigorous exam. As Ambyr holds this certification for the next two years, she will continue to expand her expertise and knowledge by earning Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) to ensure she remains at the forefront of the field. We are incredibly proud of Ambyr's hard work, determination, and unwavering commitment to her professional growth. "Ambyr's achievement is a reflection of the high standards we set for our team here in Hiawatha," said City Manager Marks. "Her dedication to continuous learning directly enhances the experiences we offer our residents." Please join us in congratulating Ambyr for her well-deserved achievement! Her success is a testament to her dedication to improving the programs and services we offer our community. Ambyr, we look forward to seeing all the great things you will continue to accomplish with your new certification!



Ambyr Severson

## HIAWATHA'S EARTH DAY & AMNESTY DAY MAKE A BIG IMPACT

Hiawatha residents showed up in a big way for this year's Earth Day and Amnesty Day events—proving once again that small actions can lead to big results when a community works together! Thanks to your efforts:

- **9,782 pounds** of electronics were responsibly recycled on Earth Day
- **2,500 pounds** of paper were shredded and recycled
- **110 pounds** of medication
- **240 pounds** of food donated to HACAPP

For years, staff have picked up mattresses during Amnesty Day and delivered them to the Linn County Solid Waste Agency (LCSWA), where they were disposed of with regular refuse at no extra charge. However, with landfill space dwindling—LCSWA estimates only 11 years remain at the current site—changes have been made to encourage more sustainable disposal. Mattresses pose a particular challenge by taking up a lot of space and don't compress well. To help manage this, LCSWA now charges \$20 per mattress for disposal and tracks each one dropped off at the landfill. In an effort to reduce landfill waste, the Willis Dady Shelter proposed a mattress recycling program. In partnership with LCSWA, they now accept mattresses for \$10 each. To qualify, mattresses must be dry, free of mold and mildew, and not heavily soiled. Shelter residents break down the mattresses and recycle up to 90% of the materials. This year Hiawatha delivered 133 mattresses to Willis Dady during the latest Amnesty pickup—diverting roughly three tons of material from the landfill. Hiawatha residents are encouraged to use this option on their own as well. This simple change is a win-win: it supports sustainability and provides meaningful work for individuals in need.



## SAFE DISPOSAL, STRONGER COMMUNITY: HIAWATHA POLICE COLLECT UNUSED MEDICATIONS



On April 26, 2025, the Hiawatha Police Department participated in the City's Earth Day recycling event, focusing on the safe disposal of unused medications. The community turned in a total of 110 lbs of medications, helping prevent misuse and protecting the environment.

In addition to the Earth Day event, the Hiawatha Police Department offers a 24/7 drug drop box. In the past six months alone, 100 lbs of medication have been safely disposed of there. Please note that needles, liquids, and inhalers cannot be accepted in the drop box; needles should be taken to the Linn County Solid Waste Agency for proper disposal. The department is committed to promoting public health and environmental safety by offering accessible medication disposal options year-round.



**SING-ALONG & READ-ALONG**  
**CONCERT**  
 with **JIM Gill**  
 AT 10:30  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 7**  
 Hiawatha Public Library



Everyone together!

Get up close with butterflies in our tents! Enjoy hands-free encounters with a flower feeder and explore interactive tables to learn more.

**Butterfly ENCOUNTER**



**June 9 1:00-3:00**

Absolute Science

**June 16**  
 1:00-1:45 or 2:30-3:15  
**The Cold-Blooded Redhead Returns!**



Hiawatha Public Library

★★★★★  
**OF THEE I SING**  
**JUNE 27 @ 10:30**  
 PRESENTED BY ORCHESTRA IOWA SCHOOL



MISS CARLY FROM ORCHESTRA IOWA SCHOOL WILL LEAD KIDS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS IN A FUN-FILLED SESSION OF ENSEMBLE SINGING, PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT PLAY, AND CREATIVE MOVEMENT.

**THE JONATHAN MAY SHOW**

**June 23 @ 1:30**  
 Hiawatha Public Library

Magician Jonathan May will awe and amaze you with his many mysterious tricks! Don't miss this free family show.



**The Amazing Martika Daniels Fire Show**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14 @ 2:00**  
**GUTHRIDGE PARK BROWN PAVILION**

Come celebrate 75 years of Hiawatha with a little extra heat!



## CELEBRATING FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS 0-5!

Since Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program began in the Hiawatha area, **245 children** have registered for free & 52 have graduated!

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





- June 6th**
- Kountry Korner
  - Rockin' 5K BBQ
  - Street Food Fighter
  - Bagel Shop
  - Wilder Thirst
- June 13th**
- Auntie Annie's Pretzel Truck
  - Rudy Blues BBQ
  - Smiley's Soup & Sandwiches
  - Boulevard Grill
  - The Freeze
- June 20th**
- Comfort Food 154
  - Rockin' 5K BBQ
  - Antonio's Mexican Grill
  - Pita'z Mediterranean Food
  - That's So Cheesy
- June 27th**
- BBQ Barn
  - Loosie's
  - El Azul
  - Natta's Thai Food
  - Bloom

Village Center Plaza • 101 Emmons Street, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233 • 11am - 2pm

Join us for a ride to Des Moines and enjoy a day at the Iowa State Fair!  
 Your ticket includes transportation, fair ticket & driver tip.

Open To All Ages - Must be accompanied by an adult if under 18. Bus is equipped with a restroom.

**Fee: \$45 per person**

**Date/Time: Thursday, August 14th, Bus leaves at 8:00 a.m. arrives back around 8:00 p.m.**

**Pick-Up/Drop-off location: Hiawatha City Hall**



## START YOUR ENGINES, LITTLE RACERS!

Do your kids dream of racing to victory in their Power Wheels? Sign them up for the Power Wheels Nationals — a high-energy event where kids ages 2-7 race their battery-powered vehicles for fun, trophies, and bragging rights! Don't have a Power Wheels of your own? No worries! Borrow a Power Wheel from one of our amazing sponsors! Spaces fill fast, so don't wait — register today and let your kiddo take the track by storm!

HIAWATHA PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS

# POWER WHEELS NATIONALS

No Power Wheel? No problem! Drive one from our sponsors!

Limited Availability  
**14 JUNE, 2025**  
 First Race AT 2:00 PM

Event Location  
**GUTHRIDGE PARK, HIAWATHA**



**Date: Saturday, June 14th**

**Location: Guthridge Park**

**SAVE \$\$: Use code HIAWATHA at checkout to receive a discount on registration!**

**Sign up here: <https://PowerWheels.eventbrite.com>**

Proudly sponsored by Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Foundation, Darrah's Towing & Recovery, Dave Wright Auto, P&K Midwest, Big 10 Mart, Cedar Rapids Toyota and McGrath Powersports

## THE HIAWATHA HISTORY COMMISSION INVITES YOU ...

To explore the city of Hiawatha on a guided walking tour. Discover Hiawatha's roots as a small rural community and its transformation into a vibrant suburb of Cedar Rapids.



**June 10, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.**

**Tour Guide: Jenny Thielman**

**Meeting location: Zion Lutheran Church**  
 201 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Hiawatha, IA

**Tour Admission:**  
 \$6.00 for History Center Members  
 \$8.00 for General Public



Please note: For the safety of guests and staff, walking tours will be postponed when the temperature or heat index is 100° or more, or if there is a heat advisory.

Walking tours are sponsored by: Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust





Robb Dunn

**Job Title / Department:** Water Operator - Water Department

**How long have you been with the City?:** 5 years

**About you:** I grew up in a small town. I ran my own music venue / bar for 18 years in Cedar Falls / Waterloo. Currently I reside in Walker with my wife and kids. I'm high energy - I dream big! I love meeting and chatting with new people.

**What does an average day in your role look like?:** Check water system, locating water mains, fixing leaks as needed, preventative maintenance on the water system - anything water related.

**What is your favorite thing about working for the City?:** The variety of people and work.

**What's the most adventurous thing you've ever done?:** Road trip to Oregon and star fishing in the ocean.

**If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be?:** Energetic - Friendly - Funny

**If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three items would you want to have?:** Sunglasses - knife - zippo lighter

## SEEDS OF CHANGE: WILDFLOWERS TAKE ROOT AT HIAWATHA'S WATER PLANT

In the fall of 2024, Hiawatha Water Operators Logan Perkins and Robb Dunn embarked on a project to enhance both the appearance and environmental impact of the city's water treatment plant, located at 2910 Fitzroy Road. They envisioned transforming a one-acre section of land on the property by replacing traditional grass with native wildflowers and planting new trees. The area was carefully prepared—existing grass was removed, the soil was conditioned, and a mix of wildflower seeds was sown. Although it will take a few years for the wildflowers to fully bloom and mature into a vibrant, colorful landscape, the long-term benefits are well worth the wait. This initiative is more than just a beautification effort. By reducing the amount of grass that needs to be mowed, the project will lower maintenance costs and decrease



emissions from mowing equipment. The addition of trees and wildflowers also supports pollinators, improves soil health, and enhances the natural habitat around the facility. Ultimately, the goal is to create a more sustainable and visually appealing environment for both citizens and visitors—especially those enjoying nearby Turtle Creek Park. The project reflects the city's commitment to environmental stewardship and thoughtful land use, and serves as a great example of how small changes can lead to lasting positive impacts.

## REMINDER TO TRIM OR REMOVE YOUR DEAD TREES

Although living trees do have some risk of breaking or falling limbs, dead trees have an increased risk of losing branches and limbs. By looking at the tree canopy in Linn County, it is evident that the emerald ash borer has left a lasting impact on our tree stock. The City of Hiawatha has been diligent to remove dead or dying ash trees from City property to limit the risk of falling branches, but to also make way for additional plantings to help re-establish our canopy. Use this article as a reminder to evaluate the condition of your ash tree(s) to determine what steps may be best for you to minimize hazards, but to also make way for new shade opportunities in your yard.

## 75 FEET OF FESTIVITY (AND A FEW LESSONS IN WIND!)

In preparation for Hiawatha's 75th Celebration, the Public Works staff has been busy installing yard signs, street pole banners, and two 45' X 3' banners across Center Point Rd. This is the first time we have installed a 45 foot banner and it has been a learning experience! It is made of a mesh fabric. Mesh allows some of the wind to blow through the banner and not be as susceptible to wind damage. However, we have learned that there is not much you can do when you get wind gusts over 40 MPH! We have made a few adjustments to improve the banner durability. Please join us June 14th in Guthridge Park to celebrate Hiawatha!



## 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 5 | JULY 10 | AUGUST 14

7:00 - 9:00 AM





**DELIVER BY  
MONDAY,  
06/07/2025**

# Postal Customer Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

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

## HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL ACTION

MAY 7, 2025

**Proclamation - Building Safety Week** - "NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Dodson, Mayor of Hiawatha, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2025 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join us as we participate in Building Safety Month activities."

**Proclamation - National Teacher Appreciation Week** - "NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Dodson, Mayor of the City of Hiawatha, do proclaim the week of May 5-9, 2025, as National Teacher Appreciation Week and extend our thanks to all of our teachers for their time, their dedication, and their knowledge in educating our students."

**Proclamation - National Police Week** - "NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Dodson, Mayor of the City of Hiawatha, will observe May 11-17, 2025, as National Police Week and publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation."

**Proclamation - National Public Works Week** - "NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Dodson, Mayor of the City of Hiawatha, do hereby designate the week of May 18-24, 2025, as National Public Works Week. I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and advancing quality of life for all."

**Proclamation - National EMS Week** - "NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Dodson, Mayor of the City of Hiawatha, do recognize the week of May 19-25, 2024, as Emergency Medical Services Week. The 51 st Anniversary of EMS Week theme is EMS WEEK: We Care. For Everyone. I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of the EMS profession and the essential service it provides."

### RESOLUTION #

- #25-073 Setting PH to consider FY25 Budget Amendment
- #25-074 Acceptance of proposal to purchase \$2,525,000 GO Capital Loan Notes
- #25-075 Award of Contract for N. Center Point Road Force Main Project
- #25-076 Waiving Hiawatha's review of final plat of Olinger Farm First Addition
- #25-077 TASA Resolution Approving Local Match
- #25-078 Setting Setting PH for the City 2025 Tree Planting Project
- #25-079 Award of Contract for 2025 Street Improvements Project
- #25-080 Work Order #14 with Hall & Hall for Clark Park Pond Project
- #25-081 Approving Braun Intertec Corp for Testing Services for Edgewood Rd Extension

### RESOLUTION #

MAY 21, 2025

- #25-082 Approving Fy2025 Budget Amendment
- #25-083 Approving Plans, Specs, Form of Contract & Estimate Cost for 2025 City Tree Planting
- #25-084 \$2,525,000 GO Capital Loan Notes, Series 2025
- #25-085 Termination of the Hub LLC PSDA
- #25-086 Authorizing Finance Director to Make Appropriate Transfers
- #25-087 Setting PH to Amend Code of Ordinance Chapter 69 Parking Regulations
- #25-088 Authorizing TSIP Hawkeye Dr to Robins Rd
- #25-089 Setting PH for SOFA Daws Rd, Clymer & Thiher Water Main Replacement
- #25-090 Igram Village Additions - Preliminary Plat
- #25-091 Site Plan Design Guidelines for Igram Village
- #25-092 Support of Housing Tax Credit Program Application - Igram Family LLC
- #25-093 Tucker Park Splashpad Change Order #1
- #25-094 Approving & Making Award of Contract for the Ravine Restoration

**Ordinance #1006** Chapter 165.17 Mixed Use Overlay

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/>





# June 14th • Guthridge Park



## PARADE ROUTE

- 12:00PM PARADE
- 1:30PM PRESTIGE DANCE
- 2:00PM MARTIKA FIRE SHOW
- 1:00PM-4:00PM RC CAR INFLATABLE TRACK
- 1:00-4:00PM BARNYARD DISCOVERIES PETTING ZOO
- 1:00-4:00PM BINGO
- 1:00PM-5:00PM INFLATABLES
- 1:00PM-5:00PM TRACKLESS TRAIN
- 2:00PM POWER WHEELS NATIONALS
- 2:00PM-5:00PM LIVING CHARACTERS BALLOON ARTIST
- 5:00 PM FROZEN CUSTARD EATING CONTEST

SPONSORED BY 

## FOOD TRUCKS (ALL DAY) (FOR PURCHASE)



- FERRIS WHEEL (FREE ALL DAY)
- HISTORY DISPLAY (FREE ALL DAY)

- 5:45 PM REMARKS FROM MAYOR DODSON
- 6:00PM-9:30PM MILL CREEK BAND
- 6:00PM-9:00PM REGANS FACEPAINTING
- 6:00PM-9:00PM AIRFX EURO BUNGEE AND ROCK WALL
- 9:30PM/10:00PM FIREWORKS!



**MILL CREEK BAND**  
★  
**HIAWATHA 75TH CELEBRATION**  
**JUNE 14, 2025**  
★ **6-9:30** ★

