

THE BRIDGE



July 18 | Issue 51

Welcome to the Employee Newsletter!

Leadership Minute

Stress Relief

By Dan Wietecha

The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge has a significant role early in the history of conservation of the buffalo, with a small herd re-introduced and established there in 1907. I was born nearby (many decades later), and buffalo have always had a special place in my heart.

[Continue Reading...](#)

What is HEDRA?

From John Hinzman

The Hastings Economic Development and Redevelopment Authority (HEDRA) promotes and fosters economic development and redevelopment activities within the City. HEDRA purchases blighted buildings and under-utilized sites for redevelopment. The transformation of the former Hudson Manufacturing building into the Confluence Hotel would not have been completed without HEDRA's purchase of the property and access to grants for site cleanup. HEDRA also sells land within the Hastings Industrial Park for new development and has grants and business assistance programs for business development. The board consists of five citizen members and two City Council members. Regular meetings occur on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers. All meetings are televised and replayed on local cable access. Agenda items and meeting videos are

Q12 Employee Survey Results

We are pleased to invite you to view the results of the Q12 Employee Survey. Your feedback has been invaluable in shaping our organization, and we look forward to sharing the insights gathered from the survey.

There will be two sessions scheduled for your convenience to attend:

Date: July 26, 2024 Time: 12:00 p.m. (noon)

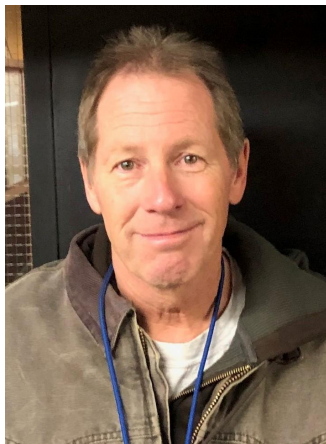
or

Date: August 1, 2024 Time: 2:00 p.m.

Both sessions will be held at the Fire Station.

Please mark your calendars accordingly. We encourage all staff to participate as your presence and insights are highly valued.

Staff Update



Thank you, Mark

Public Works Mechanic Mark Schutt is retiring on July 31, 2024, after serving the City of Hastings for 38 years. The City Council read a proclamation recognizing Mark's service to the city.

A retirement party will be held on Wednesday, July 31 from 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm at Dugarel's Bar & Grill. Join us in honoring Mark.

[Read the Council's Proclamation.](#)

Congratulations, Tom!

Congratulations to City Hall Receptionist Tom Sorenson and his wife on the birth of their baby Luther, born July 11. At just days old, Luther visited City Hall with his proud parents.





Fire Department's Recruitment Video Recognized

The Minnesota Association of Government Communicators recognized the City of Hastings Fire Department and OWL Media with a communications award for its collaboration in producing high-quality recruitment videos. Shawn Francis, owner of OWL Media and producer, spent several days with Hastings

Fire Department personnel to create videos that convey the mission of the department and aid in recruiting Paid On-Call firefighters.

New Hires



Police Officer Terry Kuhn.

Terry grew up in Hastings and attended Hastings High School. He started his new duties on July 8. Terry is also a recent graduate of Minnesota State University in Mankato and has law enforcement experience through the Dakota County Sheriff's Office as a park ranger. In his free time, he enjoys golfing and refereeing hockey. We are very excited for an HHS graduate to express interest in Hastings PD and welcome Terry to the team.



Community Service Officer Mitchell Giles.

Mitchell also started with the Hastings Police Department on July 8. Mitchell grew up in Cottage Grove and attended Park High School. He has been working at Goodwill since 2021 and is a full-time student at Century College in the law enforcement program. Mitchell will be working 20 hours a week with Hastings PD to allow for his school schedule. We are very excited to have Mitchell on the team and are confident he will do a fantastic job.



Public Works Operator Sawyer Jackson

Sawyer started with the Public Works team on July 8. Sawyer lives in Welch with his wife and graduated from Cannon Falls High School. He has several years of experience as a heavy equipment operator and was a foreman at his previous employer. We're excited to have Sawyer join our team!

Kudos Korner

From Megan Schlei - I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every person who contributed to the setup and planning of Rivertown Days. Your dedication and hard work truly shone through. From organizing logistics to coordinating activities, your attention to detail and passion for our community were evident every step of the way.



From the Safety Committee - Kudos to Public Works Operator Jake Gartzke for wearing the proper equipment while rescuing a kitten from the bridge this week.

July Workiversaries

[See who's celebrating a workiversary in July](#)



Council Action Highlights

July 15, 2024

Approve a site plan for Rio Gran Express LLC to build a second site at 601 3rd St E. for storage and light maintenance work.

Appointed election judges for the August 13 Primary Election.

Held a first reading to amend City Code related to Building Department electrical fees.

Amended an agreement to allow MnDOT and their contractor to cover all costs related to water service line repairs from the Hwy 316 project.

Accepted the [2nd Quarter Strategic Plan Report](#).

Want to receive email updates on City Council and City Commissions action?

[Sign up for enotifications!](#)

Management Team Meeting Highlights

July 17, 2024

- Many departments are prepping for Rivertown Days this weekend.
- The next Rivertown News newsletter will go out in mid-August.
- Flood clean-up continues—debris removal, street sweeping, etc.
- The site study for Water Treatment Plants #2 and #3 is well underway (Treatment Plant #1 will be in the Industrial Park).
- The 2024 Neighborhood Infrastructure project is going well—see [updates](#).
- The Aquatic Center is busy!
- The Fire Department is hosting Dive Rescue Training and a Field Training class.

Wellness Spotlight: Hydration Challenge

For this challenge, staff can keep track of their water intake with the goal of drinking 64 ounces of water each day, for 4 weeks. From those who reach this goal, 20 people will be drawn and be able to shop for their own health and wellness related prize via amazon, limited to \$50.

[Hydration Challenge Tracker form](#)

2024 Hydration Challenge

- Timeframe 7/15 through 8/11
- Signup not required, just drink your water!
- Upon completion, submit your flyer or let me know you've successfully completed the challenge.
- 20 winners will be notified and can submit their desired prize. Prizes must be health/wellness related

Dates to Know July

July 18 - National Tropical Fruit Day

July 20 - Moon Day

July 21 - National Junk Food Day

July 23 - Vanilla Ice Cream Day

July 24 - Tell an Old Joke Day

July 25 - National Chili Dog Day

July 26 - Summer Olympics Begin

July 27 - Take Your Houseplants for a Walk Day

July 28 - National Waterpark Day

July 29 - National Chicken Wing Day

July 30 - International Day of Friendship

July 31 - Mutt's Day

Visit the Events
Calendar



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