

THE BRIDGE



October 13 | Issue 32

Welcome to the Employee Newsletter!

Leadership Minute

Employee Enthusiasm

By Dan Wietecha

Some ten years ago, my dad was in the hospital at Christmastime. Hoping for a diversion and a chance to escape the hospital for an afternoon, I bought three sets of disc golf gear for my brothers as Christmas gifts. As it wound up, we stayed bedside in the hospital, and the discs and bags were kept unused in my parent's basement until I moved here four years ago, at which time they were kept unused in my basement. [Continue reading...](#)



Show Us Your Halloween Spirit!

Do you have a terrifying terrific Halloween display? Are your pumpkin carving skills something someone could just die over? Are you the best witch on the block?

Share your ghoulish displays, pumpkins, and/or costumes by October 25 to be featured in the October 27 newsletter!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Open Enrollment Starts November 1st!

You're invited to a virtual Open Enrollment meeting on Tuesday, October 31 at 2:00 p.m.

Check your email for a Teams Invite!



For more information:
www.cityofhastings.benefithub.com



Still have FSA funds available?
You will lose out on your FSA dollars if you do not spend your 2023 by March 15, 2024. Our WEX FSA is set up with a grace which allows you to your 2023 funds up to March 15.



What's a VEBA?
A Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association plan is an employer-funded, tax-free plan that allows you and your dependents to pay for eligible expenses.

Don't know where or how to spend your funds?

WEX has an entire FSA store! Visit <https://fsastore.com/wex.html> to view all eligible products. Amazon also has a FSA store on their site, click [here](#) to see their store.

Did you know?

You can use your VEBA dollars post-employment for health insurance premiums! This includes private health insurance, COBRA, Medicare, and Long-Term Care premiums.

Learn more [here](#).

Get Ready for Insurance Tour 2023!

If you need help clarifying your current benefits/plans or want some more information about the upcoming changes in 2024, have no fear! I will be going on a 4-building tour in the upcoming weeks. Keep an eye out for tour dates and times!



Kudos Korner

Kudos to everyone who was involved with the Fire Department Open House this week. It was a great turnout!



Staff Updates

Welcome, Lonnie!



Lonnie Johnson joined our team as our Building Official on October 12. Welcome Lonnie and thank you for choosing the City of Hastings!



On October 10th, Calvary Christian Church held its annual lunch and axe-throwing competition for first responders. The Hastings Police Department sadly had to hand over the trophy this year to the Dakota County Sheriff's Office as the Sheriff's Office narrowly beat the police and fire departments. Thank you to the Ministerial Association for supporting our first responders!



Wellness Spotlight: Behavior Change

[The Psychology of Behavior Change](#)

[Leverage Your Character Strengths](#)

Dates to Know October

- October 13 - World Egg Day
- October 15 - National Grouch Day
- October 16 - Boss's Day
- October 17 - National Pasta Day
- October 19 - National New Friends Day
- October 20 - National Mammography Day
- October 21 - National Fetch Day

[The Secrets to Lasting Behavior Change](#)

[Recipe: Vegan Turmeric Pumpkin Soup](#)

[Activity: Identify Your Strengths](#)

October 23 - National TV Talk Show Host Day

October 24 - National Bologna Day

October 26 - National Pumpkin Day

Visit the Events Calendar

City of Hastings Government | Hastings City Hall, 101 4th Street East, City Government, Hastings, MN, MN 55033

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