

# THE BRIDGE



December 15 | Issue 36

## Welcome to the Employee Newsletter!

### Leadership Minute

2024 Budget  
By Dan Wietecha

Last week the City Council approved the 2024 Budget. This was the culmination of many months of work, many meetings, and input from many people.

The accountants will tell you that it was a 7.34% increase in the property tax levy to \$18.6 million, with an overall budget of \$48.8 million.

[Continue reading...](#)

#### Kudos Korner

From Connie Lang - Thank you to Charlie for always being attentive to things needing to be done along with all the big projects he has going on in all the buildings. I appreciate his attention to detail. Not only is he attentive to things needing to be done from a mechanical standpoint he also is attentive and great to work with on the administration side. I also appreciate his positive attitude!



From Kelly Murtaugh - Kudos to all who assisted in the planning of another great holiday gathering for employees: Megan Schlei, Paige Marschall-Bigler, Chad Schlichte, Adam Schumacher, Alex Menke, Tanya Edmison all contributed to an enjoyable event. Kudos also to John Hinzman for his return performance as congenial game show host!

# 2023 Employee Recognition Lunch





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## **Congrats Officer Freeman Denn!**



Georgeann was voted as this year's festive garb winner. She won a floating holiday and the traveling trophy for the next year!

Thank you to everyone who participated!

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## **Your Voice Matters!**

The 2024 City budget was recently adopted by the City Council. Read Dan's insights in this newsletter about how we are prioritizing our funding—people, asset preservation, and



infrastructure. Much appreciation to all who participated in departmental conversations about budget priorities. Let's keep these conversations going throughout the year!



# Earned Sick and Safe Time

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, Minnesota's earned sick and safe time law requires employers to provide paid leave to employees who work at least 80 hours annually in the state. Sick and safe time can be used when an employee is sick, to care for a sick family member or to seek assistance if an employee or their family member has experienced domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking. The Department of Labor and Industry has posted additional resources, including FAQs, a sample employee notice and an informational video about earned sick and safe time at [dli.mn.gov/sick-leave](https://dli.mn.gov/sick-leave). Visit the MN Department of Labor and Industry's FAQ page [here](#).

## Wellness Spotlight: Wellness During the Holidays

### 4 Mindful Tips to De-Stress This Holiday Season

1. Accept Imperfection: Before you start preparing, acknowledge that things may not go exactly as

## Dates to Know December

- December 15 - End of Hanukkah
- December 16 - National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- December 17 - National Maple Syrup Day
- December 18 - Answer the Telephone like Buddy the Elf Day
- December 19 - National Emo Day
- December 21 - Winter Solstice

- planned.
2. Don't Lose Sight of What Really Counts: With long lines and nasty traffic, the holidays can get hectic.
  3. Respond with Kindness: You can't change how others act during the stresses of the holiday season, but you can change how you respond to situations.
  4. Rethink Your Resolutions. Start small and be kind to yourself.

If you would like to read the full article, please click [here](#).

**December 22** - National Short Person Day

**December 23** - Festivus

**December 24** - Christmas Eve

**December 25** - Christmas Day, City Offices Closed

**December 26** - Kwanzaa

**December 28** - National Call a Friend Day

Visit the Events  
Calendar

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

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