



## City Council Update

**To:** Mayor Hicks & City Councilmembers  
**CC:** City Staff  
**From:** Melanie Mesko Lee, City Administrator  
**Date:** August 1, 2014

Please see City updates for the last two weeks, ending August 1, 2014. Have a great weekend!

### General

#### Condolences

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."*

Wednesday was a sad day for those in public service, particularly those of us serving in Dakota County law enforcement. Officer Scott Patrick of the Mendota Heights Police Department was shot and killed during a traffic stop in West St. Paul. Lt. Kegley responded and assisted with scene coordination. Hastings Police is assisting with all aspects to include vigils, standing watch over Officer Patrick and his family, as well as handling calls, when needed, in Mendota Heights. Our hearts go out to the Patrick family and his comrades.

**National Night Out** will be Tuesday, August 5. National Night Out planning is well underway. Please join us at the Hastings Fire Department at 5:15 p.m. to be teamed up and deployed into the community.

#### Riverfront Renaissance

City staff have been working with AH-HA to bring **Zagster bikes** to town using grant dollars. Currently, Allina Health, Regina Hospital and A Healthier Hastings 4 All program are committed to providing the majority of first year operations (\$12,000) for a free public 10 bike rental unit that would be located on the riverfront trail in Hastings. Riders can reserve a bike online or check it out on the spot using their smart phone and a debit/credit card. Riders are then sent a code to unlock a box with keys to free the bike from the rack. They are then free to enjoy the flat and scenic riverfront trail and any other part of Hastings' great trail system they wish to explore. We are working with MnDOT to hopefully install under the south approach of the bridge (cannot anchor to the pavers) by mid-August. This is a great example of collaboration among community partners!

#### Elections

The Primary Election is just around the corner on August 12. The City and SOS websites ([www.hastingsmn.gov](http://www.hastingsmn.gov) and [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)) are good resources to assist voters.

#### Personnel

- Officer **Paul Young** recently completed field training. This is a great accomplishment in the career of a police officer. All three of our newest hires have now completed this important step and have been great additions to our HPD.
- As of August 4<sup>th</sup> **Matt Hedrick** was given the assignment of Investigator in the Police Department. Matt was selected by an interview panel consisting of Police Department staff, Administration staff and a Public Safety Advisory Commission member. Congratulations Matt!
- Applications will close for our vacant Police Officer position this Sunday. To date, we have 106 applications.

## **Parks & Recreation**

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Crews are out working hard all over town.
  - Sign beds have been sprayed and will see a facelift in coming weeks.
  - We are currently working on the concessions/maintenance building at Vet's Park, replacing rotten fascia boards, and will be painting soon.
  - Our youth crew continues to perform very well, as do our seasonal laborers!

### **Aquatics**

- Pool operations are cruising along. We could use some extra hot days to drive attendance up, but we are at the mercy of Mother Nature.
  - The water level and chemical balance continues to stay on track!
  - The new roof and pool water heaters are continuing to perform as expected.

### **Arena**

- The new dehumidification unit has been tested with a couple of very hot days with very high dew points, and the unit performed better than expected! Needless to say, we are very pleased with the unit so far.

### **Recreation**

- The summer softball season is coming to an end, and Phil is gearing up for fall ball as well as an adult soccer league.
- We continue to look for recreation opportunities here in Hastings, and welcome input from the community!

### **Projects**

- The **Pioneer Park shelter** should start going up in the next couple of weeks. We just met with the contractor, and we are working into the schedule.
- The **dog park project** has not gotten off the ground as soon as I had hoped, but we are making some progress. Some of the acreage has been mowed, and that process will continue as time allows. We are awaiting some final budget estimates for the parking lot, and we are working to get into the contractors schedule. We are optimistic that we will be able to complete the project yet this season, but a busy construction schedule and other departmental complications have put us a bit behind schedule.
- **Wallin Park improvements** will be discussed at a neighborhood meeting in August. We will begin the process of contacting neighbors next week, as we identify a meeting date and time.

## Police

- The **Reuter homicide investigation** continues. The family posted an additional \$5,000 reward, for a total of \$10, 000 for the arrest and conviction of the responsible party.
- Chief Schafer met with the **East Hastings Neighborhood** on Tuesday night (7/29/14). Most of the discussion was about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street railroad crossing, no wake, the parade, and Gobble Gait.

## Public Works

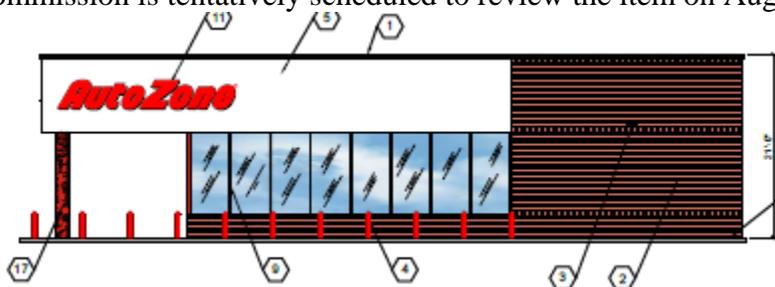
- Check the City's web site or use links below for the current weekly updates on the **Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement** project, and the **Downtown Watermain Lining** project:
  - [2014 Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements](#) update
  - [Downtown Watermain Lining](#) update

## Community Development

**Kwik Trip** is proposing to construct a new gas and convenience store on the northwest corner of 17<sup>th</sup> & Vermillion Street. A neighborhood meeting was conducted on July 30<sup>th</sup> to introduce the concept to the neighbors and receive comment. About 10-15 people attended the meeting. Two neighbors directly south of the site shared concern about development impact. Kwik Trip will revise plans for Planning Commission Review on September 8<sup>th</sup>.



**AutoZone** proposes to construct a new auto parts store at the location of the former Dickey's BBQ located on the southwest corner of Highway 55 and Westview Drive. The project will include demolition of the existing building and construction of a new building. The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to review the item on August 11<sup>th</sup>.



## Fire

This past Tuesday, fire staff participated in a FEMA Emergency Operations Center Exercise and Evaluation involving federal, numerous state, multi-county and local entities. The mock incident involved a hostile situation along with a radiation leak at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating

Power Plant. While FEMA is working on their after action report, early indications provided are stating this was a very successful drill.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

- Monday, August 4     **Operations Committee Meeting** (Conzemius Park)  
6:00 p.m. at City Hall  
[City Council Meeting](#)  
7 p.m. at City Hall
- Tuesday, August 5     **National Night Out**
- Saturday, August 9     [Hastings' Historic Saturday Night Cruise-In](#)
- Monday, August 11     [Planning Commission](#)  
7 p.m. at City Hall
- Tuesday, August 12     **Primary Election**  
Polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Thursday, August 14     **Special CC Meeting—Canvass Primary Election Results**  
7:15 a.m.at City Hall  
**Finance Committee Meeting—2015 Budget**  
7:30 – 12:30 at City Hall  
**HEDRA**  
6:30 p.m. at City Hall