



Kiwanis

Hastings • Nebraska

Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club
hastingskiwanis.org
myclub@hastingskiwanis.org
facebook.com/hastingskiwanis

"At the county fair you can taste the flavors of summer, hear the sounds of laughter, and see the beauty of our agricultural heritage on full display." ... Unknown

July 2025

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org OR Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org



Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ July

YWCA, 2525 W. 2nd St. ~ \$13.00 per meal
Catering by Emma Baker

Thur. 3 - NO MEETING ~ be safe!

Wed. 9 - Board Meeting, YWCA Conference Room ~ All members welcome

Thur. 10 - HPS 2025 Distinguished Senior Educator, Dave Johnson

This will be a short meeting due to activity following at 1:00

July 16-20 Booth at Adams County Fair ~ This is an especially good opportunity for those who cannot come to Noon Social/Educational meetings to participate in your club. It will be an excellent avenue to promote both the Skatepark and Kiwanis membership.

Coverage is needed for:

Wed. July 16 ~ 3-8:00 p.m.

Sat. July 19 ~ 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thurs. July 17 ~ 5-8:00 p.m.

Sun. July 20 ~ 1-7:00 p.m.

Fri. July 18 ~ 5-8:00 p.m.

****Sign up is for 1-hr shifts but feel free to stay longer***

Sign-ups are on the website: hastingskiwanis.org > About Us > Signup Sheets > Kiwanis Booth Volunteer (bottom item) OR

Contact Marge: text 402-469-3296 or email marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org

Thur. 17 - Kiwanis Child Protection Training, Dave Kempf

This will be a short meeting due to activity following at 1:00

Thur. 24 - Skip-A-Meal ~ Tour of Schnase 1906 District & Hastings Community Foundation Office - 620 W. 2nd St. - voluntary donation of \$10 for Skatepark renovation project (Because of limited parking on 2nd St., it is suggested to park at the City Lot one block North)

Thur. 31 - Update on Plastic Surgery in Hastings, Dr. Keli Kolegraff

This will be a short meeting due to activity following at 1:00

18th ANNUAL 4-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

Saturday, August 9 ~ Elks Golf Course ~ 9 a.m. shotgun start

- **\$75/person (\$300/team)** ~ includes 2 team mulligans, 1 raffle ticket/player, light breakfast, green fees, cash payout to winners, door prizes, and lunch
- **\$100 Hole Sponsorships** include sign with business logo and information on tee box ~ Hole sponsors needed by July 31



Team Registration & Hole Sponsor form on website ~ Contact Greg Schultz 402-469-6897



SKATEPARK NEWS

Committed to raise \$200,000 total ~ \$50,000 from the Club

Total Club Donations to date: \$9,010.25 (18.02%)

Total General Public Donations to date: \$5,671.23 (3.78%)

The HPRD elementary track meet concessions net profit ~ \$201.83

The Elementary State Track Meet concessions on June 7 net profit ~ \$780

In addition, direct donations for the Skatepark were \$31.50.

A NEW "ASTONISHER" NEWSLETTER REPORTER IS NEEDED.

Format as you wish. Make it your own.

I will provide my template as a starter.

Marge

***** VOLUNTEER POSITIONS *****

If you are unable to attend Thursday noon meetings to sign up for volunteer opportunities, you can do so on 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****

**** There will be no further packing events until September. ****

Jim reports that during the 2024-25 packing season:

500,848 meals were packed
26 Monday events accounted for 111,000 of those meals
24 other community packing events completed the other 389,848
An average of 10-15 Kiwanians worked each event, representing 22% of members

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. 3rd St.
(east of the Post Office ~ 3rd & Minnesota) and delivery usually takes 30-40 minutes.
They have the routes set up for the most efficient delivery.

July 4 – No Deliveries
July 11 – George Howard – *Need 1*
July 18 – Heather Bolte – *Need 1*
July 25 – *Need 2*

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

June 5 – Career Services at Hastings College, Carissa Uhrmacher



Carissa has been with that office since October of 2020 as Associate Director. Kim Graviette is Director. They are located in the basement of the Admissions building. Two student workers assist.

Career Services manages all on-campus jobs, which are at minimum wage and cannot be over 20 hours a week. The company operating the dining hall can also hire.

An Alumni Mentoring program began in 2020. In a student's third year they are matched with an alum in their interested career path.

"Handshake" is a nationwide platform that helps with job search. It monitors events, job openings, and can maintain a calendar for appointments.

They offer job fairs in the spring and the fall, and do presentations in dorms and classrooms. The TruMotivate assessment helps students determine a career path by identifying what their skill levels are and what motivates them.

Interview practice is an important element of a job search. They can arrange meetings with employers and alumni, and use LinkedIn to find careers in other locations.

Additional services are:

- Professional development activities
- Internships and campus jobs
- Preparing and editing resumes and cover letters
- Career guidance and pre-professional training.
- Money management

Alumni can return for assistance with career changes.

You can contact them at 402-461-7400 and hccareerservices@hastings.edu.

June 7 – State Elementary Track Meet, HHS Track

Concession crew consisted of Kathy Schultz, Linda Stark, Marge Ormsby, Kathy Hohensee, Jim Krebsbach, Frank Koch, and Patrick. Patrick was a random 4-year-old who, by the end of the meet, was either tired of the heat or watching his brothers race. He asked if he could help us.

We cooked 72 hot dogs, with the last 9 or so going to our volunteers, and sold about 45-50 gallons of popcorn, which had been donated by the Rivoli Theatre. We took in \$1,095 and after expenses, netted \$780 for the

Skatepark. There was also \$31.50 in direct donations to the Skatepark. We heard positive comments both about our pricing and the Skatepark project.

Track and field volunteers who endured the sun and the heat were Neil Grothen, Ashley Hajny and Carter, Chuck Hastings, Kathy Hohensee, George Howard, Mike and Denise Howie, Mike A. Johnson, and Tom Musgrave. (This list is by personal observation and hearsay ... apologies if I missed anyone.)



Linda, Marge, Kathy S., Kathy H.



Jim, Frank, Patrick

June 12 – HPS Educator of the Year, Karen Valdes



Karen has been teaching 25 years. She has just returned from Tunisia in Africa where she taught English as a second language to college students and middle school children.

She was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, a city of over 1 million people. Her mom met a farmer from Nebraska, so at age 6 she moved to Nebraska where they lived 30 minutes from the closest town. Being away from the city was the first time she ever saw the sunset.

She shared many anecdotes about her transition to the American farm. She learned gardening from her stepfather and learned that every plant has its own requirements to grow. As do children.

Her kindergarten teacher was instrumental in her appreciation of learning. She did not speak any English but felt loved by this teacher who took the time to nurture her. Teachers have the opportunity to prepare students to grow.

School lunches consisted of casseroles and canned vegetables. She was used to fresh food everyday in Guatemala. This taught her resilience and how to adapt.

Her kindergarten teacher still impacts her life today because of the compassion she showed. And because through her, she learned the power of education. She has now taught 3,394 students. Each one has played a small role in her life and been a shining light.

Frank's quote of the day: "The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see." ... Alexandra K. Trenfor

June 16 – Kiwanis Little League Rookie Game, Lake Hastings ballfield

Ahhh, nothing like a 90° day on the north side of a dry field with the wind from the south. Frank Koch, Jim Krebsbach, Kathy Schultz, Taylor Musgrave, and Marge Ormsby enjoyed watching the 5- & 6-year-olds learn the basics of baseball. Beau Huffman is their patient coach. We provided treats and drinks for the team, sponsored by Dale Musgrave.

[Awesome action photos by Kathy Schultz]



June 19 – City Council Update, Matt Fong

Matt said that he and wife Kaleena were both former members of Kiwanis. He has represented Hastings Ward 4 on the City Council since 2018. It encompasses roughly the Heartwell Park area. He serves as the liaison with HEDC and Hastings Public Library. He was on the library board for several years.

His full-time work is fundraising and outreach for the Crane Trust located in Wood River at the Alda interchange. He is also on the board of The Lark and active in the First Presbyterian Church. They have a 13-year-old daughter, Vivian.

Matt had a PowerPoint presentation where he reviewed the City of Hastings leadership and current hot topics the City Council is working on.

- Mark Funkey is City Administrator
- Derek Zeisler is manager of Hastings Utilities
- Jesse Oswald is City Attorney
- Lee Vrooman is Director of Engineering, which includes streets
- Roger Nash is Director of Finance

Recent leadership changes are:

- Kevin Kubo is the new Director of Development Services. He was previously the building inspector.
- Kelly Reisig is the new director of the Hastings Public Library. She is new to town and started that position on May 21.

Hot topics being discussed

He reported the new Splash Pad at Libs Park is now open. There is no charge to the public and is especially great for the young kids. The new stainless steel features will hold up better than the previous fiberglass ones. Drainage was also improved. American Rescue Plan Act funds were used to cover the \$260,000 cost.

City Hall - There has been a long ongoing discussion about what to do with this space and how to provide better functionality. It was originally built in 1962 as a bank.

Issues reported were a leaking roof, mold, asbestos, security challenges, and access limitations.

Completion of the renovation is anticipated early spring 2026. The new entry will be on the east side and will be ADA compliant. The cost of the renovation is \$7.1 million. It will house the Council chambers, finance, development services, and City administration as before.

Quiet Crossings - This was an approved use of the half cent sales tax. These allow trains to not have to blow their whistles constantly as they go through town. There are speakers at these crossings directed at the cars that are waiting.

Two crossings are completed and three more will be done this summer. The final two will be completed in the summer of 2026. All crossings have to be done before any of them can be utilized as such. There is a lot of coordination involved with the railroad.

Highway 6 & Elm St. Project - A five-lane proposal was approved by the City Council in 2016. A State proposal of a three-lane with roundabout modification was approved in April of 2023.



Bids will be solicited this fall with construction to be during 2026-27 and completion hopefully by the end of 2027. It is hoped that the utilities portion will begin this summer at an estimated cost of \$9,573,123. The total

project is \$30 million with 80% of the cost being covered by the NDOT. This project has been talked about for decades.

Nitrates - The county and the city need to continue paying attention to this issue. There has been a rising concern about nitrate and uranium levels in Hastings drinking water. High levels of these can cause serious medical problems, especially for infants.

A new Aquifer Storage and Restoration (ASR) well system is being utilized to resolve that problem. It involves pumping the high nitrate groundwater out of the aquifer, treating it, and then re-injecting it back into the aquifer.

Board Term Limits - This was proposed at the Council's first meeting in May. It is sometimes difficult to fill advisory boards etc. Matt feels that you shouldn't limit people who want to serve, and their history on the board or commission can be helpful.

[A Tribune article on Tuesday, June 24th, reported that the city council voted on Monday the 23rd, by 5-3 split vote, to approve the term limits ordinance that limits appointed members of municipal boards and commissions to two consecutive terms.]

LB 840 - Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act of 1991. This was discussed at the June work session. There was no immediate action taken on this matter.

This bill authorizes a city to appropriate tax dollars, including sales and property taxes, for economic development purposes. The funds authorized by this bill are being used by many municipalities.

Matt feels we are limiting ourselves by not participating in this available money. Its use must be approved by local voters and it can be structured however we would like. Every community using these funds is using it differently. It would be administered by the HEDC.

Utilities Advisory Board - There was discussion about dissolving this board which has a \$100 million budget. In one way or another it affects every household in Hastings.

Matt is personally not in favor of dissolving it. He feels it is good to have a group of community members to review revenues etc before coming to the City Council for action.

He encouraged Kiwanis members to use Engage Hastings, engage.cityofhastings.org, to learn about things happening in the city. It provides an opportunity for community input on issues being discussed and projects that matter to you.

Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Hastings

Airport. Work sessions are the third Monday each month.

June 26 – Salvation Army Presentation



Rachel Irvine presented a Certificate of Appreciation to President Frank Koch for the club's participation in its December 2024 bell ringing fundraising event. We collected \$1,817.16 for the Salvation Army.

June 26 – Hastings Literacy Program, Jessica Johnson, Executive Director

Jessica has been in Hastings 8 years and has a background in public service. She took this position in July of 2022 when the previous executive director retired. She has observed that the volunteerism attitude in Hastings is fabulous.

The Literacy Program provides GED classes in basic math and reading, as well as ESL classes, at no charge. They operate on a semester schedule, which is helpful to the instructors for planning and also enhances their relationship with the students.

Some instructors come from CCC, but they rely heavily on over 50 volunteers from the community, Hastings College, and Americorps. The Americorps volunteers can provide a more personalized instruction because they come in with different educational backgrounds.

They offer classes Monday through Thursday in the morning and evening. Kiwanis member Kathy Schultz

volunteers as a math tutor in the mornings, working one-on-one with a student.

They had an unusually large number of graduates this past year with 22.

Funding to cover the CCC services comes from the Department of Education. There is no other government funding. All of its other program needs comes from private donations, Give Hastings Day, and grants that are focused on adult literacy. They also apply for grants such as from Walmart, Hastings Community Foundation and Sunnyside.



2024-2025 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

Officers

President ~ Frank Koch
franklink@hastingskiwanis.org

Immediate Past President ~ Michelle Musgrave
michelle.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

President-Elect ~ Mike E. Johnson (Dr. Mike)
michaelj@hastingskiwanis.org

Vice President ~ Russanne Hoff
russanneh@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)

John Boltz (2)
johnb@hastingskiwanis.org

Brandon McDermott (2)
brandon.mcdermott@hastingskiwanisd.org

Casey Mohler (2)
casey.mohler@hastingskiwanis.org

Dale Musgrave (2)
daled@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (1)
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

George Howard (1)
georgeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Taylor Musgrave (1)
taylor.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

Marge Ormsby (1)
marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org

JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 Alvin Erickson
10 Jim Krebsbach
10 Amy Niemoth
22 Rich Halloran
24 LaVila VanBoening



Candy Quiz ~ Answers

Name the following types of candy:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. A famous swashbuckling trio of old | Three Musketeers |
| 2. Favorite day of the week for working people | Payday |
| 3. A subdued laugh | Snickers |
| 4. Indian burial ground | Mounds |
| 5. Galaxy | Milky Way |
| 6. Red planet | Mars |
| 7. A sweet sign of affection | Hershey's Kiss/Hug |
| 8. Can't hold on to anything | Butterfingers |
| 9. A famous author | O'Henry |
| 10. A happy nut | Almond Joy |
| 11. Famous New York Street | 5th Avenue |
| 12. Famous former baseball star | Babe Ruth |
| 13. Twin letters | M&Ms |
| 14. Home of the movie stars | Hollywood |
| 15. Superman's "reporter" name | Clark |
| 16. A well-behaved man | Mr. Goodbar |