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Hiawatha Insights

VOLUME 11

FEBRUARY 2009

Board Re-Appointments

The Mayor and Council re-appointed the following residents for Board Members including terms:

Planning & Zoning Board—Five year term ending 2013—Ron Reichert

Park & Recreation Commission—Two year terms ending 2010—Joe Helle, Larry Eveland, Deb Theis

Water Board—Six year term ending 2014—Charlie Fridal

Board of Adjustment—Five year term ending 2013—Frank Glaser

License/Appeal Board—Three year terms ending 2011—Brad A'Hearn and Wayne Winn

History Committee—Three year terms ending 2011—Roberta Hamdorf, Jerry Seifried, Edith Wheeler

Housing Inspection Board—Three year term ending 2011—Gail Winker

The Mayor and Council wishes to commend these Board Members for their continued service and dedication to the City of Hiawatha.



Dangers of Digital Transition—Recycling TV's

The Cedar Rapids / Linn County Solid Waste Agency is expecting an onslaught of "old" televisions when the switch from analog to digital broadcast finally happens on February 17, 2009.

You do not need to get rid of your existing analog TV. (Sorry guys!) Analog sets should continue to work if you subscribe to cable or satellite TV. If you don't subscribe to a service, a digital-to-analog converter box allows you to continue using your existing analog TV to watch over-the-air digital broadcasts, getting more channels than ever before. Two \$40 converter box coupons per household are available through www.dtv.gov, if you haven't already converted yet. If all else fails, analog sets will continue to work fine with gaming consoles, VCRs and DVD players.

If you do have a television or any electronics for that matter that no longer work, please consider recycling rather than land filling. Electronics contain a variety of heavy metals and other nasty chemicals, such as lead, mercury, brominated fire retardants. Once these metals and chemicals are exposed to the environment they can leach out and enter our water supply. Televisions can be recycled at either Solid Waste Agency location, \$5 for televisions 41" or smaller; \$10 for televisions 42" or larger.

This article courtesy of Stacie Johnson, Education Coordinator
Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency



Broken televisions in dumpsters increase the probability of heavy metals and other nasty chemicals leaching out into our environment.

Hiawatha American Legion Post 735

The members of Hiawatha Legion Post 735 would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all the citizens of Hiawatha who participated in last years Avenue of Flags project. Because of your donations, the Post is able to give back to the community in several ways, they are as follows:

- Funds to be put towards the flag poles at City Hall
- Donate the five (5) Service Plaques on the entrance wall to City Hall
- Help Support the Boy Scouts and the Fire Department
- Place flags out at the local cemeteries during Memorial Day weekend
- Sent two (2) boys to Boys State in Des Moines
- Sponsor a team in the Kids League
- Continue to do the Flag Essay contest for 5th graders at all three (3) schools.



Citizens may contact City Hall for flyers to sign up for the Avenue of Flags for more info, contact the Legion at 393-2601.

Mail boxes/Garbage Cans and Snow Removal

Snow can create a lot of havoc during the course of our winter season for your mail delivery and garbage cans/bags for weekly pickup.

- Following is information directly from the U.S. Postal Service website regarding reasons why your mail may not be delivered due to snow-fall. "Customers are required as a condition of delivery to ensure that proper access is provided to mail receptacles. Proper access includes the removal of large accumulations of snow from the area around curb line receptacles and from sidewalks leading to do or or other house-mounted receptacles. Without such access, the safety of the carrier is jeopardized. If your mail cannot be delivered because accumulated snow prevents the carrier from reaching your box, you may choose any one of the following alternatives: 1. Arrange with a neighbor to receive your mail. 2. Put up a suitable temporary mail box (for example, a sturdy box). 3. Meet the carrier at your box. 4. Pick up your mail at the post office. Your postmaster will be pleased to discuss these alternatives so that you may select the one most convenient for you."



- It is important to keep cans/bags out of the street so that the city plows have a clear path to remove the snowfall without having to dodge garbage bags/cans. Our suggestion for placement of garbage cans for pickup— is to shovel a place along your driveway or curb, out of the street, to allow for placement of garbage bags/cans. These helpful tips will help to continue your mail delivery and also aid our snow plow drivers from obstacles such as garbage cans/bags from our city streets during snow removal.



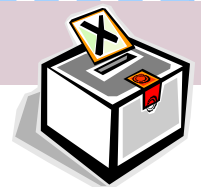
Local Option Sales Tax

On February 2, 2009, our State Legislature passed a bill allowing disaster-stricken city and county governments to quickly levy a one percent local-option sales tax to fund recovery efforts.

The bill allowed each community to pass a motion requesting submission of the question of imposition of a local-option sales and services tax to the registered voters of Linn County. Your City Council did just that on January 28, 2009.

Voting for this measure will be held on March 3, 2009.

If passed, the City of Hiawatha will use the resources from the sales and services tax to be allocated for the specific purpose of street improvements, public safety, park & recreation improvements, and water & sewer system improvements.



Firefighters Distribute Community Calendars

Members of the Hiawatha Fire Fighters distributed calendars on January 10th to many neighborhoods. The calendars were a fundraising activity that started over a year ago. The calendars were originally set to be for 2008, however with delays at the printer, the Firefighters decided to wait a year for distribution. The 2009 calendars were sponsored by local businesses. Over \$4,000 was raised, which will go toward the purchase of rescue and firefighting equipment. Please take the time to thank the businesses that supported the calendar!

President's Day/Holiday Schedule



Presidents Day—February 16, 2009

This holiday is often called President's day, though the official name is Washington's Birthday. This federal holiday is celebrated each year on the third Monday of February, though it was originally celebrated on Washington's actual birthday of February 22nd.

It's the first federal holiday to recognize an American citizen and was enacted in 1880 as a holiday for the District of Columbia only. In 1885 it was named a federal holiday for all federal offices in the U.S. It wasn't until 1976 that Washington's Birthday was moved to the third Monday of February in an attempt to establish it more along the lines of President's Day to also honor Abraham Lincoln who was born on February 12th. Though the change in day passed the change in name did not. [www.patriotism.org]

The City of Hiawatha honors and celebrates President's Day, our offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2009 and we will re-open for our regular business hours on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Cold Weather Safety from the Fire Department

This past week the weather has given us hopes of spring, but it is still appropriate to pass on some cold weather safety tips.

Very cold temperatures can be hazardous to your health. Knowing the symptoms of danger and how to treat them can keep problems that do occur from becoming disasters.

General Hazards

The most common hazard in the cold is frostbite. Your body doesn't get enough heat and the body tissues freeze. Body parts most often affected by frostbite are nose, ears, cheeks, fingers, and toes.

In very bad cases, frostbite can cause permanent tissue damage and loss of movement in the affected body parts. In the worst cases, you could become unconscious and stop breathing.

The other cold hazard is hypothermia. This is when you're exposed to cold long enough that your body temperature gets dangerously low.

Identifying Hazards

It is very important to know the symptoms of frost bite and hypothermia so that you can do something before it is too late. Frostbite can occur from being in a cold area or from touching an object that's temperature is below freezing. Frostbite victims usually start by feeling uncomfortably cold, then numb. Sometimes they also get a tingling or aching feeling or a brief pain. Hypothermia can also take you by surprise because you can get it even when the temperature is above freezing. Windy conditions, physical exhaustion, and wet clothing can make you prone to hypothermia.

Protection against Hazards

The best way to deal with these common cold problems is to prevent them before they happen. The most sensible approach is to limit exposure to the cold. If you know you're going to be in cold conditions, don't bathe, smoke, or drink alcohol just before going out.

Dress for the conditions in layers of loose, dry clothes. Be sure to cover hands, feet, face, and head. A hat is critical because you can lose up to 40 percent of your body heat, if your head isn't covered. Get dry and change immediately if your clothes do get wet.

Keep moving when you're in the cold and take regular breaks in a warm area.

Safety Precautions

As you know, prevention doesn't always work. So it's important to know what to do if you or someone you're with shows symptoms of cold problems. For both frostbite and hypothermia, the first thing to do is to get where it's warm. Get out of any frozen, wet, or tight clothing and into warm clothes or blankets. Drink something warm, decaffeinated, and non-alcoholic. It's dangerous to underestimate the health hazards you're exposed to in the cold. If you take precautions before you're exposed and know what symptoms can spell trouble, you will substantially reduce your risk.

For hypothermia, call 911 for medical help and keep the person covered with blankets or something similar. Don't use hot baths, electric blankets, or hot water bottles.

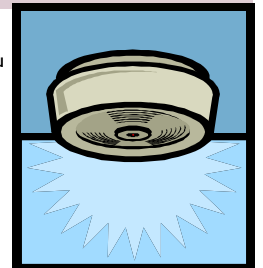
Red Cross/Hiawatha Fire Sponsor Battery Up Project

The Fire Department would like to remind everyone that they should replace the battery in their smoke detector yearly. Additionally, smoke detectors over 10 years old should be completely replaced. Having a working smoke detector and an escape plan are your best protection should you have a fire.



On March 13th and 14th, Teams of Red Cross Volunteers and Hiawatha Firefighters will visit those who need assistance in changing smoke detector batteries. If you need help changing your smoke detector battery and would like to sign up, please contact the Red Cross at 393-3500 to register. Visits will be scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The Battery-Up Project is a service brought to you by the American Red Cross Grant Wood Area Chapter and the Hiawatha Fire Department.



Council Action Summary

December 17, 2008

Council approved appointment of Marty Recker as a fire fighter.

Resolution 08-197 Approving (Balancing) Change Order #2 for the 12th Avenue Sewer Basin Sanitary Sewer Repair & Reconstruction Project with a reduction of \$15,918.00 with a revised contract amount of \$104,604.00.

Resolution 08-198 Accepting and approving (Final) Pay Estimate #5 for the 12th Avenue Sewer Basin Sanitary Sewer Repair & Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$12,605.05 to Municipal Pipe Tool Co.

December 30, 2008

Resolution 08-199 Rescinding Resolution 08-193 (Final) Pay Estimate #20 for the 2006 City Hall Project until all items on punch list are completed.

January 7, 2009

Resolution 09-001 Ordering the construction of permanent sidewalk upon Lot Seven (7) Parkside First Addition (137 East Boyson Road) with a completion date of June 1, 2009.

Resolution 09-002 Ordering the construction of permanent sidewalk upon Lot Eight (8) Dry Creek Condo (995 Terry Avenue) with a completion date of June 1, 2009.

Resolution 09-003 Ordering the construction of a permanent sidewalk upon Lot Seven (7) Stamy Industrial Park Second Addition (1420 Stamy Road) with a completion date of June 1, 2009.

Resolution 09-004 Ordering the construction of a permanent sidewalk upon Lot One (1) Heritage Green 5th Addition and Lot Two (2) Heritage Green Fifth Addition (109/111 Blairsferry Crossing) with a completion date of June 1, 2009.

Resolution 09-005 Acceptance of warranty deed Dina court (Gap in) Right-Of-Way (Longfellow Square 6th Addition and Longfellow Square 7th Addition).

Resolution 09-006 Authorizing the installation of street lights at 106 2nd Avenue and at the intersection of Clark and 2nd Avenue with no cost to the City and approving the monthly fee.

Resolution 09-007 Approving the Hiawatha City Council Regular meeting schedule for 2009.

Resolution 09-008 Approving the purchase and installation of playground equipment for Fay M. Clark Memorial from Boland Recreation at a cost not to exceed \$42,876.00 and authorize a 10% down payment.

Resolution 09-009 Authorizing the installation of a pedestrian access sidewalk along Miller Road with a cost not to exceed \$10,650.00.

Resolution 09-010 Approving the required Large Group Pavilion Rental form and rental fee of \$35.00 (one time slot) and \$90.00 (a whole day).

Resolution—011 Authorizing the replacement of the Hiawatha Police Department 2006 Ford Crown Victoria with a 2009 Ford Victoria at a cost not to exceed \$16,256.00 from Zimmerman Ford of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Resolution 09-012 Approving Pay Estimate #1 for the 8th Avenue Water Main & Subdrain Project in the amount of \$37,247.05 to Tschiggfrie Excavating.

Council consented hiring Andrew Sweeney as the Fire Deputy Chief—EMS at a rate of \$19.08/\$39,691.00 with benefits, effective 1/12/09.

Council consented hiring Rick Wolf as the Park Maintenance employee at a rate of \$14.70 with benefits, effective 1/08/09.

Council denied approval of payment of the annual Kiwanis fees for four (4) staff members.

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Council 7pm	5	6	7
8 Public Safety 6pm	9 History 1:30pm Board of Adj 6pm	10 Parks 6pm Library 7pm	11	12	13 Kids Movie Night 6pm Over The Hedge 2	14
15 Street Smart Self Defense 1:30 pm Register @ City Hall—\$20.00	16	17 Friends of the Library 6:30 pm Water 6:30 pm	18 Council 7pm	19	20 Hiawatha Night @ Roughriders 7:05 pm	21 Lil MMC Dance Clinic 9:15am Register @ City Hall -\$25
22	23	24 P&Z 6pm	25 Senior Evening Dinner/Dance 5:30pm Call Mary @ 393-9348	26	27	28

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Council 7pm	5	6	7
8 Public Safety 6pm	9 History 1:30pm Board of Adj 6pm	10 Parks 6pm Library 7pm	11	12	13 Kids Movie Night 6pm Madagascar 2	14
15	16	17 Friends of the Library 6:30 pm Water 6:30 pm	18 Council 7pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Red Cross Baby-sitting Class-\$35	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 P&Z 6pm				

City of Hiawatha

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WALK SEQUENCE

Welcoming New Faces.....



At the January 7th Council Meeting, council approved the hiring of Andrew Sweeney, of Hiawatha, to the Deputy Chief – EMS position. Andy grew up in Hiawatha and attended both Nixon and Hiawatha Elementary. He graduated from Kennedy in May of 2003 and joined the Hiawatha Fire Department in September of 2003. He graduated from The University of Iowa's Paramedic Program in August of 2004. He is a certified Paramedic Specialist with an endorsement as a Critical Care Paramedic. He previously worked for Wheaton Franciscan Health Care Paramedics, where he responded to 9-1-1 calls in Cedar Falls. As part of his job there, he responded to New Hartford and Parkersburg following the fatal tornado. He is a member of the Iowa Disaster Medical Assistance Team. In that capacity he was deployed to Galveston Texas following Hurricane Ike. He also is a certified instructor of EMS. He has played a critical role in the establishment of the ambulance service, and brings with him a wealth of knowledge.



Hiawatha Public Library is happy to welcome Debra Tobias to its staff as cataloger. Debra has been a librarian for over 25 years and has worked in public and academic libraries as a cataloger and reference librarian. Debra most recently worked as a consultant with the East Central Library Services office in Cedar Rapids, where she helped train new library staff throughout eastern Iowa. She shares with the staff her interests in music, drama, crafts and paranormal romance. Debra and her husband Bill live in Cedar Rapids.



Hi, I am Rick Wolfe, the new Parks & Recreation Maintenance employee.
My wife Carrie and I live in Marion along with our dog, Maverick and cat, Rusty.
I have two grown children whose names are Joy and Austin that live in Denver, Colorado and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
I recently retired from UPS with 34 1/2 years of service.
I look forward to the challenge of maintaining the Parks for everyone to enjoy.

Proposed Sewer Rate Increase

On February 4th, the City Council approved the first reading of Ordinance #628 Chapter 99 Sewer Service Charges, Section 99.02 Rate. This ordinance will raise the rate for sanitary sewer charges from its current rate of 84% of the water rate to 100% of the water rate. This will be the first change in the rate since July of 2005. Over the last five years, the City has been actively pursuing inspections and repairs to the system to reduce or eliminate extraneous flows to the system. The cost of the inspections and repairs, as well as the increases the City is experiencing in the cost of treatment have made it necessary to adjust the rates at this time. The second reading of Ordinance #628 will be held on February 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Town Center Public Meeting



The City of Hiawatha will be holding a Town Center Public Information meeting on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hiawatha Community Center. The alternate date for inclement weather will be Monday, March 16, 2009.

Additional public meeting to follow in April. We will notify you of dates and times as they become closer.

Please be sure to mark your calendars and attend these meetings to have an opportunity to view the information, ask questions and receive answers.