



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: HIAWATHA STATE OF THE CITY IS AUGUST 13

The City of Hiawatha is heading into the second half of 2026 with momentum, and there's no better place to feel it than at this year's State of the City event.

Hiawatha: Refined, Redefined and Real takes place on Wednesday, August 13 from 4:00–5:30 p.m. at the Can Shed, 2112 Robins Road, Hiawatha.

Hosted by the Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation (HEDCO) and sponsored by the Can Shed, the event brings together the voices shaping Hiawatha's future. HEDCO's Executive Director Liz Mathis and Hiawatha Mayor Steve Dodson will share what's been accomplished, what's underway, and what's on the horizon for our community. A special video message from Troy Willard, owner-operator of the Can Shed, will add a personal touch from one of Hiawatha's successful businesses.

This is more than an update; it's a celebration of the people, projects and possibilities that make Hiawatha great. The State of the City is also a fundraiser supporting HEDCO's ongoing work on behalf of the Hiawatha business community.

Registration is open now on HEDCO's Facebook page at facebook.com/hedcoiowa.

Don't miss your chance to connect, celebrate, and catch up on everything happening in Hiawatha. We'll see you August 13!



EVENT DETAILS

DATE
Thursday
August 13, 2026

TIME
4:00 – 5:30 PM

VENUE
The Can Shed
2112 Robins Rd.
Hiawatha, IA

LOOK DOWN... YOU MIGHT NOTICE SOMETHING NEW



Hundreds of storm drains throughout Hiawatha recently received an update, thanks to the efforts of Scouts from Troop 766. While the project may seem simple, it plays an important role in protecting our environment and reminding everyone that only rain belongs down the drain. Discover why these labels matter and how you can help. Read more on page 7.



CONNECT:



CITY OF HIAWATHA, IOWA



[HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM](https://hiawatha-iowa.com)
[HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM/ALERT-SIGNUP/](https://hiawatha-iowa.com/alert-signup/)



MAYOR
STEVE DODSON

mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com



COUNCIL MEMBER
ROB ARCHIBALD

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COUNCIL MEMBER
JEFF CATER

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COUNCIL MEMBER
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COUNCIL MEMBER
JILL WEIGEL

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COUNCIL MEMBER
CJ FLYNN

cflynn@hiawatha-iowa.com

AUGUST MEETING SCHEDULE

- 5th** - City Council Meeting
- 11th** - Library Board Meeting
- 11th** - Park Board Meeting
- 18th** - Water Board Meeting
- 19th** - City Council Meeting
- 20th** - History Commission Meeting
- 24th** - Planning & Zoning Meeting



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

hiawatha-iowa.com/calendar/



People of all ages occasionally ask me, "What does the mayor do?" As Hiawatha's Mayor, I serve as the city's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and preside over City Council meetings. Because Hiawatha has a City Manager who oversees the city's day-to-day operations, my primary responsibilities focus on leadership, policy, legislation, and representing our community. Under the Hiawatha City Code and the Code of Iowa, the mayor's responsibilities include:

- Presiding over regular and special City Council meetings.
- Calling special council meetings when needed.
- Vetoing ordinances, amendments, or resolutions within 14 days of passage.
- Helping ensure city ordinances and state laws are enforced.
- Working with the City Manager to provide oversight of city operations.
- Directing the police force and issuing proclamations during declared emergencies.
- Serving as Hiawatha's official representative with residents, businesses, the media, and other local, state, and federal government agencies.

One of the things I enjoy most as mayor is attending ribbon cuttings, groundbreaking ceremonies, and other community events. I also represent Hiawatha on a variety of boards, commissions, and regional organizations that focus on economic development, transportation, emergency management, and regional planning. These include the Collaborative Growth Initiative, Metropolitan Planning Organization, East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG), Linn County Emergency Management Agency, and the Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation. Through these partnerships, I help ensure Hiawatha's voice is heard while working with neighboring communities on issues that affect our residents and businesses. Don't forget Coffee Talk with the Mayor on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00-9:00 a.m. at Roasters Coffee Shop. Grab a coffee or your favorite drink and stop by for an informal conversation. I'd love to meet you, answer your questions, and hear your ideas for our community.

Steve Dodson, Hiawatha Mayor



City Calendar

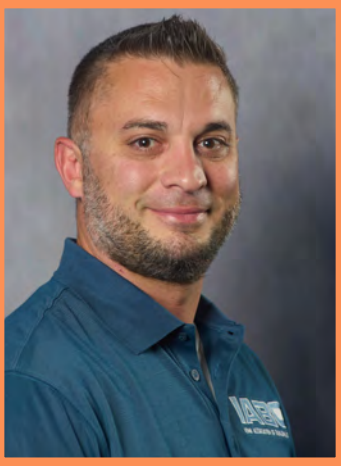


Library Calendar

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	mkpowers@hiawatha-iowa.com
Library Director	Chris Stoner	319-393-1414	cstoner@hiawatha-iowa.com

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WELCOMES LUCAS PUMP



The City of Hiawatha welcomed Lucas Pump to the Community Development Department as Assistant Building Official in May 2026.

Lucas has been married for more than 20 years and is the proud father of two daughters, ages 18 and 15. Family has always been at the center of his life, and he says watching his daughters grow into young adults has been one of his greatest joys. He has called Cedar Rapids home since 2000 and lives only a couple of blocks from the border of Hiawatha. Because of that, Lucas jokes that he's a "Hiawatha resident by proxy." Many of the places he frequents, events he attends, and connections he has are tied to Hiawatha, so it already feels like part of his neighborhood.

Professionally, Lucas brings extensive experience and leadership in the code enforcement and building safety profession. He has been actively involved with the International Code Council (ICC), serving six years on the Exam Development Committee for Property Maintenance/Housing Inspector and Zoning examinations, and six years as Chair of the Accessibility and Residential Building Inspector & Plans Examiner Exam Development Committees. For the past three consecutive code development cycles (nine years), he has served on Code Development Committees responsible for Property Maintenance and Zoning code revisions and has also contributed to the ICC Code Officer Safety Committee. Currently, Lucas serves as Chair of the Code Development Committee for the Iowa Association of Building Officials (IABO) and ICC Region III. He is an author and current contributor to the 2027 editions of the International Zoning Code (IZC) and International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) Code and Commentary publications. He also serves as President of the ICC Eastern Iowa Chapter and as a member of the Certification Committee of the ICC Professional Development Council. In recognition of his contributions to the profession, Lucas was honored with the ICC Meritorious Service Award, presented by the ICC Board of Directors in 2025.

Outside of work, one of Lucas's favorite activities is going on bike rides with his wife. It gives them an opportunity to spend quality time together, enjoy the outdoors, and stay active. Lucas is also a marine-life enthusiast. Aquariums have always fascinated him, and he even has a large in-wall fish tank at home—large enough that a person could nearly lie down in it.

As Lucas begins his career with the City of Hiawatha, we're excited to have him as part of the Community Development team. His extensive experience, dedication to the building safety profession, and passion for serving the community make him a great addition to our organization. Please join us in welcoming Lucas to the City of Hiawatha!

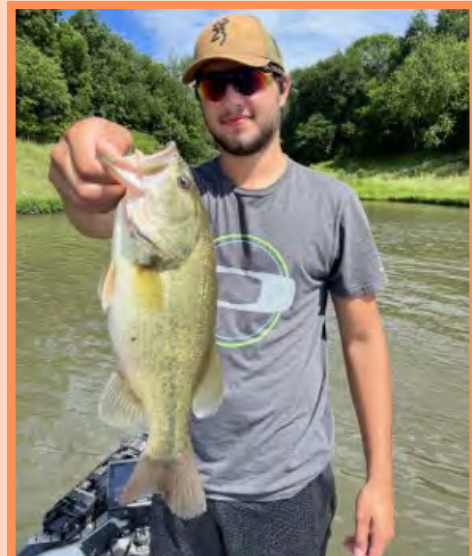
PUBLIC WORKS WELCOME NICK OLIVAS

The Hiawatha Public works would like to welcome Nick Olvias as our newest addition to the department. Nick joins the team with valuable heavy equipment experience and a wide range of construction knowledge, making him a valuable addition to the team.

As a Public Works Technician 1, Nick will have a wide range of responsibilities and opportunities to serve the residents and city of Hiawatha. Primarily working in the Public Works Department Nick will also work in other departments such as the Parks and Water department. Duties include maintaining and repairing streets, storm sewers, sanitation sewers collection systems, Right-of-ways, signage, city equipment, vehicle upkeep, snow removal and more.

Growing up in Central City, Nick found his passion for hunting and fishing. Alongside his outdoor hobbies Nick enjoys riding his Harley with his girlfriend and spending time with family. Building river boats and modifying the mud motors is a growing hobby as well.

The Hiawatha Public work takes pride in serving the community and visitors that come to Hiawatha. We are proud to have Nick join the team and would ask the community to give him a warm welcome as he starts his future with us.



100 TONS OF FOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY: HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOOD PANTRY'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY, AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

The staff and volunteers at Hiawatha Public Library are proud to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of its food pantry. Since the pantry opened on July 15th, 2025, the library has helped combat food insecurity in our community by distributing over 100 tons (200,000 lbs) of food to our patrons.

To our partner organizations (HACAP, Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, Feed Iowa First, and Linn County Master Gardeners) - We cannot thank you enough for your generous ongoing support of this project. Thank you as well to our food rescue donors, the Boyson Road Hy-Vee Drugstore, Otter Creek Convenience Store in Robins, and the Blairs Ferry Rd Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh and Kwik Star locations.



We are also extremely grateful for the generous donations we have received from local businesses, churches, and individual community members. In particular, we'd like to acknowledge St. Pius Girl Scouts Troop 8674, Hope United Church of Christ, Parker Hannifin Corporation, and Lovely Lane United Methodist Church for their generous support over the past year. Special thanks to the Moss family, in memory of Jon C. Moss, for their initial donation that helped make this food pantry project a reality. Looking for ways to help? Visit our website at hiawathapubliclibrary.org for information about donating to the pantry or volunteering in a variety of roles at our library!

CONNECT:



HIAWATHA PUBLIC LIBRARY



HIAWATHAPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

SUMMER'S GRAND FINALE STARTS AT GUTHRIDGE PARK



Music in the Park is back at Guthridge Park this August! Every Friday from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, the park comes alive with live music, great food, and a fun atmosphere for the whole family with Hiawatha's August Concert Series. This year's lineup features Betty Calling, Dogs on Skis, Nothings Real, and Richie Lee & The Fabulous 50's, with a different band taking the stage each week. The fun goes beyond the music each week with a variety of family-friendly activities. Throughout the series, visitors can enjoy face painting, balloon artists, the Farmers Market, and exciting Air FX rock climbing, along with great food vendors and a fireworks show to cap off the final concert. Come grab some food with friends and dance with your kids to the music!

August also features two exciting events. On August 7, the Friends of Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Foundation will host the Annual Tiny Tot Triathlon at Guthridge Park. Children can bike, run, and finish with a ride down the water slide and every participant will receive a medal at the finish line. Then, on August 21, Touch a Truck gives kids the chance to climb inside fire trucks, police vehicles, construction equipment, and other unique vehicles while meeting the people who operate them. These events are a great way to wrap up another fun-filled summer in Hiawatha!



CONNECT:

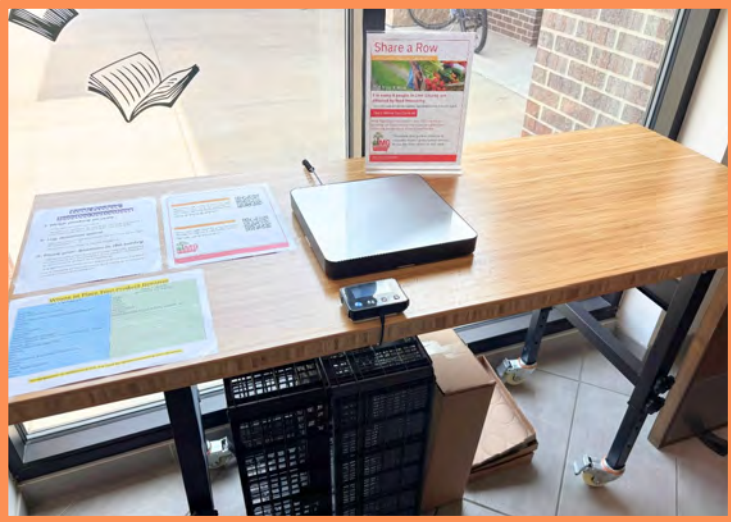


CITY OF HIAWATHA PARKS AND RECREATION



HIAWATHA.ACTIVITYREG.COM

Did you know that our food pantry also accepts extra produce from personal gardens? Consider donating your excess fruits and vegetables to the Hiawatha Public Library Food Pantry! This growing season, the Hiawatha Public Library Food Pantry is partnering with the Linn County Master Gardener's Share a Row initiative, which encourages local gardeners to donate their excess garden produce to local food pantries. 1 in every 8 people in Linn County are affected by food insecurity, and these individuals and families typically lack access to fresh fruits and vegetables.



Donating is easy! Bring your donation to the Produce Donation Station in the library's entry vestibule. This station has step-by-step instructions for weighing your donation, as well as a sheet instructing whether your produce should be placed in the refrigerator or on the room-temperature pantry shelving. There's also a QR code to submit your donation's weight online. Haven't donated before? There's a second QR code that links to the signup form to become a Share a Row donor! Thank you so much for your continued support as we work to achieve Hiawatha Public Library's mission: "Nourishing minds and bodies to help our community connect and grow"!

Let's Take a Breather!

Preschool Story Time will take a break from August 10 - September 7 and will return on September 14 @ 10:00!

Stop by Hiawatha Public Library anyway! Alicia would love to see you!



Expressive Arts

Creative arts experiences that help children and families build confidence, explore emotions, and strengthen resilience

10:00
August 4, September 1, October 6, and December 1

Tanager



TURTLE TALES

August 3 @ 10:00
Join us for Turtle Tales with a Linn County Naturalist! Listen to a story about a turtle, meet two live turtles, and color your own turtle to take home.

Wickiup Hill
LINN COUNTY CORPORATION



Music in the Park August Concert Series



AUGUST 7TH

BETTY CALLING

MIX OF ROCK & BLUES HITS FROM THE 60'S TIL TODAY

Tiny Tots Triathlon 5:00pm
AirFX Rock Wall/Bungee: 6-9pm
Regan's Face Painting: 6-9pm
Concessions by Metro Kiwanis
Cravin Shavens 6-9pm



AUGUST 14TH

DOGS ON SKIS

CLASSIC ROCK FOR ALL OCCASIONS!

Living Characters Balloon Artists: 6-9pm
Concessions by Metro Kiwanis & The Freeze 6-9pm



AUGUST 21ST

NOTHING'S REAL

PLAYIN 90'S & 2000'S ALT/ROCK

Touch a Truck 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Regan's Face Painting: 6-9pm
Concessions by Metro Kiwanis & Cravin Shavins 6-9pm
Fireworks show following the Concert!!!



AUGUST 28TH

RICHIE LEE & THE FABULOUS 50'S

HIGH ENERGY ROCK & ROLL TRIBUTE BAND

Movie Night: Super Mario Galaxy 9:00-10:30pm
Living Characters Balloon Artists: 6-9pm
Barnyard Discoveries: 6-8pm
Concessions by Metro Kiwanis & Cravin' Shavins: 6-9pm



AirFX

Trampoline Park



Hi

HIAWATHA
Parks & Recreation



SUPER MARIO GALAXY



FIREWORKS SHOW @ 9:15PM



TOUCH A TRUCK



NEW EACH WEEK! FARMERS MARKET AFTER DARK

PRESENTING SPONSORS

HIAWATHA POLICE DEPARTMENT HONORS OFFICER CHUCK ALLAIRE ON HIS RETIREMENT

The Hiawatha Police Department proudly recognizes Officer Chuck Allaire for his outstanding service and dedication to the Hiawatha community as he retires after 29 years of service with the department.

Officer Allaire was hired by then-Chief Dave Saari on April 15, 1997. Prior to joining the Hiawatha Police Department, he served the community of Grinnell, Iowa, for two years. His law enforcement career has been marked by a steadfast commitment to public service and the protection of the communities he served.

Law enforcement is a family tradition for Officer Allaire. He is a second-generation law enforcement officer, following in the footsteps of his mother, former Linn County Deputy Carol Kerns. It is believed that Officer Allaire and his mother were the first mother-and-son combination to both graduate from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. The family's commitment to public service continues today through his son, Officer Kenneth Allaire, who serves with the Cedar Rapids Police Department.

Throughout his career, Officer Allaire demonstrated courage, professionalism, and dedication to the citizens he served. Most recently, he was awarded the Hiawatha Police Department's Medal of Valor for his actions during an officer-involved shooting incident on December 31, 2025.

When Officer Allaire joined the Hiawatha Police Department, his hiring brought the department's staffing to eight sworn officers, earning him the distinction of being the original "847" radio call number. During his tenure, he witnessed and contributed to the department's growth to 17 sworn officers. Along the way, he served alongside multiple generations of officers and helped shape the department into the professional organization it is today.

For nearly three decades, Officer Allaire has been a familiar and trusted presence in the community. His dedication to public service, commitment to his fellow officers, and willingness to serve wherever needed have left a lasting impact on both the department and the residents of Hiawatha.

Officer Allaire's commitment to his community will be greatly missed. The Hiawatha Police Department extends its sincere gratitude for his 29 years of service and wishes him and his family a long, healthy, and well-deserved retirement. Congratulations, Officer Allaire, and thank you for your dedicated service to the Hiawatha community.



BENEATH THE SURFACE: MAINTAINING HIAWATHA'S WATER WELLS



Keeping well pumps and piping in optimal condition is a high priority for any water department. Lack of preventative maintenance can be very costly to a water utility and be cause for excessive downtime. Water utilities want to have the well pumps working at its peak performance. Over time wear rings, seals and impellers in the well pump start to breakdown and start to change the pumps efficiency. The well piping can start to see pin holes or even larger holes to the water being pumped to the water treatment plants. Even the electrical wires can break down creating a dead short, leaving the pump inoperable. All of these issues can create loss of maximum water being pumped, longer run times and higher electric bills due to the longer run times.

Hiawatha water schedules preventative maintenance on our well pumps on a scheduled rotation to enhance

getting the optimal output with the lowest input costs. Rotating the schedule of the well pumps allows maintenance to happen on our schedule and not as an emergency. Proper scheduling allows the water department to shut down a water treatment plant for preventative maintenance and to ensure the rest of wells are ready to handle the demand from the system.

This year Northway Well and Pump in Marion, Iowa completed the preventative maintenance to the water treatment plant well #9. Northway Well and Pump has always been a great partner with Hiawatha Water providing us with quality work with the maintenance of the well pumps.



INSIDE YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT: PART 2 – SERVING THROUGH TRAINING

Last month, we discussed the process of applying to join the fire department. Being selected to join the department can be the start of a very rewarding tenure of helping your neighbors in their time of need.

One advantage of joining the fire department as a volunteer is that we will train and give you the needed experience to learn how to be a firefighter and to respond to emergency medical service calls. All new members regardless of past experience complete the department's rookie academy. The rookie academy serves as a way to instruct the members on department specific procedures, expectations, basic firefighter skills and required trainings such as CPR and Mandatory Reporter. Using a structured rookie academy for initial training allows for consistent trainings that helps build a strong team around a community first culture.

The rookie academy is scheduled for weekly sessions for about 5 months with the primary purpose of giving new members the entry-level skills and knowledge required to operate safely and effectively as a firefighter. The academy is designed around a nationally accepted curriculum which ensures that recruits understand basic fire behavior, rescue operations, equipment use, and safety protocols. Additionally, the academy covers Hazardous Materials training to allow these new members to identify potential hazardous materials, perform basic containment and decontamination. At the end of the rookie academy the members are ready to take the national certification tests for Firefighter 1, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Materials Operations. Some certifications, like EMT and Paramedic, require training through an accredited college or university. These aren't part of the rookie academy, but the department encourages and helps members pursue those EMS certifications. Training doesn't stop after the rookie academy. Members train monthly to sharpen their skills and stay ahead of new hazards, and many go on to earn certifications like Firefighter 2, Driver/Operator, or Fire Instructor. Members also have the opportunity to attend statewide and regional trainings or conferences. Last year alone, the members of the fire department completed over 5,000 hours of training.



TROOP 766 HELPS KEEP HIAWATHA'S STORMWATER SYSTEM PROTECTED



As part of Hiawatha's stormwater management program, we are required by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in conjunction with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to have all stormwater catch basins labeled with No Dumping markings. These labels are installed to remind the public that dumping anything other than stormwater into a catch basin is prohibited (Hiawatha Ordinance Chapter 102). In the newer subdivisions of the city, the lids on the catch basins have the label incorporated. In the older parts of the city, labels need to be installed or replaced. In May and June of 2026, Hiawatha worked with the Scouts from Troop 766 to replace the labels that were installed over 10 years ago. Many of these had faded or were missing. The Scouts replaced over 500 Stormwater Stickers on catch basins around the City of Hiawatha. Scouts earned Conservation service hours for removing

the old faded stickers and replacing them. Storm sewer stickers are essential in Iowa because they warn the public that storm drains empty directly into local rivers and streams without treatment. They remind residents that only rain should go down the drain, preventing accidental pollution from oil, chemicals, and fertilizers. If you notice a catch basin that does not have a No Dumping label, please notify Public Works at 319-393-6601. For more information regarding Hiawatha's Stormwater Management, please visit <https://www.hiawatha-iowa.com/departments/community-development/stormwater/>.

HIAWATHA CITY COUNCIL ACTION

RESOLUTION

JULY 1, 2026

#26-122 Setting PH for Plans, Specs, Form of Contract & Cost for Clark Park Urban Fishing Pond

#26-123 Authorizing Contract with Hawkeye Communications for City Hall Security Camera Upgrades & Card Access System Replacement

RESOLUTION

JULY 15, 2026

#26-124 Sewer Waiver for 3527 Reed Road

#26-125 Plans, Specs, Form of Contract & Estimate of Cost for Clark Park Urban Fishing Pond

#26-126 Awarding Contract for 2026 Pavement Marking Project

#26-127 Approving Chapter 28E Agreement between Hiawatha and Robins for Tower Terrace Road Corridor Franchise Utility Relocation

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

JOIN THE HIAWATHA POLICE DEPT. FOR A SCAM & FRAUD AWARENESS WORKSHOP

The Hiawatha Police Department invites community members, especially older adults and their families, to attend a FREE Scam and Fraud Awareness Class. Scams targeting aging adults continue to increase, with criminals using phone calls, text messages, emails, social media, and even artificial intelligence to deceive victims into sending

money or sharing personal information. These crimes can result in devastating financial losses and emotional hardship, and they are affecting members of our own community. During this one-hour class, we will discuss the latest scam trends, common warning signs, and practical steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones. Whether you're looking to stay informed or help a family member recognize fraudulent schemes, this presentation will provide valuable information to help prevent becoming a victim. We encourage all aging adults, caregivers, family members, and anyone interested in learning how to recognize and avoid scams to join us.

What: Scam and Fraud Awareness Class

When: Monday, September 14, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Where: Hiawatha Public Safety Building

Cost: Free



Please RSVP by calling the Hiawatha Police Department at 319-393-1212 or emailing mmehlert@hiawathapolice.com.

HIAWATHA HISTORY COMMISSION

August's Question:

In the 50's, this type of new home was common in Hiawatha. It was called a "Garlow". What is a "Garlow"?

July's Answer:

The new road is Edgewood. It now extends from Blairsferry to Emmons. An improved entrance was built for the Buffalo Cemetery.
Thanks to resident Kathy C. for giving the correct answer!

Call Marilyn with your answers at 319-393-5067



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!

AUGUST 13 SEPTEMBER 10 OCTOBER 8 7:00 - 9:00 AM

CELEBRATING FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS 0-5!

Since Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program began in the Hiawatha area, **308 children** have registered for free & 120 have graduated!



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

