

# THE BRIDGE



Welcome to the Employee Newsletter!

## Leadership Minute

### City Council Retreat

By Dan Wietecha

Last week, the City Council and Management Team spent a Saturday morning discussing how we work together to serve our community. We started with a video clip of Ted Lasso playing darts and the advice to “Be Curious, Not Judgmental.” This set the expectation of keeping an open mind.

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## Staff Updates

### Fire Department Receives Donation from the Lions Club

A big thank you to the Hastings Lions Club for their generous donation of \$2,500 to the Hastings Fire Department following their Super Breakfast event in February. This marks the fourth year the Lions have hosted the breakfast and donated the proceeds to support the department. Last year’s donation funded yoga classes and additional exercise equipment, contributing to the health and well-being of our first responders. A heartfelt thank you to all the Lions for organizing, cooking, and hosting this annual breakfast and to everyone who attended in support of our local heroes.



Deputy Chief Recognized



On March 13, Deputy Chief Bryan Schowalter was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award by the Hastings Area Rotary Club. This award is the highest honor that a Rotary Club can bestow on an individual. Congratulations Deputy Chief Schowalter!



## Management Team Notes

- The Rivertown Lions will be donating funds raised at the Super Breakfast to the Fire Department. Thank you!
- The Fire Department received their new Brush Truck chassis---now the focus goes to the build.
- Deputy Chief Schowalter is receiving the Paul Harris Fellowship award for his Rotary service. Congrats!
- The Police Department just completed defensive tactics and range training.
- The Council is going to review the Fire Department space needs study at its workshop on March 17.
- The rebuild plans for the shelter in Lions Park (lost to fire in 2024) are underway.
- On April 6 from 1-4 pm, the Public House (at the Hastings Golf Course) is hosting a fundraiser for Public Safety.
- Staff from all departments are actively reviewing the contents of departmental web pages to improve accessibility and meet federal law going into effect in 2027.
- Dawn is updating city template documents to meet accessibility requirements. When available, these must replace existing templates in use.
- Lots of snow clean-up (and we are grateful that most of the rest has melted).
- On March 25 at City Hall, there will be a neighborhood meeting about the construction of the Central Water Treatment Plant.
- The Planning Commission reviewed the HWY 55/Jacob Avenue development plan. This will be on the Council agenda on March 17.
- Conditional offers have been made to the Engineering and Community

# City Council Updates

March 3, 2025 Meeting

- Accepted a \$825 donation from Minnesota Jaycees Charitable Foundation to the Fire Department.
- Accepted donation of \$1,000 from the Miesville Lions Club to purchase ballistic vests for Reserves.
- Appointed Chelsea Piskor to the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Authorized a Joint Powers Agreement for the 15th and Bailey TSS Reduction Project between the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and the City of Hastings.
- Approved the updated 2024-2026 School Resource Officer and Traffic Control Agent Contract.
- Approved an ordinance update to Parklets and Sidewalk Cafes
- Held a first reading to consider amendments to the City Code related to tobacco regulations and licensing fees.
- Heard proposed ordinance language changes to E-Bike regulations.
- Voted to not change ordinance language related to ATV/UTV use on City streets.
- City Administrator Wietecha provided a PFAS update.

[View the Council Packet for Details](#)

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## Wellness Spotlight

### Healthy Food Choices

[How to Design a Balanced Eating Plan](#)

[Fueling Your Body for Better Health](#)

[Blue Zones for Healthy Aging](#)

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## Let's Dish

[Mediterranean Quinoa Salad](#)

[Hot Honey Chicken Bowls](#)

[3 Ingredient Air Fryer Bagels with Gluten Free Option](#)

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# Fun Dates

## March

- March 14 - Pi Day
- March 17 - St Patrick's Day
- March 19 - National Let's Laugh Day
- March 21 - National Flower Day
- March 23 - National Puppy Day

**City Event Calendar**

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

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