

Help Keep our Community Safe - Follow and Share the E-Bike Rules

Electric-assisted bicycles, or e-bikes, have become increasingly popular in many communities, including the City of Hastings. However, unsafe riding practices have resulted in accidents and injuries.

In response, the Hastings City Council adopted ordinance amendments this past spring to clearly define the rules for e-bike use. The city encourages all residents—especially parents of middle and high school students—to review these regulations, understand them and help ensure they are followed.



Where you can ride

- E-bikes are permitted on city streets, bike lanes and trails.
- E-bikes are not allowed on city sidewalks.

Age requirement

- Riders must be at least 15 years old, per State statute.

Speed limits

- Max speed is 15 mph on park property or city trails.
- On city streets, follow city speed limits and all rules of the road.

Helmet and eye protection

- Not required but highly recommended for safety.

Night riding requirements

- Required: white front light visible from 500 feet.
- A red rear reflector of light visible from 100-600 feet.

Trail etiquette

- Always yield to pedestrians and slower trail users.
- Use an audible signal or bell when passing others.
- Ride in a predictable manner and follow all posted signs.

Parking

E-bikes must not be parked in any location or manner that will impede normal and reasonable pedestrian traffic or access.

Do not park in the street.

Trail maps

Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/maps

Questions?

Contact the Hastings Police Department at 651-480-2300 or Parks and Recreation Department at 651-480-6175.

Note

Motorized bicycles, which contain a small motor, are also becoming popular. Rules for their use are the same as those for motorcycles.

At the time of printing, the City Council was also considering additional ordinance amendments regarding electric scooters to further enhance public safety. For more information on biking and scooter regulations, visit www.hastingsmn.gov and search for "biking and scooters."



City of Hastings Government

Hastings City Hall

101 4th St. E.

Hastings, MN 55033

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Website: www.hastingsmn.gov

Contact Your City Council

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Ward 1: DawnMarie Vihrachoff 651-587-7458
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Ward 2: Mya Beck 586-804-3456
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At-Large: Angie Haus 651-283-8364
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Contact Us

City Administrator
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Aquatic Center: 651-480-2385
Building Safety: 651-480-2342
Civic Arena: 651-480-6195
Code Enforcement: 651-480-2376
Community Development: 651-480-2350
Fire Business Office: 651-480-6150
Parks & Recreation: 651-480-6175
Police Business Office: 651-480-2300
Public Works: 651-480-6185
Utility Billing: 651-480-2351

Report Suspicious Activity! Call 911

Hastingsmn.gov

CITY NEWS BRIEFS

2026 Budget Process Underway

We are in the middle of budget planning at City Hall, and it will be dominated by the “budget buster” costs of building three water treatment plants to remove PFAS, or “forever chemicals,” from our drinking water. General inflationary expenses; maintaining our streets, equipment, vehicles and buildings; and maintaining efficiency in our services are also prominent in our budget planning.



On Sept. 2, the City Council will hold a budget workshop to review these critical funding needs and the proposed 2026 budget and preliminary tax levy. This marks an important step in the budget process, with the final budget and tax levy set for adoption following a truth-in-taxation public hearing in December.

Community members are encouraged to attend the budget workshop, truth-in-taxation hearing, and City Council meetings to learn more and provide input. For more details on the city’s budget planning, visit www.hastingsmn.gov/budget. To view upcoming meetings, visit the city’s event calendar at www.hastingsmn.gov/events. You can also access City Council agendas, minutes and packets directly on our website.

City Receives ‘Clean’ Audit Opinion for 2024

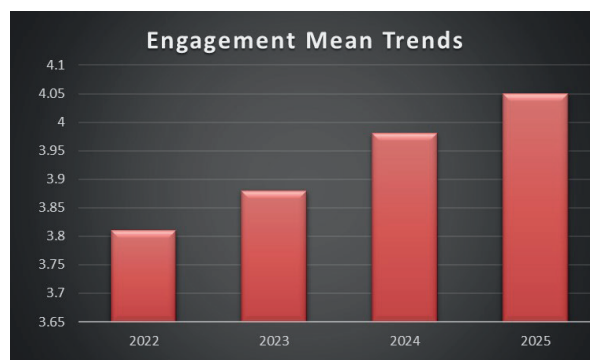
The city received a ‘clean’ opinion in its 2024 Annual Financial Report from Bergan KDV, the city’s auditing firm. The auditors found everything to be in good order — it’s the best rating they can give.

City Continues Employee Engagement Initiative

The City of Hastings continues its commitment to being an employer of choice through ongoing improvements in our Employee Engagement Survey. Launched four years ago in partnership with Gallup, our survey results have steadily improved, reflecting our focus on supporting and recognizing our employees.

An engaged workforce directly benefits our community and taxpayers. Research shows that employees who feel supported, valued and connected

to their work are more productive and deliver better service. By regularly checking in with staff and providing the resources and recognition they need, we ensure a healthy and effective workplace, which in turn strengthens our entire community.



The chart above shows the trend line of engagement means since 2022. The Engagement Mean is an average of the 12 survey questions, with a maximum possible score of 5. A higher score indicates more engaged employees. As shown, our engagement means have steadily increased over the past four years, demonstrating continuous progress in building a more connected and motivated workforce.

Save the Trees: Save your Shade

Do you have ash trees in your yard or on the boulevard? Trees provide shade, help manage storm water, help reduce energy consumption and must be protected from diseases and pests.

Ash trees in Hastings are under attack from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a fast moving, damaging tree pest. Healthy trees can be protected from EAB, but once a tree is infested it may be too late to save and will likely die.

The city is under a contract with Rainbow Treecare to offer residents, businesses, home owner associations and all property owners discounted rates to protect ash trees from Emerald Ash Borer. The 2025 cost for protection is \$7.25 per diameter inch. On average, tree protection will range between \$70 and \$200 for two years of protection. This treatment injects insecticide directly into the tree. It is quick and effective at targeting and knocking out the Emerald Ash

Borer. It often costs less to protect a tree than it does to remove it. In 2025 prices, a 20-inch (DBH) tree would cost:

Protection: \$145 for two years' worth of protection.

Removal: \$720 for the tree, \$225 for the stump, and \$200 - \$500 to replace the tree.

Property owners are responsible for protecting healthy boulevard trees, and we highly recommend protecting trees on private property. If a boulevard tree becomes infested with EAB and dies, property owners are responsible for the removal of that tree and the stump and also must replace the boulevard tree. If a tree on private property becomes infested and dies, it also must be removed. The city forester maintains a list of recommended replacement trees.

Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/EAB or call city Forester T.J. Lucas at 651-480-6177.



How do I Dispose of Fallen Trees and Branches?

Storms with high winds and significant rainfall totals often cause tree damage and downed trees on private property and in city streets.

As a reminder, all property owners are required to clean up, cut and remove fallen branches and trees from their yards and from the boulevard.

If a tree falls from private property into a city street and our Public Works employees clear the tree and debris from the street to ensure the road is passable, the tree and/or branches are placed onto the property.

Property owners are then responsible for promptly removing the tree and branches from the boulevard or side of the street. More information regarding grass, weeds, trees and streets can be



found in the City Code on the city website at www.hastingsmn.gov.

Disposal options

Tennis Sanitation offers curbside compost pickup and yard waste collection during the season through either a scheduled curbside pickup or debris drop off during set days and times.

If you are setting out tree debris, please note tree branches or limbs must be under four feet in length and no more than three inches in diameter. They must be bundled with twine or string, and there is an additional fee for pick up.

Unbundled or oversized branches will not be collected as part of the yard waste pickup service. Call Tennis Sanitation to schedule pickup at 651-459-1887.

The same length and diameter requirements apply when dropping off tree branches or limbs. Neatly cut tree debris can be brought to the compost site at 425 31st Street E (enter off Commerce Drive), Minnesota Coaches Inc. parking lot.

Hours for drop off are as follows through Sept. 30: Saturdays 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Wednesdays, 4 to 7 p.m.

City Advances Plans to Remove PFAS from Drinking Water, Seeks Funding

The City of Hastings is moving forward with building three water treatment plants at a total cost of \$68.9 million to eliminate PFAS, or “forever chemicals,” from its municipal water supply. Despite setbacks in securing state funding, progress continues on the Central Water Treatment Plant (pictured), with construction expected to begin this summer. The central plant, located at 1290 N. Frontage Road, will be the first of three facilities designed to treat PFAS-contaminated water. The \$27.7 million project also includes a raw water main connecting Well No. 7. Funding will come from a mix of 3M Settlement funds, grants and water fees. To offset costs, the City Council has approved the use of a low-interest loan from the Public Facilities Authority, expected to



save \$1 million in interest. The City Council also has approved cost-saving measures such as postponing the installation of nitrate treatment equipment, saving an additional \$3.1 million.

To support the broader plan, city staff submitted funding requests to the state for the Eastern and Western Water Treatment Plants. While the city's 2025 State Bonding Bill request was not included in the

final legislation, both projects have been resubmitted for consideration in 2026. In addition, Sen. Amy Klobuchar has submitted the western plant project to the Senate Appropriations Committee for potential federal funding under Congressionally Directed Spending.

The city also expects to receive an additional \$2 million in Emerging Contaminants Grant funding for the central plant, thanks to a recent boost in the state budget.

Water rate increases are anticipated in 2026 depending on future construction bids, funding outcomes and the project timeline.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed by visiting the city's website for updates at www.hastingsmn.gov/PFAS.

Teams & Dates Announced for Hockey Day MN in Hastings

The Minnesota Wild, in conjunction with Minnesota Hockey and the Hastings Local Organizing Committee, announced dates and team matchups for the 20th Annual Hockey Day Minnesota. United Heroes League's outdoor rink in Hastings will serve as the venue for eight days of competition, Jan. 17-24, culminating on Saturday, Jan. 24, when the Minnesota Wild hosts the Florida Panthers at Grand Casino Arena in Saint Paul.

Team matchups are:

- Hastings Girls Varsity vs. Park Cottage Grove
- Hastings Boys Varsity vs. East Ridge
- Rock Ridge Boys Varsity vs. St. Thomas Academy
- Iowa Wild vs. Milwaukee Admirals at United Heroes League on Jan. 23
- Minnesota Wild vs. Florida Panthers on Jan. 24 in St. Paul.



Visit www.hockeydaymn.com for tickets, schedule and merchandise.

Rio Gran Trucking Breaks Ground

Rio Gran Trucking has begun construction of an office and warehouse building for its trucking business. The site is located at 601 31st St. E. within the Hastings Industrial Park. It supplements the company's existing operation located just north of Hastings in Denmark Township.



Volunteer Opportunity!

Are you interested in making a difference in our community and growing your skills in local government? We need you! This fall we will begin accepting interest forms for those who wish to serve on city commissions. To learn more, visit www.hastingsmngov.com/commissions or call us at 651-480-2350.

Food Scraps Drop Off

The No. 1 item in our trash is food. Keeping food scraps out of landfills is good for the environment. That's why over 11,500 households like yours are giving food scraps a new life by participating in Dakota County's food scraps drop-off program (formerly organics drop-off program).

In 2024, participants delivered 2.2 million pounds of food scraps across all locations. The food scraps go to an industrial compost facility and are turned into compost for gardening and landscaping.

There are 11 food scraps drop off sites located throughout the county — in Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount (two) and West St. Paul.

To sign up for the free program, visit www.dakotacounty.us and search food scraps, email foodscraps@co.dakota.mn.us



co.dakota.mn.us or call 952-891-7557. When you sign up, you will receive more information and free compostable bags in the mail.

Partially funded by Dakota County and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Join us for a Halloween Costume Swap in Hastings

Get ready for a fun and eco-friendly way to celebrate this Halloween! Join us for our Halloween Costume Swap—bring your gently used costumes and find something new to wear for this spooky season! No item donation is necessary to shop the swap. Please ensure that any items you bring are in fair condition, clean and usable. Event staff reserve the

right to refuse any items. If you can't make the swap but have a costume you would like to donate pre-event, please contact Violet Penman at violet.penman@rosemountmn.gov or 612-268-9097.

Sept. 30, 6-8 pm

Hastings High School West Commons
(200 General Sieben Dr)



Pumpkin Collection Set for Nov. 1 and 2

After all the fun of carving and decorating, it's time to responsibly dispose of your pumpkins! Residents can drop their pumpkins in the labeled bins at the Dakota County Highway Shop (900 Cty Rd 47) any time from Saturday, Nov. 1 through Sunday, Nov. 2.

Remove candles, wax and any non-pumpkin material. No painted or glittered pumpkins accepted; these must go in the trash. Please do not put anything other than pumpkins or gourds in the container.



Exciting Upgrades at the Arena: A New Era of Sustainability and Efficiency

Major upgrades were recently completed at the Hastings Civic Arena, including a new refrigeration system, along with an updated roof and solar panels, ensuring more efficiency and sustainability for years to come. These improvements will benefit both the environment and the community.

Ammonia-based/glycol refrigeration

The arena's old R-22 refrigeration system, which was phased out due to its harmful environmental effects, has been replaced with a more efficient ammonia-based/glycol system. This new system is cheaper to operate and environmentally friendly. The arena expects to save up to 40% in electrical costs thanks to new compressors and pumps, providing long-term savings and reliability.

Roof and solar panels

Along with the refrigeration update, the arena also received a new roof designed for better insulation. Solar panels were added to the west rink to reduce energy costs by generating renewable energy and reducing reliance on traditional power sources.



Community impact

The arena remains a vital community space. It offers ice rentals for 11 months of the year and turf rentals from March to September. Special birthday party packages are available for both the ice and turf areas.

What's next?

Lastly, a mural will be painted this fall on the outside wall of the arena facing Hwy 61. The mural will be ready to greet visitors during Hockey Day Minnesota in January 2026.



Pictured (above) rooftop solar panels, (below) new LED lighting.

Skating and Rentals



The west rink is open for ice rentals. Public skating sessions have resumed on Wednesdays and Fridays. Sunday sessions will begin on Oct. 19.

Freestyle sessions and stick and puck sessions will be offered at various times.

Ice hours are available for birthday parties and rentals.

To learn more or to view the arena schedule, visit www.hastingsmn.gov/arena, call 651-480-6195 or contact conken@hastingsmn.gov.

New Mural Downtown



A new mural is complete along the wall outside The Quarry Taphouse in downtown Hastings. The 1600-sq-foot mural celebrates the rich history, culture and natural beauty of Hastings, offering a visual journey through time and tradition. The Quarry Taphouse Owner Randy Stenger commissioned artists Dena Young and Kada Goalen to paint the new design and they incorporated some hidden images for observant visitors. The project received funding from Stenger as well as the city's Community Investment Fund.

Lake Rebecca Park Now Open



Lake Rebecca Park is now open to the public for fishing and recreation, following significant work that included reconstructing the boat launch parking lot and the lake access parking lot and adding accessible parking spots, reconstructing existing trails, removing ash trees, converting mowed turf areas to native grass and wetland habitats and doing some shoreline stabilization work. Visit the updated park this fall, bike on the nearby trails and take in the view of the fall leaves!

PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES



Levee Park Entertainment Continues Into September

There's still time to celebrate summer along the riverfront! Check out the many FREE events and activities for all ages happening in August and September.

Music + Market

Experience the vibrant energy of Music in the Park, a Makers Market, a kids' zone, and food trucks in downtown Hastings. Supported by The Ruth and George Doffing Charitable Fund.

All ages are welcome. Cost: Free (Food trucks require cash or a card)

(Makers Market & Food Trucks · 6 - 8:30 p.m.,

Kids Zone · 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Music · 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 28 · 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Chelsea Drugstore – Tribute to The Rolling Stones

Thursday, Sept. 4 · 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Gregg Hall & The Wrecking Ball – Country & Americana

Thursday, Sept. 11 · 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Wren + Wilde – Folk Rock

Movies in the Park

Watch a family-friendly movie on our big screen! Arrive an hour early for free activities and giveaways. All ages are welcome. Sponsored by Ardent Mills.

Cost: Non-perishable food donation

Friday, Sept. 5 · Activities 6:30 p.m. and WONKA 7:30 p.m.

Comedy in the Park

Enjoy comedy in the park with family or friends. Recommended for teens and adults.

Sponsored by SMEAD Manufacturing Company. Cost: Free

Tuesday, Aug. 26 · 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. – David Malmberg, Comic Ventriloquist

Tuesday, Sept. 16 · 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. – Tim Harmston, Stand-up Comedian

Storytime in the Park

Listen to big book stories, play games, sing songs, enjoy snacks and crafts!

A partnership with Pleasant Hill Library. Recommended for ages 7 and under. Cost: Free

Wednesday, Aug. 20 · 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. – 5 Senses

Wednesday, Sept. 17 · 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. – Rhythm

Weather Cancellations? Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/programsandevents or our City of Hastings Government Facebook page for updates

Questions? Hastings Parks and Rec. 651-480-6182 or pmarschall@hastingsmn.gov



Paws in the Park Thursday, Sept. 25



5 - 6:30 p.m.
Hastings Rivertown Dog Park
851 10th St. East

Dog-friendly booths, games & giveaways

Strutt your mutt costume contest – winner receives a prize basket!

For more details on this FREE event, watch our city website or Facebook page in September.

Community Halloween Party Friday, Oct. 24



6 - 8 p.m.
Hastings High School
200 General Sieben Drive

30+ Activity stations & candy
DJ, costume contests & prizes
Food For Sale

Admission: non-perishable food donation for Hastings Family Service or donation to the Youth Impact Council Scholarship



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POSTAL CUSTOMER

IMPORTANT FALL DATES & REMINDERS

Meetings

All meetings will be held at City Hall at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Check our city calendar for changes, agendas and minutes at www.hastingsmn.gov.

- 9/1 Labor Day - Offices Closed
- 9/2 City Council
- 9/15 City Council
- 10/6 City Council
- 10/20 City Council
- 11/3 City Council
- 11/17 City Council
- 11/24 Finance Committee
- 11/27 - 11/28 - Thanksgiving - Offices Closed
- 12/1 City Council and Truth in Taxation Hearing

Activities

Visit our city Events Calendar for details at www.hastingsmn.gov/events.

- 9/13 - Hastings Fire Relief Assn 84th Annual Booya
- 9/25 - Paws in the Park
- 9/30 - Halloween Costume Swap
- 10/7 - Fire Department Open House
- 10/24 - Community Halloween Party
- 11/1 - Holiday Lights Tour Signup Begins
- 11/1-11/2 - Pumpkin Collection
- 11/4 - Outdoor Winter Clothing Swap
- 11/25 - Holiday Lights Collection Begins
- **See inside newsletter for remaining Levee Park riverfront entertainment events.

Reminders

Please Do Not Blow or Rake Leaves into the Street



We kindly ask that you refrain from raking leaves into the street, as this is against city ordinance and can clog our storm water system and pollute our waterways. Bag the leaves for pickup or dropoff or compost them for gardening in the spring.



Sign up for the *Hastings City Update* e-newsletter to receive weekly news and events in your email inbox.
www.hastingsmn.gov/cityupdate

