



Kiwaniis

Hastings • Nebraska

Astonisher

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

"Children are gifts too ~ handle them with care."

February 2026

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

Incident weather policy ~ If HPS is closed on a given Thursday, there is no Kiwanis meeting that day. It will also be displayed on the Channel 10-11 scrolling closing information.

Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ February



YWCA, 2525 W. 2nd St. ~ \$13.00 per meals

Thur. 5 - Tony and Gabe Harman of Eileen's Cookies

Wed. 11 - Board Meeting, YWCA Conference Room ~ All members welcome

Thur. 12 -

Thur. 19 - Marty Stange speaking for the NE Soil Health Coalition

Thur. 26 - Stephanie Ourada on Hastings College Finance

MARCH:

MONDAY 2ND: COUNTY RE TAX DAY---NEED MANY OF US

MONDAY 9TH: SET UP DAY FOR PANCAKE DAY

TUESDAY 10TH: PANCAKE DAY—ALL HANDS ON DECK

MAY:

THURSDAY 28TH: ANNUAL MEETING



SKATEPARK NEWS

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

Total Club Donations to Date: \$44,589.46 (89.18%)

* Member Matching grant pledge \$10,000 (1/2 received)

Total General Public Pledges/Donations to date: \$118,806.13 (79%)

* Visitors Bureau commitment, \$50,000 Coming

* Lions Club pledge \$ 5,000 Coming

Skatepark Giving Levels

\$10,000 - Big logo on sign

\$7,500 - Small logo on sign

\$5,000 - Name on sign

\$2,500

\$1,000

\$500

\$250

All donors at \$125 and above:

- Listed in newspaper ad
- Status newsletter at end of project

Kiwanis Skatepark Fellows giving \$1,000 or more
- Name on sign

\$50,000 to put your name on the Pump Track

*** 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****

Monday packing has resumed ~ 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4 ~ 9:00 – 11 am & 12-2 pm

Hastings Middle School

Many students + Staff

NEED MANY KIWANIS TO ASSIST

Wednesday, February 11 ~ 7:00 – 8:00 pm
St Ann's Doniphan Catechism

Sunday, February 15 2–4 pm
Webster County Junior Leaders

Wednesday, February 18 10 am–Noon
Deshler Schools

Wednesday, February 25 9–11 am
Sandy Creek High School

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.**

February 6 – Heather Bolte, Need 1

February 13 – George Howard and Heather Bolte

February 20 – Heather Bolte, Need 1

February 27 – Heather Bolte, Need 1

Marge Ormsby is the Club Coordinator. Please notify her by text or call if you cannot make it or will be late. 402-469-3296

ICYMI ~ January 2026

More bell ringing from December below



January 8 - David Zechman Interim CEO Mary Lanning Hospital

David moved here from West Cleveland and will be 70 on January 31st. He started in the last 2 months and a search for the new CEO is expected to take 6 months. He graduated as a respiratory therapist and has been in the medical field for 43 years. His undergraduate degree is from Miami of Ohio University and Medical degree is from Cleveland State. He has been married 47 years and has 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

There is a shortage of almost all types of medical practitioners. However, they have received over 80 applications for the CEO position in the first 2 weeks, including some excellent candidates. They are in the interviewing process. Meanwhile, Mary Lanning has had 2 successful, profitable years in the last 2 fiscal calendar years, mainly because the State of Nebraska allowed for more Medicaid reimbursement from the Federal government.

There are 92 hospitals in Nebraska and Mary Lanning was rated in the top 10 last year by Forbes magazine. Another excellent rating came from Becker's, a hospital rater for psychiatric wards. Mary Lanning's psych ward was rated 6th in the NATION, for being able to place a new patient in a bed within an average of 27 minutes when they came to Mary Lanning in an emergency situation.

Mary Lanning is in the process of trying to raise \$320,000 for 16 new defibrillators to replace 16 they have in service.



January 15 Comron Yazdgerdi, Regional Director, Fellowship of Christian Athletes



Comron is originally from Colorado and went to Hastings College where he was a coach for 2 years. He then was a Hastings High School coach for 8 years. His FCA region has 6 high schools and Hastings College in it. He discussed his religious philosophy he believes, part of which is found in Galatians 2: 16-21. The college students he works with thought these verses were the most important support for their faith that they learned in the last year. Through working with college kids, he believes he gets a front row seat to see how God works.

January 22nd Jonathan Kiehl of Catholic Social Services:



Jonathan moved to Hastings last June with his wife and 9 children. From 2003 to 2012, he was a teacher in Macon, Georgia. During that time he went on a mission trip to Mexico and they felt a calling to be missionaries. They were missionaries in Mexico, Peru, Haiti and Ecuador in the Amazon jungle. In Ecuador, they built a youth center.

In Mexico, in 2012, they started a project called "Floors for Poor," putting concrete floors in homes. Right now, he is in the process of moving Catholic Social Services to a new building at 124 S Colorado and they are also building a new thrift store.

Jonathan has 3 current goals: 1) deepening the relationship with people they serve such as their work with the Open Table project with other churches where churches in Hastings provide free lunches to the community. Open Table will be in the new building. 2) enhancing their personal care pantry which provides hygiene products. 3) since they serve 14 counties in our area they want to hire a rural caseworker to provide better service outside of Hastings.

January 29th—Tim Jones on his TV network and App [NebraskaWeather.TV](#)

Tim has had a 30 year career on TV and is now producing his own independent TV station through the App: [NebraskaWeather.TV](#)

You can also follow him on his Facebook page: @timjonesweather and you can watch on your phone. The app goes through YouTube.

He worked 10 years at local channel 4 TV and wants to continue to provide local weather reports. His career started by being a storm chaser for the Weather channel, then he was a meteorologist for KREM TV in Spokane, WA. He next was the chief meteorologist in Cheyenne, WY.

Tim partners with 15 other weather people across the US to provide "local" weather for each area. In that way their network can attract national advertisers on their national weather station. Tim presents weather information on ROKU and Fire TV and also through Aurora's Cobalt Cable channel 45. He has a "chat" feature whenever he is live, so that viewers can ask questions or make comments about severe weather in their area. He will respond even while the show is going on.

Mike Will produces the same type of independent production for live TV for sports in our area similar to Tim's.



2025-2026 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

Officers

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

Immediate Past President ~ Frank Koch
franklink@hastingskiwanis.org

President-Elect ~ Russanne Hoff
russanneh@hastingskiwanis.org

Vice President ~ Marge Ormsby
marge.ormsby@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)

Heather Bolte (2)
heather.bolte@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (2)
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

Mike Howie (2)
mikeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Greg Schultz (2)
gregs@hastingskiwanis.org

John Boltz (1)
johnb@hastingskiwanis.org

Brandon McDermott (1)
brandon.mcdermott@hastingskiwanisd.org

Casey Mohler (1)
casey.mohler@hastingskiwanis.org

Dale Musgrave (1)
dalem@hastingskiwanis.org

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Michelle Musgrave
6 George Howard
12 Roger Selley
16 Adam Primm
18 Dale Musgrave
22 Christy Rickert

