



September meetings

City Commission, Sept. 3 and 17, 5 p.m. (early start), City Hall

School Board, Sept. 3 and 17, 7 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Sept. 10, 4 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning and Zoning Commission, Sept. 23, 5:15 p.m., City Hall

Sept. 14 movie in the park

The Mandan Park District will host an outdoor movie night Saturday, Sept. 14, at Memorial Ballpark, 501 Third Street SW. Admission is free. Gates open at 8:30 p.m. The movie begins at 9 p.m. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Dress warm as temperatures may drop when the sun goes down. Concessions will be available. The movie will be "42," featuring the story of baseball great Jackie Robinson.

Farmers market sets up Tuesdays & Saturdays

Vendors are selling fresh produce in Heritage Park on the 300 block of west Main on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until sell-out and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until sell-out. For info, call Diane Schmidt at 391-0506.

Planning for Oktoberfest

The Mandan Progress Organization will hold a new community event Sept. 28-29 in Dykshoorn Park on Main Street. The event will include German food, games, beer tasting and live music. Stay tuned to www.mandanprogress.org for more info. Volunteer by calling 751-2983.

City budget development underway

Public hearing is Sept. 17

City of Mandan elected officials and staff are in the midst of creating the 2014 budget. The budget process began this spring. Departments submitted budget requests in June.

The Budget and Finance Committee has been meeting with department managers, supervisors and portfolio commissioners throughout July to review requests. The committee consists of City Commission Finance portfolio holder Sandy Tibke, City Administrator Jim Neubauer and Finance Director Greg Welch.

The Finance committee's recommendations will be presented to the City Commission at its Aug. 20 meeting. The City will publish a notice of a public hearing in the *Mandan News* on Aug. 30. The budget will be available upon request in the Finance office at City Hall at this point and posted at www.cityofmandan.com.

The public hearing at a meeting of the City Commission is planned for Sept. 17. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. at City Hall. For more info, call the Finance Department at 667-3213. Notices of all budget related meetings are posted on the city website.

Morton County, the Mandan Public School District and the Mandan Park District each have their own separate budget processes.

Park Board, City & YMCA advance rec center concept

A public-private partnership may help make a 41,000 square-foot recreational center a reality in Mandan within a few years – without a tax levy increase.

The Mandan City Commission in June approved a request for a commitment of \$1.5 million from the Visitor's Fund to assist the Mandan Park District in acquiring property adjacent to Raging Rivers Waterpark to establish a recreation center. The commitment was for \$750,000 as negotiations are completed with the remainder to be granted in increments of \$150,000 per year for the next five years.

The Visitors Fund is generated by the City's 1 percent restaurant and lodging tax. By state law, the fund is for the purchase, equipping, improving, construction, maintenance, repair, and acquisition of buildings or property consistent with visitor attraction and promotion.

see **Rec Center** page 2

Budget policies guide process

The City of Mandan has several budget policies. Among them:

- ✓ Minimum fund balance reserve operating percentages,
- ✓ City sales tax fund - 40% transferred to general fund for property tax reduction,
- ✓ Operations and maintenance expenditures based on the consumer price index for Midwest cities less than 50,000 population,
- ✓ City share of the consolidated mill levy for Mandan property owners will not exceed the average city mill levy for the prior year of the other 11 largest cities in the state.





Recreational center

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Mandan Visitors Promotion Fund

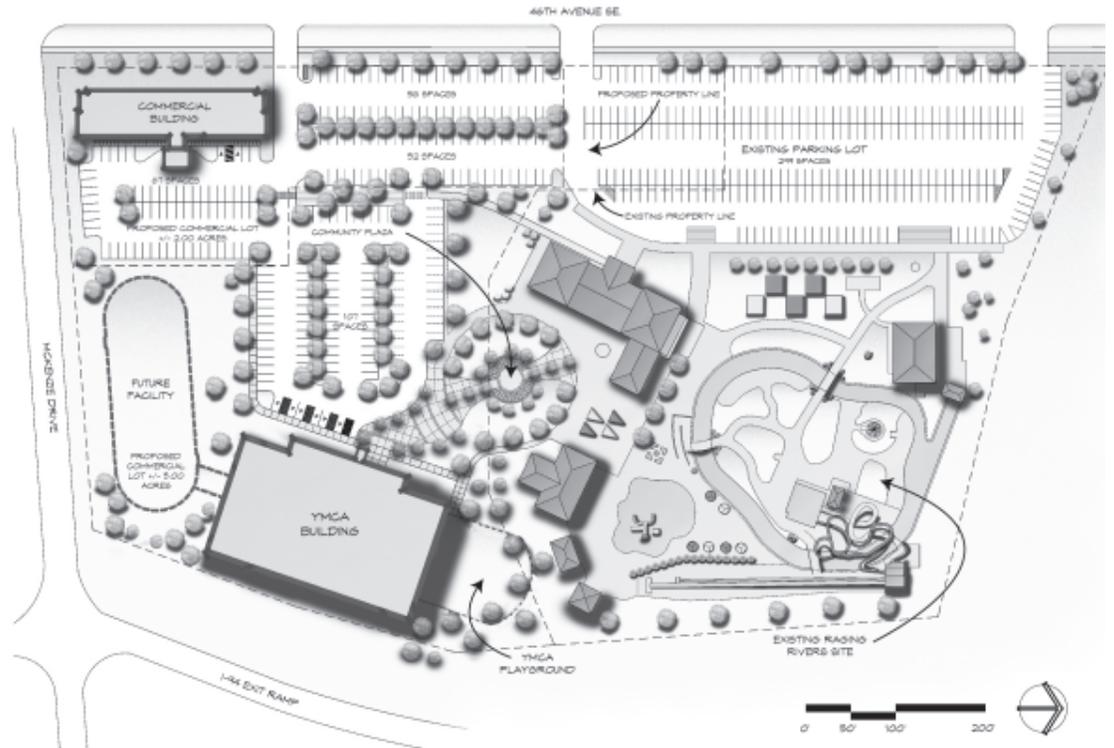
The restaurant and lodging tax generated a record \$371,266 in 2012 for the Visitor's Fund. This was up 16 percent.

The fund must be used for projects consistent with visitor attraction and promotion

Visitors funding was approved in 2013 toward replacement of the Mandan High School gymnasium floor and bleachers.

Past projects include:

- electronic message center and welcome monument on East Main Street,
- renovations to Veterans Memorial Ballpark,
- creation of the Richard M. Longfellow Veterans Park,
- Harmon Lake improvements,
- improvements to the commissary at Ft. Abraham Lincoln State Park,
- a grant for the Mandan Historical Society's heritage home tour,
- renovations to the former railroad beanery building at 411 W Main, now the home of the Mandan Progress Organization.



The conceptual site plan for the recreational center to the south of Raging Rivers Water Park would make the facility highly visible and easily accessible from the Expressway.

In July, the Mandan Park Board and YMCA approved a memorandum of understanding for the land purchase, construction and operation of the recreational facility. Here's a summary of important aspects of the partnership plan:

- The Park District has purchased 5.25 acres of property next to the water park for \$1.7 million. The Park District will lease necessary acreage for the facility to the YMCA for 50 years at \$1 per year. Lessees pay special assessments and liability insurance for the property. The YMCA has the option of purchasing the land for fair market value.
- The YMCA will build, own and operate a 41,000 square-foot facility with a full-sized gym, suspended running track, wellness/fitness center, fitness studios for classes such as aerobics and cycling, child care classrooms, a child watch program, locker rooms, meeting rooms and offices.
- The YMCA will need to raise an anticipated \$10.5 million through naming rights or other financing strategies as well as through fundraising to commence in 2014. The agreement may terminate if half of the fundraising goal is not met by July 1, 2014, or if the full fundraising goal is not met and construction commenced by July 1, 2015.
- If the land is sold, the Park District will pay the City of Mandan 88 percent of the net sale in keeping with the pro-rata investment for the land purchase.

Surveys conducted in 2011 showed that location and convenience are the biggest reasons people don't currently join the YMCA. The Raging Rivers location is perceived as convenient and is expected to become a destination. The YMCA's conservatively estimates that 2,200 membership units, representing 6,500 individuals, from Mandan and Bismarck would patronize a new YMCA in the southeast Mandan location. Total annual visits to the Mandan center are pegged at 240,000. YMCA members ultimately will be able to use either the Bismarck or Mandan recreational facilities.



Collins Place development expected to begin this fall

Dakota Commercial Development, through a partnership known as Crown Equity, LLC, is expected to break ground soon at the corner of Collins Avenue and Main Street on construction of a four-story, 46,000 square-foot building to feature commercial space at the street level and 29 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments on upper stories. The building's estimated cost is \$3 million.

The developer is still seeking one or more tenants for the commercial space or will consider sale of the space in a business condominium arrangement. For information, contact Kevin Ritterman at 701-772-3101.

Parking impacts. Employees of neighboring businesses in the area that have been using the vacant lot for parking will need to park elsewhere. Free all-day parking options (with overnight exceptions on alternating days of the week for street cleaning and snow removal) include the public lots on the south side of Main Street and the south side of First street. Some spaces are also available for \$20 per month to the east of the Fire Station. For more information about parking, contact the Police Department at 667-3455.

NDDOT again studying Memorial Highway for traffic signals

The City of Mandan's engineering department has received word from the N.D. Department of Transportation that it is once again studying Memorial Highway intersections at 46th Avenue SE, 40th Avenue SE and Third Street SE to determine if traffic signals are warranted. If the traffic volume does meet the warranted levels, the signals would likely go in next year.

Residential growth on pace to exceed last year's record

Mandan has issued building permits for 105 single family homes as of July's end, slightly above the 100 permits issued by this time during the 2012 record-smashing year. Total new units permitted for 2013 stand at 352 including condos, apartments and mobile homes, up significantly from 215 for the same period a year ago.

The average value of new single family homes permitted is at \$284,000 so far for 2013, up from \$239,000 in 2012.

More property tax relief anticipated with increasing sales tax revenues, Walmart's opening likely to provide further help

Collections of the Mandan's 1 percent sales tax through June are up 13.3 percent compared to 2012. Collections to date total just over \$1 million. It hasn't been that many years since that was Mandan's total for calendar year collections. Total revenue from the sales tax in 2012 reached nearly \$2 million.

Uses for sales tax. The City of Mandan applies 40 percent of its sales tax revenue toward the general fund budget to reduce property taxes. Other uses are for economic development, infrastructure improvements and municipal debt reduction.

Expectations for more. Sales from the Walmart supercenter expected to open in September are projected at \$50 million annually. Not all sales will be taxable, but the store should generate about \$400,000 per year in local sales tax revenue, offsetting in the first year the approximate \$200,000 of property tax exemption provided for two years on the \$13 million building.

Property maintenance & community beautification

Mandan's recently re-activated Community Beautification Committee is studying Mandan's current nuisance ordinance contained in Title 17 of municipal code. It deals with many aspects of property upkeep. For example, it prohibits the accumulation of refuse and rubbish in yards, lots, boulevards, streets, alleys and sidewalks or other places and premises. Refuse includes garbage, abandoned vehicles, discarded furniture or appliances, other household goods, barrels, cartons, boxes, pieces of wood and other discarded materials.

Help keep Mandan beautiful by doing your part to keep your property clean. Nuisance issues may be reported to the Mandan police department at 667-3455 or building inspection at 667-3230.



Rebuilding Together accepting applications for 2014 home repairs

Services for elderly, low-income & disabled

Rebuilding Together is accepting applications for next year's Rebuilding Day. Serving the Bismarck-Mandan community for 16 years, Rebuilding Together offers assistance to people who own their home, but due to physical limitations or economic hardship, are unable to properly maintain their residence. Rebuilding Together works in partnership with local corporations and volunteers to provide free rehabilitation and critical repair services.

Since its inception in 1997, Rebuilding Together has raised over \$800,000 in in-kind contributions and gifts, and provided rehabilitation and repairs to 138 homes in the Bismarck-Mandan area at no cost to the homeowner. Over 5,000 volunteers have donated their time and skills to replace floors and carpeting, repair plumbing, replace unsafe electrical wiring, install handicap accessible devices, paint homes, and repair windows.

To be eligible for assistance, applicants must be homeowners who reside in their home, have home insurance, owe no back taxes, and be unable to do the repairs themselves. Applicants may refer themselves or be referred by an agency, organization, family member, neighbor, or church. If you or someone you know is interested in receiving home repair services from Rebuilding Together, please call (701) 221-3232, or visit www.rebuildingtogetherbismar.com.

Elderly & disabled persons may qualify for tax exemptions

The Homestead Tax Credit is for homeowners and renters age 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled persons. Qualified applicants receive a reduction in property taxes on their primary residence or a refund for part of their home or apartment rent. The 2013 legislature increased the income allowance to \$42,000, after certain deductions, and raised the maximum allowance for assets to \$500,000.

Homeowners may apply for the credit by completing an application and submitting it to the City Assessing Department. Detailed requirements and the application are online at www.cityofmandan.com under the Assessing Department section. Forms are available at City Hall. For more info, call 667-3230. The renter's refund program administered by the N.D. Tax Department provides up to a \$400 refund for rent. Anyone who thinks they might be eligible should contact the N.D. Tax Department at 328-3127 to request an application.

ON-LINE POLL RESULTS

Majority of respondents ...

July's on-line poll asked, "What is your favorite park and recreation activity in Mandan?" There were only 46 respondents. Here are their picks from a list of choices:

- 37% trail use for walking or running,
- 15% playground use,
- 13% picnicking,
- 7% trail use for biking,
- 7% sporting activities for adults,
- 7% sporting activities for youth,
- 13% all of the above, and
- 2% other.

July was Park and Recreation month. For more info about Mandan Parks and Recreation, visit www.mandanparks.com, follow their pages on Facebook, or call 751-6161.

City Contacts

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Phone 701-667-3215
Fax 701-667-3223
www.cityofmandan.com

Mandan City Commission

Mayor Arlyn VanBeek
Mike Braun
Dot Frank
Dennis Rohr
Sandra Tibke

City Departments

Administration	667-3215
Airport Authority	663-0669
Assessing & Building Inspection	667-3230
Business Development	
& Communications	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

What community beautification initiatives do you support?

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