



January meetings

City Commission, Jan. 6 and 20, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Jan. 5 at 5:30 p.m. and Jan. 20 at 7 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Jan. 12, 4:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Jan. 12 and Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse (subject to change)

City Planning and Zoning Commission, Jan. 26, 5:15 p.m., City Hall

Park District hosts Winter Daze

The Mandan Park District will host Winter Daze Jan. 9 - 23. Activities include a luau and a beach ball day. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.mandanparks.com.

Give the gift of Mandan Bucks

Mandan Bucks make great gifts! Bucks are gift certificates redeemable for products and services at most Mandan businesses. The certificates may be purchased at the Mandan Progress Organization office, 411 West Main, Mondays to Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Benefits of shopping local

Property tax relief. One percent of each dollar spent on taxable sales is retained by the City for property tax buy down, infrastructure improvements, debt reduction and economic development.

Attraction of new businesses. You're increasing chances for new services and more merchandise to come our way by demonstrating hometown loyalty.

Neighbors helping neighbors. Mandan businesses donate to hometown youth and civic groups, events and charities, making our community a better place to live and play.

Park District helps fund universal playground



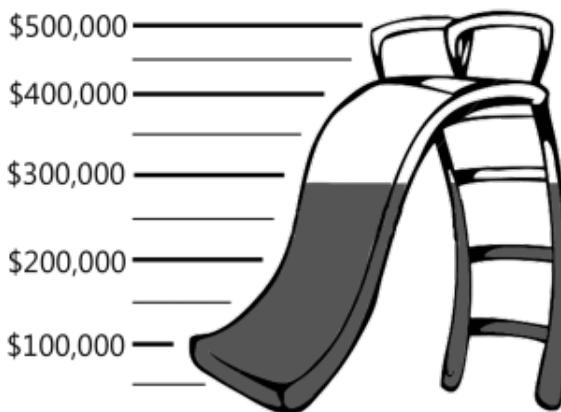
Image courtesy of Playworld

The Mandan Park District is committing \$100,000 in its 2015 budget to help fund a new playground. The goal is to build an universal playground in Mandan that will become a destination, bringing together people of all ages and abilities to play. Limited pieces of accessible playground equipment exist in scattered locations around the Bismarck-Mandan community, but they can be difficult to access and the location of the equipment often segregates users. Universal playgrounds allow everyone to interact and play together.

Universal design equipment could include:

- Swings with high backs and over-the-shoulder safety harnesses
- Interactive sensory objects, such as musical toys, mazes and puzzles
- Horizontal conveyor belt slides
- A sand digging feature that can be used by someone sitting in a wheelchair or standing
- A smooth, durable rubber surface

Universal playground fundraising progress More donations needed



(\$100,000 comes from the 2015 Mandan Park District budget)

The total estimated cost of the project is \$500,000. In addition to its \$100,000 contribution, the Park District worked with a group of community members to secure more than \$289,000 from 36 contributors. The playground's title sponsor, the Leach Foundation, contributed \$100,000 to the project. The Park District needs to raise about \$111,000 to make the playground a reality. For more information or to donate, visit www.bismanplay.com or call the Mandan Park District at 751-6161.





"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Mandan growth continues

Mayor Arlyn Van Beek spoke at the Chamber of Commerce State of the Cities breakfast in November. He talked about Mandan's growth trends, business developments, and city projects. Residential development remains strong, new businesses are opening, existing businesses are expanding,

and the City is looking at several projects to improve streets and other infrastructure. The complete presentation is posted at www.cityofmandan.com in the News section. Here are some of the latest statistics:

- **Residential building.** The City issued building permits for 492 new residential units in 2014 through November, down from the record of 652 residential units permitted last year, but nearly on par with the prior record set in 2012. Most of this year's growth is in multi-family. The City issued 296 new apartment units this year, along with 72 assisted living units. Major complexes are being constructed both north of 1-94 and in southeast Mandan in the Lakewood area.
- **Commercial and industrial building.** Permits for new construction, remodeling and additions total \$21.3 million in value through November.
- **Local usage taxes.** Revenue from the local 1 percent sales tax is up nearly 19 percent for 2014 through October's end in comparison to the same 10-month period a year ago. Collections currently stand at \$2.25 million and are expected to reach \$2.6 million for the year in total. The 1 percent restaurant and lodging tax is up nearly 4 percent at \$345,089 and revenue from the 2 percent hotel occupancy tax is up almost 8 percent at \$59,394.

Water meter replacement project nears completion

The year-long project to replace nearly 6,600 water meters is almost complete. Thirkettle Corporation, the general contractor for the project, installed more than 90 percent of the water meters and radio transmitters. Thirkettle is no longer accepting appointments. The City will handle the installation of the remaining water meters and will contract with local plumbing firms for meters with plumbing related issues. Residents can schedule appointments by contacting Mandan's Water Meter Maintenance Supervisor Jay Perkins at (701) 220-0825.

The City's new system will more accurately record water usage by using meters that can be read remotely, via radio transmissions. The new software is also able to identify problems, such as plumbing leaks, which may otherwise go unnoticed. Earlier this year, Thirkettle installed two radio base stations Mandan. The infrastructure is already in place, but a small amount of computer programming, network integration and training is still required before staff can fully transition and utilize the new remote reading equipment.

The City of Mandan and Thirkettle Corporation thank residents for their cooperation. For more information on the water meter replacement project, visit www.cityofmandan.com.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Majority of respondents support new or renovated City Hall

November's online poll asked, "Does Mandan need a new or renovated City Hall?" Of 74 respondents, 49 percent supported City Hall improvements, while 42 percent did not, and 9 percent chose, "Uncertain/Need More Information."

The Mandan Joint Facilities 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. Several options are being considered, including renovating or building a new City Hall. Official City Commission action is needed before any initiative can go to a formal election ballot.

Stay tuned for dates of future information meetings. For more information on the Joint Facilities Committee, visit www.cityofmandan.com.

City Contacts

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Mandan City Commission
Mayor Arlyn Van Beek
Mike Braun
Shauna Laber
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City Departments

Administration	667-3215
Airport Authority	663-0669
Assessing	667-3232
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

What winter activity do you most enjoy locally?

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