



Rivertown NEWS

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Spring 2014

City Hall

Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Building Safety: 651-480-2342

Civic Arena: 651-480-6195

Code Enforcement: 651-480-2376

Community Development: 651-480-2350

Fire Business Office: 651-480-6150

Parks & Recreation: 651-480-6175

Police Business Office: 651-480-2300

Public Works: 651-480-6185

Utility Billing: 651-480-2350

Report Suspicious Activity! Call 911

2014 Annual Spring Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Cal Ruedy Public Works Building

1225 Progress Drive

Event Hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Spring Clean Up is a great time to get rid of items that your regular weekly waste pick-up cannot handle, including hazardous waste items, at a low cost.

In 2013 we collected 28,484 pounds of Hazardous Waste, 45,228 pounds of Electronics, 122 Appliances, 25 mattresses, and 29.76 TONS of construction debris and miscellaneous items. THANK YOU for helping to keep the City of Hastings a clean and vibrant city!



Collection of general household items is limited to Hastings residents living within the city limits. Items accepted include: appliances, construction debris, metals,

tires, furniture, mattresses, carpet, etc. These items **will be charged a minimal fee** to help cover the cost to properly dispose of the items. No commercial waste will be accepted.

Residents will be asked to provide valid identification.



Hazardous waste will be accepted from all Dakota County residents FREE OF CHARGE. Hazardous items are products that may be labeled with CAUTION,

WARNING, DANGER, or POISON. Hazardous products collected include: paint, motor oil/filters, fertilizer with weed killer, household cleaning products, fluorescent lights, etc.



Electronics such as cell phones, computer equipment, TVs, stereos, media players, VCR/DVD players, vacuums (no bags), microwaves, coffee makers (remove glass), and blenders (remove glass) will be accepted for recycling.



Shredding: Bring your confidential documents to be properly destroyed by a mobile shredding company. No commercial waste will be accepted.



Items that **will not be accepted** are compost items such as leaf, grass, and brush, in addition to items that can be recycled in your single sort recycling container.

For questions or to verify your residency status, please contact Kristin at 480-6182 or kbehrens@hastingsmn.gov. A general fee structure can be found on our website at

www.hastingsmn.gov by looking for Spring Cleanup under the Resident Connections tab.

Public Meeting Notice: Dog Park in Hastings

Are you one of the many local dog owners that would love to see a dog park developed in Hastings? Join us Tuesday, April 15, from 6-8 p.m. for a public meeting about our proposed dog park. The meeting will be held in the Community Room located on the second floor of City Hall at 101 Fourth Street East.

The purpose of this meeting will be to have an open discussion about the scope of the project, location of the park, construction of a parking lot and appropriate fencing, future amenities, and a review of current funding.

Your ideas, concerns and feedback will help shape the development of this exciting new park for the citizens of Hastings.

We are committed to our CORE Values:

Communication • Optimal Service • Respect for Resources • Enthusiasm

PD initiative has safety UP, costs DOWN

In March of 2013, the Hastings Police Department joined Dakota County in implementing AVL Telematics technology into their fleet. This new system records vehicle data such as speed, idling, acceleration, braking, cornering, and emergency driving.

Being able to monitor up-to-the-minute vehicle functions serves many purposes. First, it improves employee safety. Automated reports provide employees with their individual driver scores and feedback on their driving habits. This not only holds them accountable for how they use city equipment, but also changes driving behaviors.

Positive driver behavior helps reduce costs. Having the ability to analyze vehicle functions such as speed, acceleration, and idling decreases fuel consumption, increases fuel economy, reduces wear and tear, ultimately increasing the life of the vehicle.

Telematics also emails fleet maintenance directly when there is a sign of system failure such as a low battery and engine warning lights, hence reducing the chance of more costly repairs.

In a Dakota County Study of the Telematics Program in 2013, there was a 92% increase in seatbelt use, a 12% decrease in idling, 72% reduction in harsh vehicle operation (braking, acceleration, turning), and a 5% increase in miles per gallon. The results seen in Hastings not only mirror the county-wide results, but also revealed that driver safety scores nearly doubled since its inception.

In 2014 the Police Department will be focused on increasing driver safety score through seatbelt usage and vehicle idling. This is good news for Hastings taxpayers. Not only are your police officers more respectful of city resources, but they are safer drivers, setting an example for those they serve.

Machinery Hill - Public Works style - is coming to Rivertown Days!

On Saturday, July 19, visit the NEW City of Hastings Machinery Hill as part of Rivertown Days. The Public Works Department will be featured this year. Climb into a street sweeper or front end loader and see the world from an operator's perspective.



Kick the tires and ask the operators questions. Imagine you are driving that plow truck and get to fill up your brother-in-law's driveway with snow.



What does that big white truck with all the pipes and big tank do? Why is that yellow tractor always driving backwards?



Learn the answers to these questions and many more at the new City of Hastings Machinery Hill at Rivertown Days.

Public WORKS for you!

3 Ways to Report a Pothole

- Text keyword "Hastings" to TIP411
- Call Public Works at 651-480-6185
- Email PublicWorks@hastingsmn.gov

Road Construction Updates

- 2014 Neighborhood Street and Utility Reconstruction is the area north of 15th St. and south of Roadside Park.
- Downtown watermain re-lining project.
- Hastings Veterans Home/CP Adams Park sewer rehabilitation project.

Look for updates at www.hastingsmn.gov

Water Supply Information

Go to www.hastingsmn.gov/PublicWorks to learn more about:

- Odd/Even Sprinkling Ban in effect from May 15 through September 1.
- Water Conservation Rates – surcharge for water use above your winter use.
- Annual Water Quality Report

Wood Chips and Compost

FREE for the taking; just load and go! Find them in the concrete bins in front of the Public Works Facility at 1225 Progress Drive.

City business is your business

Have you liked us on Facebook? Do you follow us on Twitter? With the fast pace of business today, we are always looking for the quickest way to keep the citizens of Hastings informed. In addition to keeping in touch through the Hastings Star Gazette, KDWA radio, Hastings Community TV, and our website, we post a variety of notices, updates, and fun tidbits on our social media pages.

Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to get the most recent updates about upcoming events and news that affects you. Post questions, comments, or concerns at your convenience. We will do our best to provide a timely answer.

2014 budget highlights

The 2014 budget is available for citizen review. The City Council approved this budget on December 16, 2013. You may view the full budget document or a simplified budget summary at our website. Go to www.hastingsmn.gov/Finance and find your preferred document under *Budget*. A hard copy is also available for review at City Hall, located at 101 4th St. E. in Hastings.



Our CORE Values at work for Hastings residents

- \$370,000 decrease in the levy for 2014
- 3.1% reduction in tax rate

Respect for Resources

Capitol investments save \$\$\$

Recently, it became apparent that water heater at the Hastings Family Aquatic Center needed replacing. The Parks & Recreation Department worked to identify a sensible replacement for the aging heater, focusing on newer technologies, effectiveness in heating the 360,000 gallons of pool water, and efficiencies in maintaining pool water temperature.

These efforts led us to purchase and install two 1.5 million BTU heaters to replace the old 4 million BTU dinosaur. These two heaters will work together during the initial heating of the pool water. Once that process has been completed they will alternate an on/off cycle, operating only one heater at a time to maintain the pool water temperature. This cycling process will extend the life of the heaters through a reduced run time for each, and will provide some reduction in natural gas use, having only one 1.5 million BTU heater operating to maintain temperature.

We are anxiously awaiting the start of the upcoming pool season at the Hastings Family Aquatic Center. See you June 7!

Spring/Summer Activities and Events

Hastings Family Aquatic Center is opening June 7th! Season passes and punch cards are available for purchase at the Parks & Rec Office located at 920 West 10th Street. You will also be able to purchase passes at the pool beginning June 7. HFAC will have a separate line for patrons who have already purchased cards!

Arbor Day Celebration - Volunteers needed to plant trees this spring. Date TBD.

Annual Parks & Trails Cleanup - Volunteers needed on Saturday, May 3 at 9 a.m.

Call 480-6175 if you or your group is interested in participating in either event

Online registration for Swim Lessons, Safety Camp, Lacrosse Camp, and Football Camp is now open. Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/parks or call 480-6175 for assistance.

NEW: Junior Lifeguarding - Guard Start

Ages 11-14. Get a sneak peek at what it takes to become a lifeguard. Be prepared to enter the American Red Cross Lifeguarding program when you turn 15. Cost: \$100 (must attend every session) Dates: June 16-26, 9 -11:30 a.m., plus Friday, June 27, noon-5 p.m.

Lifeguard Training

Ages 15+. The purpose of the American Red Cross Lifeguarding course is to provide entry-level lifeguard participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatics emergencies and to provide care for breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries and sudden illnesses until emergency medical services (EMS) personnel take over.

Cost: \$200

Dates: August 4-14, 9-11:30 a.m.

Water Fitness

Low to high intensity water fitness. No swim ability required.

Cost: \$4/class or season pass/punch card

Dates: Mon 7-7:45 a.m., Tues/Thurs 7:30-8:15 p.m., Sat 9-9:45 a.m. throughout pool season.



Open to Business program helps local business with expansion

Construction of the new Extreme Sandbox location on Glendale Road has been aided through a \$30,000 gap loan through the *Open To Business* Program, a free business consulting and loan program facilitated through the City of Hastings.

Extreme Sandbox allows people the opportunity to experience the thrill of operating heavy equipment in a safe and controlled environment. Operating out of a temporary facility on Glendale Road since 2012, Extreme Sandbox utilized *Open To Business* to assist in their expansion plans including construction of a permanent building.

Randy Stenger, owner of Extreme Sandbox, shares his thoughts on the program, "I can not speak highly enough of both the City of Hastings and the *Open to Business* program. Without the guidance and support of both, we would not have been able to grow our business. We are excited that Extreme Sandbox has become a tourism draw, allowing visitors from all over the country to experience what Hastings has to offer."

Open To Business assists existing and perspective entrepreneurs in transforming business dreams into reality.

Assistance may include one-on-one confidential consulting in areas including business start-up, business plan development, cash flow financial, business analysis, loan packaging, networking, operations, strategic planning, and commercial real estate analysis. Direct financing and loans to businesses are also available.

Business Advisor, Laurie Crow is available by appointment at 952-484-3107, or during office hours held from 9 - 11 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month at City Hall.

New tech manufacturer expands business to Hastings

Hexfuel, maker of a diesel engine component to increase fuel efficiency, is planning a manufacturing facility in Hastings that will employ 150 people within three years and potentially 300 in five years.

The company plans to open the facility in the 35,000 s.f. former ProBuild site located at 1100 Spiral Boulevard and may add more space, if necessary, to accommodate future growth.

Hexfuel will make its patented BoostBox at the site – a device that company officials say improves fuel efficiency, reduces emissions, increases torque and reduces maintenance on diesel-powered vehicles. The technology can be installed in about three hours on all diesel engines, according to the company.

The City of Hastings and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) have provided assistance to secure the expansion. The City has agreed to a right of first refusal agreement for adjacent land necessary for future growth. DEED will give the company a \$150,000 loan from its Minnesota Investment Fund.

Mayor Paul Hicks shares in the excitement, "An important goal of the Hastings City Council is to grow our industrial tax base and create more jobs. I am pleased that an impressive, innovative and emerging technology company like Hexfuel has decided to make Hastings their home. Their significant investment in dollars and job creation is a signal to us and others that Hastings remains a great place to do business."

Company officials said the BoostBox can improve fuel efficiency by 10 to 20 percent in diesel-powered vehicles and can cut emissions by 20 to 50 percent. The technology works by converting water to hydrogen and oxygen to increase the efficiency of diesel combustion, according to a video on the company website.



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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Council Corner: Riverfront Renaissance



In my State of the City address last January, I announced a major initiative for our City. In the aftermath of the completion of the new bridge, it is time for our city to create a vision and to invest planning and financial resources to the riverfront. We are blessed to have a historic and beautiful downtown nestled next to one the world's greatest rivers, and it is time now to capture its true potential. This important effort is called "**Riverfront Renaissance**".

The Hastings City Council established a task force made up of community stakeholders to work with Bolten & Menk consultant group to create a vision for the Riverfront that will attract residents and visitors year round. This vision includes providing updated infrastructure, a better ambiance to enhance the shopping experience in the downtown area, amenities that include a Pavilion (donated by the Hastings Rotary Club) to host concerts and events on the River, improved parking lots and public restrooms. Moreover, the City is working with the Confluence Development Group in the redevelopment of the Hudson building which will include its own riverfront experiences.

Now that the impressive new bridge is completed, it is time for our community to focus its energies in providing our residents and visitors a place where the river and history come together. The **Riverfront Renaissance** will provide that place and will enhance our economic, historic and recreational opportunities. To learn more about this initiative and to see the plans that are forming, visit our website at www.hastingsmn.gov and look for Riverfront Renaissance Updates.

Paul J. Hicks, Mayor

Help shape the future of Hastings

Do you have ideas and opinions about the growth and development of our great city? We currently have vacant positions on both the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission, and are seeking interested members of our community to join our team!

The Parks & Recreation Commission is an advisory commission that works with the Parks & Recreation Department on park and trail related issues and projects. Commissioners are provided departmental updates and are engaged in upcoming projects and departmental direction. This commission meets once a month.

The Planning Commission serves as an advisory board to the City Council on matters related to land use, development, and zoning. Primary responsibilities include review of residential subdivisions, commercial site plans, and special use permits. Previous experience is helpful, but not necessary. This commission meets twice a month.

As our community grows, these important volunteers play a key role in guiding our efforts to best serve Hastings. Applications for both commissions can be found on our website.

Questions? Contact Us



651-480-2350
www.hastingsmn.gov
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