

Lucette's Gazette



News, updates, and happenings in our Hackensack Lakes Area - November 2020

Community Survey Now Available

by Tad Erickson, Senior Regional Planner, Region Five Development Commission



Tad Erickson

TAKE SURVEY

The Comprehensive Planning informational kickoff meeting was held in late July, and since that time, the local planning team (LPT) has not only been established but has grown in number. The LPT has continued to meet monthly and has developed

a community survey that launches in October.

The public informational kickoff meeting was a hybrid meeting with in-person and virtual attendees. Attendees included full-time and seasonal residents, business owners, community faith leaders, elected leaders as well as other community leaders. The meeting was facilitated by the Region Five Development Commission (R5DC), who introduced the comprehensive planning process. Following the R5DC presentation, attendees enjoyed presentations from MNDOT and the Cass County Highway Department regarding each organization's upcoming road projects.

Most importantly I want to draw the community's attention to the survey that



Public information kick-off meeting in July we have developed over the past few months. The LPT launched the community survey October 15th. The survey is intended to garner input from as many community members as possible regarding how you envision the community. The survey seeks to understand how you would like to see Hackensack develop in the future, what you would like to see change about Hackensack, and what you would like to preserve about Hackensack.

The responses from the community survey will be collected and analyzed by the LPT and used to inform the development of the comprehensive plan update. **This is your opportunity to provide input into the growth and development of Hackensack.** Please participate in the community call to action, and complete the survey at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/HWXTHGM.

Additionally the survey will be made available at the City of Hackensack's brand new website which can be found at cityofhackensackmn.org.

Lastly, if you are not able to commit to being on the LPT, but are still interested in this plan update, and would like to stay informed, each LPT meeting's agendas handouts and minutes can be found at:

www.regionfive.org/hackensack.

For updates and details, please reach out to Tad Erickson at terickson@regionfive.org, or by phone at (218) 894-3233, Ext. #7.

What's New

- **New website** for the City of Hackensack (p.2)
- Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation on **Lakeland Currents** TV program (p.4)
- **Kombucha** now on tap at Rendezvous Brewing (p.5)
- New **Library Restoration** Game Changers (p.6)
- **Fred Karlisch**, photo contest winner! (p.8)

Food Shelf

2nd & 4th Mondays
5:00—7:00 p.m.
Share-N-Care, back side of building, Hwy 371
Donations of any kind welcome M, W, F
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.



Contents

Voting Information, New City Website, Flu Shot Notice, 2

Relief Fund Updates, Lakeside Concert, 3

Mann Lake, Ltd, Rendezvous Brewing, Artisans in Harmony, Dragonfly Bay Garlic Company, 4-5

Nordic Ski Club, 5
Game Changers, 6
Deep Portage, 7

Congratulations



Congratulations to Rendezvous Brewing for a successful grand opening! (p. 5)



City of Hackensack News

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



Ready, Set, Vote!

There is no level of government that is more directly responsible for serving our community than our locally elected officials.

Local government can affect almost every aspect of our daily life including local school quality, policing and public safety, recycling options, oversight of community projects, emergency services, road and utility projects. Local government has the money and influence to decide what our community's priorities are and how they will be accomplished. By voting in local elections and holding our officials accountable, we can help create the change we want to see in our community.

In our community service area, 8 of our 9 townships are mail-in ballot precincts, and

voters should have received their ballots by October 8th. These ballots can be completed and dropped into a mailbox, or can be dropped off in a drop box at the Cass County Courthouse in Walker. Please follow ALL directions on the ballot, because if you forget a step (like placing your ballot into the security envelope before placing it into the mailing envelope), your ballot will not be counted.

As for in-person early voting, that is now ongoing. The hours at the Cass County Courthouse are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the addition of some special hours; the Saturday before the election (Oct. 31) - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the Monday before the election (Nov. 2) - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please be advised that the County expects these special hours to be VERY BUSY, so plan accordingly!

Flu Shot Reminder

Be prepared for this fall and winter with a flu shot! Flu shots are available at the Essentia Health Clinic in Hackensack. Seniors receive a higher-dose shot, and there is also a "regular" flu shot available. Price varies from \$20 to \$70, but costs would likely be covered by most insurance companies. Hours are typically Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., but please call ahead to schedule your shot, as hours may change. 218-675-5044.



Website for the City of Hackensack

The City is happy to announce the launch of a brand new website. The website serves as a critical communication tool for staying connected with Hackensack's full-time and part-time residents, seasonal guests and visitors, as well as area stakeholders and nonprofits that support our community.

Useful information posted includes agendas and minutes, calendar, election information, news and notices, forms and permits, and ordinances and resolutions.

You can find issues of *Lucette's Gazette* under the Community tab. Users to the site can also subscribe to get updates of the News & Notices. To subscribe to updates, select the Community tab, then "Subscribe to Updates" and fill out the form for all of the items which you would like to receive notifications. Subscribers can choose to receive email, text, or both.

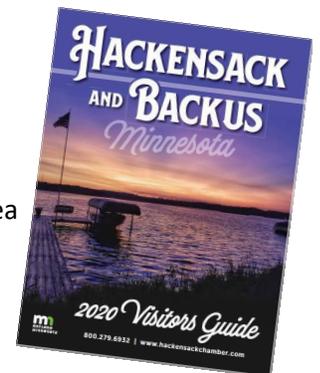
Hackensack Chamber: Here for You

The Hackensack Chamber of Commerce proudly serves Hackensack and surrounding area businesses. Membership in the Chamber is open to all businesses, individuals and nonprofit organizations.

Members are listed on our website and in our Annual Visitor's Guide. The Guide is available locally, and distributed through the Mall of America and over 40 visitor centers throughout the surrounding states.

The Chamber helps to bring businesses and individuals together through a variety of events; Back to Hack in January, Sweetheart Days in July, and the Chainsaw Event in September. Locals are able to interact with travelers while showcasing Hackensack as "A Sweetheart of a Town". It was a difficult decision to cancel events in 2020; we look forward to them being even better in 2021!

Reach us at 218-675-6135, or by email at chamber@hackensackchamber.com. Like our Hackensack Visitor's Center Facebook page and visit our website's calendar of events at www.hackensackchamber.com.



Take the Community Survey at
www.cityofhackensackmn.org



**HACKENSACK
LAKES AREA**
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Celebrating Nonprofits

- Working collectively and collaboratively to make a positive difference for our future. -

Hackensack-Backus Relief Fund Continues Area Support

by Terry Roeser

The Hackensack Lakes Area Community Foundation is pleased to announce that, through the generous donations to their Hackensack-Backus Relief Fund, they have been able to support 7 local businesses recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. They also helped 5 nonprofit organizations pay their expenses during these very trying times. Future relief funding will go to nonprofits only. The Foundation wishes to thank all of the individuals and businesses who supported this effort which raised more than \$10,000. This is a community that truly supports those in need.

The HLACF is beginning its annual fundraising season to build its endowment fund, created to develop community

resources and to enhance the quality of life of individuals and families in the Hackensack & Backus area. In partnership with the Initiative Foundation, a group of local residents provides leadership in carrying out the goals of the fund. For more information visit www.hackensackfund.org.

In October, PBS Lakeland TV *Lakeland Currents* program featured HLACF. Host Jason Edens interviewed Gary Dietrich, HLACF board chair, and Kate Bjorge, Initiative Foundation community philanthropy manager. They discussed how the community foundation is catalyzing collaboration in the Hackensack community. Watch the recording at www.lptv.org/lakeland-currents-community-foundations/.



You're Invited

6 Ways You Can Make a Difference Today

- Take the new community survey
- Visit the new City of Hackensack website
- Sign up to receive news updates at the City website
- Volunteer for your favorite causes
- Donate to your favorite projects
- Shop locally

Share Your Time & Talent!



Northwoods Arts Council Sponsors Lakeside Concert

by Lynn VanAllen

In response to a request by a local resident to have a musical event in the park, the Northwoods Arts Council sponsored a concert on

Saturday, September 5th, where people on boats or sitting in the lakeside area enjoyed a fun farewell to a very different kind of summer. Wayne and the Boys entertained citizens and visitors with a wide variety of country, pop and old sing-along favorites with everyone practicing social distancing. Weather cooperated nicely!

Landyn Hylla, age 9, whose family has had a cabin on Pleasant Lake for over 30 years, was brave enough to join

in the fun with a couple of duets with entertainer, Wayne Wagner. Very impressive!

Community leader Denny Ganz shared, "We came to see what it was like and were very pleasantly surprised!" Another resident said, "This was great! We need more of this type of day in Hackensack!" Children played, people picnicked, boats dropped anchor, and young and old clapped, danced and tapped their toes.

The Northwoods Arts Council is looking forward to 2021 with hopes of their events being back on the calendar and continuing their mission of "Bringing the Arts to Life" in Hackensack.



Value of City Planning

by Jim Schneider, Hackensack City Council

Planning has been an important process for the current city council. Through planning, we can create financial stability for our city. This process allows our city to project cost associated with repair and renovation of our city's infrastructure. It allows us to partner with our civic organization on the economic cost

associated with adding amenities to our community at a fraction of the cost. We are in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for our community that will project planning for the next 10 to 15 years. This plan will guide our renew process for the city and make it an even better place to live, learn, work and play. The next time you are in Hackensack "plan" on spending time with us and please support our local businesses.

MANN LAKE

WE KNOW BEES

Unique Hackensack Finds

- Celebrating our area's valued assets. -

The History of Mann Lake Ltd.

by Kendra Hacker

Mann Lake Ltd. first started in Jack and Betty Thomas' garage in 1983. They had struggled to find quality beekeeping supplies for their own beekeeping hobby. The Thomases decided to make their own and soon found out they were not the only beekeepers that had faced that same struggle. At first, they only created products for their own use, but eventually they expanded and started providing beekeeping products to others. Their operations continued to grow and it wasn't long until they decided to move into the city limits of Hackensack and set up their operations there. The size of their business increased and has continued to grow ever since.

At first a small company in Hackensack, Mann Lake has grown to have locations in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Kentucky and Oregon and now employs over 500 people. The headquarters of the business still resides at the Minnesota location. In addition to their growing store locations, Mann Lake also has multiple distributors scattered across the United States and in several other countries. Their wide range of locations and partnerships has allowed Mann Lake to provide quality beekeeping equipment to beekeepers around the world.

While providing an extensive line of beekeeping products, Mann Lake recently partnered with Stromberg's Chickens to provide quality poultry products. Stuart Volby, CEO of Mann Lake Ltd., thought this partnership would allow the



"For so work the honey bees, creatures that by a rule in nature teach the act of order to a peopled kingdom."

-William Shakespeare

company to expand and grow their customer base, while providing a vast product line for backyard hobbies, like raising chickens and beekeeping. "I want to provide unique and unseen product offerings," Volby said. "We now have such depth of each product and diversity in each category." His goal is to provide customers everything they could possibly need to raise bees or birds, from start to finish.

In addition to their partnership with Stromberg's Chickens, Mann Lake has recently opened their new retail store location in Hackensack. With a store that focuses primarily on poultry and

beekeeping, Volby is hoping that the store will create a one-stop shopping experience for customers as well as make Hackensack a destination stop for individuals from all over. Being a town native, Volby would like to see Hackensack grow and is hopeful that Mann Lake will help support the town's growth with the company's continually evolving operations and increasing employee needs.

With the additions of businesses and new product lines, Mann Lake believes that they will be able to continue to grow and to engage in other aspects of homesteading, like backyard farming and gardening. By providing different products for a myriad of different hobbies, Mann Lake and Stromberg's Chickens are optimistic that they'll be able to cater to all of the needs that their customers may have. Although they have grown, Mann Lake's mission remains the same – to provide quality equipment and products for their customers.



Lake Country Nordic Ski Club

by Diane Norlin

Looking for a way to have fun outdoors this winter? The Lake Country Nordic Ski Club may be exactly what you're looking for! The club is a nonprofit corporation formed in 2011 to maintain and groom four Grant-in-Aid Cross

Country Ski Trails in Cass County. The club is sponsored by Cass County to receive GIA trail funds to maintain the trails. The four trails are: Cut Lake, Goose Lake, Hiram, and Washburn Lake. Club members clean, maintain, and

groom these main trails for some of the best single track classic cross-country skiing in Minnesota. The trails are groomed by skiers themselves and are always in top condition for a perfect ski experience. In addition to maintaining the four ski trails the club offers a free Cross-Country Ski Clinic for all levels of skiers from beginners to experienced. The clinic is led by ski coaches from the metro area and is open to the public.



(Continued on page 7)



Hackensack Businesses

- Celebrating our area's unique small businesses. -



Rendezvous Brewing

by Sue Toth

In June of 2020, after years of dreaming and planning, Sue and Doug Toth opened Rendezvous Brewing in downtown Hackensack. Remodeling of the 5,000 square foot building had been completed, the 22,000 pounds of brewing equipment was in place, and the sign had been installed. Now, only one question remained: would the customers come?

Opening day for Rendezvous Brewing was a big hit! Due to the pandemic business closings, they initially were open only for "to-go" sales. Starting with only two kinds of beer on tap did not slow the customers who had been waiting for the doors to open. People patiently waited to purchase their first taste of locally brewed beer. Several neighboring breweries even came by with words of encouragement and good luck.

Rendezvous Brewing got its name from the Rendezvous restaurant which Sue's grandparents managed in the 1950s. It was located a few blocks away from the brewery's current location and rumor has it, they brewed their own beer. Doug thought it would be fun to brew our first beer from an old recipe, and similar to what might have been brewed at the original Rendezvous. They named their first beer "Chapter One", and it remains their best seller! They have expanded their selection to eight different beers on tap with more varieties being brewed every week. Root beer and kombucha brewed by Ya Sure Kombucha of Baxter is also available on tap. The taproom is open for enjoying socially distanced beer, and they have beer to-go in 750ml cans and glass growlers.

Rendezvous Brewing had a great summer and enjoyed partnering with local businesses. They did appetizer specials with Udom's Thai Cuisine, a special BBQ offering with Butts and Buns, and are selling snacks purchased from Countryside Co-op. More specials and events are in the works and advertised on their Facebook page.



Artisans in Harmony

by Cathy Duvall

Artisans in Harmony is a new bead store and creative space in Hackensack. The store offers fun and unique paint & craft classes and informational jewelry making workshops. All ages are welcome. Families and small groups can also rent the space for creative gatherings.

Storeowner, Cathy Duvall, is excited and honored to be in the Hackensack area, sharing beautiful creations with the community and inspiring others through classes and gatherings. She has put a lot of time, passion, and energy into creating a fun, unique space and is excited to have you stop by and say hello. Sign up now for her upcoming craft classes to be held on November 7th and 14th.

The store is located on HWY 371, a couple of doors down from the beloved Big Dipper and next to the soon-to-open Soul Shine Coffee Shop. It's open most weekends but Cathy is often there throughout the week as well. Fall and winter hours may vary; more set hours will be posted for spring and summer. Call (218) 507-0819 or visit the Artisans in Harmony Facebook page for store hours, upcoming events, and space rentals.



A Family of Garlic Geeks

by Colleen Brennan

There's a lot more to know and love about garlic than many people realize. Luckily, there's a whole family of garlic geeks in the area who are eager to share their passion!

Dragonfly Bay Garlic Company is a family-owned farm on beautiful Webb Lake growing an acre of superior quality, gourmet and heirloom hardneck garlic varieties for seed and culinary uses. Hardneck garlic grows extremely well in northern climates, and has much more flavor than garlic found in the supermarket. This fantastic flavor is what inspired the Brennan, Blanchard, Hinrichs and Jack families to start growing garlic naturally, and now they hope to deliver this delicious flavor to everyone's table in our region. Visit their website to learn about the farm's growing practices, discover unique garlic recipes from The Stinky Kitchen, and get tips for growing your own garlic!





Game Changers

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



New Game Changer Team: Hackensack Lending Library Transformation Team

by Maggie McGill

The Hackensack Lending Library is housed in a 1937 log cabin on the banks of beautiful Birch Lake next to the statue of Lucette. The log cabin, built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was originally designed as a community center. Since then it has housed a dental office, a teacher's residence, and the Hackensack Chamber of Commerce. It has been a lending library since 2005 thanks to the dedication of Shirley Frederick and other volunteers.

Through the years the log cabin has withstood many winters and severe weather. The structure, owned by the City of Hackensack, is in dire need of reconstruction with many logs so deteriorated that a screw driver can be inserted 6 inches. The future life expectancy of the building left as is will only be 3-5 years.

The purpose of this Game Changer Team is to provide the Hackensack City Council with information about possibilities for the future of the library building and to raise funds for reconstruction. The Hackensack City

Council will be the final decision maker with regard to the library building's future. Options discussed have been:

- Replace the log cabin with log construction to replicate the original historic site
- Replace log cabin as a stick-built structure with log siding
- Replace the building with a modular structure with vinyl siding on the existing site or on a different site within Hackensack

The library is now closed for the season. With rebuilding and modernizing it could be open year round, putting more books in the hands of more readers.



Hackensack Ready to Advance Further with Energy Efficiency

By Mike Tauber, Clean Energy Team

With help and input from the City Water/Septic Superintendent employee Dana Stanko, the City of Hackensack has begun to take a serious look at how their energy is used. With the initial paperwork done, energy audits are now being conducted by RETAP (nonprofit agency) and Minnesota Power for municipal buildings. These audits will demonstrate how improvements to buildings might correlate to saving the City money through reducing ongoing costs, while at the same time qualifying the City for rebates from Minnesota Power. It is important to note that these free energy audits are also available to *any other* community nonprofits that have interest in following the City's lead. Currently, the Fire & Rescue, the HUB, and Faith in Action are also participating.

The City's energy audits are to be accompanied by other conservation steps that are in line with a plan laid out by JBJ World Industries for the City in May. The City's forward-looking comprehensive plan will integrate some of these ideas.

The planning includes:

- Exploring locations for installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in town. Since First Street will be getting an upgrade next year, it seems an opportune time to consider how EVs and their infrastructure will fit into the future of our community to support residents as well as visitors.
- Using MPCA grant monies that have been approved to help Hackensack pursue EV charging stations, in coordination with Region 5 (who are facilitating the City with its comprehensive plan over the next 12-16 months).
- Posting Hackensack's acceptance as a GreenStep City. This means that highway signs will be posted at both ends of town, signaling Hackensack's leadership and commitment to conservation to all who pass.

Thanks to all who have helped in the effort so far, and **welcome** to those who will step in to assist Hackensack in becoming a more beautiful, thriving town. Join the Game Changer Clean Energy Team today! Contact Mike Tauber at 218-675-5717 for more information.



Celebrating Our Great Outdoors

- Providing extraordinary outdoor experiences for school groups, campers, families for 50 years. -

Deep Portage – An Extraordinary Resource in Our Back Yard!

by Jack Fitzgerald

How long has it been since you visited Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center? Perhaps it has been a few years? Maybe never? Well, here's just some of what you've been missing:

- **6,000+ acres of wilderness and wildlife habitat to explore** -ruggedly beautiful forests, lakes, streams and wetlands located ten miles east of Hackensack off county highways 5 and 46 - designated in 1973 by Cass County as a "conservation reserve", where forestry research is conducted and wood is sustainably harvested;
- **Abundant recreation opportunities** - including a handicapped access trail, where you can hike, run, ski, or snowshoe on almost 11 miles of well-maintained trails, as well as hunt deer, turkey, grouse and bear and fish for whatever fillet turns you on;
- **The observation tower** - providing a bird's eye view of the varied terrain. (The view from the tower top is especially impressive when the fall colors are ablaze!);
- **The Interpretive Center** - recently remodeled, featuring inlaid flooring showcasing the many colors and grains of locally harvested wood, informative wildlife displays and interactive, hands-on activities for children of all ages;
- **Archery, firearms and sporting clay ranges** - where you can sharpen your marksmanship;
- **Alternative energy installations** - the largest collection anywhere in the upper Midwest. It brings the Deep Portage net carbon footprint to zero! Included are



passive solar heat, solar hot water, wood gasification, a wide variety of solar photovoltaic arrays, as well as some all-electric vehicles and power tools. (Call 218-682-2325 to schedule a guided tour!)

- **The Environmental Education Center** - offering a world class natural resources curriculum to 8,000+ elementary and high school students from as far away as the Twin Cities for 3- to 5-night stays during a typical school year (September-May). During the summer, a variety of overnight camps that draw 1,000+ participants annually are offered.

Scholarships are provided throughout the year for students who otherwise might not be able to afford to come.

The Deep Portage staff reports that among their most satisfying experiences is watching students who have thus far experienced only a highly urbanized setting become immersed in and grow to relish the many pleasures of the natural world that their stay at Deep Portage makes possible.

The remarkable growth of Deep Portage over the last several decades has been aided by the generous financial and volunteer support of many local groups and organizations, including (among others) the Cass County Board of Commissioners, The Deep Portage Foundation, Friends of Deep Portage, The Cass County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, the Deep Portage Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society, and The Hackensack Lions Club.

Catch up on what's happening at Deep Portage by visiting our website, DeepPortage.org, social media, or in person. Still more questions? Call (218) 682-2325.



Lake Country Nordic Ski Club *(Continued from page 4)*

The club also offers a day for Nordic Ski waxing, Wednesday Club Skis, and two Saturday Social Skis. The purpose of our club is to promote Nordic skiing and fellowship. To find information about our club go to our Lake Country Nordic Ski Club Facebook page or our website (<http://chitwood1.wix.com/lcnsc>) or by email at lakecountrynordic@gmail.com

Our First Photo Contest Winner!

by Linda Ottman

Congratulations to Fred Karlisch, our first *Gazette* photo contest winner and \$50 cash prize recipient. Karlisch captured this glorious scene on July 18, 2020 on Birch Lake.

Thank you for the 14 submissions received. Entries are now being accepted for the next *Lucette's Gazette*. Please submit high resolution, JPEG-formatted photos, identify where the photo was taken, your contact information, and mailing address in the

event you are the winner to: howdy1953@gmail.com.

Submissions become the property of the City of Hackensack and may be used for other purposes. One winner will be announced per newsletter which today has a distribution of well over 1,500 readers.

Have fun photographing our area's beautiful nature and we look forward to seeing your submissions!



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Telling our stories together



**Community
Newsletter**

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1-800-279-6932