



Lucette's Gazette



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

Hackensack First (1st) Street Project Planned to Begin in July

by Bill Kennedy, Mayor

Imagine walking down the First Street boardwalk in Hackensack shaded by beautiful trees on a warm sunny day. Neighbors sit outside around tables in front of local businesses sharing a meal or a drink, taking in the view of Birch Lake (now with fewer power lines.) The increase in paved downtown parking brings more visitors to enjoy our businesses. As darkness settles, fluted decorative lighting brightens your way and the street. The atmosphere is inviting and warm. Holiday banners, flags, and flowers are added for that special small town touch.

This is what I imagine for Hackensack as the First Street project gets underway this summer. The plan is to widen the business side (east) of the First Street sidewalk about 10 feet for a total of about 18 feet. The lake side (west) of First Street will move closer to the Paul Bunyan Trail about 20 feet. Both sides of the road will have diagonal parking. The driving width of the road will be two lanes. There will be a curb and gutter on the west side but, due to the proximity to the popular trail, will have no sidewalk. The current dirt parking lot will become green space.

Both sides of First Street and one side each of Whipple and Murray Avenues will get decorative LED lighting and new trees. (Due to existing overhead wires, business structures,



Rendering of First Street Boardwalk

and widths of roads, Whipple and Murray have challenges with placing lights on both sides of the road.) Thank you to Minnesota Power for their donation of an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station and installation. We analyzed placement options and settled on the parking lot across from the Hackensack Municipal next to the beautiful billboard map of the Hackensack area. We are installing new electrical lines for the two-block stretch in order to bury the streetside power lines while maintaining electrical access for events and vendors. We're also installing 3-phase electrical for our future needs.

The main purpose of this project is to replace the old water mains—cast iron pipes that are aging and breaking— with modern standards. This will improve water quality throughout Hackensack. Because First Street, Whipple and Murray Avenues are all county roads, Cass County is a collaborative partner. The County is helping to repave the roads, install new curbs and gutters, and install ADA-compliant sidewalks and corners. Work includes the area looping in a U-shape from the water



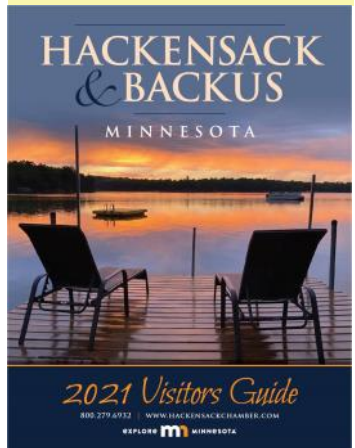
NEW!

E-bikes for rent!

See page 5 for more info.
(Dog not included.)

What's New

- **Sun-n-Fun** will be open for Summer 2021!
- **Sweetheart Days**, July 9—17
- **Bear Pause Movie Theater** will open in June
- **New trees and lighting** planned for **downtown**
- **Josh Duffee** Concert, July 10
- **Jeff Finc**, spring photo contest winner!



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City of Hackensack News

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

First Street Project Plans Underway *(Continued from page 1)*



Mayor Bill Kennedy

tower (also being re-painted/ repaired) to First Street and back around Whipple to the bank. There are other ancillary areas being replaced as well. You might ask, why isn't Lake Avenue getting a complete redo? Simply put, Lake Avenue isn't a county road. Only the area of the road where the water mains lie will be excavated and replaced. A

complete resurfacing of Lake Avenue is outside the scope of this project.

Work is planned to start after Sweetheart Days and continue into September and October. The estimated cost of the water main/road/sidewalk work is \$1.4 million. Due to cost sharing with the County and a USDA grant both for \$600,000, the cost to Hackensack citizens is approximately \$200,000. The City Council, in collaboration with the Game Changers and a sub-committee of council members, city employees, Lynn Van Allen, local businesses, Miranda Sater, and Moore Engineering, worked on the plan for decorative lighting, trees, and the new electrical plan. The estimated cost to install the lighting, trees, and new electrical is approximately \$300,000. We believe we will be able to finance this project from existing savings and profits from liquor store sales. This infrastructure investment in Hackensack will make our town more inviting to our local residents, area residents, visitors, and businesses looking to invest here.

New Pedestrian Crossing - Safety - Safety - Safety

by Simon Whitehead, Cass County Health & Nutrition SHIP Educator

Along the 371 highway corridor, Hackensack is the only city not to have some kind of controlled pedestrian crossing - either a stoplight or a pedestrian controlled crosswalk. That will change this spring, thanks to the foresight of the Hackensack Game Changers through the Clean Energy Team and city officials. In May, a lighted, blinking crosswalk and new reflective paint will be installed on 371 in Hackensack. With advice from the Clean Energy Team, the City Council chose a solar-powered unit. This will be especially beneficial when the reconstruction happens in 2024 as the crosswalk will have to be moved at that time. With more folks heading north during the pandemic, traffic on Highway 371 has increased. This crosswalk system will make it easier to cross the highway safely, especially for the elderly, the physically challenged, and family units. It will feature push button activation, flashing lights around a 36-inch yellow sign, and verbal instruction to cross with care. The crosswalk will be installed by Dana Stanko, Hackensack Public Works Superintendent, and his team. Funding has been provided by the Cass County SHIP grant. The exact location in Hackensack will be finalized in the coming days.



2020 Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Report

by Dana Stanko, Public Works Superintendent



April 14, 2020—The 2020 Consumer Confidence Drinking Water Report will

not be mailed. Copies will be available upon request at the Hackensack City Hall, 208 First Street North, Hackensack MN, 56452, and also found on the City of Hackensack website cityofhackensackmn.org. For more information, call Dana Stanko at 218-820-0823.



Hackensack Happenings

- Providing fun for everyone. -



Weekly Meat Raffle

Hackensack American Legion, 6pm, Thursdays

Test your Trivia

Rendezvous Brewing, 5:30pm, Tuesdays (Check Facebook)
Hackensack American Legion, 7pm, Wednesdays



Taco Thursdays

Hackensack American Legion, 5pm



Community Breakfasts

Lions Pancake Breakfast, 7:30-11am, First Sunday of the month
American Legion Auxiliary Breakfast, 8:30-11:30am, Third Sunday of the month



Flea Market, Crafts & Art Sales

June 9, July 14, August 11, Sacred Heart Flea Market & Craft Sale, 8-3pm

June 9-12, Union Congregational Church Treasure Sale, 10-2pm

July 10, Lucette's 1st Annual Arts & Craft Fair, 11-5pm, City Park

Lending Library Book Sale, 9-2pm



24th Annual Kids Fishing Contest

Every Tuesday from June 8 through August 10 at 11 a.m. at the Birch Lake Peninsula/Dock. Ages 2-15. Children need only a fishing rod and life jacket. Bait provided.

Minnow races and casting contest. Prizes, hot dogs, and pop for everyone.



Birch Lake July 4th Boat Parade

Parade begins at the channel between Big and Little Birch travelling counterclockwise around Little Birch arriving at the city dock around 1 p.m. then continues around Little Birch and into Big Birch.



Sweetheart Days, July 9-17

July 9, Spaghetti Dinner, 5pm, Union Congregational Church

July 10, Author Meet & Greets: Julie Jo Larson, 11am; Lisa Cassman, 1pm

Car & Motorcycle Show, 1pm

BBQ at the Fire Hall, 2pm

Josh Duffee Jazz Quartet, 5pm

Fireworks at dusk.

July 11, Cornhole Tournament, 1pm
Horseshoe Tournament, 1pm

July 13, Sweetheart Parade, Lineup starts at 4:30pm at the south end of First Street. Pet parade at 5:30pm

Regular parade at 6pm.

July 17, All School Reunion, Fireworks over Birch Lake at dusk.



Pickleball League

Pickleball has resumed at the Hackensack Community Center with proof of two Covid vaccinations and some indoor restrictions. Visitors are welcome. Play is limited to 12 players. Sign up online at Playtime Scheduler. Contact Steve at srnorlin@gmail.com for questions.

Lakeside Concert Series

June 1—Aug 27, 5-7pm, Fridays, Birch Lake Park Pavilion (except July 9)

September 4, Rockin' Hill, 1-3pm, Birch Lake Park Pavilion.



25th Annual Northwoods Arts & Book Festival

August 14, 9-3pm. With 50 creative artists and over 30 authors, this unique festival is the longest running art and literature event in Minnesota. A featured presentation "Unfolding Foundation: Finding Inspiration and Renewal Where We Are" by Elisa Korenne, writer, songwriter, and performing artist will start at 11am at Union Congregational Church. Music by Wayne and the Boys, a children's art tent, food trucks, and craft brews from Rendezvous Brewery. Don't forget to get a slice of pie from the "Church Pie Ladies."



Elisa Korenne

For detailed information about all of Hackensack's events, visit our website's calendar of events at www.hackensackchamber.com or give us a call at 218-675-6135.



**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 Spring Update & Public Meeting Announcement

by Matt Kallroos, Regional Development Planner, Region Five Development Commission

The Hackensack local planning team has been hard at work the last several months defining goals and strategies for the comprehensive plan update. There is now a preliminary review taking place of the initial draft of the comprehensive plan. The planning team is now about three-quarters of the way through the comprehensive planning process.

The March planning team meeting focused on developing goals and strategies for the "Critical Infrastructure" and "Community Character" components. These goals and strategies, along with the goals that were developed for other portions of the plan since December 2020, have been incorporated into an initial rough draft of the plan. This plan was presented to the local planning team on Monday, April 26th for review and comments. Staff then

incorporated the local planning team's additions and revisions and began formatting the rough draft into a plan draft. As was mentioned in the last update, the local planning team will be hosting a public informational meeting for community area members to review and comment on the draft plan Monday, May 24th. Input regarding the draft plan is welcomed and encouraged. For more information on ways to review and comment on the draft plan, please visit the Region Five website at: www.regionfive.org/hackensack.

A big continued thank you to the local planning team that has put a lot of great effort into this process! The dedication and ideas (even via Zoom!) are bountiful with this group. The primary objective is to develop a good plan for our community area and provide a "roadmap" for a bright future with clear goals and actions steps.

For updates, timeline, and meeting notes from the City of Hackensack's Comprehensive Plan process, go to www.regionfive.org/hackensack. If you have questions, reach out to Tad Erickson at terickson@regionfive.org or call 218-894-3233, Ext. #7.



Photo credit: DeeDee Rauchbauer, Stony Lake

Summer Fun on Recreational Trails

For family recreation—hiking, running, biking, and rollerblading are popular forms of travel and fun on the Paul Bunyan Trail which runs directly through the heart of Hackensack. This paved recreational trail offers relatively flat terrain along its entirely paved 112 miles. It winds through woodlands and around peaceful lakes offering great wildlife and nature sighting opportunities. It intersects with the Heartland Trail in Walker, which is another former railroad line converted to paved trail that runs 47 miles from Park Rapids to Walker. Together, they offer over 150 miles of fabulous recreation!

Mileage

Hackensack to Backus (south)	- 7.5 miles
Hackensack to Pine River (south)	- 17 miles
Hackensack to Jenkins (south)	- 22 miles
Hackensack to Crow Wing State Park (south)	- 61 miles
Hackensack to Walker (north)	- 23 miles
Hackensack to Laporte (north)	- 34.6 miles
Hackensack to Bemidji (north)	- 52 miles



Hackensack Businesses

- Celebrating our area's unique small businesses. -

No Need to Travel for International Flavor

by Debra Skees

Charng Thai continues to satisfy cravings for Thai food in Hackensack. Ann (Sukanya Thongdonnak) and husband Peel (Warphob Boonsrikit), along with her brother, Art (Sithichai Thongdonnak), have taken over the family-founded restaurant, formerly known as Udom's. Re-opened on April 6th, the family continues to use many of the well-loved family recipes, while adding their own recipe influences from their travel experiences.

Charng (pronounced ch-arng) is the Thai word for elephant, the national animal of Thailand known for its strength, kindness, and friendliness. The elephant on the sign represents Charng's desire to serve authentic Thai taste with friendly services. They serve made-from scratch, made-to-order, fast-and-fresh entrees, allowing the customer to decide their own level of spiciness. "Drunken Noodles" is fast becoming a customer favorite with more new menu options in the future.

The restaurant is eco-friendly and environmentally conscious. It uses recyclable, compostable, and biodegradable packaging for both indoor and outdoor



Charng Thai owners (from left): Art, Ann, and Peel

seating which also lends to the authentic "Thai street food" dining experience. Domestic and imported beers along with sake and wine are available to accompany your meal and quench your thirst.

The restaurant's hours are seasonal. Current summer hours are **Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 3 pm and 4:30 pm until 9 pm**. Check out Charng's menu online by visiting the [Charng Thai Restaurant Facebook](#) page. Menu items and pictures are available to whet your appetite. Charng Thai is located at 106 State 371 S, or call 218-675-5513 for take-out/pick-up orders.



e-Bikes For Hire!

by Ally Garbe

Do you dare to explore or have the desire to go the extra mile? Then one of our Rambo Electric Bikes is for you!

Welcome! We're Bill and Lisa Garbe, residents of Woman Lake for over three decades. Over the years, we've grown our business, Northlakes Marine & Auto, while raising our two children. We chose Hackensack as our home because we loved the raw wilderness, pristine lakes, and freedom of stepping off our doorstep into nature.

As kids became adults, we found we had time to fill for ourselves. (Self-care is crucial.) That's when we found our first pair of Rambo Electric Bikes. With pedal assist, we were able to conquer the outdoors like never before! On a full battery, you can travel up to 20 miles with mild pedaling. On- or off-road, wherever you want to go, your



Enjoy an e-ride on the Paul Bunyan Trail

Rambo e-bike will get you there.

We have a variety of e-bikes for rent or purchase for all riding styles and exploration events. Planning on going off the beaten path? We can help! Ask about accessories, additional batteries, area adventures, and options for weekend rentals. We have satchels, gear carts, and tents available to boost your travels.

We have two rental locations: 3605

Highway 317 in the Heartland Center on the north end of Hackensack or 499 County Road 5 NW at Northlakes Marine & Auto. To get started on your e-bike journey, grab a rental and hop straight on the Paul Bunyan State Trail. This includes 49 miles of pavement and connects to the Heartland State Trail! With a Rambo e-bike, an extra 123 miles of trails is a breeze! Visit northlakeselectricbikes.com or call 218-682-2008 or 218-820-1006.



Beautiful Hackensack

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



New Trees Coming to Town!

by Miranda Sater

This summer is going to be a very busy time here in Hackensack! The Downtown Street Project will be kicking off this summer. There are a lot of parts to this project, but the one I'm personally most excited about is the addition of 25 trees in our downtown area. There will be 16 trees total on First Street. The trees will be two different species, Sienna Glen maple and American linden, with eight trees on each side. The two different species will rotate every other as you go down the street. The side streets, Murray and Whipple, will also be gaining some trees. Each side street will get four Profusion crabapples. These particular species of crabapple do not drop their fruit in the fall and provide a food supply for several species of birds in the downtown area without creating too much of a mess. There will also be a Japanese lilac planted in the park area across the street. This tree's beautiful blooms display in June.

All of these trees will be installed sometime between August and October, once the construction has been completed, which will reduce the chance of damage to the trees. The trees have already been selected and set aside at Heartland Nursery in Brainerd and are ready to be planted when the construction is complete.

We know that the trees will add beauty to the downtown revitalization project, along with shade to help keep Hackensack looking and feeling cool. As the trees grow, we will all get to witness them growing taller and stronger!

The City of Hackensack has also been approved for another AmeriCorps forestry worker for a second year. This person will begin at the end of August 2021 and stay until July 2022. This worker will continue the projects that were begun this year and will create many more projects of their own in both the City of Hackensack and at Deep Portage Learning Center.

I am so excited to see all of the changes in Hackensack over the summer, especially the upgrade of the downtown area!

Brighter Days Ahead

by Lynn VanAllen,
Hackensack Game Changers

The idea of incorporating decorative lighting in Hackensack began several years ago as a result of the original creation of Hackensack Game Changers. The organization divided into groups to determine how we could collectively make Hackensack a more vibrant and appealing community.

I've always been a fan of those decorative light poles in other small towns across Minnesota. You know the ones. Light poles with the American flags waving proudly or displaying a big basket of colorful flowers. Some have their unique town flag as well. One cannot help but notice how lovely and appealing decorative lamp posts look. It gives the impression of civic pride and may entice travelers to stay awhile and see what the town is all about.

We'll get excited, because this idea is coming to fruition as the result of not only the forward-thinking Hackensack City Council but the timely need for two road projects coming up in 2021 and 2024. What a perfect time for decorative lighting to be part of the plan.

Whether you're a full-time resident of Hackensack, a seasonal property owner, or just driving through town, this piece of the beautification puzzle will be a much anticipated way to shine a light (pun intended) on this wonderful community. Thank you to the Hackensack City Council, Game Changers, and all the people that never gave up on this idea!



Lucette is going to the State Fair!

The City of Hackensack will be featured at the GreenStep City booth at the Minnesota State Fair!





Unique Hackensack Finds

- Celebrating our area's valued assets. -

Itching to join an ATV club?

The Woodtick Wheelers is a family-oriented ATV club with 300 members. Organized in 2009 as a 501(c)(7) nonprofit, it's named after the Woodtick Trail, a 15-mile Forest Road that runs from Highway 371 north of Hackensack east to County 5 near Longville.

In addition to holding regular club rides, the Woodticks are a great



asset to the local area. The club brings its ATV Safety Education to community events (pictured), and holds ATV Safety Training classes so youths ages 11-15 can obtain their ATV Safety Certificate. Its many DNR-trained Trail Ambassadors monitor trails on the weekends, handing out maps and reporting hazards such as downed trees. Its Search & Rescue ATV Team is on call with the Cass County Sheriff's Department to assist when needed.

The club welcomes new members of all ages who enjoy riding ATVs. For more information on its 2021 club rides and events, trail projects and how to join, contact club president Dave Halsey at dvhalsey@gmail.com or visit WoodtickWheelers.com.



Foothills State Forest Ride—To join a ride, visit WoodtickWheelers.com



Lending Library

by Maggie McGill

Our beloved historic log cabin library opens on June 1. **Hours are 10:00**

a.m.—2:00 p.m., Monday—Saturday though August; only Saturdays in September. No library card is needed. Masks are required and sanitizer is available. The highlight of the summer is our **Annual Library Book Sale on Saturday, July 10** at Faith in Action during Sweetheart Days. Since many of you were enthusiastic readers during the winter, we invite you to donate books to the library. The library is staffed by a group of dedicated library volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, call Maggie McGill at 218-682-2224 or 515-210-9028. We look forward to new and old friends!



Deep Portage Learning Center

Camps offered this summer are Forkhorn

I and II Camps, Upland Bird Camp, and Izaak Walton League Camp. There are 5 Forkhorn Camps. They begin in mid-June and end in late July. There is one camp offered exclusively for girls, the others are mixed. The Upland Bird Camp is in early August, and the Izaak Walton League Camp is in mid-August. The camps are offered at lower capacity numbers this year but are still scheduled to be held. That said, please check DPLC's website to verify that pandemic statistics don't change the scheduled camps. A tour of renewable energy systems is also possible at Deep Portage - just call to request and schedule a tour (218) 682-2325 or www.deep-portage.org

Churches

Lighthouse Evangelical Free Church

Sunday worship at 9 a.m.

224 State 371 N, 218-675-5882

www.thelighthousehackensack.com

Union Congregational UCC

Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.

401 Lake Avenue E, 218-675-6300

Pastor Torri Vande Zande

www.unioncchackensack.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday worship at 9 a.m.

220 Third Street, 218-675-6335

Pastor Bob Rusert

www.stpaulselcahackensack.org

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Sunday worship at 8:30 a.m., 3rd,

4th, & 5th Saturdays at 4 p.m.

230 State 371 N, 218-547-1054.

Fr. Timothy Lange

www.stagnesandsacredheart.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church

Saturday worship at 11 a.m.

208 First Street S, 218-675-5085.

Pastor Joel Kratzke

hackensackmn.adventistchurch.org

Lucette Photo Contest Winner & Survey Results

by Linda Ottman

Congratulations to Jeff Finc, winner of the photo contest for the June edition of *Lucette's Gazette*! The photo was taken on Pleasant Lake in July of 2020.

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos to *Lucette's Gazette* third photo contest! Photo submissions are sometimes used to accompany articles in the Gazette and photographers have been credited at the end of those articles.

The next issue of *Lucette's Gazette* will be coming out in August 2021. 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.

Thank you to those who participated in our survey. We had an excellent response. On a scale of 1 to 10, *Lucette's Gazette* earned a rating of 9 out of 10 in terms of content quality, economic value, and effective community engagement. The readership is estimated to be 2,500, and we expect it to grow.

- Overall impression of the newsletter: 9.43 out of 10
- Overall economic value: 8.38 out of 10
- Overall value and effectiveness: 9.18 out of 10
- Overall value continuing the *Gazette*: 9.47 out of 10

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To receive an e-copy of *Lucette's Gazette* email Linda at
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Telling our stories together

**Community
Newsletter**

June 2021

www.cityofhackensackmn.org
www.hackensackchamber.com

1-800-279-6932