

Lucette's Gazette

News, updates, and happenings in our Hackensack Lakes Area - February 2022



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Message from Our Mayor

Bill Kennedy



This is the first newsletter since we finished the summer and fall construction work on our water, sewer, water tower, and roads in Hackensack. The City Council and I think the downtown area looks fantastic. The new sidewalks, creating a boulevard on the business side of 1st Street, the trees, and new lampposts all make the downtown more open and inviting.



There is a bit of a learning curve as city workers learn the best methods of clearing all the snow we have received, but it's coming along nicely. We acquired a new Bobcat with attachments to help us plow and sweep the sidewalks. We are

utilizing a new relationship with Sourcewell to help us acquire items using government discount contracts and leasing opportunities. This is exciting because it will help us leverage our limited budget to best serve the citizens and the town.

There is still work to be done this spring to 'button up' the project. Anything discussed here is because the project ran into unexpected issues such as the contaminated ground and supply chain issues such as not receiving electrical equipment

in the timeline as expected. In the spring, crews will return to do the following: surface Whipple Avenue from 371 to Birchview Gardens, fix any road issues that appear after the first winter, replace some curb/gutters in response to County requested changes to 1st Street, install the electric panel that will power the lights, outlets, and the new EV charging station, and fix some of the tree grate issues that prevent them from lying flat. This is probably not an exhaustive list, but fairly good representation of the work needed.

What is next for Hackensack? Even through the construction period we saw new businesses open, and we hope this trend continues. In 2024, MNDoT will be replacing Hwy 371 from County 40 to just north of County 5. This includes curbs, gutters, boulevards (space between curb and sidewalk), and sidewalks. This also includes the new roundabout that will go in just south of the current intersection of Hwy 371 and County 5. The easiest way of imagining what the town will look like is to compare it to Walker downtown: two parallel parking lanes, two driving lanes, and one turn lane.

Thank you all for being a resident, a visitor, and a business owner. We love this little town, and we know you do too. Help us make it better every day. Pick up trash as you walk around town, clean your yard, mow the grass - every little bit helps.

-Bill



New Hackensack City Clerk

My name is Trista Olander. I am so excited to be part of the City in a new way as the City of Hackensack Clerk/Treasurer. I

am 45 years old and have 2 beautiful children. I grew up in Park Rapids, MN and moved to Hackensack for my job as the manager of Bear Pause Theater, a small movie theater here in Hackensack. I loved my job! It really allowed a lot of my strengths to shine through, such as my love for customer service, business management, and technology.

Unfortunately COVID hit, and we were forced to shut down the theater for several months. After 15 years with Bear Pause, I was forced to find another position in order to raise my family. But, during that 15 years, I became more and more involved with the community serving in positions from President of the Chamber of Commerce to the Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary. I am also involved in several of the town's events and fundraisers. I love watching and helping the city grow and evolve into this new era, and am happy to help play a part in any way I can. As City Clerk, I believe this will enable me to help and contribute in a whole new way. For City-related questions, call (218) 675-6400 or email at ctyhack@uslink.net.

Back to Hack

RECAP

Another record number of folks brought their sweethearts “Back to Hack” for the annual festival January 14th through the 16th. The Hackensack Chamber is excited to announce that for first time ever thanks to Donna Allert, Jay Cline, and our local chamber business we had a sell-out on the \$2.00 tickets for the 2022 raffle.

The Back to Hack snow sculpting contest produced some interesting masterpieces from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, UCC Church, and Mark's Market. The winner, created by Hackensack Do It Best Hardware, was three Minions (probably Bob, Stuart and Kevin), fishing through holes in the ice with a sign declaring, “I’m with stupid!” — and arrows pointing at each other.

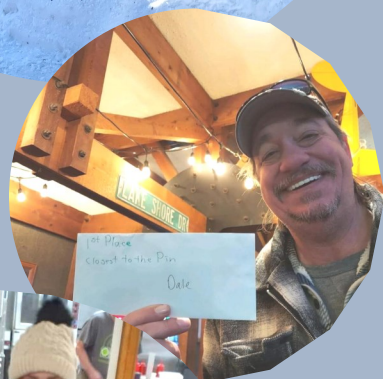
Lots of folks were out looking for the Back to Hack Medallion. It was located Friday afternoon by Sue Peterson and Andrea Foster (front cover) over by the Community Building. The Frost Bite Your Fanny 2.5 mile Fun Run had 11 brave runners out in the cold, and the winner was Eric Opheim of Walker.

There were 30 adults and 8 youth who wet their lines during the Family Ice Fishing Contest. The fish caught weren’t record breakers by any means but everyone had a great time. Thanks to Caleb and Dean Garoutte who ran the event, and thanks to Abe’s Plumbing, Clearwater Construction, Due North Foam, Recreational Rentals, and Sew Fast for sponsoring the event.

The first ever, now first annual Walley Birchwinkel Ice Golf Challenge was a great success! 75 fun-loving entrants of all ages enjoyed a sunny afternoon and competed in a “closest to the flag” contest. Walley Birchwinkel was there to provide high fives and photo ops. Everyone received a dollar off a beverage at Rendezvous Brewing, and there were prizes from the Birch Lake Association. The big winner was Dale Lockwood (pictured), who took the first-place prize of \$100 with his shot getting to within 4 inches of the hole. Many thanks to Rendezvous and the Birch Lake Association for their sponsorship, and the volunteers who helped make this feature succeed.

At the Hackensack American Legion Club’s Chili Cook-off, dozens of chili enthusiasts taste-tested 10 different kinds of chili. The winner chili was prepared by Gene Becker. Proceeds from the cook-off go to the ARCC Emergency Shelter in Akeley.

Many other events went on during the weekend giving everyone something to do. Even with the chilly wind blowing Saturday evening there were dozens of people warming up by the bonfire, and those who managed to beat the cold enjoyed the fabulous fireworks display over Birch Lake. - Bonnie Dupre, Chamber of Commerce



Q & A with Sourcewell

You've likely heard the name, but there's a chance you don't know much about them. We had an opportunity to visit with Sourcewell Community Solutions Manager Charitie Herbst to find out more about Sourcewell – who they are, what they do, and how our community benefits.

Q: Hi, Charitie! Can you tell us about Sourcewell?

A: Absolutely! Sourcewell is the regional service cooperative for Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties. As a service cooperative, we're charged by Minnesota state statute to partner with local education, government, and nonprofits to boost student and community success. All service cooperatives are government organizations, but we don't receive federal funding. Our ability to reinvest locally is made possible through a national cooperative purchasing program.

Q: What is your role in the organization?

A: I am the manager for our Community Solutions team, which serves local government and nonprofits in our five-county service area by offering training, services, and funding to help our regional leaders meet *their* goals. Part of our purpose is to collaborate with other government (and education) entities to achieve together what might be more difficult to achieve alone. We consider ourselves a force multiplier.

Q: Has Hackensack ever partnered with Sourcewell?

A: As a matter of fact – yes! Hackensack local government, nonprofit, and education leaders are maximizing their partnership with Sourcewell to benefit area students and the community as a whole.

Examples of this include funding for the Lakeside Concert Series, Community Match funding for the First Street tree planting and beautification project, and helping to offset the expense for Cass County Sheriff's Department deputies to renew their road certification training at the Minnesota Highway Research Center.

Sourcewell also contributed more than \$5 million toward the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School District's Up North Learning Center.

All worthwhile causes where we are proud to partner with the Hackensack community. We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate. To learn more about Sourcewell, visit their website at www.sourcewell-mn.gov. - Tammy Filippi



Newly constructed Up North Learning Center on the former Agwachang Campus near Walker supported by Sourcewell.

Hacks-Giving Results

The Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation (HLACF) set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 for its annual Hacks-Giving event. The auction was held online in November 2021. The Advisory Board extends its gratitude to the community for their outstanding support with auction items and cash donations. The online bidding was fast, fun and very generous. As a result our goal was exceeded with a grand total of \$10,550!

The majority of the funds raised were placed in the endowment fund with a small amount retained in the non-endowed fund. The endowment fund balance is never spent so funds will be perpetually available to provide support to nonprofit organizations, schools and governmental agencies to help achieve the goals of the Hackensack/Backus area communities. The non-endowed funds provide flexibility to issue grants quickly as needs arise.

This spring we will invite nonprofit organizations that serve the 9 townships surrounding Hackensack to apply for funding through our grant process. The application portal can be found on our website beginning March 1st and closing on April 15th. Visit www.hackensackfund.org for more information. - Terry Roeser

New "Hackensack Game Changers" Teams

Formed in 2018, the Hackensack Game Changers goal is to get more people involved in developing a better future for our city and surrounding community. This past year the Hackensack Game Changers has been approved as an independent 501C3, thanks to the efforts of Lisa Tuller. This status allows the Game Changers to apply for grants and receive tax deductible contributions. We now have seven different projects active in our community including two new teams, the **Children's Fishing Contest** and the **Resilient Housing Project**. These teams have had a major positive impact on our area; thank you to all that have been a part of these teams. If anyone is interested in learning more or joining one of these teams to support the initiative, please contact Bill Kennedy 218-838-9468 or Gary Dietrich 612-801-3345.

BE the
GAME
CHANGER



"Hackensack Children's Fishing Contest" Team

Each Tuesday during the summer there is a fishing contest for young people at the Hackensack City Pier. Many local organizations sponsor this annual activity that was originally developed by Bob Kennedy. This person, the father of our current mayor, had a great vision for providing family fun and experience with fishing in our area. Thanks to Bill Kennedy for all of his efforts in continuing this ongoing tradition.

"Central Minnesota Resilient Housing Project" Team

This new team has been formed to develop a process to improve availability of new housing in our community area. Gary Dietrich is leading this effort working with Jacob Mans who is an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota School of Architecture. The University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and Minnesota Housing Partnership are providing financial and technical support to this project. - Gary Dietrich

Justice Ministry Team

Union Congregational United Church of Christ in Hackensack has a long history of justice ministry. We believe in reaching out to others with compassionate care through personal relationships. Though Covid-19 has been a challenge, the Justice Ministry Team has stayed socially connected by sharing personal stories through Zoom. When we share stories, we feel less isolated, more heard and respected. Richard Wagamese, Ojibwe author and journalist stated, "When we take the time to share stories with others, we get bigger inside. We see each other. We recognize our kinship and we change the world, one story at a time."

The Justice Ministry Team is working toward community connectiveness through group actions. Beginning in February, Justice Ministry members will be completing the Intercultural Development Inventory under the guidance of Paul Ernst, Consultant in Organizational Development. The inventory is a starting point in creating a bridge between our own culture and cultures of others. As we understand learned differences and recognize cultural commonalities and with increased

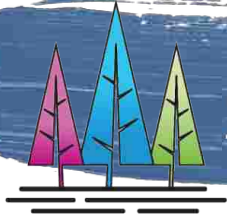
understanding, we can work and act in ways that are more culturally appropriate.

Union Congregational UCC provides a safe and affirming place for our local LGBTQ community. To increase our understanding of religion and the LGBTQ community, we have chosen *US Versus US* by Andrew Marin for our February book study. Marin's scientific findings offer clear direction and hope as culturally different sides discover the things they have in common and the hope found in Christ.

The Justice Ministry Team is a growing group of people who affirm and celebrate that sacred love is inclusive for all creation and all people. If you would like to join our mission, contact us at unionucc401@gmail.com.

- Sue Kimmel

"When we take
the time to share
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NORTHWOODS ARTS COUNCIL
Bringing the Arts to Life

2022 Northwoods Arts Council Lineup

Warm weather will be here before we know it and Northwoods Arts Council will begin to roll out its 2022 schedule of events. Musicians, authors, artists, and poets will descend on Hackensack to continue our mission of "Bringing the Arts to Life" in the north woods.

Queen of Wabedo

On a clear September evening
The sun was sinking low
The roaring of his engines
The water painted gold

A fishing boat goes screaming
Across lake Wabedo
His hat turned on backward
A bucktail on his pole

A beer cracked wide open
Too much wind for a smoke
He goes roaring through the
narrows
To the Meadows he will go

The monster lurking in the dark
Is not a story told
He saw her with his own two eyes
Thirteen years ago

Somewhere between the lily pads
The cabbage and his boat
He stalks the might giant
The Queen of Wabedo

Casting, pulling, cranking hard
His focus is unbroke
It's in the air, he knows she there
The surface is her cloak

He feels that any second now
The queen will make a show
He's scared as hell, not hard to tell
His heart beat's in his throat

A crash, a smash, a might blow
His pole's ripped from his hands
The water turns, his heart burns
The monster beats the man

He didn't have a chance
He didn't have a prayer
His hands are still a' shaking
On his face a cold blank stare

She did it once, she'll do it again
The Queen of Wabedo
The biggest thing you've ever seen
Another story told

No one knows how old she is
The rods and lures she steals
And decorates her mansion
Beneath her aqua shield

Stars about, a loon calls out
The waters calm as glass
Frogs are chirping, fires bursting
At night you hear a splash

So if you go out'a swim'n
You better watch your toes
They may be breakfast, lunch or
dinner
For the Queen of Wabedo

by Charley Wagner

Friday, June 17, 5PM - 7PM will be the first of 10 free Lakeside Concerts all being held on the shores of Birch Lake. This year, the Hackensack City Council has graciously offered the use of the community building should inclement weather come our way. Whether inside or out, don't forget to bring your own chairs to enjoy uplifting music and community. Rendezvous Brewery will have beer on tap.

Friday, July 8, and Saturday, July 9, world-renowned percussionist, Josh Duffee returns with his big band of gifted musicians and featured singer, Jason Richards, crooning all your favorite Sinatra tunes. Ticket information can be located on our website.

Saturday, August 13, 9AM-3PM, the *27th Northwoods Art and Book Festival* will take place, bringing over 60 artists and 30 authors for an amazing day of creative works. Many of your favorites will be returning but prepare to be dazzled by newcomers as well. Music by Wayne and the Boys, beer by Rendezvous Brewery, Pies by Guys, food trucks, kettle corn and other food items will all be part of the festivities.

We are pleased to announce a new fun feature added to the Northwoods Art and Book Festival. **Poetry Safari** is a joint project of Northwoods Arts Council and Kokoro Center for Music and the Performing Arts. Community members are invited to submit up to three original poems with a Northwoods theme. Check NAC's FB page and website and Kokoro's FB page for ongoing details. Mark your calendar and get ready for a summer of joy, community and artistic expression. - Lynn Van Allen



Winter Rendezvous

After a year hiatus, Winter Rendezvous returned to Deep Portage on Saturday, January 23rd. It was a cold day, but the chilly weather didn't stop 38 brave souls from participating in all of the fantastic events for the 43rd Annual Winter Rendezvous. There were some classics, like Northwoods Curling, Lumberjack Races, and Ax Throwing, which are always exciting events to watch. We also had a few new events like Archery, Fish in a Barrel, and a scavenger hunt that had participants ranging all over campus. The ages of Rendezvous participants ranged from four years old up to over 50 years of age. There were many participants that were first-time Rendezvous contestants, and we had a few returning champions who did their best to defend their title! In a few of our age groups, every participant obtained enough points to receive an award. The staff and volunteers at Deep Portage were so excited to be able to host Winter Rendezvous again, and we are already looking forward to next year! We hope to see you at future events! - Miranda Sater



Things to Do

Mondays

Hackensack Lions Meat Raffle, Hack Muni, 6pm
Open AA meeting, Union Congregational Church, 6pm
Every 3rd Monday, Mayor Bill's Tech Class, the HUB, 1-2pm

Wednesdays

AARP Tax Aide, the HUB, 9am -1pm; appointment only.
Please call Sally Knight at 314-420-2670
Free Community Meal, Union Congregational Church,
Served to-go, 4-5:30pm, Please call Sue at 218-820-3870 to
reserve meals
Every 3rd Wednesday, Dick's Acoustic Music Jam, Union
Congregational Church, 6-9pm, Bring your instrument,
songs, and come join in!

Thursdays

Meat Raffle, Hackensack American Legion, 6pm
Taco Thursday, American Legion, 4:30 - 8pm

Fridays

Burger Bar, Hackensack American Legion, 4-8pm
Trivia, Rendezvous Brewing, 6pm

Saturdays

Bingo, Rendezvous Brewing, 3pm

Other Stuff

Indoor Garage Sale, the HUB, April 22nd, 9am -1pm
Evening in Tuscany Spaghetti Dinner, Union Congregational
Church, April 26th, 5- 6:30pm.
Last Tuesday of the month, Celebrating all birthdays, with
live music, Hackensack American Legion, 4-6pm
Every Monday & Friday, Bone Builders, 1:30 to 2:30pm,
Union Congregational Church
Pickleball, Community Center, email Steve Norlin
at srnorlin@gmail.com for schedule
Community Garden for 2022 is a go! Email questions to
Karen Holle at karenholle@tds.net

Visit www.hackensackchamber.com for a full list of events.

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Lucette's Winter Photo Contest Winner

Congratulations to Jeff Finc, winner of the photo contest for the February edition of Lucette's Gazette! The photo was taken on Pleasant Lake in the winter of 2020. It isn't as colorful as many of our past winning photos (which oftentimes include brilliant sunsets), but it definitely exemplifies a typical winter day in our area. It creates an authentic feeling of cold, white, and expansive isolation! This winter has been very cold overall so far. That said, it is heartening to see the days get noticeably longer! When we see this photo again in a couple of months, we will undoubtedly breathe a sigh of relief that we have moved on to greener pastures. We hope you are enjoying this season, wherever you are. Thank you to everyone who submitted photos to Lucette's Gazette seventh photo contest! Even if they don't win the contest, photos are often used to accompany articles in the Gazette, which is always a welcome addition. They add energy and

creativity to our overall content. Photographers are always credited at the end of those articles.

The next issue of Lucette's Gazette will be coming out in June 2022. Entries are now being accepted for the next contest. The contest winner receives a \$50 cash prize. 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. One winner per newsletter.

How do you like Lucette's new layout? We think our publisher, Kim Hrubá, has done a fantastic job as she experiments with different styles, colors, and designs. Let us know what you think! See you out and about soon!
- Linda Ottman

Telling our stories together.



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