

Lucette's Gazette

March 2023

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Message from Our Mayor

Mid-February and a winter melt is on. I hope that whether you are in Hackensack or wintering in another location, you are having a great time. In this newsletter, I want to talk about what it means

to be a small town.

Living in a small town leads to "Everyone knows you and knows about you," and while that may be true, it's also evident that we watch out for each other. When you are a person in a crowded metro area, nobody but your closest neighbors, friends, and family know you. In Hackensack, we feel like a big family. And like family, sometimes we don't agree on things, but we want what is best for our community and for those that live with and around us.

And our area includes so many people who live around Hackensack, in neighboring townships. We are not unique in this, except that we feel more closely knit together than many other communities. We have so many people who live in and out of the city limits collaborating and working to make our little slice of Minnesota even better. We are so thankful for all of the helping hands.

It's these helping hands that are moving us forward with our local needs. We have a team working on a Housing Project, helping to find property and

developers to build more local housing in our city and area townships. We have a team focusing on helping our local citizens clean up their properties with support instead of penalties - working with our neighbors and friends as a community. We have a team leading the way to provide local childcare in our town. It is a service desperately lacking for our working families.

We are looking to the citizens that utilize community amenities to help us fund improvements such as the City Park and Tennis Courts that could use renovations. We need partnerships to make these things happen. A reality is that more non-town residents use these amenities than town citizens do, and as such, we would greatly appreciate contributions and support from users that benefit from them.

We are a small town with a small budget and a small tax base. Please consider this and find ways to help Hackensack continue to be the incredible small town that we are. Consider joining/supporting a Game Changer Team, Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation, Hackensack Lions, Hackensack Chamber, American Legion, one of the local church groups - each of which help us improve the town in so many ways. And thank you. Thank you for being a part of the Hackensack Community.



Newly Elected City Council Member: Bernie VanDyke

Here's a big hello to the residents of Hackensack and the surrounding area. My name is Bernadean (Bernie) VanDyke, your newly elected city council member. I came to Hackensack in 1978 with my parents, and when I met my husband Dave Thompson, owner of Birch Lake Small Engine, I knew I was here to stay.

I have a vested interest in Hackensack and the surrounding area, not just by having a business, but because my children live in the area along with my grandchildren. I want to help ensure that the city remains productive and appealing to those who may want to visit - and maybe even stick around - and also to protect the ambiance that it has.

I was appointed as the City Liquor Commissioner at the January meeting. I am not quite sure what that appointment entails, but I will be attending the League of Minnesota Cities training for newly elected officials on the 24th & 25th of February to find out.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, concerns or ideas for the city that you would like to share and discuss at bernie@cityofhackensackmn.gov.

Always remember, "Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking will."

Business & Community

New! Kane Electric & BYOBookkeeper

Kane Electric MN is owned and operated by Jody Kane (master electrician) and his wife, Joan Kane who live in Hackensack with their two dogs. Professionally, Joan owns her own bookkeeping service, BYOBookkeeper, specializing in bookkeeping training for small business owners. Much of Joan's family live in the area, so when not working, Jody and Joan enjoy spending time with them on the boat or golf course in good weather or staying bundled up supporting the nephews' youth sports and playing games together when it's chilly out.

Jody passed his Masters exam and started Kane Electric in 2021 as a one-man/one-van operation serving the Midsota and Brainerd Lakes area. Their business has blossomed through word of mouth from happy customers. The Kanes were thrilled to add an apprentice for 2023. Their nephew, Tyler, had previously worked with Jody at a different company while completing his electrical contractor education and eagerly made the move to the area to accept the role as their first employee. Kane Electric does commercial and residential work including popular projects like detached garages and shore power. Kane Electric is grateful to the local community for embracing and supporting their business through its beginning stages and looks forward to serving even more of you in the future!



Jody & Joan Kane

Hackensack Adopts Joint Powers Agreement

We may not know the huge value of a good Fire and Rescue and Medical Emergency Response team until we have our own emergency, and then we pay attention, and it is of paramount importance! We are blessed in this area to have wonderful Fire and Rescue teams. A Joint Powers Agreement between 8 local townships, the City of Hackensack, and the Hackensack Area Fire and Rescue Department was accepted and adopted in mid-July 2022. The general purpose of the agreement is to establish an organization to jointly and cooperatively contract for fire protection and emergency medical services including, but not limited to, fire prevention, fire suppression, and first response to medical emergencies. The townships and City desire to exercise their

powers jointly by entering into this Joint Powers Agreement for the purpose of collectively pooling their resources to provide fire and rescue protection service

With this agreement the Hackensack Area Fire and Rescue Department (HAFRD) was established, to be managed by its officers, who will meet annually to approve the budget for the HAFRD. This is a good way for townships and the City to come together as a group, and each have a voice in the budget process. The group used a new format for budgeting items and cost sharing, using the MN Association of Townships formula, which is based on market value of property, population, and number of service calls in each area. Congratulations to the City of Hackensack on adopting this new Joint Powers Agreement!



New City Employee

Chris Meyers is Hackensack's most recently hired City employee! His position is Public Works, Maintenance Operator, which of course covers a variety of tasks and obligations for the maintenance and improvement of Hackensack. Chris has lived in the area for about 3 years, and brings many skills to the position. He also works as the Manager of the Hackensack American Legion #202. Welcome, Chris, and thank you!

Back to Hack Recap

Lucette was so happy when friends and visitors from all over brought their sweethearts "Back to Hack" for the annual festival in January! Thanks to the many volunteers on hand, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The snow sculpting contest produced some interesting masterpieces: The Muni had Baby Yoda, UCC created a Polar Bear. Lisa Bultman had Fat Mouse Art in her yard and is already planning her piece for next year. Hackensack Lumber and Hardware won with a Penguin Slide in honor of the Penguin Plunge, with seven penguins sliding into the icy water, cheered on by snowmen.

There's nothing like a brisk 2.5 mile run/walk to put color in your cheeks (both sets) and get your circulation going. 38 participants took to the streets during the Frostbite Ur Fanny Fun Run/Walk. The winning time was 15:22 by first time Frostbite Ur Fanny runner, Alan Christianson.

The 2nd Annual Walley Birchwinkel Snow Golf Contest was a big success! Last year, 75 players competed; this year we had 109 golfers! Our sponsors were Birch Lake Association and Rendezvous Brewing. We had a bonfire to take the chill off, and we improved our "course" with the addition of an Astroturf green. Walley Birchwinkel was there for photo ops and high fives! The winner this year was Bronwyn Earthman, who scored a hole-in-one! Second place was Kathi Sims Kosloski, who came within 8-1/2 inches of the cup, and Dale Lockwood took third. \$185 was donated to the Birch Lake Association.

The Family Ice Fishing contest brought 73 anglers out to enjoy an afternoon of fishing. The fish weren't very cooperative; however, Sean Gav won in the adult category with a 2.04 pounder,

(Continued on page 5)



Winter Rendezvous

The 44th Annual Winter Rendezvous Event was held on January 21st, 2023 on a beautiful, balmy Saturday. People from near and far got to test their skills with 15 different activities ranging from historic to modern. Participants threw atlatls, a Paleolithic spear-throwing device, tried their hand at snow snakes, an Indigenous winter sport originating in the Great Lakes region, and experienced Northwoods curling, the not-quite-Olympic version using wooden stumps sliding across the lake ice. In whole, we had a great turnout with about 150 participants! At the end of the day, we all gathered for the awards ceremony where we celebrated those who were at the top of their age classes. Mrs. Minnesota International, Kirin Christianson, made a special visit and helped tally votes and hand out awards. It was great to see everyone come together and have fun in the Northwoods! See you for the 45th Winter Rendezvous in January 2024.



(Continued from page 4)

and Mason Parry snagged the largest fish for a youth, a 1.32 pounder. Thank you to Caleb and Dean Garoutte who organized the event, and Abe's Plumbing, Clearwater Construction, Due North Foam, Recreational Rentals, Sew Fast, and Swanson's Bait for donating the prizes.

The 14th Annual Back to Hack Penguin Plunge was the big event that dared folks to cast aside their fears and common sense. The 43 jumpers waddled up to the edge of the ice, just like a sensible penguin, and took the plunge all in the name of charity. Prizes were awarded at Rendezvous Brewing - largest amount raised, best costumes, and oldest and youngest jumpers. Proceeds from this year's fundraiser supported the Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation (HLACF), the Hackensack Area Fire & Rescue Department, Faith In Action, and the Hackensack Lending Library.

Add in trivia, fish fry, raffle, fabulous fireworks, and a huge bonfire in the middle of town to maximize the Big Fun. We SO look forward to the next version of Back to Hack, January 12-14, 2024! - Bonnie Dupre



Game Changers Getting It Done!



Area residents are welcome to join one of these teams. New ideas for a project can be introduced by any community member. They get reviewed and approved by the Hackensack City Council before the idea becomes another team under the Game Changers.

Become part of the positive change in our community.

Hackensack Community Affordable Housing Project

About four years ago, a group of area residents began to respond to the increasing demand in our area for affordable housing. A team was established to discuss the subject and better understand the needs. The Comprehensive Plan for our Community Area identified housing as one of the top three areas requiring attention. Since that time, a Hackensack Game Changer Team formed and included four members; Kris Biessener, Gary Dietrich, Stephen Erickson, and Larry Refsland. Last spring, working closely with the Hackensack City Council, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the City of Hackensack and the [Minnesota Housing Partnership](#). This past summer a resolution was signed by the City Council to explore the formation of a Local Housing Trust Fund. This organization would become a repository for funds to be used for the future evaluation and construction of housing in our area. In November, a Housing Demand Study was awarded to [Maxfield Research and Consulting](#) to more clearly identify the housing demand. This report will be completed this spring. We are now identifying families and individuals who would like to explore housing for their personal needs. We have identified two areas in particular of great demand. One is workforce housing. The other is people who live in the area, whose home may be a lake home, who would like to downsize and potentially move into Hackensack.

The objective of our team is to help develop 40-60 housing units in the next 2-3 years. This includes both owner occupied housing as well as rental units. If anyone would like to join our team as we continue to explore local solutions to affordable housing, please contact Gary Dietrich at 612-801-3345.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor Community Clean-up Event

May 19 & 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Game Changers Beautification Team and Union Congregational Church, this is our second annual clean-up event with dedicated volunteers ready to assist Hackensack residents with non-professional projects that need to be "spruced up" for spring. Projects can include raking leaves, picking up trash, brush trimming, small painting projects, clearing debris from buildings and homes, paper shredding.

Hackensack residents can request assistance with clean-up projects by registering their project by website or mail. Volunteers will be assigned service projects based on day and time desired by city resident and work volunteer. Volunteer teams from businesses, churches, schools, social groups and service clubs and/or individuals will also register by website or mail, signing up for clean-up opportunities. Volunteers will serve our community in respectful ways as partners and neighbors assisting with projects that may be difficult for some but very manageable with many "neighborly" hands. Look for more information in April on the Hackensack city website or in city-wide mailings.



To complete projects that enhance our city.

Tank of the Year Contest - Our very own Hackensack has a “sweetheart” of a water tank! It landed a spot as one of the top 12 finalists for the 2022 Tank of the Year contest sponsored by Tnemec Company, Inc. Since 2006, Tnemec has celebrated the innovative and creative uses of its coatings on water storage tank projects. The winning tank was selected based on criteria such as artistic value, the significance of the tank to the community, and challenges encountered during the project. While our tank did not win overall, it was an honor to have been among the more than 350 water tanks nominated across North America. Our recently painted water tower proudly displays our new logo with Lucette having the optimal vantage point to watch over our City and welcome visitors near and far “to the good life.” For further tank info visit tankoftheyear.com - Anne Ebert



Order your commemorative brick today!

The two brick sizes available for purchase are 4"x8" for \$100 or an 8"x8" for \$200. Bricks can be purchased online at thatsmybrick.com/hlacf or you may contact Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation (HLACF) board members: Denny Ganz, Sue Kostka, Terry Roeser, Kris Biessener, Tom Cox, Larry Refsland, or Misty

Hoopman. Additional charges for personalized graphics and credit cards apply. HLACF board members will be available at Mark's Market in Hackensack from 10am-2pm for the month of March to answer questions and assist with brick orders. Bricks will be available for purchase through April 2023. The profits will go into the HLACF Endowment Fund which is then awarded out to local nonprofits through an annual grant application process. Since 2019 HLACF has distributed more than \$24,000 to the Hackensack and Backus communities and surrounding townships. The bricks will be installed at the base of the flagpole by the Chamber building in Hackensack. We will have a ceremony recognizing the project during Sweetheart Days 2023. (More details to come.)



Winning Photo by Ann Espeland

From the Editor

This issue's winning photo was taken by Ann Espeland. Our thanks to all who submitted photos for the contest!

For *Lucette's Gazette* June 2023 photo contest, please submit high resolution, JPEG-formatted photos. Include where the photo was taken, contact information, and mailing address in the event you are the winner. Email photos to Linda Ottman at howdy1953@gmail.com.

One winner per newsletter. The contest winner receives a \$25 Rendezvous Brewing gift certificate. All submissions become the property of the City of Hackensack and may be used for other purposes.

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March

- 7 - UCC Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 13 - Hackensack American Legion, Auxiliary & SAL Meeting
- 14 - Memory Cafe at Paws & Claws
- 16 - The HUB Pot Luck Meeting
- 16 - Hackensack Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting
- 16 - Hackensack Lions General Membership Meeting
- 17 - Hackensack Legion St. Patrick's Day Feed
- 19 - Hackensack Legion Auxiliary Breakfast
- 20 - Bill Kennedy's Tech Class at the HUB
- 28 - Birthday Tuesdays, Hackensack American Legion
- 31 - SAL Ham Bingo

April

- 1 - Kids Easter Egg Hunt
- 4 - UCC Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 6 - Hub Social Meeting
- 9 - Easter Sunday
- 10 - Hackensack American Legion, Auxiliary & SAL Meeting
- 11 - Memory Cafe at Paws & Claws
- 11 - Foot Clinic at The HUB
- 16 - Hackensack Legion Auxiliary Breakfast
- 17 - Bill Kennedy's Tech Class at the HUB
- 20 - The HUB Pot Luck Meeting
- 20 - Hackensack Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting
- 20 - Hackensack Lions General Membership Meeting
- 25 - Birthday Tuesdays, Hackensack American Legion
- 25 - An Evening in Tuscany Spaghetti Dinner
- 30 - Hackensack Legion SAL Breakfast

May

- 4 - HUB Social Meeting
- 7 - Lions Pancake Breakfast
- 8 - Hackensack American Legion, Auxiliary & SAL Meeting
- 9 - Memory Cafe at Paws & Claws
- 9 - Foot Clinic at The HUB
- 12 - Hot Dog/Brat Sale
- 12 - 13 - Poppy Days
- 13 - Minnesota Fishing Opener
- 15 - Bill Kennedy's Tech Class at the HUB
- 18 - The HUB Pot Luck Meeting
- 18 - Hackensack Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting
- 18 - Hackensack Lions General Membership Meeting
- 19 - Neighbor Helping Neighbor Community Clean-up
- 20 - Neighbor Helping Neighbor Community Clean-up
- 21 - Hackensack Legion Auxiliary Breakfast
- 21 - WHA Give Kids a Ride Tournament
- 27 - Electronic Horse Racing, Hackensack American Legion
- 28 - Memorial Day Services at Finnely Cemetery
- 29 - Memorial Day Ceremony at Hackensack City Park
- 29 - Memorial Day Service at Hillcrest Cemetery
- 30 - Birthday Tuesdays at the Hackensack American Legion

Weekly Events

Mondays - Hackensack Lions Meat Raffle at the Muni

Wednesdays - Hackensack American Legion Trivia

Thursdays - Taco Thursday & Meat Raffle, Hackensack American Legion

Fridays - Burger Bar, Hackensack American Legion & Trivia, Rendezvous Brewing

Saturdays - Homemade Pizza Specials, Hackensack American Legion

Visit www.hackensackchamber.com for times & locations.



Community



Events

