



Rivertown NEWS

Volume XXVIII, Issue 4 Winter 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

Contact Your City Council:

Mayor: Mary Fasbender 651-587-4867
mayormary@hastingsmn.gov

Ward 1: DawnMarie Vihrachoff 651-587-7458
dvihrachoff@hastingsmn.gov

Ward 2: Jen Fox 651-726-4832
jfox@hastingsmn.gov

Ward 3: Lisa Leifeld 651-334-0306
lleifeld@hastingsmn.gov

Ward 4: Timothy Lawrence 651-253-6503
tlawrence@hastingsmn.gov

At-Large: Angie Haus 651-283-8364
ahaus@hastingsmn.gov

At-Large: Dave Pemble 651-303-2432
dpemble@hastingsmn.gov

Contact Us:

City Administrator
 Dan Wietecha 651-480-2326
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



Winter Fun - Enjoy the season. Look inside for opportunities to get outside.

Snow Emergency and Winter Weather Reminders

1 Move your vehicle off the street during a Snow Emergency.

A Snow Emergency automatically goes into effect when two or more inches of snow have accumulated.

Vehicles must be moved off the street until the road has been cleared from curb to curb. Cars that are in violation may be ticketed and towed. The cost of a Snow Emergency parking violation is \$77.



2 Shovel your sidewalk within 48 hours after a snowfall.

3 Please keep garbage and recycling containers out of the street, so snowplows and trucks can freely operate. Move them to the boulevard, behind the curb.

4 Extended Snowfall

During an extended storm, when snow continues to fall for an extended period of time, our cleanup requires multiple passes and can take longer to complete.

You are still required to **keep vehicles off the street until the snowstorm has ended and the street has been plowed to its full width.**

5 See more reminders, towing information, public parking options, a snowmobile map and snow policy that includes order of operations and list of primary streets and more at www.hastingsmn.gov/winter.



Hastings Civic Arena

Open Skating Sessions

- Wednesdays, 1 - 2 p.m.
- Fridays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- Sundays, 4:15 - 5:45 p.m.

Cost is \$6 per person, skate rental is \$4.

Stick and Puck sessions

Check the Master Arena Schedule at www.hastingsmn.gov/arena.
Cost: \$8

Skate with Santa and Ice Show

- Saturday, Dec. 14, 6 - 8 p.m.
- River Blades Ice Show 6 p.m.
 - Skate with Santa 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$2 donation for Hastings Family Service

Hockey Games

The first high school girls' home game is Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The first high school boys' game is Nov. 23 at 2 p.m.

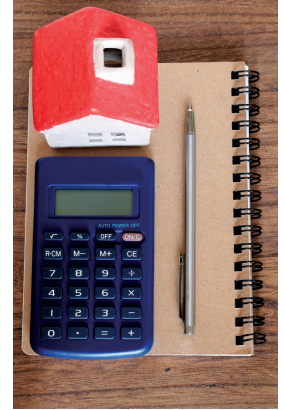
Tickets available at the door.
Credit card only.

2025 Proposed Budget and Levy

Each year, the city develops a proposed budget and sets a preliminary property tax levy. A public hearing called a truth-in-taxation hearing is held and open to the community to ask questions, discuss concerns and get more information.

The city intends for the budget to be a financial plan that prioritizes high-quality services in a fiscally responsive manner.

The process to develop the budget is a collaborative effort of the city budget team, the finance committee of the Council and the management team. Careful planning and preparation ensure our CORE values guide the way. The property tax levy is the primary funding source for city services.



The 2024 Proposed Property Tax Levy is \$20,049,930

In September, the Hastings City Council approved a preliminary 2025 Budget of \$42.3 million and set a preliminary property tax levy not to exceed \$20.1 million to invest in public safety, facility maintenance and vehicle and equipment replacements.

Preliminary 2025
City Budget



\$42.2 M

Preliminary 2025
Property Tax Levy



\$20.1 M

The proposed property tax levy represents a 7.5% increase over 2024. A homeowner with a median value home (\$313,300) will see an estimated annual property tax increase of \$106, from the city's portion of property taxes.

Median
Value
Home



\$313 K

Annual
Property
Tax Increase



\$106

Monthly
Increase

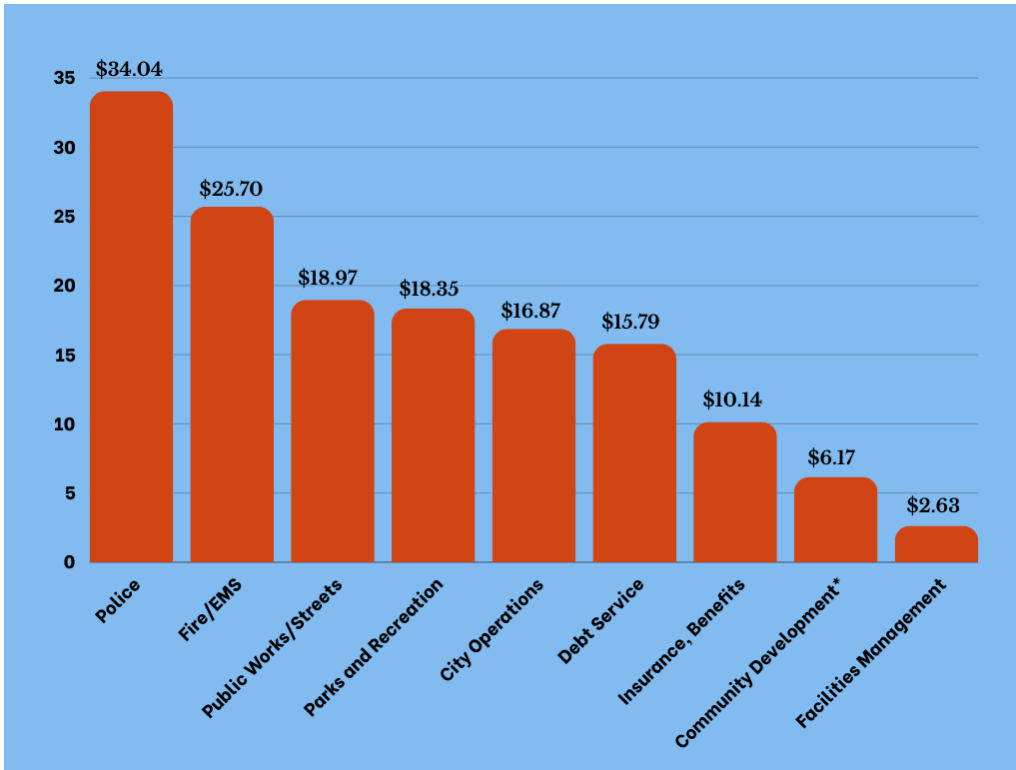


\$8.83



What's Proposed for 2025?

Proposed Monthly Costs for Levy-Supported Services



*Additional funding for community development is provided by the HEDRA levy, which is \$537,640 and is in addition to the city's \$20.1 million proposed levy.

What's New for 2025?

- Funding for two additional full-time firefighter/EMTs
- Funding for a second school resource officer
- \$200K to repair pool gutters
- \$300K dump/plow truck for Public Works
- \$912K to replace 14 aging fleet vehicles including 3 Police squad cars
- \$550K for traffic signal replacements on Hwy 55
- \$121K for facility maintenance and repairs

Learn More

Make your voice heard at a public hearing called a Truth in Taxation Hearing held during the regular City Council Meeting on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Learn more about the proposed budget and property tax levy at www.hastingsmn.gov/budget.

Truth in Taxation



Public Hearing

Monday
December 2
7 p.m.
Hastings
City Hall



Outdoor Skating Rink Hours

Outdoor skating rinks open late December through mid-February, as weather conditions permit.

For status updates on outdoor rinks, call the hotline at 651-480-2392 or sign up for text alerts by texting HMNRINKS to 888777.

Warming House Hours:

- 4 - 9 p.m. on weekdays
- Noon - 9 p.m. on Saturdays
- Noon - 8 p.m. on Sundays

Visit www.hastingsmn.gov for holidays & no school day hours. Search keywords *skating rinks*.

Skating Rink Locations:

- Wallin Park: WH, RR, HR
- Lions Park: RR, HR
- Pioneer Park: WH, RR, HR
- Isabel Park: RR only
- Civic Arena: HR only

WH = Warming House

RR = Recreational Rink (no hockey)

HR = Hockey Rink

We are committed to our CORE values:

Communication • Optimal Service • Respect for Resources • Enthusiasm

Upgrade Recycling at Your Apartment, Condo or Townhome



Everyone deserves a great recycling program. In fact, property owners are required to provide residents with the opportunity to recycle.

The Dakota County Multifamily Recycling Program provides free recycling containers, posters and education for residents and staff to improve recycling.

So far, 167 apartments, condos, townhomes and senior living buildings have participated in the program. Staff have educated over 10,000 residents.

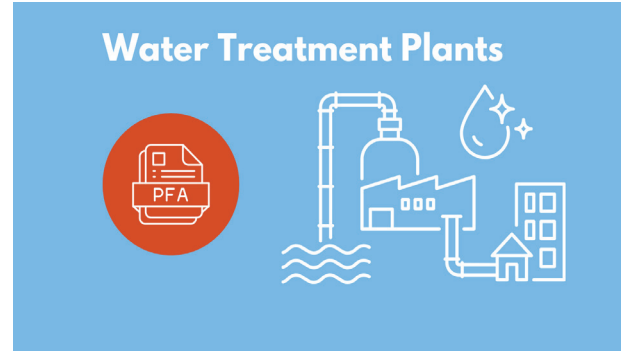
To learn more, contact multifamilyrecycling@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7557.

Third Quarter 2024 Strategic Plan Report Published

View progress towards the City of Hastings 2024-2027 Strategic Plan at www.hastingsmn.gov/strategicplanning and view the 3rd quarter 2024 plan report.

Three Water Treatment Plants Proposed; Water Utility Rates Expected to Increase in 2025

Clean and safe drinking water are among the city's highest priorities. In April 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency adopted new limits for several specific types of PFAS. With PFAS contaminants in city wells above the allowable limits, the city is taking steps to remove PFAS from the drinking water.



Three Water Treatment Plants

The city plans to build three water treatment plants at a total estimated cost of \$68.9 million within the five-year timeline for contaminant removal (April 2029). The city does not have federal or state funding to cover the costs, but has been successful in getting some external funding to date.

The city has received a \$3.2 million PFAS Planning and Design Grant through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for engineering and design plans for the water treatment plants. The city has been working with the MPCA to investigate the potential connection and eligibility for funding through the 3M East Metro Settlement. A connection to Well #5 was recently verified, and the city expects to receive approximately \$14 million in funding from the settlement to help offset the costs of building the first water treatment plant, estimated at \$26.7 million.

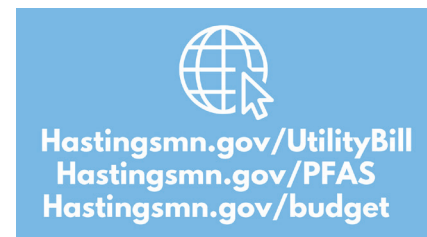
Water Billing Rate Increases Expected



City staff recommend a 10% increase in the city's water billing rate to help cover the difference. The rate increase is scheduled to be considered by the City Council during its meeting on Dec. 2 and would take effect with the January billing statements. The 10% proposed increase includes 6.5% to cover costs associated with building the first of three water treatment plants to remove

PFAS "forever chemicals" and nitrates from the city's water supply, plus 3.5% for inflation and scheduled maintenance of the existing infrastructure. A second water rate increase is expected in July 2025, with the amount dependent on construction cost estimates and other funding sources at that time.

More Information and FAQs Available Online



Billing inserts are being sent to utility customers, and the city has developed web pages and FAQs related to water rate increases and utility billing, PFAS and the city budget. To get print copies of this information, please stop by the Public Works Department, 1225 Progress Dr.

Join Your Neighbors to Keep Food Scraps Out of the Trash



The number one item in our trash is food. That's why more than 10,000 Dakota County households have registered to participate in the free organics drop-off program. There are 11 organics drop-off sites located throughout the county — in Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount (two) and West St. Paul.

Across the locations, more than 40,000 pounds of food scraps are collected each week. Collected material goes to an industrial compost facility and is turned into compost — a nutrient-rich soil additive — used in gardening and landscaping.

Bringing organics to a drop-off site is easy and can dramatically reduce waste. The typical household can divert up to one-third of trash by delivering items such as food scraps, spoiled produce, coffee grounds and bones.

To sign up, visit www.dakotacounty.us and search organics, email organics@co.dakota.mn.us or call 952-891-7557. All registered participants receive helpful tips and compostable bags to use at home.

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

Holiday Light Collection



Don't toss out your broken or unwanted light strings! Drop off your tangle of lights and cords at the Parks & Recreation Department (920 West 10th Street) starting Nov. 15 until Jan. 31, 2025.

Please do not drop off cord adapters, plastic rope lights, CFL lights, or battery packs. Garlands, fake trees, statuary, and metal fixtures are also not accepted.

Holiday lights are additionally accepted year-round at The Recycling Zone, located at 3365 Dodd Road, Eagan.

Need to get rid of something else? Visit www.dakotacounty.us and search recycling guide.

Smart Salting



A little salt goes a long way when de-icing sidewalks and driveways. A cupful treats a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.

It only takes one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water.

Visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website for more information on smart salting at www.pca.state.mn.us.

City News Briefs



NEW! Snowshoe Rental Program

This winter, snowshoes will be available for public use! This is a FREE program through the Hastings Parks and Recreation Department and funded through a MN DNR Grant and County SHIP Grant. Snowshoes are available for adults, teens & youth 5 years of age or older.

Find rental forms and more details on our website: www.hastingsmn.gov

Questions? Call Hastings Parks and Rec 651-480-6175 or parkinfo@hastingsmn.gov.

Snowshoe Guided Hikes

Explore the outdoors on a FREE guided snowshoe hike through floodplain forest and prairie lands with a Park Naturalist. Snowshoes and instruction provided.

- Sunday, Jan. 5, 9 – 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 9, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Jaycee Park, 420 Lock & Dam Rd.

Recommended for adults and teens

Register online: www.hastingsmn.gov/recregration

Questions? Contact pmarschall@hastingsmn.gov or 651-480-6182

Lake Isabel Park Reconstruction Update

Lake Isabel Parks renovations are nearly complete. New playground equipment and a basketball court are installed, accessible walkways have been added. Footings for a new picnic shelter and concrete slab are in place. Framing of the shelter has started and picnic tables and a few park benches will go in soon. The site will be dormant seeded so the grass will grow in the spring, and trees will be planted within the park this fall or spring. Thank you to all those who participated in the community planning process and to our Parks and Recreation Department for overseeing these innovative upgrades! Visit Lake Isabel Park at 800 2nd St. E.



Levee Park Summer Events Recap

More than 6,600 people attended events and programs coordinated by our Parks and Recreation Department at Levee Park this summer, from June through September. Programs included movies, music, story time, biking, comedy and more. We work with more than 60 organizations, businesses and individual program partners to make these events happen in Hastings.

A special thank you to our sponsors:

- The Ruth and George Doffing Charitable Fund for Music in the Park
- Ardent Mills for Movie in the Park
- SMEAD Manufacturing Co. for Comedy in the Park

We're excited to start planning the 2025 Calendar of Events based on feedback we received throughout the summer from attendees and look forward to seeing you for our 10th season at Levee Park.



Mayor for a Day Essay Contest Open Through Dec. 13

City of Hastings Mayor Mary Fasbender invites fourth, fifth and sixth graders to participate in the League of Minnesota Cities annual Mayor for a Day Essay Contest. To enter, children should write an essay that answers the prompt, "What would you do if you were mayor for a day?" for a chance to win \$100 and recognition in Minnesota Cities magazine. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 13.



Learn about submissions to the Mayor for a Day Essay Contest - League of Minnesota Cities (lmc.org). Participants should also submit copies of their essays to Mayor Mary Fasbender at City Hall, 101 4th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033. The student with the winning entry will be invited to shadow the Mayor for the day and assist in leading the City Council meeting.

Lead Service Line Inventory Follow Up

Following new requirements provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) required all public water systems to complete a comprehensive inventory of water service lines to identify lead or galvanized service lines needing replacement. City staff completed this initial inventory over the summer of 2024.



Residents identified to have a service line made of lead, galvanized or unknown material have received a notification with further details on next steps. MDH has stated that federal and state funding is anticipated to become available to cover the costs of replacing lead and galvanized service lines, which would eliminate the need to charge property owners. City staff will apply for this funding in 2025 in hopes that replacements could begin as early as 2026.

In the meantime, city staff will continue work to identify the remaining unknown material service lines. Residents with an unknown service line may assist by self-reporting using the link found on the notice provided, or on our website at www.hastingsmn.gov/LSL.

MCES Wastewater Treatment Facility Relocation on Hold

The Met Council is suspending current plans to relocate the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) out of downtown Hastings while it reviews other alternatives. The Met Council will work closely with the stakeholders in Dakota County to return to planning the project. No construction is anticipated within the next 5 years.



Community Volunteer Commissioners Needed

The City of Hastings is seeking community members to help shape Hastings' future by serving on a Commission. Volunteer commissioners serve in an advisory role to the City Council by reviewing and recommending policies and activities. Commissions generally meet monthly for one to two hours in the evening. City staff provides background information and guidance for discussion and recommendations from the commissioners. Upcoming vacancies include the Public Safety Advisory Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Learn more about city commissions and fill out an interest form at www.hastingsmn.gov/commissions.



**Join a City
Commission**

WE NEED YOU! MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN HASTINGS

hastingsmn.gov/commissions



Ice Fishing Programs

Get outdoors this winter and ice fish at Lake Rebecca!

Bait, tackle, poles and instruction are provided during these FREE programs.

Win fishing gear and gift cards during the on-site drawings.

A fishing license is not required under our DNR permit, catch and release only.

The program is in partnership with Carpenter Nature Center.

- Saturday, Jan. 4, 9 - Noon
- Saturday, Feb. 8, 9 - Noon

Lake Rebecca Park, 415 Lock & Dam Road, Hastings, MN 55033

Recommended for youth 15 & under

Register online: www.hastingsmn.gov/recregistration.

Questions? Contact: pmarschall@hastingsmn.gov or 651-480-6182.



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Permit No. 166

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Winter Season Calendar



**NOV.
28**
Gobble Gait
Thanksgiving
Morning Run



**JAN.
5**
Snowshoe Guided
Hike



**NOV.
30**
Holiday Hoopla,
Small Business
Saturday and City
Tree Lighting



**FEB.
5**
State of the
Community



**DEC.
10**
CP Rail Holiday Train
Concert Benefitting
Hastings Family
Service



**FEB.
8**
Ice Fishing



**DEC.
14**
Skate with Santa
and Riverblades Ice
Show



**FEB.
9**
Snowshoe Guided
Hike



**JAN.
4**
Ice Fishing



www.hastingsmn.gov/events

Follow us @
cityhastingsmn

2025 Holiday Lights Tour



Get your decorations ready and show us how you shine Hastings! We are kicking off the fifth year of our holiday lights display and tour.

Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/holidaylights to complete a form that will allow you to upload an image of your outdoor holiday lights and an address to be included in the holiday lights tour map.

Please upload your address by Sunday, Dec. 8 and we'll include your address on a community self-guided tour map.

You can also share your images to #HastingsMNShines

www.hastingsmn.gov/holidaylights