



March meetings

City Commission, March 1 and 15, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, March 7 and 21, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, March 14, 4:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, March 10 and 22, 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning and Zoning Commission, March 28, 5:15 p.m., City Hall



Videos promote Mandan

“FUN: MADE IN MANDAN” is the theme of Mandan’s latest community marketing initiative, a set of videos for online and mobile devices. The videos feature attractions and events to help potential tourists and area residents further discover the possibilities in Mandan.

The videos will reach an audience beyond North Dakota’s borders, thanks in part to funding being provided by a North Dakota Tourism marketing grant. They were created with guidance from the Mandan Tomorrow – Leadership, Pride and Image Committee, which helps execute a community marketing plan.

The videos are available at www.cityofmandan.com/thingstodo or at www.youtube.com/cityofmandan.

Recycling program underway

Clarifications and updates for residents

City officials and staff met with Dakota Sanitation personnel recently to evaluate Mandan’s new single-sort curbside recycling program and identify areas for improvement and clarification. The City of Mandan Public Works Department and Dakota Sanitation offer these reminders, updates and clarifications for residents:

Proper container placement is key. Proper placement is needed to accommodate trucks equipped with an automated arm. On collection day, containers should be placed curbside, either on the sidewalk or in the street next to the curb, with the wheels facing the home, at least 2 feet and ideally 5 feet away from obstructions such as vehicles, garbage containers, or retaining walls.

For homes with a front driveway, a good place for the recycling container is the driveway apron (where it connects to the street), away from mail boxes, utility poles and trees. A suggestion is to place the recycling container on one side of the driveway apron near the curb and the regular household garbage container on the other side.

Overhead power lines prevent alley collections. The collection trucks require overhead clearance of at least 16 feet. Public Works crews recently reviewed 70 alleyways and measured 118 wires, finding only 12 above the required clearance distance. Because of clearance concerns and other obstructions, Dakota Sanitation trucks will not enter alleys. Please place containers at the curb in front of the house.

Call if circumstances prevent curbside placement. If you have challenges making the requested placement impossible or very difficult, such as steps from a front yard to the street, a high retaining wall or a physical impairment, please call Dakota Sanitation, phone 258-4679, to request an on-site assessment of the situation.

See **Recycling** page 3

Mandan property taxes compare favorably to other cities

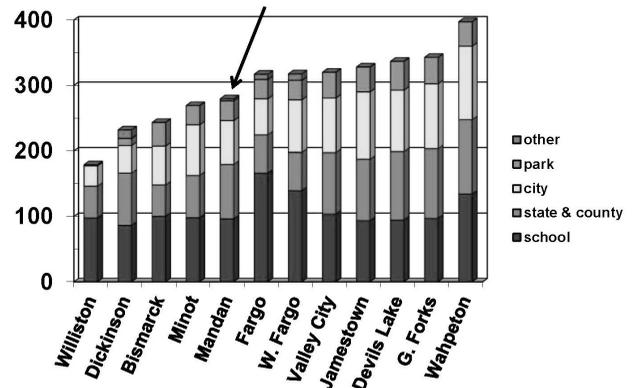
A North Dakota League of Cities report indicates Mandan’s consolidated mill levy, at 280 mills, ranks the fifth lowest among the state’s largest cities for the second consecutive year.

Mandan’s levy for 2015 is 1.26 percent of value on a residential property or 1.40 percent for a commercial property. These percentages of value are down from 2014’s share of 1.41 percent and 1.57 percent, respectively.

See **Property taxes** page 2

2015 PROPERTY TAX RANKINGS

Mandan in lower half of state’s 12 largest cities





REAL ESTATE SALES

The Bismarck Mandan Board of Realtors reports a 4 percent increase in the average sale price of residential property in Mandan in 2015 compared to same period in 2014. Properties also spent less time on the market.

Average selling price:

- 2015 = \$238,939
calculated on 360 units sold
- 2014 = \$230,632
calculated on 391 units sold

Average time on the market:

- 2015 = 53 days
- 2014 = 66 days

These statistics include single family home, condo, twin home and duplex sales reported through the multiple listing service.

The City of Mandan Assessing Department recorded 947 property deed transfers for the year.

2015 economic indicators still historically strong

City of Mandan management monitors several local economic indicators. The majority of statistics for the 2015 calendar year are now available.

Residential building. The City Building Inspection Department issued permits for 224 new residential units in 2015. While that's the lowest level seen since 2010, construction activity had been at record highs in recent years.

Commercial and industrial building. The city issued permits for new construction, remodeling and addition projects totaling a record \$52.5 million, more than double last year's level. The previous record was set in 2012 at \$50 million in commercial and industrial projects permitted.

Value of all building activity. The value of all projects for which building permits were issued in 2015 totals \$93 million, almost on par with last year's \$94 million. The record was \$139 million in 2013.

Local usage taxes

- **1 percent sales tax.** Total collections for 2015 finished the year down 7 percent at \$2,485,386 compared to \$2,673,946 last year. It's the second highest level ever and up 63 percent compared to the 2010 level. The City of Mandan as of Oct. 1 now has an additional 0.75 percent sales tax that goes toward funding for a voter-approved sports complex. That portion generated \$248,926 in November and December collections.
- **1 percent restaurant and lodging tax.** Collections are up 3 percent at \$419,682, compared to \$407,418 in 2014.
- **2 percent hotel occupancy tax.** Collections are down 19 percent at \$57,046, compared to \$70,293 in 2014.

Taxable sales and purchases. Statistics on the 2015 fourth quarter will not be available from the North Dakota Tax Department until later this spring. The total through the third quarter was \$206 million. That is down 3 percent compared to the same period for 2014, but comparatively stronger than state levels, down 14 percent for the first three quarters.

Looking at taxable sales and purchases by industry sector, Mandan levels for retail trade were actually up 3 percent for the first three quarters of 2015 as compared to the same period for 2014. Retail trade accounted for 47 percent of the total for the first three quarters. Mandan industry sectors showing the most significant decreases are wholesale trade, manufacturing and construction.

Job openings. North Dakota Job Service reported 2,361 online job openings in December for the metro area, Burleigh and Morton counties. That's down 27 percent from a year ago. For the state, there were 13,524 open and available positions in December, down 29 percent from a year ago.

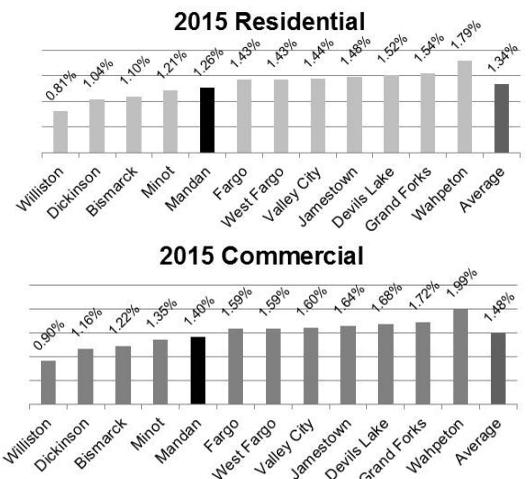
Property taxes

Mandan entities (City Commission, County Commission, Mandan Public School District and Mandan Park District) lowered levies for 2015 to help offset an average valuation increase of 14 percent on existing residential property and 19 percent on existing commercial property. Increased state legislative funding for education and a state credit equal to 12 percent of property taxes provide further property tax relief.

Factors behind differences in mill levies include sales tax base and whether it benefits from natural resources such as oil, gas and coal. Market values also vary by city.

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PROPERTY TAX RATES AS A % OF VALUE





Business donations sought for boulevard tree planting program

The city encourages Mandan businesses to support the “Pards” tree-planting program. The program offers partial reimbursement to residents or property-owners who plant boulevard trees adjacent to their property. Residents can receive up to \$50 for each planted tree.

Monetary donations from businesses will be matched by the City. Checks can be mailed to the Forestry Department, 411 6th Avenue SW, Mandan, ND, 58554. Please reference the “Pards” program on the memo line. For more information, call the city arborist, phone 751-7894.

Recycling

from page 1



Reasons for non-collection. Dakota Sanitation is seeing a few recurring practices that prevent the contractor from collecting recyclables at some stops. These include:

- trash mixed with recycling,
- bagged items in the container and
- placement of the container in an alleyway or other area not accessible by trucks

A common unacceptable item showing up in containers is plastic grocery bags. Although technically recyclable, the single-sort system is not able to separate the bags on the conveyor belt at the material recovery facility. Most grocery stores accept plastic bags for recycling. Other unacceptable items appearing in recycling containers to date include styrofoam, clothes hangers and pet waste.

Collection is every other week. Collection weeks are organized by address in accordance with house numbers with odd- and even-numbered homes scheduled on opposite weeks. The last digit in the property address determines whether it is odd or even. Check the schedule provided with the containers, also posted at www.cityofmandan.com/recycle or available at City Hall for more information.

Timeframe for containers to be out. Please place the container at the point of collection by 6 a.m. the day of collection and no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before collection. After collection, containers should be removed from the curb before 10 p.m.

Missed collections. The City of Mandan has a different contractor for collection of recyclables as compared to collection of household garbage, so collections will likely occur at different times. If recyclables are not picked up by 6 p.m. on the scheduled day, please contact Dakota Sanitation, phone 258-4679, on the next business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to make arrangements.

Containers stay with move. If a resident moves, the recycling containers provided by Dakota Sanitation need to stay at the home even if moving to another Mandan residence. The reason is because Dakota Sanitation has assigned each container to a specific location with a serial number and global positioning system chip.

Cardboard and newspaper collection sites close. The cardboard and newspaper collection bins at the 810 8th Ave SE/Dog Park location have been removed because cardboard and newspaper items can now be placed in residential recycling containers. Retaining the bins would have come with additional cost.

Trans Trash is willing to accept larger cardboard items at its facility, 1800 40th Ave SE (just east of Kist Livestock Auction). Trans Trash has a cardboard-only recycling bin for corrugated cardboard items such as shipping boxes, pizza boxes and retail displays. Waxed cardboard is not accepted at this location. For more information, call 204-8184.

The City of Mandan and Dakota Sanitation thank residents for their patience and cooperation as they introduce and work out any kinks in this new program. For more information, visit www.cityofmandan.com/recycle.

MANUFACTURED HOME RECYCLING SCHEDULE

- Parktown
Mondays “gray” weeks
- Wildwood
Mondays “gray” weeks
- Twin City Estates
Wednesdays “gray” weeks
- Countryside
Thursdays “gray” weeks
- Zins
Mondays “green” weeks
- Meadow Park
Mondays “green” weeks
- El Rancho
Mondays “green” weeks



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Traffic signals to be installed on Memorial Highway

Traffic signal lights will be installed at two Memorial Highway intersections in 2016. As a North Dakota Department of Transportation project, the four-way light systems will be installed at 46th Avenue SE and 40th Avenue SE. The anticipated completion date is Sept. 1.

Permanent signals will be constructed at 46th Avenue SE with metal poles and mast arms as well as signal heads that will better weather the elements. The signals at 40th Avenue SE will be temporary. NDDOT plans to examine potential realignment of the intersection and the angle at which 40th Avenue SE meets with Memorial Highway before investing in permanent signalization.

The signal lights will make the intersections safer and more efficient. The NDDOT's 2014 traffic volume map shows the average daily count on Memorial Highway to be between 15,200 and 16,875 vehicles per day on the stretch between 46th Avenue SE and 40th Avenue SE.

Traffic signals along Memorial Highway have long been an expressed need of the corridor's businesses and sought by city officials. With NDDOT jurisdiction over the roadway, state approval was needed to receive funding. The project will cost is \$644,641 with the City of Mandan's share estimated at \$64,464.

A 2013 NDDOT study found signals are warranted based on traffic counts, turning patterns and accident records. The intersection with Third Street SE did not yet meet requirements.

Clean sidewalks of snow and ice

Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from their sidewalk within 24 hours after its deposit. Please also clear the area around mailboxes and fire hydrants. If not removed, the City may do so and charge the property owner. Report problems to the code enforcement officer at (701) 667-3250. The City thanks residents for their cooperation.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

More awareness needed of competitive positioning

Online polls are exploring how Mandan rates with respect to a number of attributes associated with successful communities. December and January's poll was combined asking, "How would you rate Mandan's awareness of competitive positioning?" The Heartland Center for Leadership Development suggests this means "thriving communities and their businesses know the competition, know what the next town is doing, recognize community assets and compare the town to other towns to spur improvements."

Of the 61 respondents, ratings were as follows: 16 percent very aware, 26 percent somewhat aware, 48 percent not at all aware and 10 percent uncertain.

Mandan monitors its competitive positioning in several ways. As part of a 2009 strategic planning process, a consulting firm compiled an economic and demographic snapshot comparing Mandan-Morton County to Bismarck, North Dakota and the United States for a variety of indicators. Implementing committees then worked to put programs and projects into place to strengthen areas of weakness. As an example, the Braves Center Academy was established to provide an individualized learning environment for students who struggle in a traditional high school setting. This helps to address graduation rates.

Mandan recognizes the need to build its business sector. Commercial property accounted for 25 percent of Mandan's total taxable valuation in 2015, with 75 percent being residential. In contrast, Bismarck's taxable valuation is 35 percent commercial and 65 percent residential.

Mandan officials regularly evaluate the city in comparison to North Dakota's other largest cities for the cost of local government services including property tax rates and water, garbage and street light rates.

City Contacts

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Mandan City Commission

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

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

How does Mandan rate in its recruitment of young leaders?

Visit www.cityofmandan.com by Feb. 25 to respond.