

THE BRIDGE



Welcome to the Employee Newsletter!

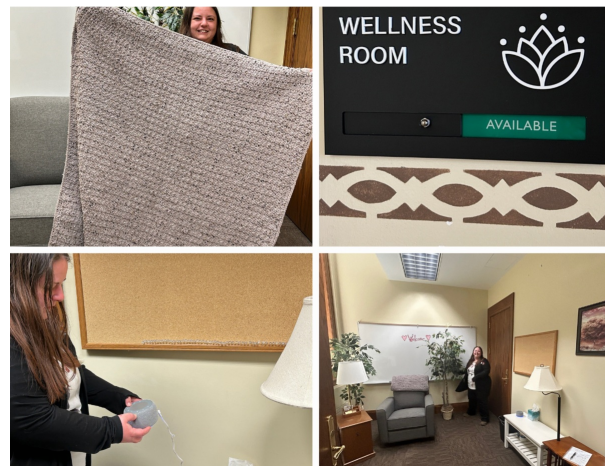
Spotlight on Safety and Wellness

By Dawn Skelly

There are some exciting updates happening at City Hall and other city buildings, focused on enhancing safety and wellness.

The city's Safety Committee recently approved the purchase of new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for both City Hall and the LeDuc Mansion. These new devices replace older models that were no longer effective and introduce advanced technology to support life-saving efforts. The upgraded AEDs feature both visual and spoken instructions, providing clear, step-by-step guidance during an emergency. Additionally, the new units are equipped with pads that real-time feedback on chest compressions, including whether too much or too little pressure is being applied. The AEDs also come with a kit containing scissors, gloves, alcohol wipes, and a face shield. The pads can connect directly to Fire/EMS department monitors, enabling first responders to see how long CPR has been performed and how many compressions have been given. Plus, with the simple press of a button, the machines can be switched to pediatric mode for younger patients. These AEDs were purchased through a partnership with Allina Heart Safe Communities, and by 2027, all city buildings will be equipped with new or updated AEDs. A big thank you to the Safety Committee for purchasing the equipment, Al Storlie for servicing the AEDs, and Joe Cysiewski for conducting staff training on their use.

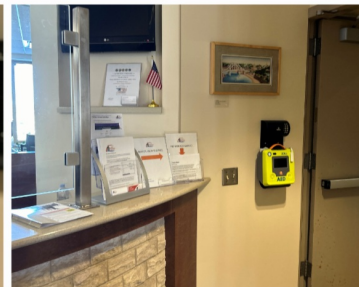
In addition, City Hall now offers a new wellness room designed to provide a peaceful retreat for employees. This comfortable space includes a cozy chair for lactating mothers or anyone looking for a quiet place to relax or make a phone call. The room features a soothing sound machine, potted plants, a whiteboard with words of affirmation, and a handmade blanket, creating a welcoming atmosphere for those in need of a break. Megan Schlei thoughtfully curated the space, even taking her



husband along to help select a chair that would be comfortable for people of various heights. The chair rocks and reclines, and with the calming sounds from the sound machine, it feels like an escape. "Everyone needs a little clock-out time," Megan said. She also generously donated her personally crocheted blanket, while the tables and lamps were donated by others. The Police Department also has a wellness room, and other departments are working on creating similar spaces. Be sure to stop by the new wellness room at City Hall, located upstairs across from Charlie Judge's office in the old courthouse, which was once used as a storage area for the Pioneer Room.



New Life-Saving Devices



Kudos Korner

From Emily King - Kudos to Dawn Skelly for her extensive work to prepare for the State of the Community



From Chief Wilske - I would like to thank Officers from Hastings PD for going above and beyond in the name of Special Olympics. Law Enforcement has always been very supportive of Special Olympics and every year we participate in the Polar Plunge. This year the South Metro Plunge is taking place in Burnsville on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025. Officer Young, Officer Green, and Investigator Schlichte are ready to get cold and are hopeful to have additional plungers from HPD. If you are interested in donating to the cause, please visit the Polar Plunge website and the team name is **Hastings Heat and Hustle**. Thank you to the team for supporting a great cause.



Management Team Notes

- Finance has a preliminary audit in March and an audit in May.
- Public Works is preparing for dewatering of the Hydroelectric plant and Council workshop on that topic this spring.
- Continuing work on funding and design of the Water Treatment plants.
- First part of the zoning code updates are being reviewed.
- The new pickup truck for Police Reserves is in service.
- Community Investment Fund applications are available; review by Finance Committee in March.
- Public Works hosted a Neighborhood Project Open House for feedback on the project. Public hearing to be held at March 3 Council meeting.
- Building Inspectors are out for professional meetings this week.
- The Police Department has a body-worn camera audit next week.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission will be meeting next week with Dakota County staff regarding the use of the old Blue Bridge as an entry point on the trail system.
- Parks and Public Works handled the snow clean-up over the weekend.
- Public Works is working closely with IT on SCADA security.
SCADA=Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
- Department Heads were asked by Finance to identify any carry-forward funds from 2024 projects that may need funds carried over into 2025.
- Rivertown News goes to the printer on Friday.
- Public Works is anticipating the RFP for Trunk Highway 61 to be released soon by MnDOT.

Wellness Spotlight

Health Tech

[Digital Health Technology](#)

[Is Screen Time Affecting Your Health?](#)

[7 Apps to Boost Your Wellbeing](#)

[Activity - Throttle Your Screen Time](#)

Let's Dish

[Screen-Time Buddha Bowl](#)

[50+ Healthy Cold Lunch Ideas](#)

[Gluten-Free Chicken Nuggets](#)

Dates to Know

February

- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 17 - President's Day, City Offices Closed
- February 19 - National Chocolate Mint Day
- February 20 - National Love Your Pet Day
- February 26 - National Pistachio Day

City Event Calendar

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

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