



Rivertown NEWS

Volume XXX Issue 1 Spring 2026



Hockey Day Minnesota: City Celebrates a Fun Week Amid Freezing Temps

Hockey Day Minnesota organizers planned a week of fun for the entire region. Although Mother Nature didn't cooperate, the festivities went on and several people got in on the action at the United Heroes League.

Thanks to everyone involved in planning and carrying out this big event week. It was the 20th anniversary of Hockey Day Minnesota and we were so proud to have it in Hastings!



Help Ensure Safety for All at Rivertown Dog Park

The Rivertown Dog Park is open for all dog owners and their pets to enjoy. Occasionally, a dog becomes aggressive with another dog or with a dog owner. Aggressive behavior is taken seriously to ensure the safety of all visitors. Any dog that shows aggressive or rough behavior must be leashed and removed from the park immediately. Owners are responsible for maintaining control of their dogs at all times and for preventing situations that could place people or

other animals at risk. When aggressive behavior occurs, park users are encouraged to prioritize safety, avoid confrontation and report the incident promptly.

When a dog poses a safety concern, incidents may be reported to law enforcement by calling 911 in an emergency or 651-322-2323 for non-emergency concerns. An officer may investigate and, if warranted, declare a dog potentially dangerous or dangerous based on



the circumstances. Dog owners are notified of any declaration and have the right to appeal. These procedures help ensure dangerous behavior is addressed fairly while keeping the dog park safe and enjoyable for the community.

City of Hastings Government

Hastings City Hall

101 4th St. E.
Hastings, MN 55033

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: Mya Beck 586-804-3456
mbeck@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

Water Treatment Plant Construction Continues

Construction began in September on the Central Water Treatment Plant (WTP) located on North Frontage Road. This is the first of three water treatment plants that will remove PFAS "forever chemicals" from City drinking water. Each plant is expected to take about a year and a half to build. This summer, we plan to break ground on the Eastern WTP in the Industrial Park. Construction on the Western WTP will start next year, probably on property near SEAS Church. Construction of all three plants should be completed ahead of a spring 2029 deadline.

We've already secured \$23.5 million through several grants and partial access to the state's East Metro 3M Settlement fund. It's a lot of help, but still far short of the \$70 million price tag. We're currently looking at a 15% increase in water rates between 2024 and 2028 to make up the difference – as you've seen with increases last year and this year.

We are seeking other funds to help reduce the local burden. In late January, the federal budget included a \$1.1 million earmark toward the Western WTP. The Eastern WTP has been ranked as "fundable" for an additional \$5 million in emerging contaminants grants. We have submitted requests for state bonding or other assistance and will be active in St. Paul during this legislative session. Environmental investigations continue, which may open additional funds through the state's East Metro 3M Settlement fund – but these are a long and uncertain process. Find monthly updates at www.hastingsmn.gov/PFAS.

Streets Identified for Summer Road Improvements

The 2026 Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements project includes improvements along Pleasant Drive from Highway 55 to 4th St. W., and along 4th St. W. between Pleasant Drive and River St. The scope of work currently includes a full reconstruction of the street and underground utilities for a majority of these segments. In addition to the street and utility work, a new multi-use trail is planned to replace the existing sidewalk along the west side of Pleasant Drive between 4th St. and Highway 55. Learn more at www.hastingsmn.gov/2026streets.

Help Available to Invest in Our Community

We are now accepting applications for the 2026 Community Investment Fund. The CIF offers support for community-driven projects that enhance public spaces, amenities and partnerships throughout the city. Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/CIF to apply.

We Want Your Photos of Hastings!

The City of Hastings communications staff is seeking photos of Hastings to use for our website, social media platforms, and other print and digital communications. We would like a variety of images that capture the beauty of our city, its programs and services. Help us showcase Hastings! If you are interested, please visit www.hastingsmn.gov/photos to learn more and upload images.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A Year of Growth, Investment and Planning for the Future

Last year was a busy year for development across the city. The city's Community Development Department has issued its 2025 annual report. The department supports land use planning, zoning, economic development, redevelopment, historic preservation, building inspection and code enforcement, while assisting the City Council, Planning Commission, HEDRA and advisory commissions.

Highlights include:

Housing

The city approved 42 new residential units totaling \$9.7 million in valuation. Key projects included Heritage Ridge, Vermillion Acres senior housing, Villas at Pleasant, South Oaks of Hastings, and Suite Living assisted living and memory care.

Commercial & Industrial

The city approved 55 commercial and industrial permits totaling \$12.9 million. Major projects included a new Chase Bank branch, the Central

Water Treatment Plant PFAS facility, United Heroes League Stadium improvements, Rio Gran Trucking and Storage Werk's.

Supporting the Community

The city undertook the following:

- Awarded nearly \$24,000 in Façade Improvement Grants, leveraging over \$104,000 in private investment.
- Partnered with Music in the Park for 12 Music + Market events, drawing more than 6,500 attendees.
- Launched a new Arts Event Grant Program and provided free business mentoring through Open to Business.
- Completed the Highway 55 Small Area Plan.

Planning Ahead

Planning efforts continued for major future projects, including Walden at Hastings, Block 28 Gateway, downtown redevelopment at Block 16, Vermillion Street (Hwy 61)

reconstruction, a comprehensive Zoning Code update and the Pleasant Valley Farm development.

To read the full report, visit www.hastingsmn.gov and search Annual Reports.



Vendor Registration Open



Hastings Music + Market is returning for the 2026 season, and artisan vendor applications are now open for this popular summer series at Levee Park featuring live music, local makers and family friendly fun.

The market will feature an exciting range of products, and we're looking for local artisans, makers and vendors to help bring the markets to life. Visit www.hastingsmn.gov and search Music + Market to register a booth.

State of the Community



Mark your calendars. The annual State of the Community will be held on Wednesday, April 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hastings Golf Club and will include presentations by Mayor Mary Fasbender and Hastings Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Wehrkamp Herman.

The public is invited to register online via the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce website at www.hastingsmn.org/Events.

Facade Grants Available



Looking to refresh your storefront? The city's Façade Improvement Program offers grants to help local businesses invest in exterior building improvements that enhance curb appeal and keep properties well maintained.

Learn more and apply online. Visit www.hastingsmn.gov and search Façade Improvement Grant Program.

RECYCLING, REUSE, REPAIR & DISPOSAL

Stay Safe with the Recycling Zone

Instead of leaving unwanted household items like yard and garden chemicals, cleaners, auto products, electronics around your house or garage, take them to the Recycling Zone in Eagan instead.

The Recycling Zone makes sure the stuff that doesn't belong in the trash or recycling is disposed of the right way to keep our environment safe.

Dropping off is easy. You stay in your car while staff unload materials from the trunk or backseat. Put smaller items in a box that you can leave behind.

Accepted items – free drop-off unless noted

- Auto products like motor oil, antifreeze and gas
- Batteries
- Bug killers/repellents
- Cardboard (no larger than 36" x 36")
- Cleaners
- Electronics (fee for TVs and computer monitors)
- Lightbulbs – all types
- Needles and sharps (in a closed rigid container, keep in front seat)
- Paints and stains
- Personal care products like nail polish and hair dye
- Propane tanks and aerosol sprays
- Scrap metal
- Tires (fee)
- Small household electronics like toasters and vacuums
- String lights and cords
- Vaping devices
- Weed killer
- Most products that say caution, warning, danger or poison



If you have an unknown or unique household chemical, email recyclingzone@co.dakota.mn.us prior to dropping off to work with Recycling Zone staff about safe handling.

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

Mattress/Box Spring Drop Off & Document Shred Event

Mark your calendars for our Mattress/Box Spring Drop-Off & Document Shred Event!

Drop off your old mattresses and box springs for \$30 per piece (payable directly to Certified Recycling; pricing subject to change). Mattresses in good condition will be donated to Bridging, while all others will be deconstructed and recycled by Certified Recycling.

Document shredding is free and will be handled on-site by a National Association for Information Destruction (NAID)-certified company. After shredding, paper

Saturday, May 30
9 a.m. to Noon
Hastings Public Works Facility
1225 Progress Dr.

will be properly recycled into paper pulp, ensuring secure and sustainable disposal.

For tips on preparing your items and answers to common questions, check our website at www.hastingsmn.gov and search Mattress.



Sports Equipment Swap

Ready to refresh your gear or make some space in the garage? Join us for a fun, eco-friendly Sports Equipment Swap—a great way to give your gently used gear a second life and maybe find something new to you in return!

Whether you're into soccer, basketball, tennis, or anything in between, bring your clean, gently used sports equipment and trade it for something that suits your current interests. No donation is required to participate—just come ready to browse and swap!

What to Bring:

- Clean, gently used gear (balls, bats, gloves, helmets, cleats, rackets, etc.)
- Items in good, usable condition

Tuesday, March 10
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Hastings High School
200 General Sieben Dr.

call 612-268-9097 to arrange a drop-off. This is a family friendly event, so bring the whole crew and help us promote reuse, reduce waste and keep our community active!



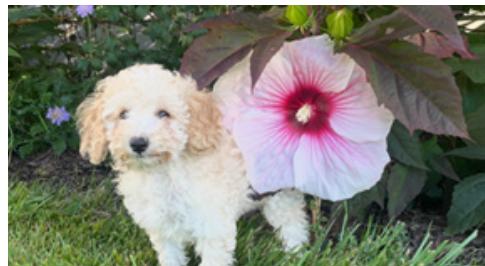
What to Skip:

- Socks, undergarments and worn swimsuits
- Broken, dirty or heavily worn-out items
- Safety gear that's expired or damaged (e.g., bike helmets)

Can't attend but have gear to donate ahead of time? We'd love to take it off your hands! Contact violet.penman@rosemountmn.gov, or

Help Keep Our Storm Sewer and Water Clear of Debris and Chemicals

Pet Waste



Have fun this spring enjoying the city's trails and parks system! Please be mindful to pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste properly. This simple courtesy allows others to enjoy the park while maintaining water quality.

Hazardous Waste



The Recycling Zone in Eagan provides Hastings residents an opportunity to drop off their hazardous waste and reduce the risk of an illicit discharge. An illicit discharge is any spill that reaches the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of storm water. For more information and a full list of accepted materials, visit www.dakotacounty.us, and search Recycling Zone.

Yard Waste



Hastings residents are encouraged to use the Yard Waste & Construction Debris Drop-Off service starting in April (weather permitting). The service is available exclusively to Hastings residents, so be sure to bring proof of residency when visiting. To find the opening date and pricing, visit www.hastingsmn.gov and search Yard Waste. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Tennis Sanitation at 651-459-1887.

PARKS, RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Hastings Civic Arena



Ice Rentals

Now – May 10

Open Skating Sessions

- Wednesdays: 1-2:30 p.m. (Ends 3/27)
- Fridays: 10-11:30 a.m. (Ends 3/25)
- Sundays: 4:15-5:45 p.m. (Ends 3/29)

Freestyle Sessions & Stick and Puck Sessions

- Check our online schedule for dates and times
- Visit www.hastingsmn.gov and search Master Arena Schedule.

Birthday Party Rentals

- \$120/hour + tax.
- Call 651-480-6195 for details.

Turf Rentals

- Begins March 20
- \$90/hour + tax.

Turf rental includes batting cages, soccer nets and lacrosse nets.

Advertising Opportunities

Advertise your business or organization at the Arena.

Contact: 651-480-6195

Civic Arena Questions

Contact Arena Manager Cory Onken at 651-480-6195 or conken@hastingsmn.gov.

Adult Leagues



Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues

The leagues begin week of May 4. All games are played at Pioneer Park.

The following leagues are available:

- Mondays – Co-Ed Upper 6's Double Headers
- Thursdays – Co-Ed Lower 6's Double Headers



Adult Pickleball Leagues

The leagues begin the week of May 11. Regular season games are followed by a tournament. Games played at Roadside Pickleball Courts.

The following leagues are available:

- Mondays – Men's Doubles/55 & Older Mixed Doubles
- Tuesdays – Women's Doubles
- Wednesdays – Mixed Doubles
- Thursdays – Mixed Doubles



Adult Softball League

The league begins April 28. Regular season games are followed by a double elimination tournament.

Games played at Veterans Athletic Complex.

The following league is available:

- Tuesdays – Men's



Adult Bags League

The league begins May 20. Regular season matches are followed by a tournament. Matches are played at Pioneer Park.

The following league is available:

- Wednesdays – Open Doubles

Adult League Questions and Registration

- **Questions:** Contact Sports Coordinator Phil Vargas at 651-480-6181 or pvargas@hastingsmn.gov
- **League Registration:** Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/recregistration

Rentals



Park Shelter Rentals

Park shelters are a convenient and affordable venue for outdoor family gatherings, birthday parties, graduations, and more! Costs vary based on the Park. Visit our website for more information at www.hastingsmn.gov and search Park Rentals.

Party Wagon Rentals

The Party Wagon is available for Hastings residents. It includes 40 folding chairs, six tables, yard games, a 10x10 tent and coolers.

Cost: \$135.16

Rental Questions:

Contact 651-480-6175 or parksinfo@hastingsmn.gov



Birds and Bison Bike Tour

Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.

Join us for a 20-mile guided bike tour. FREE! Learn more and register online: www.visithestingsmn.org/bike-tours

Outdoor Opportunities



Arbor Day – Tree Planting

Volunteer to plant trees in celebration of Arbor Day!

Interested? Contact Hastings Parks and Rec. 651-480-6175 or parksinfo@hastingsmn.gov to sign up for yourself or your group.

Friday, April 24

1–2:30 p.m.

Pleasant Park

2000 Pleasant Drive

DIY Parks & Trails Cleanup

Help keep Hastings parks and trails clean, safe and beautiful. Plan a DIY cleanup with your family, community group, business or just yourself!

Interested? Contact Hastings Parks and Recreation at 651-480-6175 or parksinfo@hastingsmn.gov for a park or trail assignment and to schedule your cleanup date of choice. Bags and garbage grabbers are available to groups.



Photo courtesy of Dave Youngren

Police Activities



Public Safety Day

Tuesday, May 12

5–7 p.m.

Outside the Police Dept.

For other activities, including Coffee with a Cop and the Sound the Siren campaign, visit the website at www.hastingsmn.gov/Events or our Facebook Events tab.

Fire Department Statistics



The Hastings Fire Department stayed busy this past year! The team responded to 3,978 total calls for service in 2025—that is an 8.72% increase over 2024.

Whether it's a fire, a medical emergency, or even an animal rescue, Hastings Fire is proud to be there when the community calls.

2025 Snapshots:

- 3,495 EMS Responses
- 37 Structure Fires
- 96 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 41 Cardiac Arrests
- 3 Animal Rescues

From handling 641 falls to responding to 92 alarms, crews are honored to serve the Hastings community 24/7/365. Thank you for your support!



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POSTAL CUSTOMER

IMPORTANT SPRING DATES & REMINDERS

Meetings

All meetings will be held at City Hall at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Check our city calendar for changes, agendas, packets and minutes.

2/17 - City Council Workshop and Meeting
3/2 - City Council
3/16 - City Council
4/6 - City Council
4/20 - City Council
5/4 - City Council
5/18 - City Council

Check our website for Council and Commission meetings at www.hastingsmn.gov.

Activities

Visit our city Events Calendar for details at www.hastingsmn.gov/events. All events are also added to our Facebook Events tab.

2/22 - Snowshoe Guided Hike
3/10 - Sports Equipment Swap
4/8 - State of the Community
4/24 - Arbor Day Tree Planting
5/2 - Birds and Bison Bike Tour
5/19 - Police Week Open House/ Public Safety Day
5/30 - Mattress/Box Spring Drop-Off

Reminders



Property owners or occupants are required to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks to prevent a public nuisance affecting the safety of the general public.

Do not place snow or ice within the public street or walkway because it creates a public safety hazard for vehicles and pedestrians. Snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks within 48 hours. Snow and ice must be removed through to the street.



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