



Lucette's Gazette

News, updates, and happenings in our Hackensack Lakes Area - September 2023

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Message from Our Mayor

What a wonderful summer we have had in Hackensack. So many great events have happened like Spring Bike Fling, Sweetheart Days, Children's Fishing Contests, Flea Markets, Northwoods Arts

Council Art and Book Festival, and of course the Concert Series at the park. The concerts have seen up to 600 people come and listen to local and regional artists by the Birch Lake Beach amongst the setting sun. Upcoming events include Chainsaw Event and Mid-Winter Back to Hack.

There have been so many friends, family, and visitors in town. Compliments regarding the revitalized downtown have been flowing daily. Businesses have seen increased traffic. We welcome the re-opening of Sun and Fun and the recent return and re-opening of Stone Woman Herbals on First Street. We love our streets being full of activity.

The City of Hackensack applied for - and was granted - \$1.4 million dollars for water main infrastructure

improvements. The city plans to connect many of the dead-end lines together. This will improve water flow, allow for greater efficiency when needing to shut down certain sections for maintenance, and generally improve water quality for residents. The important part of this is that this allows Hackensack to do work that we otherwise could not afford. Part of this work should occur in 2024. The rest will happen in 2025.

The Highway 371 road project through town was postponed by the State of Minnesota until the summer of 2025. The reason cited for this was budget allocation, and is outside our control.

As we move towards fall, we look forward to the changing colors of the leaves, new flavors at the brewery, and your continued patronage downtown and in all our businesses. Thank you for being a part of Hackensack and its legacy.

- Bill

New Public Works Employee

My name is Colten Hicks. I'm from a small farm town in southwest Iowa. After graduating high school, I moved to Thief River Falls, MN for college and played baseball there for two years before transferring to Bemidji State University to work on my psychology degree. While attending college, I worked at a few different jobs, mostly at Campers' Paradise on Lake Belle Taine in Nevis, MN. Then I moved to Walker and worked for a landscaping company. Some of the hobbies I like to enjoy outside of work are building cars, going camping, and hiking with my dog. I've recently gotten into dirt track racing - a pure stock class with a friend - and have become really hooked on it.



Contact Us

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8:00 am – 4:30 pm

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SweetheartDays “Wildlife in Hack!”



Sweetheart Days 2023 was all about the “Wildlife in Hack!” In honor of Deep Portage Learning Center's 50th Anniversary. Lucette was so happy when everyone came out to help her celebrate Sweetheart Days in July! The week was jam packed with fun things for everyone to do. On Saturday, crafters displayed and sold their vast selection of homemade items. Fourteen cute little doggies entered the 7th Annual Dachshund Derby; placing first was Pudge, 2nd place went to Minnie, and 3rd place went to Oscar – who had been in the lead until he had other ideas.

People enjoyed the vehicles at the Car & Motorcycle Show. The People's Choice car trophy went to Mike Kohn with a 1967 Mustang, and the People's Choice motorcycle trophy went to Ross Forsberg with a 1970 Triumph. Later that evening hundreds of folks enjoyed the street dance featuring the Wayne Renn Band, and they danced until the fabulous fireworks began at dusk.

Congrats to all who participated in the Cornhole Tournament in the Park on Sunday. Twenty teams registered; 1st place Giddy Up, 2nd place Bags Deep, 3rd place Big Cat Fluffy Kitten.

This year Mother Nature tried again to spoil our parade on Tuesday, but everyone's perseverance won out! There were 37 entries; Judges' Choice color guard Jenkins VFW, the Church Lighthouse won for the religious float, and the Judges' Choice for the best float following the theme went to Forever Friends.



**Thank you to the
many sponsors
and volunteers
that made
Sweetheart Days
2023 a success. It
would not be
possible without
all of you!**



Business & Community

Stone Woman Herbals returns to Hackensack! After operating the health and wellness business in Walker, the owners of Stone Woman Herbals, Julie Rono and Halli Knutson, have relocated the storefront to Hackensack on First Street next to Rendezvous Brewery. The owners say the move will allow them to be more central to their customers. The mission of Stone Woman Herbals is to “provide natural health and wellness for the mind, body and soul” through products such as supplements, bulk herbs, essential oils, incense and body care, all of which are earth-friendly and without artificial additives. Services include classes on blending essential oils, and teas and consultative services on developing one’s own intuitive, empathic skills. In addition, Julie, a Reiki master, also offers healing energy work by appointment. She shares that even pets can benefit from Reiki for behavioral issues, aging or comfort and healing. Julie and Halli are excited to be back in Hackensack to take care of their customers and help with their health. Visit stonewomanherbals.com for hours of service and additional information. - Debra Skees



New Ownership for Mark's Market - YES! New ownership but no change to the store name, and all employees will stay on board, said new owners, John and Mary Carrier of Nevis. Who are John and Mary? In sitting down with them, they shared that they both had a background in the printing industry, having served 25 years in the business and raising their two children in Ramsey, MN. Both were looking for career changes and collectively decided to dip their toes in the grocery and food industry. Fast forward to June 2017, when they took ownership of the Northwoods Grocery & Cafe in Nevis, MN. In June 2023, they then took ownership of Mark's Market. When asking John how the sale came about, he said that he had called previous owner Mark Biessener “out of the blue” and simply asked if he had any interest in selling. Biessener had owned the store

for over 35 years. Prior to that, Jerry and Janet Carpenter were owners, under the name of Jerry's Red Owl. Over the years the store has grown from a small-scale convenience store to the 1997 large remodel, expansion, and footprint it has today. Hackensack welcomes John and Mary! Great things just continue to happen in our little town!

National Night Out - On August 1st the City of Hackensack hosted the annual local “National Night Out” event. Many people enjoyed the exhibits that were provided including face painting, games, exhibition by the Sheriff's Department of their canine unit and a helicopter fly-in by the Emergency and Rescue Service. A special thanks to the Hackensack Lions Club for the support in set up; providing free food and refreshments as well as the warm welcoming of our community members and guests. It was great to see the many families and young people enjoying the event.



Game Changers

Resilient Housing Team - After a great deal of work, the Housing Team is making good progress on the first planned housing project. A housing developer has been identified, that being Central Minnesota Housing Partnership. This developer has a great deal of experience in building and managing housing projects in our region. As a nonprofit their company does not focus on profit, but on delivering quality services at an affordable price. We are fortunate to be working with their organization. Land has been identified for a potential build site, and site control is anticipated within the next 30-60 days. Once the land is secured the financial requirements and a more specific construction plan for the project will be developed. The current plan is to build a 30-35 unit apartment building with garage parking. The site identified will easily be connected to city water and sewer.

Child Care Team - Construction is well underway in renovating the lower level of the UCC Church to become a child care POD. This first year the facility will support up to twelve children. We are in the process of enlisting the services of a provider, If you know of anyone that would like to make application please contact Gary Dietrich 612-801-3345. The hope is that the new business will be able to start operation in the next 30-60 days.



Cycling Without Age: *Wind in Your Hair, A Laugh in the Air*

Senior-living and differently-abled residents in Hackensack have access to a wonderful service providing free rides on a “trishaw,” a 3-wheeled electric bike with a carriage in front for up to 2 passengers. A trained “pilot” provides a 30 -minute, exhilarating, but work-free, cycling experience to the client on the journey of their choice, while enjoying Hackensack’s beautiful scenery.

“Cycling without Aging” originated in Denmark in 2017, and came to Cass County in the summer of 2020, through funding from various Walker organizations. The Hackensack Lions also recently contributed in support of the program. Simon Whitehead, Cass County Community Health Educator, spearheads the program and shares that about 60 rides are given each week to residents in the local area, amounting to approximately 300 kilometers traveled each season.

Because of the program’s popularity, Simon’s goal is to recruit additional pilots as well as donors to fund routine maintenance and repair of the trishaw and adding another trishaw to the fleet in the future. Contact Simon Whitehead at 952-220-1060 to learn more about becoming a trishaw pilot or donating to the Cycling Without Age program. - Debra Skees

Free Water Testing Event

Several community groups are collaborating together in a free Water Testing Event in Hackensack! This will be held in a booth at the Chainsaw Event on **Saturday, September 23rd, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** This clinic will be a free event staffed by volunteers. It is intended to help people determine if their drinking water is safe and if it is not, what to do next. We all know clean drinking water is vital for folks' health. During this clinic we can test ANY water for ANYBODY anonymously or, if desired, we can follow up with those who leave contact info. For the unfortunate souls that find their water is in trouble, we will provide vouchers for further laboratory testing, and remediation options will be available. Nitrate and chloride are the two contaminants we normally evaluate water for, as they are the bellwethers for human impacts on drinking water. All that is necessary is to bring a pint jar of water to the clinic. Feel free to round up water from your neighbors and bring in multiple water samples for testing. Results are usually available within minutes using the high quality equipment that the Toxic Taters group has purchased specifically for these events. Please bring your water sample in on that day!



Artists, Authors & Community

Northwoods Arts Council's Annual Art and Book Festival was held in Hackensack on August 12, and it did not disappoint. The caliber of authors and artists sharing their work, creations and stories was such a testament to the time and effort put in by this dedicated non-profit organization. Everyone in Hackensack should be proudly spreading the word that WE have the **longest running art and literature event in Minnesota**. Our lovely town is on fire! We are very proud of everything we have to offer including the obvious vibes of community spirit, pride and volunteerism. For those of you that were there, we hope the experience will live on in your memories as one of beauty, intellect, happiness, and energy, and you will mark your calendar for **next year's event on August 10, 2024**. Thank you to the **Five Wings Arts Council** and all the area businesses and non-profits for their support, whether financially or in-kind. It takes a village! - Lynn VanAllen



L - R: Frank Weber, forensic psychologist and author of 7 books, speaks on *Creative Crime Solving with Forensics* (35 authors covered a wide variety of genres), Pies by Guys, pottery by Richard Gruchalla & Carrin Rosetti, water tower photography by Jerry Eklund.

September 25th - Author Presentation - Marcie R. Rendon

Marcie R. Rendon is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation, author, playwright, poet, freelance writer and a community arts activist. Rendon supports other native artists / writers / creators to pursue their art, and is a speaker for colleges and community groups on Native issues, leadership, writing. Rendon is the author of the award winning Cash Blackbear crime novel series set in the Red River Valley and nearby reservations. Her latest book, *Sinister Graves*, was inspired by an isolated Idaho graveyard about 15 years ago. *Sinister Graves*, *Girl Gone Missing*, and *Murder on the Red River* all received prestigious recognition, published by Soho Press. She is working with Out of Hand Theater in Atlanta, Georgia to produce her script *Say Their Names* about missing and murdered Indian women. Rendon was listed in Oprah's 2020 list of 31 Native American Authors to read. She has received Minnesota's 2020 McKnight Distinguished Artist Award. *Pow Wow Summer*, a children's non-fiction was published by MN Historical Press, 2017. *Stitches of Tradition*, a children's picture book, will be published by Heartdrum 2024. Visit marcierendon.com for more information about the author and her books.



What: Author Presentation, *Writing Local: The Land, the People, the History*

When: Monday, SEPTEMBER 25 at 1:00pm

Where: United Congregational Church, Hackensack, MN

RSVP: Free admission but reservations are required at northwoodsartscouncil.org

Sponsored by Northwoods Arts Council and Hackensack Lions



Thank you for your service!



The Hackensack Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we have hired Chelsea Crimmins as the new Chamber Coordinator. Bonnie Dupre has been the Coordinator for the past 7 years and has done an excellent job!

A big thank you goes out to Bonnie for her history of service to our community, and her continued participation and engagement in Chamber work! The Hackensack Chamber of Commerce is organized to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the Hackensack area, so that its citizens and all areas of business shall prosper. All means of promotion shall be provided, and particular attention and emphasis shall be given to the economic, civil, commercial, cultural, industrial, and educational interests of the area. Join us in welcoming Chelsea!

From the Editor

Congratulations to Jeff Finc of Shoreview, Minnesota who submitted the winning photo, being the evening campfire by the lake. One of the judges commented, "I love the people element, and am wondering what they are chatting about. Also love the warm colors of the fire and the faces lighting up." Truly, campfires, stories, relaxing moments, and s'mores are a pretty vital piece of the Up North experience here in the Hackensack area. This photo embodies the tradition very well. Jeff has won a \$25 gift card to Rendezvous Brewing, valid for beverages or other merchandise. As our summer season quickly winds down, we still have the fall to look forward to, with probably the largest event being the Chainsaw Event on September 22-24. Hope to see you there! Take lots of pictures and share them with us with the next issue!

For *Lucette's Gazette* August 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 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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J. Michael Schwartz (Loons)

Marilyn Carter (Moccasin Flowers)

Hack Chamber (Bear Carvings)

Anne Cornell Mason (PB Trail)



Chainsaw Event

Sept. 22-24

Join us again this year as Hackensack hosts the popular Chainsaw Event, September 22-24, 2023. The 3-day event features artisans, food, family fun, and games. Twelve carvers will be sharing their art and competing together. The fun starts at 9 a.m. and goes until 5 p.m. Enjoy quick carves, chainsaw artist sculpting, and the well-loved All-American Lumberjack Show. As always, there will be an auction - on Saturday beginning at 2 p.m., and on Sunday at noon. The cost is still only \$5 per person which covers the entire 3 days. Kids 12 and under are free!



Fall Calendar

September

- 2 - Lakeside Concert Series - Rockin' Hill, 1-3pm
- 2 - Electronic Horse Racing at Hack Legion, 7pm
- 3 - Lions Pancake Breakfast, 8-11:30am
- 11 - Hackensack American Legion, Auxiliary & S.A.L. Meeting, 7pm
- 12 - Memory Cafe at Paws & Claws, 10:30am
- 17 - Hack Legion Auxiliary Breakfast, 8:30 - 11:30am
- 21 - The HUB Pot Luck Meeting, 12 - 1pm
- 22 - Faith in Action Fall Booya Fundraiser, 5pm
- 23 - Free Water Testing, Chainsaw Event, 9am - 5pm
- 23 - Hack Area Fire & Rescue Dept. Spaghetti Feed/Silent Auction, 4pm
- 23 - Electronic Horse Racing at Hack Legion, 7pm
- 24 - Live Auction Carvings, 12pm
- 25 - Author Presentation: Marcie Rendon, United Congregational Church, 1pm
- 26 - Birthday Tuesdays at the Hackensack American Legion, 4pm

October

- 1 - Lions Pancake Breakfast, 8-11:30am
- 10 - Memory Cafe at Paws & Claws, 10:30am
- 15 - Hack Legion Auxiliary Breakfast, 8:30 - 11:30am
- 19 - The HUB Pot Luck Meeting, 12 - 1pm
- 29 - Hackensack Legion SAL Breakfast, 8:30 - 11:30am
- 31 - Birthday Tuesdays at the Hackensack American Legion, 4pm
- 31 - Trick or Treat at the HUB, 5pm

Weekly Events

- Sundays - Hack Legion Meat Raffle, 5pm
- Mondays - Hackensack Lions Meat Raffle at the Muni, 5pm
- Wednesdays - Hackensack American Legion Progressive Bingo, 6pm
- Thursdays - Taco Thursday, 5pm & Meat Raffle, 6pm, Hack Legion
- Fridays - Burger Bar, Hack Legion, 4pm; Trivia, Rendezvous Brewing, 6pm
- Saturdays - Homemade Pizza Specials, Hackensack American Legion, 4pm



Community Newsletter

www.cityofhackensackmn.org
www.hackensackchamber.com

1-800-279-6932

Visit www.hackensackchamber.com for all events