

THE BRIDGE



January 19 | Issue 38

Welcome to the Employee Newsletter!

New for 2024 - Employee Advisory Committee

By Kelly Murtaugh

What is it?

The Employee Advisory Committee is a group of committed employees who are coming together to advise on topics of interest for all employees. The primary topic for 2024 will be to advise on healthcare options for employees. With the increase in premiums for 2024, many employees expressed a desire to have the City go out to the market to look at options. Other topics may arise out of these discussions where the committee could provide valuable input, so the intent is to make this an ongoing opportunity for employee engagement.

What is the commitment?

Depending on the topic of discussion, several meetings where attendance will be necessary. With the technology available to us, meetings may be held virtually. Here is a tentative meeting schedule for the upcoming Healthcare discussion:

Thursday, February 15	9:00 am
Thursday, February 29	9:00 am
Thursday, March 28	9:00 am
Thursday, April 25	9:00 am
Thursday, May 23	9:00 am
Thursday, June 20	9:00 am
July—TBA—Possibly two meetings for review of RFPs and recommendation	
August TBA	

How do I let you know I am interested?

Please complete an [interest form](#) and return it to Kelly by Friday, February 2. It will be

important to have broad representation of departments across the city—encourage your colleagues to express interest or nominate them if you think they would make a valuable contribution to the group!

Committee interest forms will be reviewed and employees will be notified of selection for the committee by Friday, February 9.

[Employee Advisory Committee Interest Form](#)

City-Wide Training Initiative

By Megan Schlei

As part of the City's strategic planning, we have identified city-wide training for all employees as a priority initiative. These training topics will address OSHA-required, Employee-Right-to-Know, and inclusion training and will be assigned throughout the year. Some are one-time trainings, and some will be annual.

On Thursday, January 18, you should have received a notification from KnowBe4 that you have been enrolled in training—this is not a spam message. These training modules will be due on February 23, 2024. Look forward to more trainings throughout the year!

The list below will be assigned to you unless your department addresses these topics in a different manner.

An Introduction to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace - 15 minutes

Hazard Communication: Introduction – 10 minutes

Office Ergonomics Made Easy – 7 minutes

Introduction to Fire Safety – 10 minutes

Introduction to Fire Extinguishers – 8 minutes

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Murtaugh or me.

Show Your Hastings Pride!

We are fortunate to have two companies in Hastings that supply City of Hastings logo wear! We are happy to provide store offerings from both Nine Eagles and United Promotions year-round. Each company will update its store as needed. There will be no order deadlines or minimums. Order when you can, use your personal credit card and orders will be delivered to Hastings City Hall and placed in your mailbox for personal pickup. If you work outside of City Hall, your order will be brought over with your mail. Please note: this is not for department orders that are already set up for uniforms. See what's in store below! If there is something you'd like that is not included, please contact Dawn Skelly, so we can add more items.

United Promotions - <https://www.orderteamgear.com/government->

Kudos Korner

From Chris Jenkins - A BIG KUDOS to the entire Park Maintenance Crew for their outstanding efforts in snow removal over the recent holiday weekend. With a snowfall beginning on Friday and continuing into some of Saturday, and knowing that folks would still want to be out and enjoy trails and parks, the Park Maintenance Crew hit the ground running early Saturday morning. Even as I was enjoying a cup of coffee Saturday morning, I saw one of our operators' flashing strobe lights working around Cannon Park, clearing the snow from the sidewalks! While running errands a bit later in the day, it was clear to me that the crew left "no stone unturned" and hit every trail, parking lot, sidewalk, etc. on the list! Great Job fellas, we can always count on all of you to do great work! Thank you!



Another from Chris Jenkins - You may never know it happens unless you are there to see it... our entire staff at the Hastings Civic Arena deserves BIG KUDOS too! Not only does our staff make sure the facility is clean, neat, and ready for each and every day of the season, but they do it all in harmony as a team. I've been enjoying some High School hockey with my wife lately, and each and every time we are there I see our staff working to ensure everything goes off without a hitch. Add to that, this last Saturday was Hockey Day Hastings, and the Arena was BUSY! Game after game after game was played, and crowds moved in and out all day long. You would never have known there was a crown in the facility prior to your arrival for a specific game, the place was spotless and ready to go for the next event! What's more, I know this is how each and every night and each and every weekend are handled at the Arena, the team there is fantastic! Keep up the great work and Thank You for all that you do!

January Workiversaries

See who celebrated a workiversary in January [here](#).



Wellness

Spotlight:

Wellbeing at Work

Creating a Healthy Workspace at Home

Time-Management Tips

Kindness is Contagious

Activity - Random Acts of Kindness

Recipe - Cobb Salad Wraps

Dates to Know

January/February

January 19 - National Popcorn Day

January 20 - National Cheese Lovers
Day

January 21 - National Squirrel
Appreciation Day

January 23 - National Pie Day

January 24 - National Compliment
Day

January 25 - Opposite Day

January 26 - National Fun at Work
Day

January 27 - International Holocaust
Remembrance Day

January 29 - National Bubble Wrap
Appreciation Day

January 30 - National Croissant Day

February 1 - National Get Up Day

Visit the Events
Calendar

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