



April meetings

City Commission, April 7 and 21, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, April 6 and 20, 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, April 13, 4:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, April 9 and 28, 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

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

Achievement

Share of college-ready seniors exceeds state average. Mandan High School is consistently at or above state and national averages on the ACT achievement test, which measures what a student has learned. Among this year's senior class, who took the exam in 2014, 28 percent of students scored at or above the ACT college readiness benchmarks. This exceeds the state average of 23 percent. To be considered college ready, students must score at or above benchmarks in all four categories of the exam: English, math, reading and science.

Graduation rates climb. The Mandan Public School System has focused on improving graduation rates, which had previously lagged state averages running at 84, 79 and 81 percent in 2010 to 2012. The school district reports that the rate increased to 88 percent in 2013, slightly above the statewide average. An impetus is the creation of the Braves Center Academy, which provides an alternative learning environment for students that struggle in the traditional high school setting.



City receives update on future roadway projects

City Commission endorses 2019 roadway project applications

The City Engineering Department has submitted requests to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for N.D. Department of Transportation funds in 2019 for eight projects. The City Commission approved the project prioritization in January.

Urban Regional Projects. Eligible for 80 percent federal funding, requiring a 10 percent state and 10 percent local match.

1. **Highway 1806.** Traffic signalization and turning lane improvements at the intersection with Old Red Trail, a northbound left turning lane on 27th Street NW and shoulder widening.
2. **Memorial Highway, Phase I.** A full reconstruct of the roadway with a new typical section to implement safety and pedestrian-friendly elements, including a multi-use path. It would also address drainage issues and replace other utilities as necessary. The project is planned to be broken into three phases, with each phase to be complete in three-year increments to allow it to fit within the funds available during each funding cycle. The entire corridor from Main Street to 46th Avenue SE is expected to take about nine years to complete once initiated.

Urban Roads Projects. Eligible for approximately 80 percent federal funding with about a 20 percent local match.

1. **Intersection of McKenzie Drive SE and 46th Avenue SE.** Adds traffic signals to improve the functioning and safety of the intersection.
2. **Reconstruction of 8th Avenue NW.** Improves and widens the road from Old Red Trail to 27th Street NW.
3. **Extension of Sunset Drive NW.** The project would link the Sunset interchange on I-94 to Highway 1806 at 38th Street NW. Depending on development, the project may be phased.
4. **Extension of Division Street East.** Provides an alternate east-west route from the central portion of Mandan to I-94, by extending this street from 8th Avenue NE to Mandan Avenue.
5. **Extension of Division Street West.** Once linked to Lohstreter, the street would provide an alternate route to the high school and Sunset Drive from existing neighborhoods and planned new developments.
6. **Extension of 8th Avenue NW.** The project, which might be broken into two phases, would link Highway 1806 to Sunset Drive from 27th Street NW to 38th Street NW and then east to 1806.

See **Roadway projects** page 2





Board of Equalization to review property valuations

The Mandan Board of Equalization will meet briefly April 14 at noon, adjourning until the next regularly scheduled City Commission meeting on April 21 to hold a 7 p.m. hearing at City Hall on real estate valuations for 2015. As required by state law, the City Assessing Department will send notices by April 1 to owners of property with a valuation increase of \$3,000 or more and 10 percent or more.

Owners who are not in agreement with the assessed value are asked, prior to the meetings, to initiate a review of the property valuation by contacting the City Assessing Department, phone 667-3232. Owners may ultimately appeal the valuation to the Board of Equalization. If you did not receive a notice, you may still find out the taxable value of your property for 2015 by calling the Assessing Department.

In 2013, the State Board of Equalization directed the City of Mandan to reappraise vacant land and to equalize improved commercial property assessments for 2014. The Assessing Department expects to have this fully completed for the 2015 assessment year. The Office of the N. D. State Tax Commissioner annually conducts a sales ratio study to determine if required standards of equalization and uniformity are maintained within the city. All real estate is valued as of Feb. 1 of each year.

The City Assessor must annually provide the County Auditor with a list of current market values for all property. These values are used by the auditor to calculate property taxes for the city, county, park district and school district.

Roadway projects

from page 1

2016-2018 road improvement projects planned

The N.D. Department of Transportation has allocated funds through the Transportation Improvement program based on expected federal funding for the following projects.

2016

1. **Traffic Signals on Memorial Highway.** The project consists of adding a new traffic signal at 40th Avenue SE and installing a permanent signal at 46th Avenue SE. Total estimated cost is \$937,500. The City is responsible for \$93,750.
2. **Traffic signal improvement at Main Street and Twin City Drive.** A signal will be replaced and upgraded. Total cost is about \$250,000. The City's share is \$25,000.
3. **10th Avenue SW.** The project includes concrete pavement repair from Heart River Bridge to Main Street. The total estimated cost of the project is \$250,000. There is no local cost share.
4. **Old Red Trail.** This project will include widening the roadway from Highland Avenue NW to 47th Avenue NW and adding a curb and gutter. The total estimated cost is \$4 million. The City's share is \$800,000.

2018

1. **Replace and upgrade traffic signals on Main Street.** The project will improve the functioning of traffic signals and provide pedestrian control of the walk cycle. The total estimated cost is \$1.5 million. The City's share is \$150,000.
2. **Reconstruct and widen 27th Street NW from 1806 to 8th Avenue NW.** This project includes widening of the roadway and the addition of a curb and gutter, providing better access to the middle school and nearby developing areas. Total estimated cost is \$1 million. The City's share is \$200,000.

The City's portion of project expenses will most likely be a combination of sales tax, general fund tax dollars and special assessments to benefiting properties. For more information, contact the Engineering Department at 667-3225.



Spring Clean-Up Week scheduled for April 25-May 2

Spring Clean-Up Week is scheduled for April 25 to May 2. During the week, Mandan residents may place bulky items for special waste collection pick-up on their boulevard curb. Items must be placed on the boulevard by 5 a.m. on the property's normally scheduled garbage collection day. Residents of properties where garbage is normally picked up in an alleyway should place items on the boulevard in front of the property. Items will not be picked up in the alleyways. Crews will pick up items that two people can lift, including furniture and appliances. Items must be kept separate from household garbage.

Residents may also take items to the landfill for free during the week. The landfill will be open both Saturdays, April 25 and May 2, from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. For more information, including a list of prohibited items, visit the Announcements section of www.cityofmandan.com.

Help 'Keep Mandan Beautiful' on May 2

The City of Mandan Community Beautification Committee and Mandan Progress Organization are seeking volunteers to pick up litter and participate in other community clean-up activities on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to noon. An initial gathering at Dykshoorn Park on west Main Street will serve as an opportunity to receive instructions, trash bags, safety vests and gloves if needed. Volunteers are asked to wear long pants and to bring protective work or garden type gloves.

Organizers have a goal of recruiting 50 to 100 helpers for the task. Businesses, civic organizations and youth groups are invited to take a route.

More information about the litter clean-up day will be posted at www.cityofmandan.com as details become available. Volunteers may sign up on the website under the "Meeting & Event Registration" tab. Registration is helpful for planning purposes, but not required. Citizens have also launched a "Keep Mandan Beautiful" Facebook page. The alternative date in case of inclement weather is May 9.



Police Chief announces retirement

Police Chief Dennis Bullinger has announced his plan to retire after 42 years with the Mandan Police Department. His last day will be Dec. 28.

Bullinger began his career with the Mandan Police Department in 1973, after serving two years in the army. He started as an animal warden and became a patrol officer in 1974. In 1986, he was promoted to deputy police chief. For the last eight years, he served as Mandan's Chief of Police.

A hiring announcement will be posted within the next month, with the goal of having a new police chief by Nov. 1



Development Director earns accreditation

City of Mandan Business Development Director Ellen Huber recently earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) through the International Economic Development Association. Huber has been the City's Business Development Director for nine years.

Candidates must pass a rigorous and comprehensive three-part, two-day examination, which tests a practitioner's knowledge, proficiency and judgment in the key areas of economic development, including business retention and expansion, marketing, finance, workforce development, community development, technology-led economic development, real estate, strategic planning and management.

Support community clean-up activities

The Mandan Progress Organization encourages businesses to support community clean-up activities through donations of morning refreshments, a noon appreciation meal, and door prizes or pledges to encourage volunteerism. To contribute items, call MPO Executive Director Del Wetsch at 751-2983.

Organizers urge businesses to devote the day to sprucing up their own buildings, cleaning windows, spraying off awnings, picking up lots, fence lines, and landscaping. Businesses needing assistance may call Wetsch and volunteer assignments will be made if enough people participate.

The City of Mandan's Building Inspection Department is working with area developers and builders to keep construction sites cleaned up. Contractors are asked to cover dumpsters and keep right-of-way areas near their sites picked up of debris.



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

City welcomes new arborist

The Public Works Department welcomes Arborist Kaiden Straabe. Straabe began his employment in August. He previously volunteered for the Mandan Fire Department and served as a correction officer for Morton County.

Straabe provides assistance to individuals and groups by identifying tree insects, diseases, tree risks and landscaping issues. His responsibilities also include coordinating special events, such as Arbor Day tree plantings, and the planting, care and removal of trees.



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
Sandy 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



'Slide the City' on Aug. 29

The Mandan Park District and Mandan Progress Organization are planning a Slide the City event on Aug. 29. A 1,000 foot slip-and-slide will be set up on Sunset Drive. Volunteers are needed. For every volunteer, \$60 will be donated to help fund Mandan's universal playground. For more information, visit www.slidethecity.com or www.mandanparks.com.

City receives update on City Hall options

The City Commission heard options for renovating the existing building or building a new City Hall. They looked at new alternative configurations for the building, parking and a possible outdoor plaza on the east half of the existing City Hall block.

The Park District and School District are separately studying their facility needs. A Joint Facilities Committee with representatives from each board is looking at a possible local sales tax initiative to fund capital improvements for the community.

Official City Commission action would be needed before any initiative can go to a formal election ballot for consideration by voters. Research and discussions are expected to continue through March to determine the type and scope of projects for possible inclusion with a public vote to potentially coincide with the June 9 election. For City Hall options and updates, visit the Announcements section of www.cityofmandan.com.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Respondents provide feedback on City Hall sites

February's informal online poll asked, "What is your preferred site plan for City Hall?" There were 168 responses, as follows:

- 34% renovation of the former junior high building
- 29% renovation of the existing City Hall building
- 21% do nothing
- 8% building on the south side of the 200 block of West Main Street
- 7% building on a greenfield site north of I-94
- 1% other

Renovation of the existing building received the most support from community members who attended an open house and input session in January.

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

Have you ever been to the Richard M. Longfellow Veterans Memorial Park?

Visit www.cityofmandan.com by March 27 to respond.