



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

mandan messenger

July meetings

City Commission, July 5 at 5 p.m. and July 19, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, July 5 at 7 p.m. and July 18, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, July 12, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, July 12, 2 p.m., Morton County Courthouse.

City Planning and Zoning Commission, July 25, 5:15 p.m., City Hall

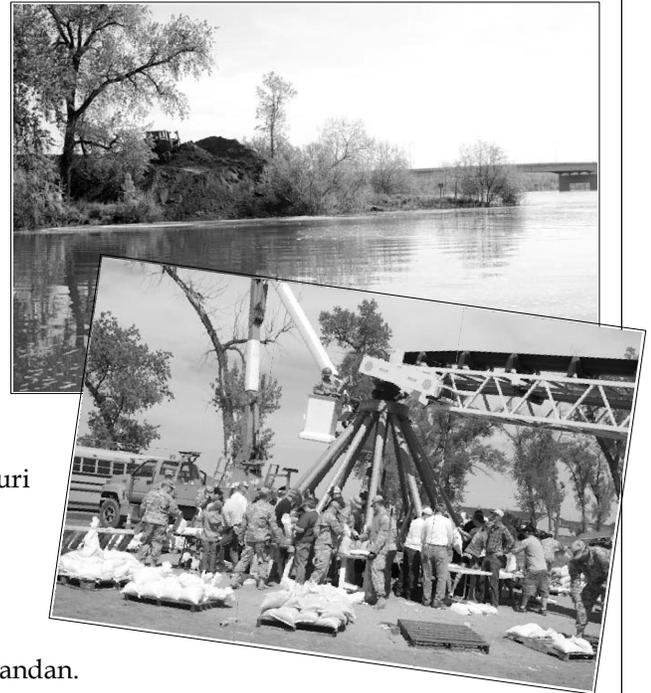
Brave Center open house on June 21

The Mandan Public School District is holding an open house at 7 p.m. on June 21. Check out the renovations at 901 Division Street NW.

Community works together to battle flood

"How high's the water, Mama? Three feet high and rising." Many Mandan and Bismarck residents feel like they have been living the story of this old Johnny Cash song since news came May 23 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about the need to increase Garrison Dam releases to the Missouri River. The alert was for an increased release from 54,000 cubic feet per second to 75,000 cfs depending on river and reservoir conditions.

The situation quickly escalated from concerns about a "no wake zone" for watercraft on an already swollen Missouri River to Morton County Emergency Management establishing sandbagging sites and issuing a recommended evacuation notice for the Tokach/Timberhaven area and an alert for residents of Jetty Beach, both south of Mandan.



OPPORTUNITY

Economic indicators paint a positive picture for Mandan in 2011. Here are some statistics as of April's end:

- É1% city sales tax – up 8.5 percent
- É1% restaurant and lodging tax – up 1.8 percent
- É2% occupancy tax – up 9.8percent

Other indicators. The City of Mandan has issued building permits for 80 residential units as of May's end, compared to 136 for all of 2010. Twenty-eight of the permits are for single family homes, compared to 52 during 2010. The average value of single family home permits is \$275,435, up substantially from the 2010 average of \$227,199.

The value of building permits for new commercial and industrial buildings is \$2.0 million as of May's end year ago, up from \$907,565 for the same period last year.



On May 26, the Corps indicated a worst case scenario of 120,000 cfs. The City of Mandan launched construction of a temporary east-west dike in the approximate area of 19th Street SE from the Heart River embankment to the Expressway. A Corps team with expertise in hydrology, geology, engineering and other aspects of battling floods began to assist the city and county officials with protective measures.

Thankfully, the City of Mandan in 2005 and 2006 had put several protections in place to get certain areas out of the 100-year flood plain. These protections include berms, storm pipes to pump out interior areas and a requirement for new homes to be constructed to an elevation of 1,638 msl.

On May 28, the Corps alerted cities of the need to increase releases by mid-June to 150,000 cfs. The river level at 150,000 cfs was estimated at 20.6 feet with flood protection measures recommended for 21.6 feet or a land elevation of approximately 1,641.2 msl. Hundreds of National Guard soldiers began helping with planning, sandbagging, traffic control, and running heavy equipment.

The Corps brought in a contractor to build additional dikes along the river and bay shores to protect critical infrastructure such as the Waste Water Treatment Plant from overland flooding. Engineers from Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson assisted the City with securing bids for plugging of inlets to three bays to provide protection from underground water flows. The N.D. Department of Transportation

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Park district and YMCA explore possible recreation center

The Missouri Valley YMCA and Mandan Parks and Recreation announced May 24 plans to explore a possible partnership in a recreation center at Raging Rivers Water Park. A market survey to be conducted via telephone this summer will help leaders from both entities determine if there is sufficient demand to justify a satellite facility.

A preliminary survey suggested there were 1,000 new households that could become members with a secondary YMCA location serving the south tier of Mandan and Bismarck. Members would be able to go to both the Bismarck location on Washington Street and Divide as well as the Mandan facility. Early concepts look at a 20,000 to 25,000 square foot building.

The Park District intends to avoid a tax increase. If the market survey is positive, next steps would include a YMCA capital campaign and sponsorship recruitment. The Park District would bring to the partnership the land at a site that already has a parking lot and utilities. It is also retiring about \$240,000 in debt in 2011 and 2012 and would be able to apply funds to a new capital improvement project without a tax increase.

The Mandan Park Board will be seeking public input at future monthly meetings, typically held the second Monday of each month at 5:30 pm. at City Hall.

Cost-sharing available for boulevard trees

Property owners are reminded that the City of Mandan has a cost-sharing program for the purchase and planting of boulevard trees. Private property owners may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of their cost (not to exceed \$50 per tree or \$300 per property). Contact City Forester Barry Kiemele at 667-3239 for more information.

Flood

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hauled hundreds of truckloads of clay for the projects while residents and other volunteers filled and placed thousands of sandbags – all in a race against the clock.

As the situation stands in early June, some 6.3 miles of levees are in place along the river and bay shores and around the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the bay inlets are plugged and water is being pumped from the bays to keep them at an approximate 15-foot elevation.

About 200 households north and south of Mandan have had to evacuate. There are about 1,600 homes in the areas of anticipated impact.

Morton County and the City of Mandan will be seeking reimbursement for protective measures from FEMA to the extent allowed. Other funding alternatives for projects include special assessment districts.

For more information, contact Morton County Emergency Management at 667-3307 or the City of Mandan at 667-3215.

ON-LINE POLL RESULTS

Preferences for addressing student increase lean toward building permanent elementary school structures

The on-line poll for May asked, "How should the Mandan Public School District address increasing elementary enrollment?" There were 98 respondents as follows:

- É 26% – Build four permanent classrooms onto Ft. Lincoln Elementary (which has land & was designed to accommodate expansion),
- É 23% – Build a new elementary school,
- É 15% – Do nothing,
- É 11% – Renovate and use the former junior high school (most recently the Great Plains Academy)
- É 10% – Modify the school day or calendar
- É 8% – Purchase and place portable classrooms as needed
- É 6% – Don't know/need more info.

The Mandan School Board voted June 6 to pursue plans for a new school. A public vote on a bond issue would be required to ultimately move the project forward.

Contact us

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Mandan City Commission

Mayor Tim Helbling
Dot Frank
Thomas Jackson
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Administration 667-3215
Airport Authority 663-0669
Assessing &
Building Inspection . 667-3230
Business
Development 667-3485
Cemetery 667-6044
Engineering, Planning &
Zoning 667-3225
Finance 667-3213
Fire 667-3288
Human Resources . 667-3217
Landfill 667-0184
Library 667-5365
Municipal Court 667-3270
Police 667-3455
Public Works 667-3240
Special
Assessments 667-3271
Utility Billing 667-3219
Waste Water
Treatment 667-3278
Water Treatment 667-3275

Receive E-mail Notices

Sign up to receive notice of city meetings and news in the "E-mail Updates" section of www.cityofmandan.com. Meeting dates and agendas are available.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How do you rate Mandan's handling of the flood situation so far?

Visit www.cityofmandan.com by July 1 to respond.