



Rivertown NEWS

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City Hall

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Report Suspicious Activity! Call 911



Confluence Opening Soon

The Confluence building, located along the Mississippi riverfront, will open to the public this summer or early fall and feature a boutique hotel, apartments for rent, office space for the Hastings Minnesota Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau, indoor and outdoor dining space, a ballroom and an outdoor plaza. Hiring and employee training is in full swing, along with building signage and finishing touches.

The project has been in the works for nearly 15 years and transforms the old H.D. Hudson Manufacturing Building at 200 Second Street downtown into a multi-purpose venue that continues the City's historic transformation at the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers.

"This project is timed to a housing boom in Hastings, and we couldn't be more pleased and more excited to have this crown jewel in our city," said Mayor Mary Fasbender. "This has been a huge effort by so many, and we are so glad it has come together and will open soon."

The project was completed in several phases from site acquisition to partial demolition, to environmental cleanup, to eventual redevelopment and included multiple public and private partners.

"The Confluence transforms the last industrial site along the downtown riverfront into a terrific commercial and recreational anchor," said Hastings Community Development Director John Hinzman.

From Concept to Opening

The redevelopment of the Hudson Manufacturing building is part of the City's Heart of Hastings Downtown Plan, which included the building of a new Highway 61 bridge into the City in 2013 and a Riverfront Renaissance project that added trails, an outdoor pavilion and entertainment space, public art and historical features along the riverfront area in 2014. All were designed to enhance the city's history and put Hastings on the map as a destination for visitors and new businesses.

The building was purchased by the Hastings Economic Development and Redevelopment Authority (HEDRA) in 2010. A site study was conducted the following year to determine whether to demolish the buildings for new construction or renovate the existing building. The public overwhelmingly responded that the building should be preserved. Demolition of non-historic portions of the building and environmental cleanup commenced. After reviewing several design concepts, Confluence Development was selected in 2014. The City and HEDRA worked with Confluence to complete

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**Thank You
Councilmember Lund;
Welcome Timothy
Lawrence**

The City thanks outgoing Councilmember Trevor Lund for serving the citizens of Hastings in Ward 4 for the past several years. Lund resigned from his role in June to spend more time with family, and the City issued a call for applications to fill his seat for the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2024.



On July 25, the Hastings City Council appointed Timothy Lawrence as the new Ward 4 City Councilmember. Lawrence was expected to take the oath of office at the August 7 City Council meeting.



Lawrence is a lifelong resident of Hastings and a sergeant with the Metro Transit Police Department. He has been involved in community service initiatives in Hastings and throughout the Twin Cities and has worked with unsheltered individuals and with programs that address issues related to homelessness.

Lawrence was one of six applicants interviewed by the City Council. Seven applicants applied and one withdrew prior to the interview process. Thank you to those who applied to serve.

Pioneer Room Exhibit Features Downtown Buildings



Stop by City Hall to learn more about the history of manufacturing and commerce in Hastings. Volunteers with the Pioneer Room and the Hastings Area Historical Society have culled through newspaper clippings, property records and old phone books to put together a new exhibit that showcases the buildings and businesses downtown in the block between the bridge and Sibley Street. Thank you to the volunteers who help tell the story of the history of Hastings.



Understanding Minnesota's New Cannabis Law

A new Minnesota state law took effect August 1 and allows Minnesotans aged 21 and older to legally possess and use certain amounts of cannabis and cannabis products. It's important to note:

- An adult can't possess more cannabis than is legally allowed.
- Driving under the influence remains illegal. Boating while impaired remains illegal.
- Smoking in indoor public spaces is still illegal. This includes public vehicles.
- Cannabis can't be sold without a license. The State of Minnesota has said licenses to sell cannabis will not be available until 2025.

Under this state law, cities have very limited authority to impose additional regulations related to adult-use cannabis and cannabis sales. In the coming months, the Hastings City Council and city staff will discuss measures they could take in the areas where the city does have authority. This thoughtful approach will allow city staff and council to consider further details as the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management is established and help avoid unintended consequences.

For more information, visit www.cannabis.mn.gov

The Confluence - *continued from front page*

environmental remediation of the site and approve redevelopment plans. Twenty individual grants totaling \$4.8 million dollars were secured by the City for environmental cleanup, development of the riverfront park and construction of the adjacent parking garage.

The redevelopment project included refurbishing the original architectural elements such as the cupolas on the roof and the tall, paned factory windows.

The Confluence is expected to open this summer or fall. To make a hotel reservation or inquire about apartment rentals, visit www.confluencehotel.com or call 651-432-0202. The Confluence is managed by IDM Hospitality.

The Confluence by the Numbers

- Building dates back to 1909 with Hudson Manufacturing being the only user of the building
- 15 years in the making
- \$4.8 million in grant funding from Dakota County, Met Council, Mn DEED and US EPA
- \$5.5 million in project expenses
- 77 hotel rooms
- 18 apartments for rent
- 130-guest seating for indoor/outdoor restaurant
- 350-guest ballroom space
- 1,000 square feet of office space



Booya Set for September 9

The Fire Department Relief Association will hold its 82nd annual Booya fundraiser on Saturday, September 9. Watch the city website and social media for details.



Fire Prevention Week & Open House

Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14. The Fire Department will hold its annual Open House on Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Fire Station, 115 W. 5th Street. Everyone is welcome! Check out the trucks and other equipment, see demonstrations on how to use a fire extinguisher and enjoy treats and refreshments while getting to know the staff of the Hastings Fire/EMS Department.



We are committed to our **CORE** values:

Communication • Optimal Service • Respect for Resources • Enthusiasm

New “Do Not Eat” Fish Guidance for Lake Rebecca and Hastings Dam



The State of Minnesota has updated fish consumption guidance to advise that certain people not eat fish from two bodies of water in the Twin Cities. Those waterbodies are the Mississippi River from the Ford Dam in St. Paul to Hastings Dam (known as Pool 2) and Lake Rebecca in Hastings.

People who should avoid eating fish from these locations include children under age 15, people who are or could become pregnant, and those who are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

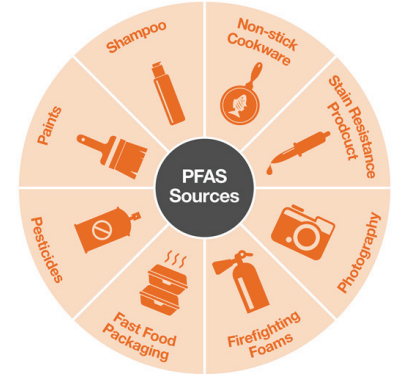
The Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency indicated that new data show a mix of contaminants, including PFAS.

For more information on safe-eating guidelines for fish in Minnesota, visit www.health.state.mn.us and search “fish consumption guidance.”

City Explores Funding for Treating PFAS Contaminants

This spring, City staff hired WSB & Associates to conduct a feasibility study to identify the best ways to treat Hastings water contaminated by PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances). The study recommended constructing water treatment plant(s) to remove PFAS from drinking water and adding treatment for nitrates at a preliminary cost estimate of \$69 million.

PFAS, also known as ‘forever chemicals,’ due to their inability to break down in the environment, have been detected in City wells for years, but have not exceeded Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidance.



However, new federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and state guidelines are expected to be adopted later this year or early next year that will be much lower than the current MDH thresholds. This new health-based guidance will trigger a requirement for Hastings to implement filtration or other treatment over time to remove PFAS to meet the new limits.

Staff have worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on environmental site assessments to better understand the source and spread of PFAS in Hastings.

A next step will be to engage a design engineering firm to develop treatment plant designs, so the City can more easily secure funding for the project by being “shovel ready.”

City staff and elected officials are looking at the following possible funding sources:

- 3M Settlement Agreement - The Settlement Agreement can be used for drinking water projects “in the East Metro Area.” We believe this includes Hastings and will be discussing it with state officials.
- Direct Legislation - We have been working with Senator Judy Seeberger and Representative Shane Hudella, as well as Congresswoman Angie Craig's office on funding options.
- State Bonding – The City has submitted a request as part of the State's 2024 Capital Budget.
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.
- State/Federal Grants.
- Planning Grant through the State of Minnesota.

Treating PFAS is a long-term process. City staff intend to have MDH host a public open house in Hastings for PFAS questions and comments once the new regulations have been issued.

Questions? Visit www.health.state.mn.us and search for PFAS. For progress in Hastings, visit the city webpage at www.hastingsmn.gov/PFAS.



New Pickleball Courts Coming Soon



Three years ago, a group of Pickleball enthusiasts presented a proposal to the City's Parks and Recreation Commission to get pickleball courts at Roadside Park. Though their proposal was met with positivity, the City had to find funding to make it a reality. Fast forward to the present, there is now significant progress being made, as eight pickleball courts and three tennis courts are currently under construction and slated for completion at Roadside Park in September.

Steve Black, a local pickleball leader and original proponent for pickleball, could not be more pleased. "These will be the first outdoor pickleball courts in Hastings," said Black who runs the Hastings MN Pickleball Facebook page that has 250 followers. "The Hastings City Council and Parks and Recreation Department have been great to work with and proponents of pickleball all along."

Pickleball is easy to pick up, easy to play and inexpensive," says Black, "and it requires just a pickleball paddle and balls and some comfortable clothing." A large group of players meet regularly to play in the early morning. They currently play at the high school tennis courts near the water tower, where temporary chalk lines have been placed. They also play indoors at the YMCA and the Senior Center.

Games typically last between 10 and 20 minutes, which allows people to show up and rotate in and out, so everyone can play, said Black. "It's a pretty social event, but can be competitive too," he added. Although it started out as a sport of interest to seniors, Black said he's noticed the sport growing in interest across generations and plays it with his family and grandchildren.

"Players are pretty inviting to new people," said Black, adding that those who are interested can show up to watch, or jump in to play. They may be pleasantly surprised to learn more about this new favorite pastime.

Arena Updates



Youth hockey tryouts begin September 29. Register now at www.hastingshockey.com.

Skating lessons are offered by the River Blades Skating School and begin on October 7. Visit www.riverbladesskating.com to register.

Public skating and freestyle skating sessions are offered multiple times per week. Visit www.hastingsmn.gov for dates and times. Stick and Puck sessions are available for those who want to work on their hockey skills.

Events

Rec + Art + Police



Wednesday, August 23

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Lions Park

1001 W. 5th St.

DJ, Contests & Art

We are committed to our **CORE** values:

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Paper Shred Event



Saturday, September 23

9:00 a.m. to noon

Cal Ruedy Public Works Facility
(1225 Progress Drive)

Hastings residents can bring their confidential paper documents to the Public Works Facility for shredding. A National Association for Information Destruction (NAID) certified mobile shred truck from Shred N Go will be available to securely shred your documents on-site for FREE! Please do not bring documents from a business.

Pumpkin Collection

Residents can drop their pumpkins in the labeled bins any time from Saturday, November 4 through Sunday, November 5. Painted



pumpkins and pumpkins with excessive wax or another inorganic residue cannot be accepted and should go in the trash. Please do not put anything other than pumpkins or gourds in the container.

November 4 and 5

Dakota County Highway Shop
(900 County Road 47)

Paws in the Park

Thursday, October 5

5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Hastings Rivertown Dog Park
851 10th St East

- Dog friendly booths, games and giveaways
- Hot dog dinner with Rivertown Lions
- Strutt your mutt: costume contest – winner receives prize basket from Chuck & Don's



Community Halloween Party



Friday, October 27

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Hastings High School
200 General Sieben Drive

- Family friendly activity stations and candy
- Costume contests and prizes
- Admission: non-perishable food donation for Hastings Family Service or donation cash or check to the Youth Impact Council Scholarship

For more details on these free events, watch our City of Hastings Website and Facebook page in September.

Halloween Costume Swap

Looking for an eerily cool costume this Halloween? Check out our Halloween Costume Swap! Bring your gently used and clean Halloween costumes you no longer want to our swap event and bring home items that are new to you! No item donation is necessary to shop the swap; take or bring as much as you want! Please ensure that any items you bring are in fair condition, clean and usable. Event staff reserve the right to refuse any items. If you can't make the swap but have a costume you would like to donate pre-event, please contact Violet Penman at violet.penman@rosemountmn.gov or 612-268-9097. This event takes place in Farmington, but all are welcome!



Saturday, October 21, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Rambling River Center Banquet Hall (325 Oak St., Farmington)



Free Repair Help for Residents

Dakota County residents can get help repairing household items, clothes, electronics and more at a Fix-It Clinic. These monthly events help reduce unnecessary trash sent to landfills and empower individuals by teaching troubleshooting and repair skills.

Stop by an upcoming Fix-It Clinic on October 21 at Pleasant Hill Library. The event is free, and residents do not need to register to participate.

Repair-savvy volunteers will guide you through each step, from troubleshooting to a completed repair. Bring up to three items that need fixing or mending such as lamps, vacuum cleaners and clothes. You must be able to carry items into the clinic, so no oversized items. Bring any tools and supplies you think might help with the job; however, volunteers have plenty of tools.

For future dates and more information, visit www.dakotacounty.us and search Fix-It Clinics.

Partially funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Dakota County.



Lawn Watering Restrictions



The City of Hastings has odd-even day lawn sprinkling from May 15 to September 1 of each year.

The City also prohibits lawn watering between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. during this same time period.

Learn more at www.hastingsmn.gov/WaterConservation.

Crash Course: Recycling

Recycling can be confusing, even for the most environmentally conscious. This crash course provides the low-down on where our recycling goes, why it seems like there's so many rules and why it's worth the work. Learn tips and tricks to recycle right and have your questions answered by an industry professional.

Tuesday, October 10

7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Hastings City Hall

101 4th St. E.

Community Room



Crash Course: Organics

Organics recycling and composting have become increasingly trendy topics in the past years, but what really are they? Learn more about how composting works, how it benefits our community and how you can easily do your part in this crash course. No yard, money or effort required! Attendees will have the chance to win a countertop organics bin.

Tuesday, October 24

Time: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Hastings City Hall

101 4th St. E.

Community Room



Yard Waste Drop Site Hours



Bring your yard waste to the Seasonal Drop Site, located at 425 31st St. E., off of Commerce Drive, in the MN Coaches parking lot (Hastings residents only).

Hours through September 30 are Wednesdays, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bring grass, leaf and brush debris – in compostable paper bags. No loose materials or plastic bags - FREE

Call Tennis Sanitation with questions about other items that are accepted at 651-459-1887.



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Permit No. 166

POSTAL CUSTOMER

August and September Events at Levee Park



Follow us
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#HastingsRiverWalk

Questions?
Hastings Parks and Recreation Department
651-480-6182 or pmarschall@hastingsmn.gov

Weather Cancellations
Visit www.hastingsmn.gov or City of Hastings
Facebook events for updates!

Music in the Park

- Thursday, August 17 · 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. – Chico Chavez Orchestra – Cumbia
- Thursday, August 24 · 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. – Jeff Dayton Band – Variety
- Thursday, August 31 · 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. – Jonah and The Whales – Pop, Rock & Country

Movie in the Park

- Friday, August 18 – Activities 7:30 p.m. & DC League of Super Pets 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, September 15 – Activities 6:30 p.m. & The Mitchells vs. The Machines 7:30 p.m.

Bike with a Ranger

- Saturday, August 19 · 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
 - Saturday, September 16 · 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Register online: www.hastingsmn.gov

Performance in the Park

- Tuesday, August 22 · 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Comic Stunt Juggler
- Tuesday, September 12 · 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. – Bollywood Dance

Storytime in the Park

- Wednesday, September 13 · 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. – Rest Theme

Events are FREE & open to all! Special thank you to our funding partners who help make these events free: The Ruth and George Doffing Charitable Fund, Ardent Mills and Smead Manufacturing Co.

***Save the Date: September 9**

The Hastings Area Rotary Club is holding Hastings Rivertown Live: Concert for a Cause on Saturday, September 9, featuring Starship, John Waite and The Hype. Get tickets at Rivertownlive.com

