

Lucette's Gazette



News, updates, and happenings in our Hackensack Lakes Area - October 2021



Area Foundation Hosting Annual Fundraiser Virtually

by Kris Biessener

The Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation will hold their "Hacks-Giving" fundraiser virtually this year. The HLACF is a partner fund of the Initiative Foundation who has graciously provided this online platform for our fundraising activities. The silent auction will feature items donated for our community. Supporters who visit the auction website will have the opportunity to bid on items between **November 19th and 27th**. To donate an item for the auction, call Kris Biessener at 218-838-5642.

In 2019, the Hacks-Giving event was held at the Birchwood Charhouse and drew a

crowd of over 100 people. The silent auction featured over 125 fantastic items, and the event raised over \$11,000 for the HLACF endowment fund! This fund has grown annually since its inception in 2019, with grants given to nonprofit organizations that service Hackensack, Backus, and nine surrounding townships. In 2020, the IF also sponsored a Relief Fund that allowed the HLACF to raise funds to support small businesses and nonprofits during the COVID shutdown. Over \$12,000 was raised and granted to 13 local businesses. The endowment fund balance grows in perpetuity with a portion of the interest earned being granted annually. Watch the [HLACF Facebook page](#) or the [HackensackFund.org](#) website for more information.



Hackensack Lions Donate to the Dog Park Project

by Linnea Dietrich

Yay for the Lions' generosity to help fund the first fenced-in dog park in Cass County. The Lions' donation of nearly \$1,400 from the September Pancake Breakfast is greatly appreciated. The Dog Park Committee has received, through donations and selling our hand-crafted dog treats and doggy bandanas, a little over \$8,000. We are halfway to our goal of \$16,000 to build the park.

This lovely family was enjoying Lucy, one of our doggy mascots, after they ate delicious pancakes prepared by the Hackensack Lions Club. Lucy was named after Lucette and is a proud member of the Bob and Kathy Iverson Family. To donate, visit the [Hackensack Dog Park](#) page at [giveMN.org](#).



DONATE

What's Up

- 10/24 - **Paint with Nate**, 1pm, Rendezvous Brewing
- 10/30 - **Kids Halloween Party**, 11:00 am - Noon, Bear Pause Theater
- 10/31 - **American Legion SAL Breakfast**, 8:30 - 11:30 am; **Trick or Treat**, 5:00 - 7:00 pm, the HUB
- 11/5 - **American Legion Auxiliary Deer Hunter's Dinner**, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- 11/11 - **Veterans Day Service**, 11:00 am, City Park, **SAL Veterans Day Dinner**, 12:00 pm, Hackensack American Legion
- 11/21 - **American Legion Auxiliary Breakfast**, 8:30 - 11:30 am
- 11/24 - **Thanksgiving Praise & Pie**, 4-6 pm, Lighthouse Church
- 12/3 - **Book & Bake Sale**, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, HUB
- 12/6 - **Women's Christmas Tea**, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Lighthouse Church
- 12/12 - **American Legion Kids' Christmas Party**, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Community Center
- 12/19 - **American Legion Auxiliary Breakfast**, Sunday, 8:30 - 11:30 am
- 12/25 - **American Legion Christmas Dinner**, 12:00 - 2:00 pm





City of Hackensack News

- In the heart of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes. -



Mayor Bill Kennedy

Hackensack Construction Update

by Bill Kennedy, Mayor

By the time you read this, significant changes should be happening. Curbs, sidewalks, and new tar should be down, or will be shortly. The water tower should be mostly if not fully painted with just the logo to be finished. (See pictured.) I want to thank all the residents, businesses, and visitors for their patience as we worked through a difficult construction. A lot of people thought we were just improving the beautification of the town and the

roads. The project was to replace the 1940s cast iron water mains that still existed in town and to upgrade/replace the storm sewer (not waste sewer). We took the opportunity to also improve the look of the town with our plans.

Some of you may have noticed already that the sight lines have improved with the removal of the Minnesota Power poles along the two blocks of First Street. Those that frequent town will have noticed the light pole fixtures being laid in the ground, as well as underground sprinklers for the new trees on the sidewalks. The road of First Street is shifting over as well.

Recently MNDot came through town and provided what is called an overlay of 371 to provide a temporary repair of the road. This had nothing to do with the construction going on in town and was planned and facilitated by the state without city involvement. Is the repair pretty? No. Is it functional, sure. In 2024, MNDot will come through town and reconstruct the entire road with sidewalks, curbs, gutters, parking lanes, driving lanes, turn lane, and a roundabout on the north end. Our plan is to facilitate the same beautification from the First Street blocks to 371 to provide a more cohesive look to the core part of town.

We are almost at the end of the current construction, expecting significant completion around Oct. 15 and possibly to the end of October. There have been some bumps in the road, but the town of Hackensack is resilient and we will be better for it in the end.



**Love small cities?
We're looking for you!**

**Now Hiring: City Clerk/
Treasurer**

City of Hackensack is looking for someone who sees the charm of our small city and wants to help us be the best city we can be. We have a committed council and dedicated, hard-working city staff to help you succeed. Your job will be to take a city with a lot to offer and help us attract the next generation of residents. A background in public or private administration is preferred. We want someone who enjoys working with community leaders to creatively solve problems, who rises to the challenge of economic development in a rural setting, and who wants to use social media to promote our city. To learn more and apply for the job, visit our CityofHackensackMN.org website.

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**HACKENSACK
LAKES AREA**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Comprehensive Plan Update

- Working collectively and collaboratively to make a positive difference for our future. -

City of Hackensack Comprehensive Plan Fall Update

by Tad Erickson, Regional Development Planner, Region Five Development Commission

On September 7th, the Hackensack City Council formally adopted the city's 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update with the following vision statement: "Hackensack is an inviting community surrounded by natural beauty, rich in history, and enlivened by growth and renewal." The plan update's approval comes on the heels of an intensive twelve-month planning process that emphasized input from the community. Now that the plan has been formally adopted, the city plans to continue to make the vision statement a reality, by seeking ways to achieve the goals outlined in the plan update in areas such as Land Use, Infrastructure, Energy, Community Character, Transportation, Housing and Economic Development.

Throughout the planning process, the consultants and local planning team maintained a webpage dedicated to the comprehensive planning process where anyone can access

the meeting materials including agendas, meeting minutes, and meeting handouts. LPT meeting's agendas handouts and minutes can be found by clicking here. Additionally, the 2021 Comprehensive Plan update can be viewed here.

What is next? It's only just the beginning! Consider this a call to action – residents, community members, and visitors alike are encouraged to read the plan, and get involved to help bridge the gap between planning and implementation. The city alone can't achieve all of the goals identified in the plan update; successfully implementing the goals identified in the plan will require the effort and collaboration from individuals, nonprofits, the private sector, all working alongside the city – a true community effort to enliven Hackensack through the growth and renewal identified in the plan's vision statement.

For updates and additional details about the City of Hackensack's meetings, and future projects, please call city hall at 218.675.6400 or visit [CityofHackensackMN.org](https://www.cityofhackensackmn.org).





Hackensack: A Green Step City

- Working to achieve sustainability and quality-of-life goals . -



Earth is Our Home; Environmental Solutions

by Linda Ottman

Local resident Jim Etzel recently created a business in Hackensack called Earth is Our Home. His goal is to

promote and protect the natural world through education and services such as pruning trees and garden consultations that emphasize no tilling or chemicals. The benefits of these gardening methods include working with the natural processes, not disturbing the soils, and preserving soil health and pollinator habitat.

Jim is passionate about natural landscape design that promotes and protects the natural world, ensures pollinator-friendly strategies, and lowers maintenance. He also teaches composting, and how to turn compost into a most valuable tool. He hopes to bring his expertise and information to schools, Scout troops, and any clubs or groups that are interested in learning more about management of our natural world.

Keep Your Home Comfortable & Efficient

by Melissa Birch, Game Changer Clean Energy Team, Central Region Coordinator for the Clean Energy Resource Team

Chilly weather is just around the corner. Here are a few tools to help you stay comfortable during fall and winter and save money on energy throughout the year. First, a [home energy assessment](#) can help you identify energy savings for low- or no cost, as well as larger investments for long-term savings. [Crow Wing Power](#), [Minnesota Power](#), and [Lake Country Power](#) provide or arrange assessments for their customers. If you're having trouble paying your energy bills, [Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program](#) may be able to help. You may also qualify for free home weatherization, reducing energy costs through improvements to insulation, heating, appliances and more. These programs are available whether you own or rent your home, and include single family, manufactured, or multifamily buildings. Lastly, CERTs has free [home energy guides](#) for that provide tips for keeping your home comfortable, healthy, and efficient. Find these guides on the [Clean Energy Resource Teams website](#).



He also offers help with ecological forest management. He can visit your property, help determine your goals, and create a plan to meet those objectives with minimal damage to the forest and preservation of the soil. Using natural forest succession, Etzel aims to move away from use of fossil fuels in the care of our land and soil.

At this time of year, Jim focuses on promoting and providing pruning and trimming of trees that line driveways. Overgrown branches can cause damage and access problems for emergency and service vehicles. Pruning promotes a healthier and more aesthetically pleasing woodland, and pruning at the proper time of the year is very important. Contact Jim at (218) 252-3258, or earthsteward1@gmail.com for more information.



Clean Energy Virtual Road Show Highlights

by Virginia Rutter

[Clean Energy Economy MN \(CEEM\)](#) hosted a virtual event highlighting clean energy projects in Central Minnesota on September 28, giving an overview of the clean energy industry in Minnesota.

- Renewable energy was the largest source of electricity generation in 2020, providing 29% of Minnesota's power.
- Wind is the cheapest form of new electricity generation in Minnesota, cheaper than natural gas.
- Minnesota has 55,300 jobs in the clean energy industry, with about 40% of those located outside the Twin Cities area.
- [Rural Renewable Energy Alliance \(RREAL\)](#) is working with the White Earth Nation to create a solar installation training program at the tribal community college to create a strong, trained and capable workforce within the Indigenous community.
- [PACE](#) financing (Property Assessed Clean Energy) is proving to be both easy to use and popular, citing two solar installations in Sartell and in Hutchinson, financed through the program.
- [Lake Region Community Hybrid Project](#), a wind and solar project near Pelican Rapids, generates around 9,000 megawatt-hours annually, supplying about 5% of Lake Region Electric Cooperative's power.



Hackensack Arts & Fun

- Celebrating our area's unique activities and pursuits. -

A Successful Season for Northwoods Arts Council

by Lynn Van Allen

Between the newly added [Lakeside Concert Series](#), a

Josh Duffee Quartet

appearance, [the Art and Book](#)

[Festival](#) and author presentations, [Northwoods Arts Council](#) made an immense impression, both economically and emotionally this summer. Even in the wake of ongoing Covid cases, this 26-year-old nonprofit organization continued to stay true to its mission of "Bringing the Arts to Life" in the north woods, and the thanks from the community was astonishing.

The community and businesses felt the positive impact of bringing live music every Friday afternoon, experiencing different styles of music all while enjoying the idyllic setting next to the shores of Birch Lake. Only one concert was postponed due to inclement weather, which was rescheduled and held October 9th at which time "The Occasionals" were featured as the last concert band of the season. The forward-thinking Hackensack City Council graciously supported putting a "PLAN B" into effect and the Lakeside Concert was moved into the Hackensack Community Building. Music lovers toted their lawn chairs and spread out inside to enjoy a musical afternoon while sipping a craft beer or soft drink from Rendezvous Brewery.

A big Thank You to [Five Wings Arts Council](#), [Sourcewell](#), [Itasca Mantrap](#), [HLACF](#) and the [Hackensack Lions Club](#) for the financial support, and to the City of Hackensack and surrounding communities. See you next year!



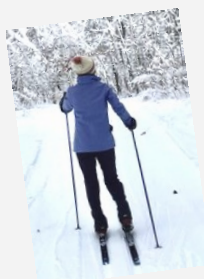
Art & Book Festival Winners

Things to Do

- Monday - **Hackensack Lions Meat Raffle**, the Muni, 5 pm
- Wednesday - **Community Table Drive-thru**, Pick up a FREE meal at Union Congregational Church, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Call to order meal, 218-820-3870. Free will offering accepted. **Trivia Night**, Hackensack American Legion, 7:00 pm
- Thursday - **Taco Thursday** at Hackensack American Legion, 5:00 pm, **American Legion Meat Raffle**, 6:00 pm
- Friday - **Burger Bar**, Hackensack American Legion, 4 pm. **Trivia Night**, Rendezvous Brewing, 6pm
- Sat/Sun. - **Indoor Tailgating**, Rendezvous Brewing, check brewery Facebook page for times.

Get Outdoors this Winter

by Diane Norlin



The Lake Country Nordic Ski Club (LCNSC) maintains around 45 miles of area trails. Beginning with trail clean-up in the fall, teams of club members maintain and groom the four area trails which are **Hiram**, **Goose Lake**, **Cut**

Lake, and **Washburn Lake**. This effort yields some of the best single track classic cross-country skiing in Minnesota, with trails in top condition for a perfect ski experience. LCNSC offers an annual Cross-Country Ski Clinic that is free and open to the public, Nordic Ski waxing, Wednesday Club Skis and two Saturday Social Skis. Please note that all trails are off limits to ATVs and snowmobiles. Also note that anyone age 16 or older must have a Great Minnesota Ski Pass to carry with them when using the trails for cross-country skiing. Passes can be purchased through the [LCNSC website](#), most gas stations, or through the DNR website.

Cycling Without Age Comes to Hackensack

by Simon Whitehead

In September, the Walker Lions, supported by Cass County Public Health, developed a volunteer-driven effort to get seniors, and those unable to propel themselves, a bike ride on our beautiful trails. They use a trishaw, an electrically assisted bike with a comfortable seat for two in the front. Every Tuesday, the Cycling Without Age team is piloting rides from [Birchview Gardens](#). Rides are up to an hour long and allow seniors to enjoy the nature and splendor of the Paul Bunyan trail along with some stimulating conversation. It is a free program and will run as long as the weather allows. For more information, contact Cass County Health and Nutrition Educator, Simon Whitehead at swhtehe@umn.edu.





Hackensack Happenings

- Providing fun for everyone. -



MNTC Men's Choir Visits Union Congregational Church

by Scott Doss

After serving for 35 years in public education, the last 17 as

based organization that is part of Adult and Teen Challenge globally. Adult and Teen Challenge was started in 1958 by David Wilkerson and has over 1,000 sites globally. MNTC has been around since 1983 and currently has over 200 centers across the United States, including five in Minnesota. Coming to Hackensack and being a part of the church experience there was appreciated by the fifteen men that visited. A special thank you to Pastor Torri and the entire [UCC Congregation](#) for the incredible opportunity we were given.

As an organization that serves men and women from across the state, including Cass County, we look forward to seeing how God may use this event of song and sharing for the Glory of God. We love being connected with communities and serving when opportunities present themselves. Thank you, Hackensack, for making a difference in a small town kid who gets to be a part of a much bigger picture serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through this ministry!

a principal in Pillager, and 35 years of marriage, I still continue to be amazed at God's timing! As the Development Director of [Central Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge \(MNTC\)](#) in Brainerd, I had the privilege of attending church with the MNTC choir at the very site my wife and I said "I do" over 35 years ago. Add to that the bonus of attending the service with my mother, Mary Parrish of Hackensack, it just doesn't get much better!

MNTC provides services for men and women across Minnesota who are struggling with addiction. The men are part of a choir that travels to churches weekly to share their testimonies and songs about redemption. MNTC is a faith



Successful Campaign to "Get the Lead Out"

by Jack Fitzgerald

The [Cass County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America](#) (Ikes) worked with the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#), local lake associations, and Rendezvous Brewing this summer to raise awareness of the fatal problem lead fishing

tackle is creating for loons and other wildlife. The Ikes hosted five lead-for-lead-free fishing tackle exchange events, including three at lake association meetings and two at Rendezvous Brewing. A virtual presentation was made at a fourth lake association. A total of 69 people swapped lead from their tackle boxes for a lead-free sample pack (and a less guilty conscience). The [Rendezvous Brewing](#) events featured an extra participation incentive of a free beverage. A total of about 60 pounds of lead was collected and will be taken to the county hazardous waste site for proper disposal. The Ikes plan to continue offering a similar program and more opportunities to "Get The Lead Out" next summer. If you would like the Ikes to host a lead-for-lead-free tackle exchange, contact Jack Fitzgerald at 218-682-2941.

The Manoomin Report

by Mike Tauber

At the end of each summer many of the people who live in the land of lakes start to think of the Anishinaabe tradition of gathering wild rice. This year the drought and hot weather has brought ripening of rice on early and complicated getting to many of the rice beds in the lower lakes and rivers. Yet, many people have gathered enough rice to feed themselves and others, and those people can also bear witness that a plethora of wildlife is also enjoying this nutritious grain.



The activity of gathering wild rice is possible because of high quality running water, with which our region is singularly blessed. Protection of this water is imperative. When we gather rice it is family and friends we lean on in cooperation to get the job done. We use 2 people for a 17' canoe, a 15' push pole (preferably balsam), cedar ricing sticks, and perseverance. Perseverance is the most important. Sometimes it is hard to find a good stand of rice that is ready to give grain so it is essential to have an

(Continued on page 7)



Beautiful Hackensack

- Teams working to make Hackensack a beautiful place to live, learn, play and work. -



Lucette's Fall Photo Contest Winner

by Linda Ottman

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos to our contest! Karen Ferrington is this issue's winner! "It was so great to be able to have a campfire after such a dry summer," Karen said about her photo (pictured in

mini here and in full on the back cover) which was taken September 17th overlooking Kid Lake. I agree!

This issue features an Honorable Mention so we can share the story of this incredible shot by J. Michael Schwartz. He said, "Mr./Mrs. Loon appeared one day, apparently injured by an eagle, we think, or possibly a boat propeller. He hung out under our pontoon lift and dock for two or three days. One of his legs was injured and just hung out on one side without moving. He seemed remarkably calm, considering his condition and the danger it created. But he 'knows' me from many seasons of his return; so he must have felt safe. In any case, he was absolutely unfazed by my presence, no matter how close I got.

"I held the camera about two feet above his head and used the movable screen on the camera to orient the photo, while lying on my back on the dock to reach under the lift where he was floating. I had to reorient the original

a bit on my iMac because it wasn't centered quite right. Otherwise it is undoctored.

"Mr./Mrs. Loon slowly ventured further and further from the protection of our dock over several days. Eventually, after about five days, he seemed to have recovered and he began his usual patrol of the neighborhood shoreline, which he continued for the rest of the summer. That's my story and I'm sticking to it."



Honorable Mention taken by J. Michael Schwartz

Entries are now being accepted for the January 2021 issue of *Lucette's Gazette*. Please submit high resolution, JPEG-formatted photos. Include where the photo was taken, your contact information, and mailing address in the event you are the winner and email to howdy1953@gmail.com. Submissions become the property of the City of Hackensack and may be used for other purposes. The contest winner receives a \$50 cash prize. One winner per newsletter.

The Manoomin Report (Continued from page 6)

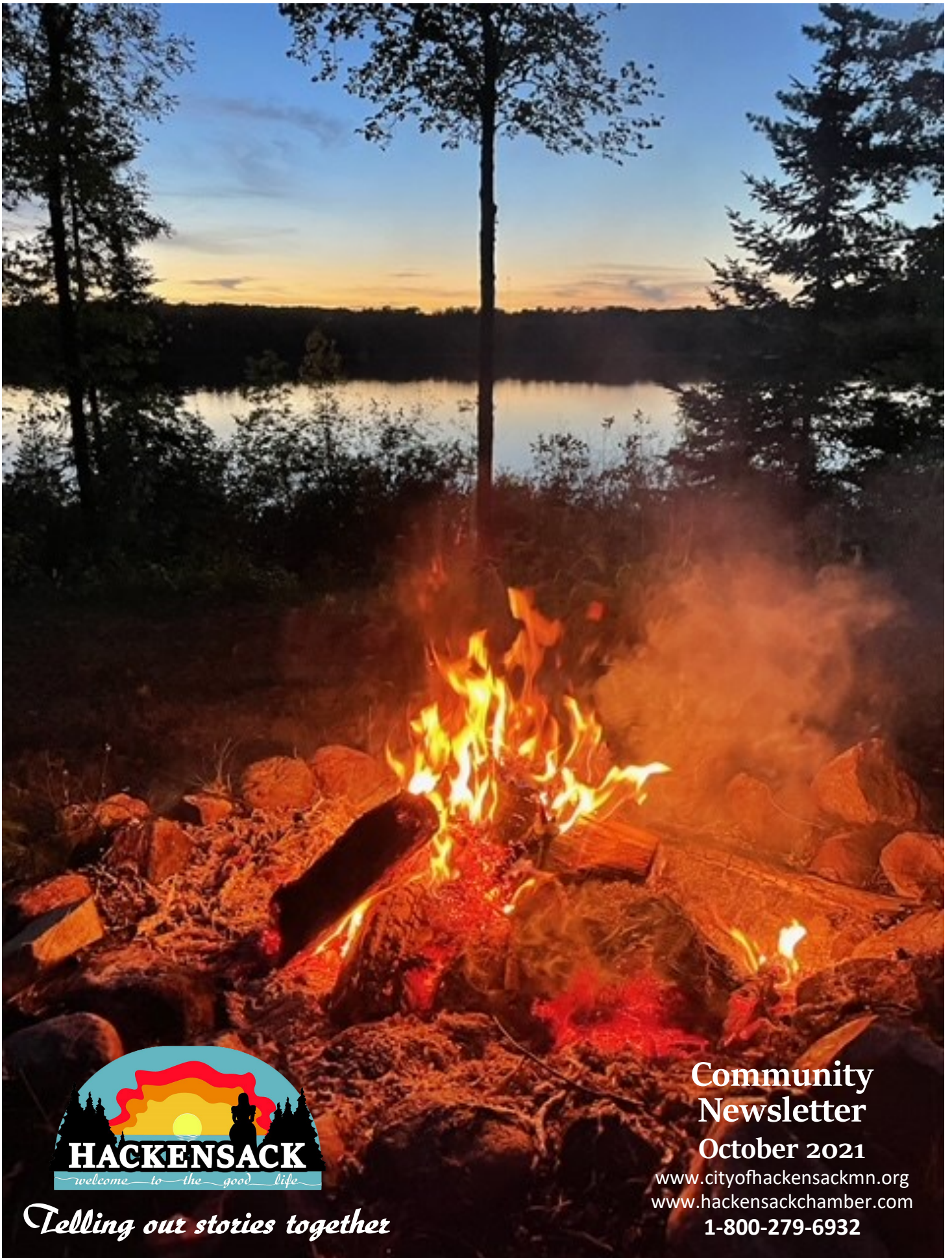
understanding partner. They will need to put up with slow movement when the poler is mired in muck that threatens to claim the pole, uncooperative wind, rice worms and spiders, and the ever-present learning curve. If a duo can work through the obstacles the event can be spiritual, and the gifts of the Creator can be viewed in the forms of ripe wild rice in the canoe, a beaver family sleeping on a sunny marsh, young trumpeter swans learning to fly, ducks of all shapes and sizes, and some of the best scenery known to the north.

The act of gathering rice consists of one person standing in the back of the canoe pushing while the other person uses one rice stick to pull rice canes over the canoe to tap with the other stick. The ripe rice falls in the canoe but many grains are also incidentally broadcast into the water which

will become part of next year's crop, so it's best not to be too efficient! Once a significant amount of rice is gathered, the batch of "green" rice is parched to loosen the husk so the chaff and grain can be separated. This can be done in a traditional manner by stirring in a pot over a fire, or it can be taken to one of the few wild rice processors that operate regionally.

All this for Manoomin? You betcha! If we keep the waters clean this gift of wild rice can be perpetual. (Dog on Water photo credit: Jo Cornell)





Telling our stories together

**Community
Newsletter
October 2021**

www.cityofhackensackmn.org

www.hackensackchamber.com

1-800-279-6932