

Legislators Visit to Learn About Capital Request for Water Treatment Plants

Removing PFAS from our drinking water remains the city's top priority. Legislative committees visited Hastings on Oct. 28 and Nov. 6 to learn more about water treatment projects that will provide clean and safe drinking water for our community. The city continues to build relationships with state officials and to seek funding for our water infrastructure. Two applications were submitted for consideration in the State's Capital Budget - \$18.3 million for the Eastern Water Treatment Plant and \$22.3 million for the Western Water Treatment Plant. Statewide capital requests will be considered in early 2026, with the hopes that the city's requests are included in a State bonding bill and signed by Gov. Walz. Construction on the Central Water Treatment Plant began in late summer, with the others planned for construction in 2026 and 2027.

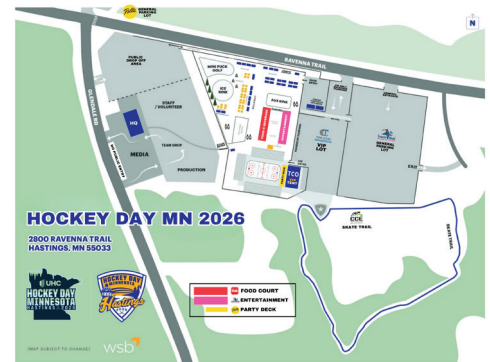


Members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee listen to City Administrator Dan Wietecha and Public Works Director Ryan Stempski review the city's capital requests for funding to build water treatment plants.

Plans take Shape for Hockey Day Minnesota in Hastings set for Jan. 17-24

Planning is underway for Hockey Day Minnesota, to be held in Hastings in January. The event is celebrating its 20th anniversary and will be hosted at the United Heroes League complex, located off Ravenna Trail. Fans can expect a showcase of elite high school hockey talent, along with entertainment, winter festivities and a vibrant Hockey Day Village.

A schedule of game matchups, events, tickets, merchandise sales and more can be found at www.hockeydaymn.com. Volunteers are needed!



See inside back cover for new Civic Arena mural celebrating Hastings hockey history!

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

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mayormary@hastingsmn.gov

Ward 1: DawnMarie Vihrachoff 651-587-7458
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Ward 2: Mya Beck 586-804-3456
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Ward 3: Lisa Leifeld 651-334-0306
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Ward 4: Timothy Lawrence 651-253-6503
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At-Large: Angie Haus 651-283-8364
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Contact Us

City Administrator
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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

Hastingsmn.gov

2026 Proposed Budget and Preliminary Levy

At its Sept. 2 meeting, the Hastings City Council approved a preliminary 2026 Budget and set a preliminary property tax levy of \$21.7 million to invest in improved water treatment; infrastructure, building and equipment preservation; and personnel. The Council also scheduled a truth-in-taxation public hearing for Monday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.

The proposed property tax levy represents an 8.4% increase over 2025. A homeowner with a median value home (\$331,600) will see an estimated annual property tax increase of \$162, or \$13.50 per month, on the city's portion of property taxes.

The proposed levy increase is below most Dakota County cities' early levy projections averaging 10.2% and ranging 5-19%.

"The city continues to invest in clean and safe drinking water, aging roads, necessary building and equipment assets, and our staff," said City Administrator Dan Wietecha.

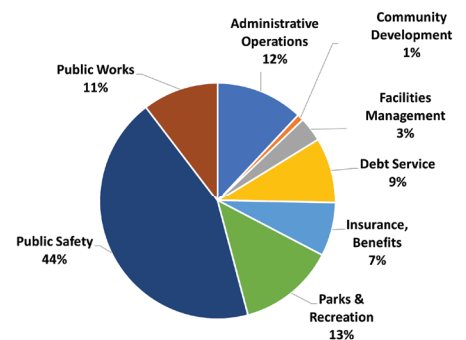
Preliminary utility rate increases were set at 4.5% for sewer, 4% for stormwater, and a phased increase for water at 10% in January and 10% in July.

The Council also approved a proposed 2026 HEDRA Special Levy subject to the limit of 0.185 percent of the taxable market value. This levy is used for economic development activities that help grow key areas of the city such as the Vermillion Corridor, downtown and the Industrial Park.

City budget information is posted at www.hastingsmn.gov/budget.

**Truth-in-Taxation
Public Hearing
Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

Your Tax Dollars at Work



New City Website Design Coming Soon!

The City of Hastings is switching website vendors and will launch a redesigned website in December. The new site will be mobile friendly and mobile responsive and meet accessibility guidelines. The site will be completed in phases, with phase 1 launch set for Dec. 11 of this year. Additional content and ADA-compliant text, images and documents will be built out through April of 2027. Those who signed up to receive news alerts will need to re-enroll when the new site launches. The website address will remain as www.hastingsmn.gov.



The last full redesign of the website was in 2013. Web design strategies and digital technologies have changed significantly since then.

Highway 61 Project Update and Public Meeting

In 2024, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) completed a study of Hwy 61 through Hastings in partnership with the City of Hastings. The initial assessment provides alternatives to improve safety and mobility through town.

Next up, city and state staff members applied for and received some grant money to help fund the construction and will continue to seek other opportunities to lower their respective cost burdens.

In addition to working on the funding, the state is moving forward with several contracts to supplement the project team, including an engineering firm for design assistance, a general contractor to provide input on construction staging and a communications organization for increased engagement. Design and environmental work will continue through 2027 and include additional outreach opportunities for the public to learn more about the project.

Construction activity is anticipated to kick off in fall 2027 through 2029, with a majority of the work in 2028.

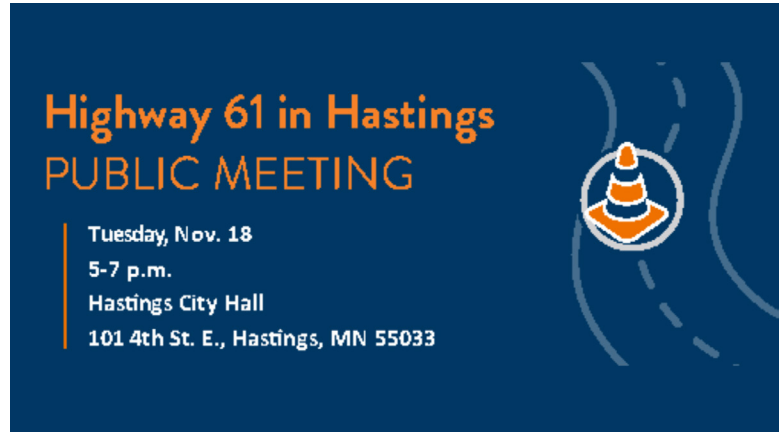
Highway 61 Business Committee

Projects of this scale can bring both challenges and opportunities, and we want to ensure businesses stay informed and supported every step of the way. The Hastings Chamber of Commerce and Hastings Downtown Business Association are forming a local business group that will meet regularly throughout design and construction. This group will serve to share updates, stay engaged and collaborate on marketing efforts to

support all impacted businesses. To learn more, contact Kristy Barse at Kristy@hastingsmn.org or by phone at 651-437-6775.

Public Meeting Set for Nov. 18

MnDOT and the City of Hastings will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. There will be a brief presentation at the start of the meeting followed by an open house format for questions.



Timeline of Projects to Shape Hastings' Future Developed

City staff have put together a chart of major public works- and engineering-related construction projects that are scheduled in Hastings between 2025 and 2031. View the timeline at www.hastingsmn.gov/construction.

Did you Know?



To all our lucky residents who go south for the winter – better known as snowbirds – please note that the post office does not forward city utility bills, even if you have a forwarding address on file with the post office. You will need to call city staff at 651-480-2351 and provide them with your southern address to receive your bills while you are away.

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. and will include presentations by Mayor Mary Fasbender and Hastings Schools Superintendent Dr. Wehrkamp Herman. Registration information will be available on the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce website at www.hastingsmn.org/events. The public is invited to attend.

Support Local



The Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau has rolled out the "Choose Local Hastings" Campaign - a renewed call to shop, dine and do business right here at home. They encourage the community to trust hometown experts for all their service needs and to support local businesses that keep our town thriving. Use the Chamber directory: www.hastingsmn.org/list. The businesses in Hastings support our local community in many ways.

Follow Your Recycling

If you follow your recycling in Dakota County, you won't have to go very far. The materials are sorted by people and machines at local recycling facilities and sent to different companies that turn them into new products. Many of these companies are based right here in Minnesota, turning recyclables into new cracker and cereal boxes, durable decking and fencing, food and beverage bottles and more. To keep this process running smoothly, it is important to put the right items in your home recycling.

Put these items loose in your home recycling (no plastic bags):

Paper

- Newspaper and inserts
- Magazines and catalogs
- Mail and office papers

Cardboard

- Corrugated cardboard
- Paperboard (e.g., cracker boxes)

Cartons

- Milk and juice cartons
- Soup, broth and wine cartons
- Juice boxes



Metal cans

- Aluminum, tin and steel cans

Glass bottles and jars

Plastic bottles, containers and jugs

- Containers numbered 1, 2 or 5
- Soda, juice and water bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other tubs and lids
- Laundry detergent bottles and jugs
- Clear berry and produce containers

Make sure bottles, jars and containers are empty and dry before recycling. They don't have to be perfect — just free of most residue like food and liquids. Leave caps on containers and flatten boxes. Leave out plastic bags, batteries, black plastic, food and things that can tangle around moving machines. If you're wondering about a specific item, use the online Recycling Guide at www.dakotacounty.us, search recycling guide.

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

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.



HELP SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER

Add Your Home or Business to Our Holiday Lights Map and Take A Tour

Please register your home or business for the 2025 Holiday Lights Tour! This is a great opportunity to show off your decorating skills and make Hastings sparkle this winter.

Whether you own a home or business, you can plan your dazzling display now, fill out a participation form and get ready for your home or business to be displayed on our holiday lights route map!

A tour map will be published Dec. 5. Participants should leave their lights up through Jan. 4.

Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/holidaylights to add your home or business.



Police Lights of Christmas Toy Drive



Help make the holidays brighter for Dakota County families in need. Donate toys or dollars through the Police Lights of Christmas toy drive. Bring unwrapped toys through Nov. 21 to:

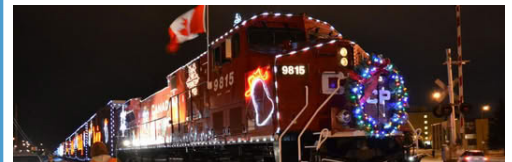
- City Hall, 101 E. 4th St.
- Police Department, 150 E. 3rd St.
- Farmers Ins., 1350 S. Frontage
- Dakota County Government Ctr.

Holiday Hoopla, Small Business Saturday, Ice Sculpture Celebration



Enjoy carriage rides, shopping and outdoor fun at the Holiday Hoopla downtown on Saturday, Nov. 29. A tree lighting ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m. Remember to shop local throughout Hastings as part of Small Business Saturday. Learn more at www.hastingsdba.com. The annual Ice Sculpture Celebration is set for Jan. 17, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CPKC Holiday Train



Get ready Hastings! The CPKC Holiday Train is coming to town on Dec. 12, 8:45 p.m., at Depot Park! Enjoy a free holiday concert. Come early and enjoy dinner in town and other activities. Please bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations to benefit people served by Hastings Family Service. Learn more at www.cpkcr.com/holidaytrain

Bring Broken or Unwanted Light Strings to the Holiday Lights Collection Bin

Don't toss out your broken or unwanted light strings! Drop off your tangle of lights and cords at the Parks & Recreation Department (920 W. 10th St.) or Ace Hardware (1355 S Frontage Rd) starting Nov. 17 until Jan. 31, 2026. 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.



Outdoor Skating Rinks



Rinks to Open Late December

Outdoor skating rinks will open in 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 CITYRINKS to (651) 349-9255.

Warming House Hours:

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

Visit hastingsmn.gov for Holidays & No School Day hours, search keyword Skating Rinks.

Skating Rink Locations:

- Wallin Park: WH, RR, HR
- Lions Park: WH, RR, HR (warming house status for the upcoming season is unknown due to recent fire damage)
- Pioneer Park: WH, RR, HR
- Isabel Park: RR only
- Civic Arena: HR only

WH = Warming House

RR = Recreational Rink (no hockey)

HR = Hockey Rink

Hastings Civic Arena



Skating hours and games

Open Skating Sessions:

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

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

Stick and Puck Sessions:

Check our online schedule at www.hastingsmn.gov/Arena

Cost: \$8.00

Skate with Santa:

- Saturday, Dec. 13, 6-8:30 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

The first high school boys' game is 12/1 against Dodge County JV at 4:15 p.m. Varsity at 6:30 p.m.. Tickets are available at the door. Credit cards only.

Swiftie Skate **New!**



Taylor Swift-themed Event

Skate to your favorite Taylor Swift songs and enjoy bracelet making and photo opportunity stations. Dress as your best Taylor Swift or Travis Kelce – win prizes.

In Partnership with River Blades Skating School.

Monday, Dec. 1

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Non-school day!

Hastings Civic Arena, 2801 Red Wing Blvd.

All Ages welcome, recommended for teens

Cost: \$6 Admission & \$4 Ice Skate Rental (or bring your own skates)

Concessions available: (lunch, snack and beverage items for purchase)

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

New Signs Installed Along the 10-Mile Scenic Loop

Signs recently were installed along the 10-Mile Scenic Loop Trail in Hastings. The signs are positioned each half mile and printed on both sides, so bikers and walkers can have a better idea of how far they have come or gone along the trail. Plans are in progress for additional wayfinding, speed limit and other signs on trails in Hastings.



Snowshoe Opportunities Ice Fishing Programs



FREE! Snowshoe Rental Program

Snowshoes are available for public use this winter through a new program offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Snowshoes are available for adults, teens and youth 5+.

Rental forms and more details can be found on our website at www.hastingsmn.gov

Rentals are free of charge.

The program is funded through an MN DNR Grant and County SHIP Grant.

Questions? Hastings Parks and Rec 651-480-6175 or parksinfo@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. 11
9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 22
9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Jaycee Park, 420 Lock & Dam Road, Hastings MN 55033

Recommended for adults and teens
Register online: www.hastingsmn.gov

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



Ice Fishing Programs

Get outdoors this winter & ice fish at Lake Rebecca!

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

Win fishing gear and gift cards during the onsite drawings.

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

In partnership with Carpenter Nature Center.

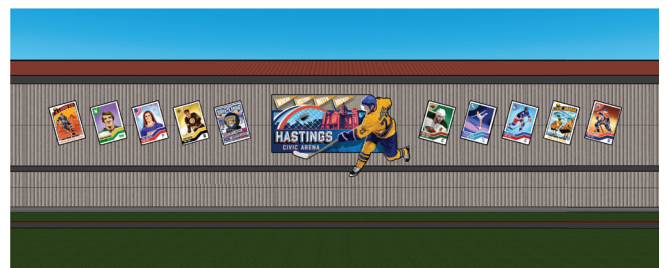
- Saturday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m.-Noon
- Saturday, Feb. 7, 9 a.m.-Noon



New Civic Arena Mural Celebrates Hockey

The Hastings Arts and Culture Commission commissioned Lili Lennox to create an engaging, dynamic mural that welcomes visitors to Hastings and celebrates the city and its hockey history. The mural is scheduled

for installation on Nov. 14 on the southwest wall of the Hastings Civic Arena, facing Hwy 61. It serves as a visual landmark as the city prepares for Hockey Day Minnesota in 2026. Stop by for a visit and take some pictures!



Levee Park Events Recap



Levee Park Events Recap

2025 marked our 10th year of programming at Levee Park! More than 9,800 people attended 23 events and programs coordinated by our Parks and Recreation Department at Levee Park, from June through September. Programs included Movies, Storytime, Comedy, our new Music + Market series and more. We work with over 85 organizations, businesses and individual program partners to make these events happen in Hastings.

A special thank you to:

- Our Music + Market sponsor, The Ruth and George Doffing Charitable Fund
- Our Movie in the Park sponsor, Ardent Mills
- Our Comedy in the Park sponsor, SMEAD Manufacturing Co.

We're excited to start planning the 2026 schedule!



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IMPORTANT WINTER 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.

11/17 - City Council
11/18 - Highway 61 Public Meeting
11/27-28 - Thanksgiving - Offices Closed
12/1 - City Council and Truth-in-Taxation hearing
12/15 - City Council
12/25 - Christmas - Offices Closed
1/2 - New Year's Day - Offices Closed

Check our website for Council meetings in the new year at www.hastingsmn.gov.

Activities

Visit our city Events Calendar for details at www.hastingsmn.gov/events.

11/25 - Holiday Lights Collection Begins
11/27 - Gobble Gait Run/Walk
11/29 - Holiday Hoopla/Small Business Saturday
12/1 - Swiftie Skate
12/6-1/4 - Holiday Lights Tour
12/12 - Canadian Pacific Holiday Train
12/13 - Skate with Santa
1/10 - Ice Fishing Program
1/11 - Snowshoe Guided Hike
1/17 - Hastings Ice Sculpture Celebration
2/7 - Ice Fishing Program
2/22 - Snowshoe Guided Hike

Reminders



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. Find more winter reminders at www.hastingsmn.gov/winter.



Sign up for the *Hastings City Update* e-newsletter to receive weekly news and events in your email inbox.
www.hastingsmn.gov/cityupdate

