



mandan messenger

OCTOBER 2014 • VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 10

November meetings

City Commission, Nov. 4 and 18 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Nov. 3 and Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Nov. 10 at 4:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Nov. 10 and 25 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning and Zoning Commission, Nov. 24 at 5:15 p.m., City Hall

State of the Cities, Nov. 4

Mayor Arlyn Van Beek will present statistics on Mandan's growth at the Chamber's State of the Cities breakfast on Nov. 4 at the Ramkota Hotel. For more information, call at 223-5660.

Holiday Showcase, Nov. 4

The Mandan Progress Organization wants to help you with your holiday shopping! A Holiday Business Showcase will be held at the Harvest Grill, 308 West Main Street, on Nov. 4 from 5 to 8 p.m. Stop by and see what local businesses have to offer. For more information, visit www.mandanprogress.org or call 751-2983.

Santa's Arrival, Nov. 29

Welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to Mandan as they parade from Hardee's to the 300 block of West Main on Nov. 29 during Small Business Saturday. The parade kicks off at 10:45 a.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit with children at the Harvest Grill from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Doses of nostalgia will be plentiful with caroling, wagon rides and s'mores at the Mandan Progress Organization. For more information, visit www.mandanprogress.org or call 751-2983.

Family Wellness center to anchor business district

The Missouri Family YMCA estimates a new wellness center will generate 240,000 visits each year. The 41,000-square-foot facility will be located at 2620 46th Avenue SE in Mandan, directly south of Raging Rivers Water Park and only a 7-minute drive for most metro area residents. It's an anchor that should attract businesses to the area. Strip mall projects and other nearby development sites are available for retailers, restaurants, hotels and other businesses.



Community members sought a full-fledged recreational center in Mandan for some time. It was more than the Mandan Park District could take on by itself. A public-private partnership made the project feasible without a tax increase. Mandan Parks and Recreation used \$1.5 million from the City of Mandan Visitors Fund along with \$200,000 from the Park District to acquire the land, and the YMCA partnered with Sanford Health to bring Family Wellness to the community. The project is a \$12.3 million investment, with at least \$2 million to come from a public fundraising campaign.

There will be full reciprocity between the Missouri Valley Family YMCA in Bismarck and Family Wellness in Mandan providing added value and convenience as well as better access for members of both facilities.

Family Wellness will provide a unique environment that includes child care, fitness studios, a gymnasium, a walking track and a wellness center with workout equipment.

Construction will begin spring 2015, with an estimated completion date of spring 2016. For more information about Family Wellness, visit www.familywellnessbismar.com.

City approves 2015 budget with levy down 7 mills

The Mandan City Commission approved the 2015 budget at a Sept. 16 meeting with a 7 mill reduction from last year, resulting in a zero increase in property tax collections from the average existing residential property.

The City's 2015 budget puts the levy at 75 mills, down from 82 mills last year. The decrease in property tax rate offsets the average 9% valuation increase for existing residential properties.

The 2015 budget allows for the hiring of one additional part-time staff for the municipal court and one additional part-time staff for the engineering department. The police department continues to work on hiring additional police officers approved for 2014.

As elected boards finalize school district, park district and county budgets, the consolidated mill levy will be soon be known. For more information, visit www.cityofmandan.com.

MANDAN • NORTH DAKOTA





NEW & EXPANDING MANDAN BUSINESSES

- A & I Distributors
3601 30th Avenue NW
- Larson's Creative
Concepts
216 W Main Street
- Nutrition Wellness
Center
502 W Main Street
- Quick Tax
104 3rd Avenue NW
- Sugar Rush Boutique
606 First Street NW
- Wheels, Wings &
Hobbies
116 E Main Street

Nov. 6 public meeting focuses on facility improvements

The Mandan Joint Facilities Committee will hold a public information meeting Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the All Seasons Arena, 905 9th St NW. The evening includes a tour of the indoor hockey arena, an overview of public facility project options and discussion of a possible initiative to seek voter approval of an increase in the local sales tax rate to fund such improvements.



The committee is responding to community requests for new and improved facilities by studying project options, scope, available locations and costs as well as funding sources including a potential increase in local sales tax, possibly a half-cent on the dollar. Mandan's local sales tax is currently 1.0%, increasing Oct. 1 to 1.5%, the effective date for a half-cent increase approved for a joint jail to serve Burleigh and Morton counties.

Several options are being considered. The Park District has an architect looking at options for a new indoor arena complex with two sheets of ice. The City issued a request for qualifications for architectural services to study whether to remodel or build a new city hall, plus construction of a possible north area fire station. The School District is also in the midst of a facility needs study that includes the cost of repairing and improving Faris Field.

The entities expect to receive recommendations and cost estimates in December. An additional public information meeting will likely be scheduled for January. Official City Commission action is needed before any initiative can go to a formal election ballot.

Memorial Highway storefront & landscaping program approved

The Mandan City Commission at its Sept. 2 meeting approved a proposal to create a Memorial Highway Storefront and Landscape Improvement Program. The program will leverage private dollars to bolster the district's business and investment climate and encourage revitalization of vacant or underused sites. Businesses eligible for the program include those located on Memorial Highway, 46th Avenue SE north of 21st Street SE and 40th Ave SE north of 19th Street SE.

The purpose of the program is to encourage redevelopment and improve the appearance of Memorial Highway, a key entrance to Mandan and important commercial corridor. The program makes matching funds available to commercial and industrial property owners and business tenants.

A total of \$200,000 will be made available for the program from sales tax dollars set aside for economic development in the Mandan Growth Fund. Interested commercial property owners may apply for matching funds in the form of a forgivable loan, not to exceed \$30,000, for up to 50 percent of their investment in eligible exterior building and landscape improvements. Properties are only eligible for the program once.

For more information, visit www.cityofmandan.com/businessdevelopment or contact the Mandan Business Development Office at 667-3485.

Learn from entrepreneurs at business start-up workshop, Nov. 12

Thinking about starting your own business, but don't know where to turn? A Business Start-Up 101 workshop planned for Wednesday, Nov. 12 in Mandan will feature speakers who provide a variety of helpful resources and services to aspiring entrepreneurs, plus a panel of local business owners who will provide additional insights and answer questions about operating a business.

The free educational session runs from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Seven Seas. For more information, visit www.cityofmandan.com/register or call 667-3478.

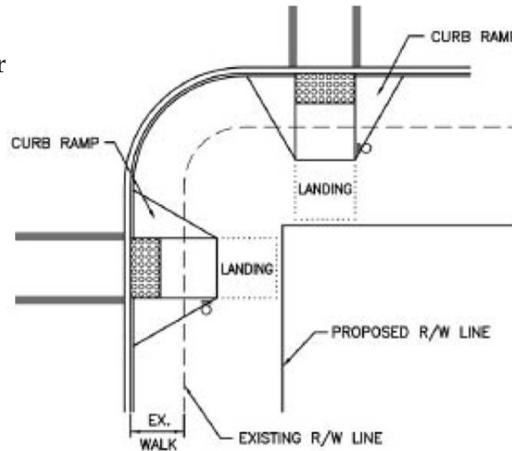
ADA sidewalk project planned for Main Street

The N.D. Department of Transportation is working to bring Mandan's downtown corridor into compliance with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) codes and guidelines by updating curb ramps and sidewalk and business entrances adjacent to curb ramps.

Parking lane closures along Main Street are planned for the following areas during construction:

- Collins Avenue to 10th Avenue W (2015)
- Collins Avenue to Memorial Highway/Mandan Avenue (2016)

There is no local cost share for the downtown sidewalk project.



NDDOT to install traffic signals on Memorial Highway in 2016

The N.D. Department of Transportation informed the City traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of 40th Avenue SE in 2016.

A NDDOT study conducted in 2013 indicated the signals were warranted based on traffic counts, turning patterns and accident records. While City officials want signalization of this intersection to occur sooner, right-of-way issues and limited resources moved the project to 2016.

The estimated project cost is \$937,500. The NDDOT study also called for permanent signals at 46th Avenue SE, but indicated the intersection of Third Street SE did not meet the requirements for traffic signals at that time.

Memorial Highway is a state highway under NDDOT's jurisdiction. The highway is proposed for reconstruction in the future to include lowering the street and adding curb, gutter and storm sewer. It appears the soonest that project would begin is 2019 depending upon federal and state funding that would account for the lion's share of costs.

City reminds residents of utility billing changes

The City of Mandan discontinued its contract with Payment Services Network and restored its previous utility billing system in August due to issues with the provider. The City will continue to seek an accurate, trustworthy and customer-friendly solution to online viewing of utility bills and water usage into 2015.

Meanwhile, the City will mail all bills and customers need to re-enroll for automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account. This is required because the utility department shredded previous withdrawal authorizations and account information may have changed since prior enrollment.

- **Automatic checking or savings account deductions.** Customers wishing to have their monthly payment for their utility bill deducted from a checking or savings account will need to re-enroll. A sign-up form is provided on the City's website.
- **Online.** You may make payments through www.cityofmandan.com with a Visa, Master Card or Discover card or through online systems provided by your bank or credit union. Please note your water bill account number to receive appropriate credit.
- **Traditional payment methods.** Mail payments to Utility Billing, Mandan City Hall, 205 Second Avenue NW, Mandan, ND 58554. Utility payment drop boxes are also located at City Hill and Dan's Supermarket.

For more information, call the Utility Billing Department at 667-3219 or send an e-mail to water@cityofmandan.com.



The City of Mandan has a Facebook page! The page provides followers information on upcoming meetings, job openings and City programs.

Stay informed! Follow us at www.facebook.com/CityofMandan.



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Mowing fees increased for unkept lots

The City Commission approved a resolution that amends fees and charges associated with mowing lots that are not kept up to city standards. Property owners who neglect their lawns

will be required to pay the City a minimum of \$150 for the first hour of lawn care services, an increase from the previous amount of \$50. Property owners will be charged an additional \$150 per hour for lots that require a more attention.

The Commission's purpose in raising the minimum is to promote private upkeep in maintaining property. The amended fee schedule will be in effect on Nov. 1, 2014.

The code of ordinances for the City of Mandan requires property owners at a minimum to mow tall grasses or spray weeds on their property by May 1, June 1, July 1, Aug. 1, Sept. 1 and Oct. 1 of each year. The height restriction is 6 inches.

Unsecured garbage charge for landfill increases

The City Commission addressed concerns about garbage loads taken to the Mandan municipal landfill at a Sept. 16 meeting by raising the untarped and unsecured garbage charges. The charge for both residential and commercial patrons is \$20, an increase from \$5 for residents and \$10 for commercial and non-residential patrons. The goal is to prevent roadside litter and debris on the route to the landfill. Public Works Director Jeff Wright says existing charges do not cover the necessary costs to keep the roads and ditches clean. The new rate was effective Oct. 1, 2014.

The Commission also increased the solid waste charge for materials taken at the transfer station to \$45/ton for both commercial and residential patrons.

The landfill is located approximately 3 miles west of Mandan on old Highway 10, then south 1/2 mile, and west 1 mile.

Property owners urged to schedule water meter appointments

The City's water meter replacement project is about 85 percent finished; however, as of Sept. 26, nearly 300 property owners still need to schedule appointments. City officials ask property owners to make arrangements now for meter replacement in early November. Cooperation is needed to avoid a temporary suspension of water services.

Appointments may be scheduled by calling Thirkettle at (701) 204-1083, (701) 214-8930 or toll-free at (888) 305-5292.

Property owners who need to replace shut-off valves or make other plumbing adjustments should do so in time to accommodate their appointment.

City of Mandan officials thank residents and business owners for their cooperation with this citywide project and encourage remaining property owners to make arrangements in a timely manner.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

70% rate Mandan as a good or excellent place to live

August's online poll asked, "How does Mandan rate as a place to live?" Of the 90 people who responded, 53% selected a good rating, 17% chose an excellent rating, 19% considered Mandan a fair place to live and 11% thought it a poor place to live. Current Mandan residents provided 92% of the responses.

City Contacts

Mandan City Hall
205 Second Avenue NW
Phone 701-667-3215
Fax 701-667-3223
www.cityofmandan.com

Mandan City Commission

Mayor Arlyn Van Beek
Mike Braun
Shauna Laber
Dennis Rohr
Sandra Tibke

City Departments

Administration 667-3215
Airport Authority 663-0669
Assessing 667-3528
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 667-3250
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

Will you join the new Family Wellness Center when it opens?

Visit www.cityofmandan.com by Oct. 31 to respond.