



# Rivertown NEWS

Volume XXVIII, Issue 3 Fall 2024

## City Hall

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: 651-480-2350  
Fax: 651-437-7082  
Website: [www.hastingsmn.gov](http://www.hastingsmn.gov)

## Contact Your City Council:

- Mayor: Mary Fasbender 651-587-4867  
[mayormary@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:mayormary@hastingsmn.gov)
- Ward 1: DawnMarie Vihrachoff 651-587-7458  
[dvihrachoff@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:dvihrachoff@hastingsmn.gov)
- Ward 2: Jen Fox 651-726-4832  
[jfox@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:jfox@hastingsmn.gov)
- Ward 3: Lisa Leifeld 651-334-0306  
[lleifeld@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:lleifeld@hastingsmn.gov)
- Ward 4: Timothy Lawrence 651-253-6503  
[tlawrence@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:tlawrence@hastingsmn.gov)
- At-Large: Angie Haus 651-283-8364  
[ahaus@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:ahaus@hastingsmn.gov)
- At-Large: Dave Pemble 651-303-2432  
[dpemble@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:dpemble@hastingsmn.gov)

## Contact Us:

City Administrator  
Dan Wietecha 651-480-2326  
[dwietecha@hastingsmn.gov](mailto:dwietecha@hastingsmn.gov)

- Aquatic Center: 651-480-2385
- 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: 651-480-2351

Report Suspicious Activity! Call 911

# GENERAL ELECTION DAY TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5



VOTE AT YOUR LOCAL PRECINCT

**9/20 - Absentee Voting Begins**  
**10/18 - Early Voting Begins**

## 2024 ELECTIONS

**[Hastingsmn.gov/Elections](http://Hastingsmn.gov/Elections)**



## November General Election Information

The 2024 General Election will be held Tuesday, November 5. In addition to the presidential candidates, several other offices will be on the ballot, including Hastings municipal seats for City Council.

### \*9/20 - Absentee voting begins.

**10/15 – Voter pre-registration deadline for the General Election.** The cutoff for pre-registration is 5:00 p.m. 21 days before any election. Drop voter registration applications off at the County Elections Office in Hastings. Voters can still register at the polls on election day.

### \*10/18 – Early voting begins.

\* - Vote by absentee ballot or vote early at Hastings City Hall, the Dakota County Administration Building or one of the Dakota County service centers. Hastings City Hall has ballots for precincts within Hastings only. The Dakota County Administration Center and other Dakota County service centers have ballots for any precinct in the county.

**11/5 – General Election. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Vote at your local precinct polling location.**

To view a sample ballot, request an absentee ballot, register to vote, or find your polling location, visit [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org).

## Questions?

Visit the city's elections web pages for additional information, including municipal candidates' information, ward maps, precinct poll locations and more at [www.hastingsmn.gov/elections](http://www.hastingsmn.gov/elections). For all other questions, call the City Hall Elections offices at 651-480-2357.

## 2025 Budget Planning



Planning for the 2025 City Budget is underway. The City of Hastings values citizen participation in the budget process. See the budget process timeline below and view City Council documents for meeting times, agendas and packets at [www.hastingsmn.gov](http://www.hastingsmn.gov).

The city's budget is structured to provide quality public services to residents and businesses. The budget process follows a timetable established by state law. The city uses an open and public process to adopt its annual budget. The process typically follows this timeline:

**June** - Departments prepare budget requests; City Council Workshop is held to discuss priorities

**July** - Department budgets reviewed by City Administrator

**August** - Finance Committee and City Council review budget requests

**September** - Council adopts preliminary budget and tax levy

**October** - Council reviews detailed preliminary budget at a public study session

**November** - Proposed property tax statements are mailed and list the dates of budget hearings of the taxing districts

**December** - Council reviews the budget at a public Truth in Taxation meeting and adopts final budget and tax levy

We welcome feedback and input at public meetings and workshops.

## National Community Survey Results

The city contracted with National Research Center/Polco to conduct the National Community Survey of residents earlier this spring. Nearly 9 out of 10 residents rated Hastings as an "excellent or good" place to live, with 8 out of 10 stating they would recommend living in Hastings to others and that they were planning to stay in the city.

Residents gave high marks to a variety of "livability" features that were above the national average, including availability of parks and trails and ability to travel by bicycle and car, ease of public parking, snow removal, historic/cultural preservation, garbage collection, feeling safe from natural disasters, recycling and fitness opportunities.

Hastings scored lower than the national average in drinking water, a situation the city is working to address, and bus/transit services, which generally are not available in the city.

The highest ratings in 2024 were related to safety, recreational opportunities, elements of mobility, and improvements in the local business climate, such as opportunities for shopping. Resident ratings increased over the past three years in areas related to Internet access, events, arts and cultural activities and attracting people from diverse backgrounds. The city's reputation improved 11 percentage points from the 2020 community survey.

Ratings in 2024 decreased in the areas of K-12 education, cost of living in Hastings, perceived value of services to taxes paid and animal control, but remained similar to other communities across the country.

"The City of Hastings overall ranks similarly with other cities on most questions. There are higher and lower areas this year, where we will want to get more information, so we can continue performing well in areas of importance and we can better serve our residents in areas where improvements are needed," said City Administrator Dan Wietecha.

The City of Hastings conducts the National Community Survey every three years. Full survey results can be found online at [www.hastingsmn.gov/surveys](http://www.hastingsmn.gov/surveys).



**Nearly 9 out of 10 rate Hastings as a place to live as excellent or good.**

**8 out of 10 would recommend living in Hastings to others.**

**Hastings is above the national average in:**

- Parks and trails
- Mobility - walking, biking
- Public parking
- Snow removal
- Historic/cultural preservation
- Garbage collection
- Feeling safe from natural disasters
- Recycling
- Fitness opportunities

### Stay in the Know and Up to Date

Missing news? Sign up for the Hastings City Update at [www.hastingsmn.gov/CityUpdate](http://www.hastingsmn.gov/CityUpdate) to receive an e-newsletter each Wednesday in your email inbox.



**Hastings City Update**

Weekly E-newsletter



Get it delivered to your email inbox each Wednesday

[Hastingsmn.gov/CityUpdate](http://Hastingsmn.gov/CityUpdate)



[www.Hastingsmn.gov](http://www.Hastingsmn.gov)

## Drinking Water and PFAS Update



UPDATE

### Hastings Drinking Water and PFAS



Hastings has PFAS contamination, also known as “forever chemicals,” in our drinking water supply, exceeding maximum contaminant levels set by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Results from a feasibility study recommended construction of three decentralized water treatment plants for PFAS and Nitrate removal at a total estimated cost of \$68.9 million. The deadline for EPA compliance is April 2029; the city intends to build one water treatment plant per year 2026-2028.

Design work has started for water treatment plant 1 which is in the Industrial Park, a commercial site. This plant will likely be put out for bids in early 2025. Public Works has begun identifying several potential sites for treatment plants 2 and 3, which will be discussed by the City Council this summer. There is a strong preference to avoid residential neighborhoods.

City staff and council have held two work sessions to discuss potential water rate increases, phasing and timing. At present, we are looking at a rate increase around 35 to 40 percent. This would be the first of several increases coinciding with construction of each of the three water treatment plants. Please note that this would be on the water portion of the utility bill, not the entire bill.

The city has been exploring and pursuing multiple opportunities to offset the “budget buster” expense, including the following:

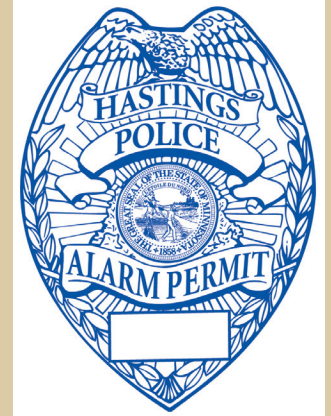
- Received a \$3.2 million grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for design of the three water treatment plants.
- Put forth a State Capital Budget request, but the session ended without a State Bonding Bill.
- Plan to again seek state funding in the 2025 legislative session.
- Submitted requests of Senator Klobuchar, Senator Smith and Representative Craig for federal support of the first phase of the project. At this point, it is in the House Appropriations Committee at a little over \$1 million, with Congressional decision expected late this year or into 2025.
- Submitted the first two phases for the State’s Drinking Water Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP). Although the Drinking Water Revolving Fund is not our preferred funding source, it has the possibility of a \$3 million Emerging Contaminants Grant for each phase, which could be decided early this fall.

Over the past year and a half, we have worked with the MPCA on a series of environmental assessments, and MPCA has required 3M to conduct additional investigation. We believe the environmental studies have resulted in several lines of evidence of a connection of Well #5 to the 3M Cottage Grove site. We are discussing the implications of a connection with MPCA. In the meantime, we expect the environmental investigation for the other wells to continue.

For more information and monthly updates, visit [www.hastingsmn.gov/PFAS](http://www.hastingsmn.gov/PFAS).

## Understanding City Code

### Ordinance 95.06 Alarm System Permit



The City of Hastings supports the use of alarm systems to protect life and property. The city reminds all residents, business and building owners who have a monitored alarm system to register their alarm system with the Hastings Police Department, and to renew their registration annually by December 31st.

The purpose of Ordinance 95.06 Alarm System Permit is to ensure alarm systems are properly working; to reduce the number of false alarms which result in city services being used to respond to unnecessary alarms; and to provide added benefit to property owners by maintaining current information relating to alarm systems.

Registration and renewal forms can be found on the Hastings Police Department web pages at [www.hastingsmn.gov/police](http://www.hastingsmn.gov/police).

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

Communication • Optimal Service • Respect for Resources • Enthusiasm



## Forestry

Questions about trees on your property or boulevard?

Contact our City Forester, 651-480-6177 or tlucas@hastingsmn.gov



## Hastings Civic Arena



The west rink will open on September 3rd.

**Public skating sessions** will resume on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. and Fridays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Sunday sessions will begin on October 20 from 4:15-5:45 p.m.

The cost for public skating is \$6.00 per person and skates are available for rental for \$4.00.

**Freestyle sessions and Stick and Puck sessions** will be offered at various times and can be seen on the city website's arena master schedule. Freestyle ice is \$12.00 per person and Stick and puck is \$8.00 per person.

Ice hours are available for **birthday parties and rentals**. Contact Hastings Civic Arena 651-480-6195 or jelliott@hastingsmn.gov

For more information visit [www.hastingsmn.gov/Arena](http://www.hastingsmn.gov/Arena)

## Parks and Recreation

### Events

#### Rec+Art+Police

Wednesday, August 28

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Vermillion Falls Park

215 21st St. East

- DJ, Contests, Prizes & Choice Art
- Recommended for older elementary ages



#### Paws in the Park

Thursday, October 3

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Hastings Rivertown Dog Park

851 10th St. East

- Dog-friendly booths, games & giveaways
- Balloon Arch Photo Op!
- Hot dog dinner with Rivertown Lions
- Strutt your mutt costume contest – winner receives a prize basket from Chuck & Don's



For more details on this FREE event watch our City of Hastings Facebook page and website news section in September.

Thank you to Fluegel's Lawn Garden & Pet Supply for sponsoring!

#### Community Halloween Party

Friday, October 25

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Hastings High School

- 200 General Sieben Drive
- 30+ Activity stations & candy
- DJ, costume contests & prizes

Admission: non-perishable food donation for Hastings Family Service or donation to the Youth Impact Council Scholarship.



## Recycling

### Bring Your Broken Items to a Fix-It Clinic for Free Repair Help



Dakota County residents can get help repairing household items, clothes, electronics and more at a Fix-It Clinic. These monthly events help keep items out of landfills and empower people to repair things on their own.

Show up to the upcoming Fix-It Clinic on Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pleasant Hill Library in Hastings. The event is free and you do not need to register to participate.

Helpful 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 overly large items. Bring any tools and supplies you think might help with the job, but it is not required to bring any tools.

For future dates and more information, visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search fix-it clinic.

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

### Pumpkin Collection November 2 and 3

Anytime

Dakota County Highway Shop  
900 County Rd 47

Need to get rid of your spooky Halloween pumpkins? Residents can drop their pumpkins in the labeled bins.

Remove candles, wax and any non-pumpkin material. No painted or glittered pumpkins accepted; these must go in the trash. Place only pumpkins or gourds in the container.



### Mattress/Box Spring Drop Off and Document Shred Event

Saturday, September 7  
9:00 a.m. to noon

Cal Ruedy Public Works Facility  
1225 Progress Dr.

Mattresses and box springs will be accepted at \$30/piece, payable directly to Certified Recycling (pricing subject to change). Cash or check only. Mattresses in good condition will be donated to Bridging, while all others will be deconstructed and recycled by Certified Recycling. Document shredding is free! Paper is shredded on-site by a National Association for Information Destruction (NAID) certified shredding company and then properly recycled into paper pulp. Event occurs rain or shine.

### Outdoor Winter Clothing Swap

Tuesday, October 15  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

City Hall Community Room  
101 4th Street East



Bring your gently used and clean outdoor winter clothing 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. 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 items you would like to donate pre-event, please contact Violet Penman at [violet.penman@rosemountmn.gov](mailto:violet.penman@rosemountmn.gov) or 612-268-9097. All are welcome!



## Booya Set for September 14



The Fire Department Relief Association will hold its 83rd annual Booya fundraiser on Saturday, September 14 at SEAS Church, 2035 W. 15th Street. Outdoor serving starts at 10:00 a.m. with games and prizes indoors at 11:00 a.m.

## Fire Prevention Week and Fire Open House



The Fire/EMS Department will celebrate Fire Prevention Week October 6-12 with educational outreach and fire safety visits to local schools. The department also will hold its annual open house on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station, 115 5th St. W. The event will include numerous exhibits, demonstrations and activities. All are welcome.

## Development Initiatives To Spur Strategic Growth



The City of Hastings took steps this past spring to drive strategic growth in housing, development and tourism in Hastings.

In May, the city approved a contract with Codametrics to overhaul the city's zoning code, which hasn't been revised in nearly 30 years. The current code is not aligned with what developers are seeking in several areas, including housing lot sizes, as one example.

Also in May, the Hastings Economic Development and Redevelopment Authority (HEDRA) approved its 2024-25 strategic plan, which outlines initiatives and timelines for the following:

- Development of underutilized sites, including block 28 off of Highway 61, between 4th and 5th streets, the Hastings Creamery and more
- Efforts to maintain the city's aging and naturally occurring affordable housing stock
- Continued funding for the facade improvement program and Makers Markets
- Development of a survey on the city's development and permitting processes
- Continued business retention and expansion visits

View the HEDRA May 7, 2024 meeting packet for details at [www.hastingsmn.gov/HEDRA](http://www.hastingsmn.gov/HEDRA).

### Pink Patch Program October 1-31

With summer coming to a close, it means Pink Patch Project time is right around the corner! The Pink Patch Project is a public safety national movement during the month of October to bring public awareness of the fight against breast cancer and to increase the funding for breast cancer research. The Hastings Police Department is, once again, joining the initiative for the 6th year in a row and will be selling three different patches, including a new throwback design, pint glasses and color changing plastic glasses at both Hastings City Hall and Hastings Police Department during regular business hours for the month of October.

If you can't make it to either location during business hours, look for Officer Rinowski at other community events in October to purchase your items or contact her directly.

At the end of October, proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Visit [www.pinkpatchproject.com](http://www.pinkpatchproject.com) to learn more about the national program.



# Rivertown News Readership Survey - We Want to Hear from YOU!

Communication is important to us. Please take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts about the *Rivertown News* newsletter. Cut & mail survey responses to: Communications, Hastings City Hall, 101 4th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033; or take the survey online at [www.hastingsmn.gov/newslettersurvey](http://www.hastingsmn.gov/newslettersurvey).

## What types of news do you enjoy reading in the *Rivertown News* (Select all that apply and add any comments).

- Arts & Culture \_\_\_\_\_
- Athletics \_\_\_\_\_
- Business Resources \_\_\_\_\_
- City Budget Information \_\_\_\_\_
- City Council News \_\_\_\_\_
- Commission & Committee News \_\_\_\_\_
- Community Development Updates \_\_\_\_\_
- Community Investment Fund Projects \_\_\_\_\_
- Election Information \_\_\_\_\_
- Employment Opportunities \_\_\_\_\_
- Event Notices \_\_\_\_\_
- Garbage and Recycling \_\_\_\_\_
- Historic Preservation \_\_\_\_\_
- New Businesses \_\_\_\_\_
- New Hires \_\_\_\_\_
- New Housing \_\_\_\_\_
- Ordinance/City Code information \_\_\_\_\_
- Park Projects \_\_\_\_\_
- Permit and Licensing Information \_\_\_\_\_
- PFAS and Drinking Water Updates \_\_\_\_\_
- Police and Fire News \_\_\_\_\_
- Public Safety Initiatives \_\_\_\_\_
- Road Construction Projects \_\_\_\_\_
- Snow Removal Information \_\_\_\_\_
- Stormwater Activities \_\_\_\_\_
- Strategic Plan Updates \_\_\_\_\_
- Tourism News \_\_\_\_\_
- Trail Improvements \_\_\_\_\_
- Tree/Forestry Services \_\_\_\_\_
- Utility Billing \_\_\_\_\_
- Water Conservation Info & Rules \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any topics you would like to see covered: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## How often do you prefer to receive the *Rivertown News*?

- Quarterly       Bi-monthly       Monthly

## Please select the best choice regarding the length of the articles.

- Just right       Too short       Too long

## Please comment on the design elements (select all that apply).

- The text size is easy to read.
- The text size is too small to read.
- The images/graphics are adequate.
- The images/graphics are too small.
- The design is aesthetically pleasing.
- The design should be updated.

## Do you visit the website links listed in the articles for more information about the topic you are reading?

- Yes       No       Sometimes

## How do you prefer to read the *Rivertown News*?

- In print       Online       Both

## Write any additional comments about the *Rivertown News* and suggested improvements:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## How long have you lived in or done business in Hastings?

- 0-5 years       6-10 years  
 11-20 years       More than 21 years

## What is your age?

- 18 - 25  
 26 - 50  
 51 - 75  
 76 or older



Thank you for helping us improve the quality of the *Rivertown News*!



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# Levee Park Summer Programs



Follow us  
@cityhastingsmn  
#HastingsRiverWalk

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

Weather Cancellations  
Visit [www.hastingsmn.gov](http://www.hastingsmn.gov) or City of Hastings  
Facebook events for updates

## Music in the Park

- Thursday, August 15 · 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Root River Jam – Rock, Blues and Americana
- Thursday, August 22 · 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
BOB, The Music of Dylan – Tribute to Bob Dylan
- Thursday, August 29 · 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Steam Machine – Old Time and Bluegrass
- Thursday, September 5 · 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Belladiva – Variety Band Show

All ages welcome

## Movie in the Park

- Friday, September 6 · Activities 6:30 p.m.  
Wonka 7:30 p.m.
- All ages welcome
- Cost: Non-perishable food donation for Hastings Family Service

## Bike with a Ranger

- Saturday, September 7 · 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Register online: [www.hastingsmn.gov](http://www.hastingsmn.gov)
- 10 Mile Loop
- Recommended for teens & adults

## Comedy in the Park

- Tuesday, September 17 · 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Tim Harmston, Stand-Up Comedian
- Recommended for teens & adults

## Storytime in the Park

- Wednesday, August 21 · 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 18 · 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
- Recommended for youth 7 and under

## Makers Market

- Thursday, August 22 · 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- Shop artisan vendors and listen to live music.

## Rivertown Live

- Saturday, September 14 · 4:00 to 11:00 p.m.
- Organized by the Hastings Area Rotary Club
- Featuring Diamond Rio and more
- [www.rivertownlive.com](http://www.rivertownlive.com)



See Inside Back Cover: Important Survey - Please Complete