



mandan messenger

NOVEMBER 2016 • VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 11

December meetings

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

School Board, Dec. 5 and 19, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

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

County Commission, Dec. 8 and 27, 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning and Zoning Commission, Dec. 27, 5:15 p.m., City Hall

Small Business Saturday & Santa's Arrival, Nov. 26

Small Business Saturday is Nov. 26. Explore Mandan businesses for unique gifts and enjoy special shopping deals.

Welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus as they parade from Hardee's to the 300 block of West Main Street. The parade kicks off at 10:45 a.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will take pictures and visit with children at the Harvest Brazilian Grill, 308 West Main Street, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Doses of nostalgia will be plentiful with caroling, covered wagon rides and s'mores at the Mandan Progress Organization. For more information, visit www.mandanprogress.org or call 751-2983.

Mandan's drinking water voted best in the state

Judges at the North Dakota Water and Pollution Control Conference voted Mandan's drinking water as the best in the state. The competition started with 10 water samples from municipalities throughout the state. Mandan was chosen as the winner based on taste and smell.

Mandan hungry for more restaurants

The City's Business Development Department is seeing results from marketing and recruiting efforts with a new incentive program.



The Restaurant Rewards program focuses on attracting new restaurants and encouraging expansion of existing restaurants. Promotional efforts have included a postcard mailing to a list of nearly 200 targets including national and regional corporate, franchise and independent restaurants. In addition, digital billboards display Restaurant Rewards messages at four Bismarck locations.

The incentive has triggered numerous quality inquiries and is opening the door to receptiveness by key prospects and personal visits. Department Director Ellen Huber made two recruitment missions to eastern North Dakota and Minnesota to meet with about 10 prospects not yet in the metro area market. Three restaurant owners have reciprocated with return visits to Mandan for tours of the city and prime sites, as well as meet and greet sessions with community leaders. Huber is planning additional visits to prospects in other markets within a 200-mile radius in coming months.

Applicants for the restaurant incentive program so far are both pursuing barbecue concepts. The first is a Dickey's franchise owned by Mandan residents Randy and Lisa Rhone and Ben and Amanda Zachmeier. The location will be the Memorial Square Shopping Center. The other is an independent start-up, Taylor Made BBQ, by Adam and Kendra Taylor at 316 West Main Street. Both sets of restaurateurs hope to be open in December. Laughing Sun Brewery also intends to apply for the program to establish a restaurant as part of its planned expansion to the former Thrifty White Drug building in downtown Mandan.

For more information, visit www.cityofmandan.com/restaurantrewards or call 667-3485.

Former junior high school may see new life



The Commonwealth Companies of Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, are proposing to invest approximately \$8.3 million into renovation of the former junior high school for 39 units of affordable housing. Commonwealth is planning to buy the property from Mother Teresa Outreach, LLC, an affiliate of Spirit of Life Catholic Church, Mandan.

See **Junior High** page 2





NEW & EXPANDING MANDAN BUSINESSES

New

- Dakota Kustomz
2804 Memorial Highway
- Too Kreative Consignments
100 Second Avenue NW
- Vintage Closet
408 West Main Street

Upcoming

- Laughing Sun Brewery
511 First Street NW
- Man Cave Grooming
4524 Memorial Highway
- Memory Lane Auto
Restoration
2711 Old Red Trail
- Taylor Made BBQ
316 West Main Street

STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Fettig Millwork & Window
800 West Main Street
- Taylor Made BBQ
316 West Main Street

EXPANSIONS

- Bowers Excavating
163 Riverwood Avenue SE

Downtown subarea study scheduled for 2017

The City is working with the Metropolitan Planning Organization to complete the Mandan Downtown Subarea Study in 2017. The goal of the study is to develop a transportation and urban design vision for Mandan's downtown and Main Street corridor that is true to the community's family-oriented rural character and will further renew the downtown area into a more vibrant place where people want to live, work and be entertained.



The study will provide a phased implementation strategy that includes recommendations to improve all modes of transportation in Mandan's core area and along Main Street, with emphasis on the correlation between pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Recommendations will also focus on reducing conflict delays. The study will consider opportunities for improved parking and pedestrian crossings and aim to provide a more inviting atmosphere and create opportunities for commerce. The study focuses on an area between Highway 6 and Mandan Avenue from Main Street to Second Street. As envisioned, it will be a blueprint for future activities and programs that will enhance and strengthen the core of Mandan and help this area realize its full potential.

The \$250,000 study is jointly funded by the City of Mandan and the Federal Highway Administration. The City's share is 20 percent or \$50,000.

Three public information meetings will be held with the first meeting expected in early 2017. For more information, call the Engineering and Planning Department at 667-3225.

City mourns passing of library director

The City of Mandan mourns the passing of Morton Mandan Public Library Director Kelly Steckler. Steckler was hired in 1994 to serve the Mandan Public Library and was named director in 2004. She helped lead the city and county libraries through a vote to merge in 2006. Steckler was on the legislative committee of the North Dakota Library Association. She was also an advocate for the Arthritis Foundation and served on the Bismarck Mandan Mayor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities, as well as the Mandan Tomorrow - Leadership, Pride and Image Committee.

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Junior High

The purchase and rehabilitation project is pending on approval of an application to the N.D. Housing Finance Agency for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, which utilizes federal tax credits that are sold to investors to generate equity for affordable housing projects. To be considered for the program, the project needed evidence of local support, which the City Commission provided at a September meeting. The state's decision on the application is expected in November.

The building was sold by the Mandan School District in August 2012 to GPA, LLC, led by Yegen Development, Grand Forks. Yegen attempted a redevelopment project, but after bids came in high, deemed the project infeasible and donated the property to the church.



Police Department releases 2015 annual report

The Mandan Police Department's recently released 2015 annual report includes a crime statistic comparison, juvenile offender statistics and traffic enforcement and crash summaries. The department reports decreases in the areas of juvenile crimes and drug crimes. Increases in other areas are consistent with city growth.

Juvenile crimes decreased by about 39 percent, with considerable decreases in minor in possession/consumption of alcohol, runaway, unruly child and truancy cases. Deputy Police Chief Paul Leingang credits this reduction to the work of the department's truancy officer, a youth worker with a focus on unexcused school absences. Leingang says reducing truancy helps reduce other crimes. The position is jointly funded by the by City and School District.

Last year, the police department received a record number of calls for service. In 2015, the police department received 13,299 calls for service, an increase of 1,175 calls from 2014. This year is trending ahead of 2015's numbers by about 17 percent. The need for additional officers will be evaluated at the end of 2016.

The department is working to fill existing vacancies in addition to a new position. A grant through the Abused Adult Resource Center allows for the hiring of a full-time investigator assigned to work with domestic violence, sexual assault, date rape and stalking cases. Leingang says this position, which is guaranteed to be funded for three years, will help improve services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The annual report is available on the police department's website, www.mandanpd.com.

Recycling program clarifications & updates

City of Mandan officials thank residents for keeping more than 780 tons of recyclables out of a landfill since the city's single-sort recycling program began in January. After recyclables are collected in Mandan, Dakota Sanitation transfers them to Dem-Con Companies, a materials recovery facility in Shakopee, Minnesota, where machines sort the materials so they can be re-used.

The City of Mandan Public Works Department and Dakota Sanitation ask residents to avoid placing the following items in the curbside recycling containers, as they can cause problems with the sorting system:

- **Shredded paper.** Shredded paper falls through the sorting system and contaminates glass. Trans Trash is willing to accept shredded paper at its facility, 1800 40th Avenue SE (just east of Kist Livestock). Recycling collection containers for cardboard, newspaper and paper are located on the south side of the building. Shredded paper may be placed in the paper container. For more information, call 701-663-5313.
- **Plastic bags, plastic film, tarps.** The single-sort system is not able to separate plastic bags on the conveyor belt at the material recovery facility. The items wrap around equipment and interrupt the system. Most grocery stores accept plastic shopping bags for recycling.
- **Loose bottle caps.** Please leave bottle caps on bottles to be recycled. Loose bottle caps fall through the system and contaminate glass.

Other unaccepted items include fireworks, drinking glasses, mirrors, ceramics, styrofoam, clothes hangers, hoses, wire and extension cords.

Acceptable items include cardboard, paper, glass bottles, jars and food and beverage cans. For more information on Mandan's recycling program, including a list of accepted items, visit www.cityofmandan.com/recycle.



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Forestry department to remove damaged trees

The Mandan Forestry Department is working to prevent the spread of Dutch Elm Disease, a fungal disease spread by elm bark beetles. Earlier this year, the city arborist identified 45 trees within the right-of-way affected by the disease and flagged them for removal.

At an Oct. 4 meeting, the Mandan City Commission approved a budget amendment of \$16,000 to allow for removal of an additional 26 trees affected by the disease. The current budget, which includes a \$10,000 grant, was already expended.

As stated in Section 16-4-8 of the municipal code, the selling or planting of American Elm, Siberian Elm and Ash trees is prohibited within city limits.

Snow removal reminders

Clean sidewalks of snow and ice. Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from their sidewalk within 24 hours after its deposit. If not removed, the City may do so and charge the property owner. Report problems to City Engineering at (701) 667-3225. Also, please clear the area around mailboxes and fire hydrants.

Do not put snow from your property on the street. City ordinance prohibits deposits on any street or public place of any material which may be harmful to the pavement or surface thereof or which may do injury to any person, animal or property or render the same unclean or a nuisance, including snow, dirt, rubbish or garbage.

48-hour parking restrictions. It is unlawful for any person to park or leave standing on any public street or highway within any residential district or mobile home park in this city, any vehicle or motorcycle for a period longer than 48 hours consecutively.

Sanding & plowing information

Generally 4-inches of snow accumulation requires plowing of all routes. Public Works reminds residents to remove vehicles from the street as soon as possible after a storm. Following are route priorities created to provide for the safe and orderly movement of traffic throughout the city during all weather conditions, including severe winter storms. A map showing snow removal routes is posted at www.cityofmandan.com in the City Departments section under Public Works and the Street Department. For more information, call (701) 667-3240.

Priority 1: Major arterial routes. High traffic volume streets and business districts.

Priority 2: School emergency routes. Network connection for students, parents, teachers and school bus operations to eight public schools and two private schools.

Priority 3-4: Residential routes and alleys. Network connection to all residential areas.

Please stay back. Be cautious when snow removal and sanding operations are underway. These vehicles must stop and back frequently. Please try to stay a minimum of 50 feet behind them. Please remember a typical snow plow is wider than most driving lanes.

Snow hauling. Begins on Main Street and in the central business district. Signs are posted to restrict overnight parking on streets (typically east-west in direction) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and on avenues (typically north-south in direction) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Public parking lots are next, followed by other major arterials, public schools and residential areas.

City Contacts

Mandan City Hall
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Phone 701-667-3215
Fax 701-667-3223
www.cityofmandan.com

Mandan City Commission

Mayor Tim Helbling
Mike Braun
Scott Davis
Shauna Laber
Dennis Rohr

City Departments

Administration 667-3215
Airport Authority 663-0669
Assessing 667-3232
Building Inspection 667-3230
Business Development
& Communications 667-3485
Cemetery 751-7893
Engineering, Planning
& Zoning 667-3225
Finance 667-3213
Fire 667-3288
Forestry 751-7894
Grounds
Maintenance 751-7895
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.