



Lucette's Gazette

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



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MAKING MEMORIES FOR 70 YEARS



Bill Kennedy

Message from Our Mayor

Welcome back to Hackensack where spring has finally sprung. Have you had a chance to check out our new lights downtown? We think they really brighten up the town and provide a cozy but modern feel.

The question we get the most right now is: "When are we going to finish the construction project from last year?" We are just waiting for the road restrictions to lift and the crew to be able to come to town. We have a list of items to repair, replace, or finish. We also plan to replicate some of the work done on this project onto the Highway 371 project in 2024 with lighting and trees along the boulevard.

We have installed a new Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station in the parking lot across from the Municipal Bar. We look forward to the increase in electric car traffic into town. New solar-powered crosswalks will be installed across Hwy 371 on Lake Ave. and at Mann Lake Bee & Ag Supply across County 40 this spring. We have great teams working on the housing and

daycare shortage in our area. This is not an easy one to solve; it takes investors, time, and money.

I'd like to welcome and introduce Bruce Reeve (pictured) as our newly appointed Council Person. He is a great addition to our council bringing his great love of Hackensack and years of experience in the printing industry as a maintenance engineer. He enjoys fishing, outdoor activities, and spending time with his family and grandkids. He has been a great asset to our community.

We have some great events coming up this spring, summer, and fall. We will have a dedication ceremony to the new construction project with a ribbon cutting, Sweetheart Days, Children's Fishing Contests, Lakeside Concert Series in the Park, Northwoods Art & Book Festival, Pork in the Park, and the Chainsaw Event. Hackensack has so much to offer, we hope you come to town and participate in all the fun.



Sweetheart of a Town

The Hackensack Chamber of Commerce proudly serves the Hackensack, Backus and surrounding area businesses. The Chamber in conjunction with the City obtained a grant to build the current Visitor's Center adjacent to the Paul Bunyan Trail. The Visitor's Center provides informational brochures and area information to visitors and residents alike. Visitors stop in to find out where to go and what to do and find out about all of the Hackensack Area happenings.

The Chamber advances the general welfare and prosperity of the Hackensack area, so that its citizens and all areas of business shall prosper. All means of promotion is provided, and particular attention is given to the economic, civil, commercial, cultural, industrial, and educational interests of the Area.

We promote our members in many ways: social media, visitor guides, *Hackensack Happenings* brochure, and the old fashioned "word of mouth" marketing to thousands of visitors a year. Membership is open to businesses, individuals, and nonprofit organizations and are listed on our website and in our annual Visitor's Guide. The guide is available locally, and distributed at the Mall of America and 43 other visitor centers throughout the surrounding states.

The Chamber helps organize events like Back to Hack (January), Sweetheart Days (July), and the Chainsaw Event (September) co-hosted with the City, Hackensack Lions, and Hackensack American Legion. These events let local businesses interact with travelers while showcasing Hackensack as a friendly and attractive "Sweetheart of a Town!"

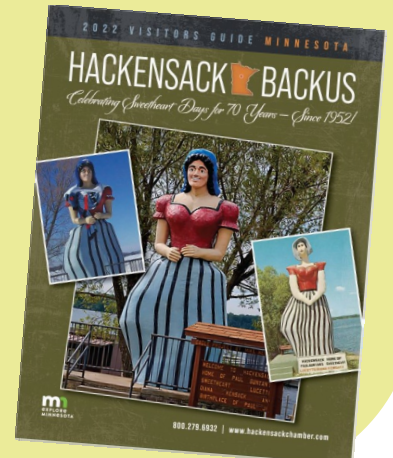
- Bonnie Dupre

Get Your 2022 Visitor Guide!

www.cityofhackensackmn.org

www.hackensackchamber.com

1-800-279-6932



Sweetheart Days 2022

MAKING MEMORIES FOR 70 YEARS

JULY 8-14

Friday, July 8

5:00 - 7:00pm, Izaak Walton League
Spaghetti Fundraiser, UCC Church
7:00pm, Horse Racing, American Legion
7:30pm, Josh Duffee and his Big Band,
Community Building*

Saturday July 9

9:00am - 4:00pm - Book Sale,
Hackensack Lending Library
10:00 - 12:00pm - Meet Author Barbara
Schlichting, City Park*
11:00 - 5:00pm - Sweetheart Craft Fair,
City Park
12:00pm - 6th Annual Sweetheart Days
Dachshund Derby, City Park
12:00 - 3:00pm - Silent Auction
Fundraiser, American Legion
1:00 - 3:00pm - Meet Author TJ Jones,
City Park*
1:00 - 4:00pm - Car and Motorcycle
Show, City Park
4:00 - 7:00pm - BBQ, Hackensack Area
Fire & Rescue Dept.
7:30pm - Josh Duffee and his Big Band,
Community Building*
7:00pm - Street Dance

Fabulous Fireworks at Dusk!

Sunday, July 10

2:00pm - Horseshoe Games,
City Park
2:00 - 4:00pm - Cornhole
Tournament, City Park
5:00pm - Meat Raffle,
American Legion

Monday, July 11

5:00pm - Hackensack Lions
Meat Raffle, Hackensack Muni

Tuesday, July 12

11:00am - 12:30pm - Kids
Fishing Contest,
25th Anniversary!
11:30am - 2:00pm - Kids' in
the Park Games, City Park*
5:30pm - 2nd Annual
Pet Parade
6:00pm - Sweetheart
Days Parade

Wednesday, July 13

8:00am - Flea Market & Craft
Sale, Sacred Heart Church
3:00pm - Author Norrie
Thomas Meet & Greet,
the HUB

Thursday, July 14

9:00am - 12:00pm - The
Hackensack Cafe Adventures
with author Norrie Thomas,
kids' scavenger hunt &
cookout to follow (ages K-5th
grade), UCC+ RSVP is
appreciated, register at
unionucchackensack.com.
5:30pm - Raffle Drawing,
American Legion
6:00pm - Meat Raffle,
American Legion

Additional sponsors include
* Northwoods Arts Council
± Hackensack Legion Auxiliary
+ UCC and the Lending Library



SCAN ME





On June 25th 2022, the Spring Bike Fling comes to Hackensack! Expect at least 100 cyclists to roll in to Hackensack starting at around 11:00am. The Hackensack Chamber is supporting this event, the primary sponsor being the Leech Lake Area Chamber. Rendezvous Brewing will be a host site for the group while in Hackensack, and the Northwoods Arts Council is providing live music (Wayne & the Boys) underwritten by the Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation. Members of the community foundation, arts council and the Hackensack Lions will provide hosting services to our guests! Beverages will be available at Rendezvous and our Community Foundation will have tasty food for sale.

Bike Friendly Walker named this year's event "To Hack and Back." This is the third annual event. The first took place in 2019, was interrupted in 2020 by COVID, and hosted almost

one hundred participants in 2021. The event concludes in Walker at Portage Brewing.

There will be three possible biking distances to choose from: 24 miles (straight down the Shingobee connection); 48 miles (follow the Walker Loop there and back); and 36 miles (a combination of both). A free Family Bike Ride (2 miles) is also included starting at 10:30am. All registered cyclists will start at 10:00 am from the Walker City Park. Entrants will receive a swag bag courtesy of Cass County LiveHealthy. The bag will be full of information, maps, emergency numbers, a commemorative medallion, gifts and coupons from local businesses. Some selected bags will contain special prizes (such as a full meal at a local restaurant OR a full day rental from Rambo Electric Bikes). A ribbon-cutting ceremony of First Street in Hackensack will also take place. This will be great exercise and a really fun filled day. Thanks to our neighbors in Hackensack for rolling out the red carpet! - *Simon Whitehead*

Register at www.bikereg.com/spring-bike-fling

In April of 2020, the city of Hackensack officially became a GreenStep city, joining what is now a network of 143 cities and four tribal nations that together encompass over 52% of all Minnesotans.

GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations is a program that supports communities in reaching their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. It defines Best Practices for sustainability, and communities can choose actions to take from menus under each Best Practice. GreenStep measures a community's sustainability journey using "steps." Step 1 is achieved simply by having its city or tribal council pass a resolution to join GreenStep. Steps 2 and 3 are achieved by reporting different actions, and Steps 4 and 5 emphasize reporting metrics. GreenStep is completely voluntary, and communities can advance through the program at their own pace with support from GreenStep and its partners.

So what sort of things has Hackensack done as a GreenStep city?

You might be familiar with Hackensack's community garden in the Bonna Paulson park. The garden provides 20 plots, water, and storage, uses no-till practices, and doesn't allow for pesticides or herbicides. (See article on page 7.) That's a GreenStep action! So is the 2021 First Street Reconstruction, which included new sidewalks, improved pedestrian safety, bump-outs, 25 diverse trees, decorative LED street lighting, an EV charger, and stormwater management. With a total of 23 actions from 13 best practices, Hackensack will be formally recognized as a Step 2 city in June 2022. Congratulations!

- **Emily Hartwell** | Minnesota GreenCorps Member



Business & Community

Opening/Re-Openings - Two new businesses are operating in the building that formerly housed Lucette's Pizza. Nikki Loukota and her husband, Randy, have been working hard renovating and supplying a beautiful home decor shop. **Second Home** is a secondhand store with a boutique feel. They have a great variety of high quality home decor at very reasonable prices. Nikki is continually rotating in new merchandise including end tables, lamps, wall hangings, throw pillows, and dishes. Meanwhile, Ron and Melanie Burns are operating **Blue Ox Coffee Roastery**, a licensed wholesale coffee roastery in the back of the building. Ron has been supplying the coffee for Walker Bay Coffee Co, owned by the Burns' daughters. The roastery won't be open to the public at this time, but coffee will be available at Second Home. **Happy Pizza** is now open for dine in or pick up. **Bear Pause Theater** reopens Friday, May 27th. - *Melanie Burns*



Hackensack Dog Park Update - The committee is confident "THIS IS OUR YEAR" to build the first and only fenced dog park in Cass County. We have raised over \$10,000, well on our way to the \$16,000 needed to build. Look for us at all flea markets and art and craft shows in Hackensack. We have partnered with Rendezvous Brewing and are handcrafting the very popular dog treats from the spent grains from the brewing process. These grains are very high in protein and are an extra healthy addition to a dog's diet. We sell dog kerchiefs to dress up your dog's look and also doggy bags to carry their stuff or your groceries! Be sure to look for the new Bonna Paulson Wildlife Observatory signage on the corner of the UCC property by the entrance to the park. The sign gives interesting history on Bonna herself and a map of the mileage for the trails. The dog park will be built right across from the community garden. Please take a walk this spring in the park. It is beautiful! If anyone wants to donate to the park or join this fun committee, call Linnea at 612-810-3407. - *Linnea Dietrich*

Classy Street Lamps Light Up - Approximately 4 years ago, Hackensack Game Changers learned that a redo was forthcoming of some local streets including the widening of sidewalks along the businesses on 1st Street South. Since the Hackensack Game Changers mission is "to work on projects for the benefit and wellbeing of the community," this seemed to be a perfect time to incorporate decorative lampposts as part of the plan. We are so excited to announce that Hackensack now has 20 new, beautiful decorative LED lampposts in place. Now, we are launching the next phase which is to adorn the lampposts with LED pre-lit snowflakes for display November through March. These snowflakes are made in the USA by Temple Outdoor Décor and come with a 6-year warranty. We hope for financial support from local organizations, lake associations, businesses, churches and civic-minded community members. Our goal of raising \$10,000 will complete the project. Hackensack Game Changers is requesting your generosity to "Bring the Snowflakes to Hackensack." Please consider a donation to this community-minded effort. Checks can be made payable to *Hackensack Game Changers* and are tax-deductible. Write "Seasonal Decorations" in the memo line and mail to: PO Box 435, Hackensack, MN 56425. Please direct questions to Lynn VanAllen, 952-292-0198. Thank you for supporting this worthy project for the Hackensack community! - *Lynn VanAllen*

NEW OPENING



Blue Ox Coffee Roastery & Second Home

201 Hwy 371 S

Call for hours

Happy Pizza

Dine in or Take out

144 1st Street South

218-675-7777

RE-OPENING



Bear Pause Theater

located in Hackensack on County
Road 5, just one block east off of

Highway 371

218-675-5373

bearpausetheater.com





Submissions Open!

Welcoming submissions from poets of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Milles Lacs, Todd, Wadena, Hubbard, Beltrami, Itasca and Aitkin Counties. Up to three poems may be submitted and may include previously published poems. Eleven poems will be selected for display on decorated Poetry Safari stands throughout the Northwoods Art & Book Festival. Festival-goers will have the opportunity to go on a scavenger hunt in search of poems written by regional poets. This is a family-friendly festival with authors, artists, musicians and food vendors. The Northwoods Art & Book Festival is August 13, 2022 from 9am-3pm, on Lake Avenue, east of Highway 371 in Hackensack. Your poem, if selected, will be part of a Rainforest Jungle Safari-type display (Pictured above.) The available space for your title and poem is 8.5" x 11" the size of a standard sheet of paper. You may format your poem yourself and send it to us as a PDF file, or you can send us the title and poem in an email and we can drop it into our template here. Festival-goers will have a lot to experience at the Book and Art festival. We encourage you to submit poetry that touches on your experience of the Northwoods. Your poem should be easy to read on a single 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper. We also invite you to include contact information and link(s) to the online presence for your poetry. Submit by June 15th, 2022 to kokoropoets@gmail.com. Poetry Safari is a joint project of Northwoods Arts Council and the Kokoro Center for Music and the Performing Arts.



Summer Music Returns To Hackensack

Thanks to Northwoods Arts Council, 10 free summer concerts return to Hackensack beginning on June 17, Friday, 5PM - 7PM down at the beach on the shores of Birch Lake. Various genres of music will fill the air including, rock, country, Cajun, folk and jazz. Grab your lawn chairs, coolers, or take-out from local restaurants and "picnic in the park" while enjoying music, family, friends and community in such an idyllic setting. Rendezvous Brewing will again have your favorite beer on tap.

World renowned percussionist Josh Duffee returns July 8 and 9 with his 15- piece Big Band and "Sinatra" singer Jason Richards for two nights of exceptional music. Get your tickets before they are gone. Tickets are now available on our website: northwoodsartscouncil.org and will be available at Swanson's and Southside beginning June 1. Band members have played for some of the biggest names in music, but love coming to Hackensack. They bring big-city entertainment to us so we can bring it to our audiences at small-town prices.

Last but not least, Wayne and the Boys return to the Art and Book Festival August 13, to perform from 9AM-3PM - by the big top tent beer garden. Wayne is an inductee in the Legends of South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame, and his outstanding talent will put a smile on your face at Minnesota's longest running art and literature festival.

Thank you to all of our supporters including Five Wings Arts Council, Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation, Hackensack Lions Club, Sourcewell, Itasca Mantrap, and the generous donations from community minded members. Get ready for a fun summer of music, music, music.

- Lynn VanAllen



Sweetheart Days Authors



Barbara Schlichting - July 9 from 11:00-1:00pm, NAC tent
Author of the White House Dollhouse mystery series plus other genres including fiction and historical fiction, Schlichting lives in Bemidji, MN and is a retired teacher. She is a long-standing member of the Midwest chapter of the Sisters in Crime group and Mystery Writers of America. She is a frequent participant at the Northwoods Art and Book Festival.



T.J. Jones - July 9 from 1:00-3:00pm, NAC tent
A Minnesota author, writing mystery and suspense with a side of romance, Jones is an active member of the local writing community and the president of the Lakes Area Writers Alliance. He has written eight books that are character driven, deal with contemporary themes, and are a blend of genre and literary fiction.

Community Garden

Started two years ago as part of the SHIP program, the **Hackensack Community Garden** gives people who don't have access to gardening basics a chance to rent a plot of land and garden in the company of others. Hackensack emphasizes natural gardening practices, meaning that no insecticides, herbicides or fungicides are allowed. With minimal soil disturbance, the ground isn't tilled and no chemicals are used. Instead, mulch, cover crops, and pioneer plants utilization are part of what makes this type of gardening work. Only natural fertilizers - wood ash from Deep Portage Learning Center's wood gasification heating system and pelletized sulfur and compost from a local farmer - are used.

The garden is located at the east end of Lake Avenue in Hackensack, in the Bonna Paulson Wildlife Observatory. The fenced area is 120 x 40 feet. It has eight 10 x 20 foot beds, three 10 x 10 beds, and nine raised beds for people who might like to work in soil closer to waist height. Jim Etzel, owner of Earth is Our Home Environmental Solutions, is the consultant for this garden. Jim will be teaching about no-till natural gardening and its focus on providing the utmost care for the soil system. To rent a plot, call Karen Holle at 218-821-1752 or email karenholle@tds.net. - Karen Holle

"Get The Lead Out" to Continue This Summer

Lost lead sinkers and jig heads poison our loons and other wildlife. Once again this summer, anglers will have opportunities to exchange some of their lead tackle for sample packets of lead-free tackle, courtesy of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Cass County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. Tackle exchange events will be in Hackensack during the Lakeside Concert on June 24, 5-7pm, and at Rendezvous Brewing on Tuesday, July 19 and Tuesday, August 9, from 12-3:00pm. For more information, watch local newspapers, visit the [Cass County Chapter - Izaak Walton League of America](#) Facebook page, or call Jack Fitzgerald at 218-682-2941.

- Jack Fitzgerald



Norrie Thomas - July 13 at 3pm, the HUB & July 14 from 9:00am-12pm, UCC

July 13th - Norrie's talk will center on writing the children's book with her grandchildren, memories of the area as a child, and getting the book illustrated and published. Refreshments will be served. Join us for the celebration!

July 14th - As part of Sweetheart Days festivities, Thomas will read her book, *The Hackensack Cafe Adventures* at Union Congregational Church. After the reading, children in attendance will participate in a scavenger hunt followed by lunch at the church for the kids and their families. The event is open to those entering K- 5th grade. Pre-registration would be appreciated. Registration form is available at Union Church or online at unioncchackensack.com



All authors will be book selling and signing at the NAC tent on the corner of First Street and Lake Avenue.

From the Editor

Congratulations to Libby Leonard, winner of *Lucette's* eighth photo contest! Her photo (featured on the cover) captures a stunning juxtaposition of the reflected lakeshore of Stony Lake on the sheen of wet kayak paddle at sunset with water droplets rippling the water's surface. Thanks to all who submitted photos for the contest. As always, there were more than a few strong contenders. Ice has finally gone out on area lakes, and we all know how welcome the sight of open water is! Onward and upward to more outdoor fun here in Hackensack. Keep your camera handy to catch some special moments this summer!

Entries are now being accepted for the upcoming August 2022 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. Email to Linda Ottman at howdy1953@gmail.com.

One winner per newsletter. The contest winner receives a \$50 cash prize. All submissions become the property of the City of Hackensack and may be used for other purposes.

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Photo Credits

Libby Leonard (cover)
Gary Dietrich (paddleboard)
Jeff Finc (cannonball)

Summer Calendar

May

29 - Sons of American Legion (SAL) Breakfast, 8:30 - 11:30am
29 - Memorial Day Ceremony, Finnely Cemetery, 1-2pm
30 - Memorial Day Ceremony, Hackensack City Park, 10 - 10:30am
31 - Birthday Tuesday, Hackensack American Legion, 4 - 6pm

June

5 - Lions Pancake Breakfast, Community Center, 8 - 11am
8 - Sacred Heart CCW Flea Market & Craft Sale, 8am-3pm
8 - 11th - Union Congregational Church Treasure Sale, 8am - 5pm (On Saturday they will have a \$5 bag sale starting at noon; anything you can fit in a brown grocery bag.)
18 - American Flag Retirement Ceremony at City Park, 11 - 11:30am
19 - Tour of Minnesota bike stop, City Park, 12 - 2pm
24 - Get The Lead Out, City Park, 5 - 7pm
25 - Spring Bike Fling, City Park, 11am - 2pm
25 - Paws & Claws Rescue & Resort 5th Anniversary Open House, 11am - 2pm

July

1 - SAL BBQ Bingo Hackensack American Legion, 7pm
3 - Lions Pancake Breakfast at Hackensack Community Center, 8 - 11am
4 - 4th of July Boat Parade on Birch Lake, 1pm (Birch Lake Association)
8 - 14 - Sweetheart Days
17 - Hackensack American Legion Auxiliary Breakfast, 8:30 - 11:30am
19 - Get The Lead Out, City Park, Rendezvous Brewing 12 - 3pm
20 - St. Paul's Lutheran Country Fair, 9am - 2pm
31 - Hackensack American Legion SAL Breakfast 8:30 - 11:30am

Every Week

Sundays - Hackensack American Legion Meat Raffle, 5 - 6:30pm

Mondays - Lion's Meat Raffle at the Muni, 5 - 6pm

Tuesdays - Kids' Fishing Contest at City Pier, 11am - 12:30pm,
Trivia at Rendezvous Brewing, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Wednesdays - American Legion Trivia, 6 - 7:30pm,
Bingo at Rendezvous Brewing, 6pm

Thursdays - Hackensack American Legion Taco Thursday, 5 - 8pm,
Hackensack American Legion Meat Raffle, 6 - 7pm

Fridays - Lakeside Concert Series, Lakefront City Park, 5 - 7pm

Ongoing - Pickleball, Community Center, Email Steve Norlin
at snorlin@gmail.com for schedule

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

25 YEARS Hackensack Children's Fishing Contest

This year we celebrate a quarter century of working with our area and visiting youth to provide a fun atmosphere for learning (or continuing) to fish - it's a skill that lasts a lifetime!

This year's contest runs **every Tuesday, starting June 14 through August 16, from 11am-12:30pm** followed by prizes. Bring the kids down to fish, minnow race, participate in the casting contest, and enjoy a hotdog and pop. Bring a pole and personal floatation device (PFD). Some loaners are available if you don't have these. Thank you, sponsors and volunteers, for supporting this well-attended event.



Lakeside

CONCERT SERIES

Fridays, 5pm - 7pm

June 17, One Night Stand - Rock, Blues, Jazz & Gospel

June 24, Darlene and the Boys - A fun and professional classic country/variety band - Country with roots in Nashville and Branson Family Fun Entertainment

July 1, Dos Guys - Dos Guys is a two-man group from Brainerd, Minnesota, bringing you covers of some of your favorite songs!

July 15, New Riverside Ramblers - The high-spirited Cajun dance music of the New Riverside Ramblers comes from the rich musical heritage of the bayous and prairies of south Louisiana.

July 22, Acoustofiddle - Funky Folk, Punky Polka, Caffeinated Celtic, Cool Classical, Grassy Blues & Gypsy Jazz along with original and cover songs.

July 29, Daybreak - One of Central Minnesota's most versatile music groups, plays hits from the '40s through today's top classics.

Aug 5, The Occasionals - Puts their spin on tunes from nearly every genre. Their folk and funk roots can be heard most prominently.

Aug 19, Mike and Jan Cherry - Mix of country, country rock, lots of harmonies, while playing guitars, banjo, and harmonica.

Aug 26, Charlie Wagner - Authentic Americana/folk style music experience. With the use of a guitar, harmonica, and foot rhythm he retells captured moments from the past.

Labor Day Weekend, 1pm - 3pm,

Sep 3, Rockin Hill - A great bunch of musicians from the Brainerd and St Cloud, Minnesota area that enjoy playing Blues, Jazz, and Rock.

Should inclement weather arise, the concert will take place indoors at the Hackensack Community Building.