

At Your Service

Providing Electric, Gas, Water and Sanitary Sewer Services **October 2023**

Board members Chairman Bill Hitesman, Vice Chairwoman Jeanette Dewalt, Secretary Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Scott Snell



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Strategic Plan

Hastings residences will soon begin receiving the multi-page community survey that is part of the city's strategic planning process.

The strategic planning process will be used to prioritize efforts, effectively allocate resources, align shareholders and employees on the organization's goals, and ensure those goals are backed by data and sound reasoning. The strategic plan will assist city department heads in planning for future fiscal years.

ETC Institute of Olathe, Kansas will administer the survey as part of the data-gathering phase for approximately \$25,000 with a continued annual cost of \$25,000 as well. Within that cost is a feature that gives the public access to the survey data.

The City of Hastings selected ETC Institute because of the company's experience in this field. ETC Institute has administered surveys for more than 1,000 cities and counties in 49

states during the last five years.

The survey will be mailed to 5,000 random Hastings households. That amount represents nearly half of all residences within the community.

There will be a \$500 drawing for residents who fill out the survey. When someone receives the mailing, they will have the option to fill out the paper survey OR they will be able to fill the survey out online. If a resident takes the online survey, and they were not on the mailing list, their survey won't count and will be discarded. The ETC Institute has a list of addresses that will be cross-checked with every survey.

The goal is for at least 500 surveys to be completed. That amount, along with proper controls, represents statistically significant results.

In addition to the community survey, members of the Strategic Planning Committee, who were selected by the Hastings City Council, are leading 20 community meetings with a variety of



Strategic Planning Committee members will assist in data-gathering, analysis, composition, and a final report. They are also conducting community meetings.

groups meant to represent all demographics across Hastings.

Like the survey, the community meetings give residents a chance to provide feedback about what they like about Hastings, but also changes they would like to see in the community.

The Strategic Planning Committee will assist in future phases as well: data-gathering, analysis, composition, and a final report.

October is Fire Prevention Month

Hastings Fire and Rescue is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 100 years—to promote this year's FPW campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention."

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8-14, but Hastings Fire and Rescue recognizes the entire month of October as Fire Prevention Month.

"Far and away, the leading cause of structure fires in Hastings for 2023 has been cooking fires," HFR Risk Reduction Officer Anthony Murphy said. "Not only has this caused a huge financial impact through thousands

of dollars in property damage, injuries have also resulted from these preventable fires. Let's work together as a community to change this trend and keep our community resilient."

Hastings Fire and Rescue is hosting a series of events in support of this year's FPW campaign, including an open house 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Oct. 14 at Fire Station 1, 1313 N. Hastings Ave.

The open house includes station tours, antique fire truck rides, and kids games. Hastings Firefighters Local 675 will also be providing a free pancake breakfast.

For more information contact Hastings Fire and Rescue at 402-461-2350, Anthony Murphy at amurphy@cityofhastings.org.