



# Kiwaniis

Hastings • Nebraska

## Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club  
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*"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher."  
~ Japanese proverb*

August 2024

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to  
[marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org) OR [Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org)



### Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ August

**PLEASE NOTE: NEW PERMANENT LOCATION ~ YWCA, 2525 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.**  
**\$13.00 per meal ~ catering by Emma Baker**

- Thur. 1 - Geothermal Well System at HHS, Trent Kelly  
*Peach Glazed Pork Loin, Sauteed Green Beans, Roast Potatoes, Dinner Rolls, Dessert Bar*
- Thur. 8 - Watch your email for further information  
*Pulled Pork Sandwich, Cheesy Potato Casserole, Baked Beans, Cookie*
- Wed. 14 - Board Meeting, Hastings Public Library, Room A ~ All members welcome
- Thur. 15 - Watch your email for further information  
*Turkey Club Sandwich, Potato Salad, House Chips, Fresh Fruit Salad, Cookie*
- Thur. 22 - Watch your email for further information  
*Teriyaki Glazed Chicken Breast, White Rice, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Cookie*
- Thur. 29 - Watch your email for further information  
*Chicken Broccoli Casserole, Chef Salad, Dinner Rolls, Dessert Bar*

***Thur. September 26: New Board Member Installation & Recognition Ceremony ~ Location and Time TBD***

**Saturday, August 3rd ~ Elks Country Club**  
**17th Annual 4-Person Golf Scramble**  
**9 a.m. shotgun start \*\* \$75/person**  
**~~TEAMS NEEDED~~**



**This is the second largest fundraising activity we host other than Pancake Day.**

Contact Greg Schultz 402.469.6897, Neil Grothen, Jim Krebsbach or George Howard. There are hole sponsors and flag prize sponsors but we're

### **SHORT ON TEAMS.**

Day-of help needed for: check-in, selling raffle tickets, Double Your Money, greeters and set up, photography.

***Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 p.m. – National Night Out – Brickyard Park***  
***Contact Ashley Hajny to assist at our table***  
***[ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org) or sign up at the Thursday meeting***

### **\*\*\* VOLUNTEER POSITIONS \*\*\***

**If you are unable to attend Thursday noon meetings to sign up for volunteer opportunities, you can log into the website.**

#### **Ongoing service projects include:**

- **Hearts & Hands Against Hunger – dates and times TBA**
- **Meals on Wheels – every Friday, 11:15 a.m. – 2 routes, approx. 30-40 min.**

### **HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER**

**PEACE Center, 622 N. Lincoln, South side**  
*(former Middle School manual arts bldg)*

**\*\*Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time\*\***



***Packing season has concluded with over 9,000,000 meals packed to date.***

***Packing will resume in September ... with a clean-up day in August.***

**Hearts & Hands Against Hunger, P O Box 1293, Hastings NE 68902-1293 \* 402-460-8627**



**MEALS ON WHEELS – This is quick and easy!**  
**We have two (2) routes on Fridays for this service project.**  
**Two volunteers from Kiwanis are needed.**  
**Sign-up sheets are available at Thursday noon meetings or sign up on the website.**

**Meals are picked up at 11:15 at the Senior Action office, 212 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (block east of the Post Office ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> & Minnesota) and delivery usually takes 30-40 minutes. They have the routes set up for the most efficient delivery.**

**August 2 – No Delivery**  
**August 9 – Marge Ormsby – *Need 1***  
**August 16 – No Delivery**  
**August 23 – *Need 2***  
**August 30 – Heather Bolte – Russanne Hoff**

**Marge Ormsby is the Club Coordinator. Please notify me by text or call if you cannot make it or will be late. 402-469-3296 branchofc@hotmail.com**

## **VENUE CHANGE ~ YWCA, 2525 W. 2nd St., beginning August 1**

You may have noticed upgraded bowling equipment over the past couple of years and other improvements at Pastime Lanes. Butch is planning more upgrades to make Pastime Lanes a fun family place. The lounge area is being converted to a kid friendly space. They need to use our former meeting space to store things during construction and have asked us to find a new location. We already were required to move our monthly board meetings beginning in June.

Mark Moul was instrumental in quickly connecting us with Laura Stutte at the YW. She was very pleased to be able to offer us the space, and caterer Emma Baker was able to accommodate us beginning August 1st. She will prepare menus a month in advance so we will know what to look forward to. Unfortunately, due to increased menu cost and room fee, our lunch will go to \$13.00.

## **ICYMI ~ July 2024**

**July 4 – No meeting**

### **July 11 – HPS Emerging Educator of the Year, Christian Yost**



Christian has been the choir and vocal instructor at Hastings High School the past four years and came into the position during the Covid pandemic. He is originally from Omaha and comes from a family of music educators, including parents and grandparents.

He feels that 10 percent of his job is teaching how to sing and the rest is administrative as a small business operation. There are four choirs, including Madrigals, the show choir “Uncaged”, and “Hastings Unlimited,” a unified show choir where special needs students are paired with other choir participants. These choirs, a total of 160 students, travel across the state representing Hastings.

Coming out of Covid students had to learn to interact again. It was a challenge to get them to communicate and be comfortable performing in a group.

Hastings is the first in Nebraska, and only the second in the country, to have a special needs choir. There are 45 students involved in “Hastings Unlimited.” When

traveling, it means he has to consider the “rollable” level of the location to accommodate wheelchairs. He had directors calling from all over the country to find out how to accomplish such a program. It is very rewarding that other schools and states want to emulate Hastings. They received a grant last year from Sunnyside for costumes for the unified choir. Its focus is not on perfection of the performance, but on all participants having fun and being able to perform with their unique skills.

They traveled to an Iowa competition where “Uncaged” earned the Grand Champion title, beating Lincoln, Omaha and DesMoines. This coming year they have been invited to a show competition in Fort Worth. They have also been invited to another show competition in April that occurs during the dates of the school musical. They can’t attend that one because many of the show choir students are involved in the musical.

There are four shows this coming year, as well as hosting a championship competition. The championship competition will involve over 30 schools with up to 3500 students coming to Hastings, potentially tripling the population of the high school. There will be 8 middle

schools and 23 high schools including some from out of state.

Christian stated that people don't realize what a hard cardio workout it is being in show choir. He has his students run two miles and sing at the same time to prepare. With rehearsals and performances, Christian spends more time with his students than most other teachers. He tries to support them in all their passions and hardships, and uses the time to teach them how to just be good people.

### **July 18 – Sodbusters Baseball, Scott Galusha**

Scott has been a teacher at Grand Island Senior High for several years, and has been a high school coach of many sports since 1992. He currently coaches high school softball and is co-owner and General Manager of the Sodbusters baseball team. He calls it his "24-7-365 no-pay parttime job."

Once you get past his terrific tan, one notices that he walks with a limp. He immediately acknowledged that he is, indeed, the face of the Sodbusters, with cerebral palsy. He was barely over two pounds at birth and is grateful to be here. He has learned that it is both his biggest weakness and his biggest strength. He has unbelievable confidence, and played high school baseball, basketball, and golf.

He loves baseball and believes it to be important for the community. The Sodbusters have called Duncan Field home for eight years now. It is part of the summer Independence Baseball League for college players. The first couple of years did not go well, and Bryan Frew, original owner and current co-owner, asked Scott for his help. With his wife's support, he visited with the other organizers and they agreed on a common goal: keep it as low cost family entertainment for the people of Hastings.

Scott makes no decisions based on money. His decisions are based on what is best for the spectators.



The sponsors have been loyal, saying "yes" to the community and "yes" to families. He firmly believes that doing the right thing is more important than counting every dollar. He enjoys having an impact on young kids. Players are mostly 18 years old and their parents must sign off on their participation.

This year's team represents 18 states and five continents. He says it is a growing and learning experience for the players. He holds them to high standards of being quality humans. There are 30 players on active reserve; he can sign 32. They play 53 games in 62 days, roughly half of them on the road. All games are on YouTube. Attendance at Duncan usually runs less than 400 on weekdays and 800-900 on bigger weekend events. After home games, they feed both teams, roughly 110 people.

They rely on host families to house, feed, and transport the players for the 10 weeks of the season. Kiwanis members Al and Val Erickson are one of this year's host families.

Scott has seen many of the Sodbuster interns and workers move on to bigger things after their experience with the team. He is proud to be a part of their training.

### **July 25 – Skip-A-Meal: Tour of St. Cecilia New Construction, Hauli Sabatka**



Hauli is Executive Director of the St. Cecilia Foundation. She reviewed the history of the planned updating and expansion. Discussions on how to make it happen began in 2016; however, it had been an ongoing topic for 20-30 years prior. The original building was built in 1957, with the south

wing added in 1961. Very little had been updated since then. The original boiler for heating was still in use, and there was no air conditioning.

After mulling over whether to repair, remodel or build new, it was decided by the committee that remodeling with some additions had a better price tag. Fundraising began in February 2020. Then came a 9-month stall due to Covid. All plans were approved and some materials ordered before the shutdown. The original price tag of \$8 million for the remodel increased by about 22 percent due to increase in construction costs during that delay. Some plans had to be cut. The final cost will run about \$10.5-11 million; they still need to fundraise about \$1 million.

The street closure took place on May 8, 2022. The new and improved building, housing grades 6-12, was opened the first week after Easter this year. Students will arrive August 14th. The project took over two years to

complete because the school year still had to run during construction.

There are specific regulations and codes that apply only for schools under the Lincoln diocese. In addition to coordinating with the construction manager, BD Construction out of Kearney, local sub-contractors, and the City of Hastings, there were also negotiations with the educational architect over some items such as whether there would be lockers and a library.

New flooring throughout consists of luxury vinyl floor tile that is soft to walk on, dampens sound, and is easy care. Lights and the new HVAC system are on automatic timers. Windows are all new. A student lounge offers space to gather and a place for students to stay after school if not immediately going home. There is also an outdoor courtyard with tables to socialize; some classes may also be taught there.

Security, safety, and accessibility features were a high priority. There is now a secondary secure entry to the building. By code, during the day all classroom doors automatically lock. If a student leaves, they must knock to be let back in. There is a new fire sprinkler system and an elevator.

The Middle School section for grades 6-7-8 was built in the 1990's and had the least amount of work done. It got new luxury vinyl floor tile like the high school, as well as new paint, windows and HVAC.

There are new corridors between the north and south wings. A second story was added that had to be coordinated with the City of Hastings to move utility lines. All student movement can now occur within the building.

The high school and middle school share the new Art room and Library, which also houses computer and

media space. The Art room is impressive with lots of natural light. It includes a kiln room for pottery firing. Convertible easel/desks were built by Ron Sekora.

It was decided at the last hour that the large mural of St. Cecilia that was on the outside of the building had to go. It was replaced with a large window.

The chapel was initially eliminated as part of the cost-cutting. But one donor insisted that it should be included and made sure funding was there. It was named Our Lady Chapel. At 7:30 a.m. each day a service or gathering of some kind will be held there.

The Stations of the Cross and the tabernacle that holds the Eucharist came from Crosier Monastery. Fr. Brouillette received the pillars and Mary/Jesus medallion on the front from a priest friend in another parish. He had been storing them for about 10 years. The chairs with the lyre were found in a local thrift store about 10 years ago by 2013 alum John Reining. They were not needed at the time, so he has been storing them since then. As St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music, it was deemed appropriate to include them in the new chapel. They were refinished by Becky Hupf.

Music, PE and lunch are across the street in the Gymnasium and Fine Arts building. Closing the street between the two buildings makes the 2,500/day crossings much safer. The improvements here included A/C in the band room and resanding and painting of the "new" gym floor. An air pear air circulating system was added to the "new" gym to improve comfort.

St. Michael's Elementary on Creighton Ave. in the west part of town has a day care, pre-school, and grades K-5. Funds were allotted for some work to be done there as well.





## 2023-2024 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

### Officers

**President** ~ Michelle Musgrave  
michelle.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

**Immediate Past President** ~ Tom Musgrave  
tomm@hastingskiwanis.org

**President-Elect** ~ Frank Koch  
frkoch@windstream.net

**Vice President** ~ Elizabeth Musgrave  
elizabeth.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

**Treasurer** ~ Jim Krebsbach  
jimk@hastingskiwanis.org

**Secretary** ~ David Kempf  
davek@hastingskiwanis.org

**Assistant Secretary** ~ Susan Price  
susanp@hastingskiwanis.org

### Board of Directors (# of years)

Ashley Hajny (1)  
ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org

Michael A. Johnson (1)  
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Marge Ormsby (1)  
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Mary Plock (1)  
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Russanne Hoff (2)  
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Kathy Hohensee (2)  
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George Howard (2)  
georgeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Taylor Musgrave (2)  
taylor.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

5 Mike Howie  
9 Russanne Hoff  
25 Casey Mohler  
27 David Kempf  
29 Mark Moul  
29 Susan Price  
30 Roger Wright  
31 Tim Jacobi

### *Did You Know?*

**August 12** is designated by the United Nations as International Youth Day.

It is intended to recognize the achievements of young people worldwide, draw attention to issues affecting youth, and celebrate the potential of youth as partners in today's global society.

The idea for International Youth Day was proposed in 1991 by the young people who were gathered in Vienna, Austria, for the first session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

