

THE BRIDGE



Welcome to the Employee Newsletter!

Safety and Wellness Day Survey

Help us plan the next Safety and Wellness Day by [taking the survey](#)

Leadership Minute

Community Investment Fund

By Dan Wietecha

Every other month, the mayors and managers/administrators in Dakota County meet to network and learn from each other. The site rotates from city to city, and the host is responsible for bringing in a speaker. Tomorrow morning, it's our turn.

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Staff Updates

New Fire Hires

The Fire Department welcomes new hires, Anna Henn and Lucas Knoll. Anna comes to the department with experience with Durand EMS. Lucas enters a new role being promoted

to full-time from our paid on-call staff. We are excited to have them on board and excited to have them contributing to our community.



Kudos Korner

Kudos to the crews who worked on getting the outdoor rinks up and running!

Kudos to the Fire Department for responding to 3,686 calls for service in 2024.



From Ashley DeBernardi - Kudos to Lauren and Megan for handling the most recent payroll, that fell over both 2024 and 2025 pay periods, in the new accounting software. Between the COLA adjustments, benefit changes, pay increases; there are lots of little (and BIG!) pieces that go into this. Megan and Lauren both spent countless hours making sure that everything ticked and tied, and, most importantly, that staff were paid correctly! Thank you both for your efforts in this process! Great work!



Management Team Notes

- Two new firefighter/paramedics started on 1/6/25—Welcome Lucas and Anna!
- Council committees and commissions have begun the 2025 meeting schedule.
- Commissioners will have training in late January.
- A banquet honoring Reserve Officers with the Police Department was held on January 8. Thank you for your service to the city!

- There were 200 participants in the ice fishing event held recently.
- There is a meeting at the YMCA on January 23 for those impacted by the [2025 Neighborhood project](#).
- Sergeant Hedrick has been selected to attend Staff and Command training in fall 2025.
- Officer Haedt begins his role as Investigator on January 21. Congratulations!
- The State of the Community event is scheduled for February 5 and will involve a presentation by Mayor Fasbender.
- This Saturday, the Arts and Culture Commission is hosting tours of City Hall in conjunction with the Ice Sculpture celebration downtown.
- Performance evaluations are due January 31.
- The Strategic Plan 4th Quarter report will go to Council next week.

City Text Message Notification System

At the end of the year, the city canceled its Nixle notification system, which was currently being used to send messages about the annual neighborhood streets project along with athletic league and ice rink notices. The vendor agreement was costly, and the city is exploring another vendor option that we hope to have in place next month. The current Constant Contact vendor used for the City Update does offer texting as an option, but after thoroughly exploring the platform and talking with internal staff, we have decided to explore an easier solution. If you get any questions, please direct residents to the following web page, which will be updated as we learn more: www.hastingsmn.gov/textme

City Council Meeting Recap

January 6, 2025 Meeting

- Accepted donations of \$200 from Jeffrey and Stephanie Anderson and \$100 from Shirley Frembgen for the Hastings Fire Department.
- Appointed Bryan Braun and Ryan Sherry to the Public Safety Advisory Commission.
- Accepted the Public Safety Advisory Commission 2024 Annual Report.
- Authorized submittal of the 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget to Dakota County. The estimated funding of \$44,879 would be allocated towards local assessment abatement for qualified homeowners.
- City Administrator Dan Wietecha presented the PFAS Update with no significant changes since the last report but encouraged residents to visit the city website for PFAS information and updates.
- Discussed the city's membership in the Red Rock Corridor and Great River Rail Joint Powers Agreements.

Wellness Spotlight

Momentum

- [The Art of Finding Your Purpose](#)
- [Maintaining Momentum](#)
- [Strategic Goal-Setting](#)
- [Activity - Track Your Habits](#)

Let's Dish

[Momentum-Boosting Breakfast Smoothie](#)

[Lemon Chicken Orzo Soup](#)

[Gluten Free Cinnamon Coffee Cake](#)

Dates to Know

January

- January 17 - Ditch New Years Resolutions Day
- January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr Birthday - City Offices Closed
- January 21 - Squirrel Appreciation Day
- January 24 - Global Belly Laugh Day
- January 27 - Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day
- January 29 - Chinese New Year

City Event Calendar



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