

# City of Hayward Newsletter

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Hayward routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. One such contaminant is gross alpha. The maximum allowable contaminant level is 15.4 pCi/L. Hayward's recent testing results were 39 pCi/L.

Gross alpha is colorless, tasteless, and odorless in drinking water and testing is the only way to identify its presence in drinking water. Drinking elevated levels of gross alpha can increase the risk of adverse health effects. If you have specific health concerns, speak with your doctor about it.

Gross alpha occurs naturally within ground water. South-eastern MN, in general, has higher amounts of gross alpha. **THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY.** You do not need an alternate source of water, such as bottled water. The MN Department of Health requires this information to be posted. There is a posting available on the bulletin board outside the post office.

*Home water treatment units are available to reduce gross alpha, including water softening, reverse osmosis, and distillation.*

**Please plan on attending Tuesday April 21, 2026  
Hayward Community Center, 10 a.m.**

Connected Community of Freeborn County (CCFC) invites adults 55+ to join a discussion on aging safely at home. The goal is for seniors to remain in their homes as long as possible through supportive services. CCFC offers virtual home care, homemaker services, medication support, and a reassurance program. Join an open friendly discussion and share your insights. CCFC wants to know what matters to you most. Help improve services for seniors.

## HAYWARD DRINKING WATER PROJECT UPDATE

The City of Hayward is working to address water quality concerns. This includes high levels of iron that have historically left most residents filtering the water with in-home systems to reduce rust and odor issues. Water quality testing has also identified naturally occurring gross alpha radiation from the groundwater. The MN Department of Health (MDH) has issued a compliance agreement to the City to come up with a plan to reduce the contaminant. Additionally manganese and ammonia have been detected in the groundwater at levels that would be beneficial to reduce.

The City has been working with their engineer, ISG, to come up with a solution to treat the gross alpha, iron, manganese, and ammonia with a new water treatment facility and a new source water well. The City has applied for funding through the MN Public Facilities Authority (MPFA) Drinking Water Revolving Fund. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$4 million. The City anticipates using a low interest loan and grant split for the work. Loan repayment is planned through increases in the water user rates to affordability rates set by the MPFA. Plans for the projects are being finalized for public bidding, with bids expected to be received in May. If the project moves forward as planned, construction will likely start in the Fall of 2026 with the new plant operational before the end of 2028. ISG has already begun necessary preliminary work required by the MPFA, in order to qualify for a grant and loans.

Spring, 2026

### Residents with Sump Pumps!

**Don't forget you must drain your sump pump outside NOT down the sanitary sewer (from within your house). The lift station becomes overburdened.**

**Spring means PROJECTS!** Whether you're planning to build a shed, add a deck on to your home, pour a cement patio, build an addition, you **MUST obtain permission**, attend a council meeting to explain your plans, etc. Complete & return a Construction Authorization form (available at City Office). In some cases you will be directed Freeborn County.

### **REMINDER! Please do not flush**

paper towels, facial tissues, baby wipes, flushable wipes, sanitary napkins, and other similar items down the toilet. These products can cause sanitary sewer backups, and additional public health concerns.

As many of you know, Hayward's former Mayor, Michael Hansen passed away Feb. 2, 2026 while in Arizona.

The Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday April 24th at 10 a.m. at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Austin, MN. The Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at church.

Mike was a dedicated Mayor whose leadership positively impacted the City of Hayward!