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[Print the Newsletter](#)

Mankato's Regional Airport plays important role in international partnership



Chinese delegation members included (left to right) Changdong Xu, Bob Bao-Tong Ma and Wei Ma.

Mankato City Manager Patrick Hentges and representatives from China and Minnesota State University, Mankato

(MSU) announced that a contract is expected to be established between these organizations within the next 90 days.

This contract will begin cooperative efforts to developing a working group focused on recruiting students from China to study in MSU's aviation program and build upon other business and governmental opportunities.

"This partnership will have a strong impact on higher education, businesses and the city as the Mankato Regional Airport, a regional asset, expands," Hentges said. "Partnerships like this benefit the local economy and provide an opportunity to learn from each other and share ideas, which is invaluable."

[Read](#) more online. For more information [contact](#) City Manager Patrick Hentges at 507-387-8695.

Citizens connect at Night to Unite

Build community by hosting or taking part in a [Night to Unite](#) event from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 30, held then so college students can participate



New firefighters shown taking their oath to serve (left to right) Ryan Fitzgerald, Ryan Warnemunde and Brandt Brelje. Also pictured is Director of Public Safety Todd A. Miller and City Clerk Cheryl Lindquist.

Mankato's Department of Public Safety added three firefighters to its staff: Ryan Fitzgerald, Ryan Warnemunde and Brandt Brelje.

They recently took oaths to serve in their new roles. Three full-time firefighters were promoted to lieutenant: [Glen Cansler](#), [Sean Hayes](#) and [Scott LeBrun](#) and [Don Lehne](#) was promoted to commander.

Each new hire and promoted staff member have been assigned to a city ward to work with citizens in those neighborhoods as part of the city's community governance effort, a philosophy that focuses on partnerships and problem solving. By looking for opportunities to work together, citizens, along with city staff, can make positive strides to impact Mankato's livability.

- Ward 1: Don Lehne
- Ward 2: Scott LeBrun and Ryan Fitzgerald
- Ward 4: Sean Hayes and Brandt Brelje
- Ward 5: Glen Cansler and Ryan Warnemunde

[See](#) Mankato's ward maps to determine the ward you live in. For more information [contact](#) Todd A. Miller, director of public safety, at 507-387-8793.

It's a great time to capture photos of Mankato's spaces and places



With less than a month left of Mankato's 2012 [city photo contest](#), now is a great time to submit entries. Capture your favorite Mankato's spaces and places and submit to Mankato's

since this when they return. Night to Unite is an opportunity to:

- build community
- engage with city staff and officials
- raise crime prevention awareness



Build community...be a part of Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 30.

"Night to Unite provides a great way to connect with your neighbors," said Todd A. Miller, director of public safety. "Last year, we grew the event and are hoping even more people participate this year."

Registration is easy and can be done online any time by Tuesday, August 16. Learn more about Night to Unite by watching City Update [online](#), on [Facebook](#), or on public access channels 10 (HickoryTech) or 12 (Charter):

- Sundays at 8:58 p.m.
- Mondays at 4:38 p.m.
- Tuesdays at 7:55 a.m.
- Wednesdays at 6:58 p.m.
- Thursdays at 9:30 p.m.
- Fridays at 7:30 a.m.
- Saturdays at 1:40 p.m.

For more information or to register, [contact](#) public safety staff at 507-387-8791.

Mankato's public works staff at new location Monday

On Monday, August 1, city of Mankato public works offices are opening in their new office location at 501 South Victory Drive, which provides a centralized work space for public works staff in infrastructure, streets, central garage and parks and forestry.

"The opportunity to reuse an existing building helps to save overall costs vs. building a new facility," said Mark Knoff, director of public works. "By having public works staff co-located, this facility will help increase efficiency in the services we provide to the public."

Recycle bins and water meters are available at 501 South Victory Drive. Park reservations can also be made at the new location or [online](#).

For more information: [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8649.

Enter Mankato's 2011 city photo contest by Friday, August 26.

public information office by Friday,

August 26. [Download](#) an entry form and see past winners.

The top two photos will be enlarged, framed and placed on the walls of the Intergovernmental Center. Winning photos will also be featured in a variety of city communication projects. Learn more about the contest by watching City Update [online](#), on [Facebook](#), or on public access channels 10 (HickoryTech) or 12 (Charter):

- Sundays at 7:55 a.m.
- Mondays at 7:55 p.m.
- Tuesdays at 12:58 p.m.
- Wednesdays at 8:40 p.m.
- Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.
- Fridays at 8:58 a.m.
- Saturdays at 3:55 pm

Thank you to the [Mankato Clinic](#) and [CHS Oilseed Processing](#) for sponsoring the 2012 city calendar. Without their sponsorship printing of the [calendar](#) would not continue.

For more information [contact](#) Mankato's public information staff at 507-387-8692.

Mankato selected as one of the best places for businesses and careers

Mankato ranked 25th in the nation as one of "The Best Small Places for Business and Careers," on a recent list Forbes.com released. An [online slide presentation](#) shows that cost of doing business, net migration, educational attainment and being a metropolitan statistical area were all cited as criteria used to earn the ranking.

Other criteria listed within the ranking and information about Mankato include median household income and home price, unemployment and job growth. Mankato was described as being home to several academic institutions and as being a popular destination for outdoor recreational activities.

[Read](#) the complete Forbes story online which designates "The Best Places for Business" in America.

R.D. Hubbard House events

Story time at the Hubbard House

Join Katherine and Mary Esther Hubbard every Friday

Going green in public safety



Look for the "green machine" in the city's parks and on its trails.

Mankato's public safety fleet now includes the "green machine," a mini-vehicle that is cost-effective, environmentally friendly and fuel efficient.

The "green machine's" small size makes it more mobile than a full-size vehicle. It can fit better on Mankato's trails and reach areas that squad cars cannot, helping police efficiently patrol hard to reach areas. Since many people use Mankato's trails, these small four-wheel drive vehicles can better help to ensure the public's safety.

Although small in size, the "green machine" is big on fuel economy. A tiny, but efficient three-cylinder fuel-injected gasoline engine averages between 42 and 50 miles per gallon.

"This is another tool that will help us out in the field," said Todd A. Miller, director of public safety. "It also will increase the visibility of our police officers, making them more approachable."

The "green machine" will be primarily operated by volunteer part-time officers and reserves.

For more information [contact](#) Todd A. Miller, director of public safety, at 507-387-8793.

New--make park reservations online

Reserve a Mankato shelter, campsite in Land of Memories park, or community building any time of day or night using Mankato's new [online park reservation](#) feature. Users just need to register an account. Credit cards are accepted, or checks can be mailed or dropped off at the Intergovernmental Center, 10 Civic Center Plaza.

For more information, [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8600.

Tourtellotte Pool--a place for summer fun



The historic R.D. Hubbard House, 606 South Broad Street.

morning at 10:30 a.m. for story time at the Hubbard House, 606 South Broad Street.

Through Friday, August 26, the Hubbards will host story time, crafts, games and more on the Hubbard House lawn.

There is no cost to participate.

Victorian Wedding at the Hubbard House

The public is invited to a Victorian Wedding at 10 a.m., Saturday, August 20 in the garden area. The wedding party will wear full Victorian costume. Music and refreshments will follow the ceremony. See details [online](#).

Tours

Tours of the historic R.D. Hubbard House are available. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages five to 17. Children under four and Blue Earth County Historical Society members can tour at no cost. Hours are:

- Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m
- Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information [contact](#) the Blue Earth County Historical Society at 507-345-5566 or visit go [online](#).

Since 1938, the city of Mankato has owned the Hubbard House and assisted with maintenance.

Events at Elk's Nature Center

Plan to attend programs offered at Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods, 555 Stoltzman Road:

Nature Rangers, ages six to nine
10 a.m. to noon,
Wednesdays



Elk's Nature Center, 555 Stoltzman Road.

Youth engage in numerous hands-on learning activities, such as games, field searches and discovery hikes.

Teen Adventures, ages 11 to 15
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays

Tourtellotte Pool is the place to cool off during hot summer days. It features a wading pool and Olympic-sized pool with dive well. Wednesday's Family Night is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. [See](#) hours, admission and pool pass rates.

For more information about the pool, contact pool staff at 507-387-7946 or the YMCA at 507-387-8255.



Splash into Tourtellotte Pool.

Mankato Marathon is October 22

The Mankato Marathon is Saturday, October 22. Hosted by the Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors Bureau and Final Stretch, this accredited race is a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon, and is projected to have a second year attendance of 5,000 runners.

Traffic on the following roads and intersections will be impacted:

- Monks Avenue and Stadium Road
- Monks Avenue and County Road 90
- County Road 90 and Highway 22
- Riverfront Drive will be closed (from Poplar Street to Stoltzman Road)
- Riverfront Drive will be reduced to one lane traffic both ways (from Stoltzman Road to Main Street) for local business access only

[Review](#) the course map and [see](#) the schedule of events. For more information visit www.mankatomarathon.com or call 507-385-6660.

Pay Mankato utility bills online

Sign up for online or electronic bill pay today. It's easy.

Residents who sign up help the environment while saving costs:

- \$2 each month by using electronic fund transfer;
- \$1 each month by using the city's paperless billing option.

[Complete](#) an online application. Another option is to sign up by [contacting](#) city of Mankato staff at 507-387-8600, or [complete](#) an application and mail to:



Use electronic bill pay or go online to pay Mankato utility bills.

Learn about nature first hand: plant identification, animal tracks, keeping nature healthy and more.

Book clubs, ages nine to 13
2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Tuesdays: "The Hatchet" by Gary Paulson
- Thursdays: "The Sign of the Beaver" by Elizabeth George Speare

Books are available for purchase in local bookstores.

Wee Naturalist, ages three to five
10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Fridays

Hands-on learning based around favorite storybooks. Dress for the weather.

For more information about events at Elk's Nature Center, [contact](#) staff at 507-387-8585 or 507-387-8501.

Upcoming Verizon Civic Center events



Around 5,000 people attended last year's RibFest.

RibFest returns to Riverfront Park
Mankato's 14th annual [RibFest](#) will be Thursday, August 4

through Sunday, August 7 in [Riverfront Park](#), 310 West Rock Street. This year's line up includes:

[Tracy Lawrence](#)
10 p.m., Thursday, August 4

[Big Head Todd and the Monsters](#)
10 p.m., Friday, August 5

[Little River Band](#)
10 p.m., Saturday, August 6

Tickets cost \$5 and will be available at the gate. [Parking](#) is available at Riverfront Park. In addition, there will be no cost parking in downtown parking ramps with continuously operating shuttle bus service from the west side of the civic center.

Riverfront Park features a number of other [amenities](#) including access to the Minnesota River, a playground and WordWalk, imprinted sidewalk poems written by citizens.

Outside food and beverages are not allowed at RibFest.

City of Mankato
 Water billing
 Intergovernmental Center
 10 Civic Center Plaza
 P.O. Box 3368
 Mankato, MN 56002-3368

For more information, [contact](#) city of Mankato staff at 507-387-8600.

Follow Mankato on Facebook and Twitter

The city of Mankato, the City Council and City Manager Patrick Hentges are on Facebook. Become a [Facebook](#) fan and connect with local government and officials. Residents can also follow the city of Mankato on [Twitter](#).

For more information, [contact](#) public information staff at 507-387-8692.

Mankato's bus--your destination on time



Ride the bus with us. Call 507-625-RIDE (7433).

Mankato's city bus is convenient, reliable and affordable transportation that gets riders to their destination on time. [Learn](#) more about Mankato's buses and [see](#) routes online, or

Advertise on a city bus. For more information, [contact](#) public works staff at 507-387-8655.

Other events

[Miranda Lambert](#)
 7:30 p.m., Saturday, September 10

[John Hiatt](#) in [Riverfront Park](#)
 7 p.m., Friday, September 16

[The Jayhawks](#) in [Riverfront Park](#)
 Saturday, September 17

[Disney Live! Three classic fairy tales](#)
 Sunday, November 27

For more information contact civic center staff at 507-389-3000. [Sign up](#) for EventMail to get Verizon Wireless Center news.

24-hour city services

- Public safety: 911
- [Customer service online](#)
- Crime solvers tipline and graffiti hotline: 507-387-8610
- Street maintenance request: 507-345-0600
- [File](#) a police report online
- Compost site 507-388-3122
- Recycle center 507-388-1157
- Water 507-387-8661

[Editor](#)
 507-387-8692

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