



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

mandan messenger

JULY 2019 • VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 6

August meetings

City Commission, Aug. 6 & 20 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Aug 5 & 19 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

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

County Commission, Aug. 8 & 27 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning & Zoning, Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Mandan keeps growing

The U.S. Census Bureau released new population estimates in May. Mandan and Morton County are among areas in North Dakota that are gaining. As of July 1, 2018, Mandan's population is estimated at 22,519.

The bureau adjusted all estimates going back to 2011. The new estimate indicates 1% growth from 2017 to 2018 and a 23% increase since 2010. Morton County's 2018 population is estimated at 31,095, up less than a percentage point from 2017.

Memorial Highway public input, July 30

A public information meeting on Memorial Highway reconstruction is set for Tuesday, July 30, from 4-6 p.m. at Midway Lanes, 3327 Memorial Highway. The project team will meet with Memorial Highway business owners prior to the start of the public meeting from 1:30-3:30 p.m.



Energy Transfer donates \$3 million for projects

At a news conference on June 11, Dallas-based Energy Transfer committed to a \$3 million contribution to the City of Mandan to help fund improvements at the Morton Mandan Public Library and Main Street parks that function as community gathering spaces. The \$3 million donation over two years will assist with a library refresh and enhancements to the adjacent Dykshoorn and Heritage Parks.

Tentative plans include construction of a new home for the bookmobile near the library. The building may also accommodate portable equipment used for community events. Other project components may include a new library atrium, additional public restrooms, window replacements and masonry tuck-pointing. Possible park enhancements include a ticket booth and permanent decorative fence for the Main Street side of Dykshoorn Park and a pavilion in Heritage Park to provide shelter for activities. Project scope and details will be determined once architectural services are secured.

"We are very honored to receive this donation from Energy Transfer, and for their interest in helping us to continue to enhance our quality of life here in Mandan," said Mayor Tim Helbling. "Mandan is a Main Street community and this donation will go a long way in making our downtown a more attractive and vibrant place."

See **ENERGY TRANSFER** pg. 4



City Commissioners welcomed the donation from Energy Transfer's Lisa Dillinger Coleman and Chris Curia.

Police Department holds awards ceremony

On May 31, the Mandan Police Department held an awards ceremony to recognize more than a dozen officers. Officers formed an awards committee earlier this year to plan the event. The committee hopes the ceremony, which helps build pride within the unit, will become an annual event.

Letters of Recognition

Sgt. Jason Neuberger
Officer Riley Gentzkow
Officer Leo Belgarde
Officer Jessica Kraft
Officer Scott Warzecha
Officer Brent Brandner
Officer Joshua Scherr

Lifesaving Award

Officer Tyler Henry
Officer Riley Gentzkow
Officer Michael Wood

Police Commendation Award

Lt. Peter Czapiewski
Sgt. David Raugust
Officer Joshua Scherr
Officer Dominic Hanson
Officer Brandon Hauck
Officer Mary Hamilton

Medal of Merit

Sgt. Jason Neuberger
Officer Tyler Henry



Sgt. Neuberger & Officer Henry receiving the Medal of Merit.

Chief's Award

Evidence Technician Calvin Bullinger (2017)
Lt. Chris Miller (2018)

Chief's Letter of Recognition

Sgt. Daniel Poppe





"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

MANDAN FLOWERS SPONSORS RECOGNIZED

The Bismarck Mandan Chamber Leadership team and Mandan Community Beautification Committee would like to thank the following Mandan Flowers sponsors:

Stem Sponsor \$1,000

- Redmann Law P.C.
- Cloverdale Foods
- Lignite Energy Council

Planter Sponsor \$500

- Starion Bank

Root Sponsor \$200

- Comfort Inn & Suites
- BNC Bank
- Rod Skytland- State Farm

Seed Sponsor \$125

- Larson's Tattooing
- Security First Bank
- Toby & Ellen Huber
- Terry Kraft- American Family Insurance
- Angil Wanner-Koper
- Mo's Snow Shack
- Amy Schmidt- Keep Mandan Beautiful

In Kind Donations

- Bismarck Tribune
- BOS Solutions

Sponsorship information is available at www.mandanflowers.com.

2nd Annual Business Pitch Challenge planned for Mandan

Six of 11 entrants in Mandan's first Business Pitch Challenge conducted in 2018 have now opened or announced the opening of businesses. With results like this and the enthusiasm for entrepreneurship generated by the competition, it was an easy decision for organizers and sponsors to hold the challenge again.



Entries are now open for Mandan's second annual Business Pitch Challenge to be held Nov. 12. The entry deadline is Oct. 1, 2019. Major prizes for the winner include \$750 cash from generous donors plus the chance to be eligible for a \$10,000 forgivable loan from the Mandan Growth Fund. Competition rules, format information, selection criteria and a full list of prizes are posted at www.cityofmandan.com/businesspitch.

The Mandan Tomorrow - Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Committee is hosting the challenge with assistance from City of Mandan Business Development, the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC and IDEA Center. Organizers are looking for aspiring entrepreneurs and early startups who could use a boost on their entrepreneurial journey.

Last year's contest winner, Nordic Steel Building Systems, located at 803 Adobe Trail SE, recently experienced the success of having its first home constructed from its exterior wall system by a residential developer in Reno, Nevada.

The 2018 runner-up, Kimberly Bloms, opened Kids in Motion Pediatric Therapy and Wellness on July 1 in conjunction with Every Eye at 306 W Main Street. Other 2018 entrants included Old Ten Bar and Grill, 417 E Main Street, and Balancing Goat Coffee Company, 2705 Sunset Drive, which should each be open later this year. Copper Dog Café opening later this summer at 218 W Main Street evolved from another entry and Woodblock Media now operates from a Bismarck base. Other entrants continue to fine-tune business plans.

Anyone considering a new business may also be interested in the committee's 7th Annual Business Start-Up 101 workshop being planned for the evening of Sept. 10. Stay tuned to www.cityofmandan.com for more information.

Local businesses support boulevard tree-planting program

City leaders thank local businesses for donating to the boulevard tree-planting program. Business donations total \$2,000 for 2019. These contributions will help plant new trees and replace trees removed due to Dutch Elm disease with more disease-resistant types. The City will match these donations.

The tree-planting 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, as funding permits. Over 100 trees have been planted along city boulevards through this program since 2017!

Mandan is proud to be a Tree City USA for 43 years. For more information on the boulevard tree-planting program or to donate, call City Arborist Katie Nagel at 751-7894 or visit www.cityofmandan.com/trees.



\$1,000 Donors
Prairie View Landscaping

\$500 Donors
Al Fitterer Architect PC
Gate City Bank

2019 Business Donors

2020 Main Street project intended to reduce speeding

On June 4, the Mandan City Commission approved a plan for improvements to Main Street to occur next year. The core downtown area from 10th Ave NW to Collins Ave will be reallocated from four- to three-lanes, with parking added to the south side of the street. A traffic study showed that the 85th percentile of traffic is going 10 mph over the speed limit. The goal of the project is to improve safety.

Mayor Tim Helbling noted, “I’ve walked on Main Street a lot recently and it’s not a great feeling when you’re on the sidewalk and see a truck speeding down the road just feet away from you. We need to do something to slow the traffic down and make this part of town more walkable.”

The project also includes:

- Curb bulb-outs on the north side of Main Street and streetscape improvements between Fourth Ave NW and Collins Ave;
- Including stamped/colored concrete, street trees, trash receptacles, and pedestrian sidewalk lighting; and
- Pedestrian crossings with a flashing beacon will be added at First and Fourth Ave NW.

Other Main Street improvements. Main Street concrete repair will also be completed from the Heart River Bridge east to Twin City Drive and traffic signals will be replaced from 10th Ave NW to 6th Ave NE where warranted and will include updated video detection equipment and interconnection technology for better synchronization.

Differences between Mandan’s Main Street and Bismarck’s Main Avenue. There was discussion during the meeting about how Mandan’s Main Street project differs from Bismarck’s Main Avenue project. Differences discussed included that striping confusion should be minimized since traffic lanes will match up to the current pavement joint lines; Mandan will only have three traffic signals in the core downtown area, whereas Bismarck has traffic signals at almost every intersection in their project area as well as train crossings that add to the situation; and Bismarck averages a little over 3,000 more cars per day in its downtown project area compared to Mandan’s core downtown project area.

Project cost. The total cost of all project components, including the traffic signal replacement and concrete repair, is estimated just under \$3 million, but is mostly funded through federal and state grants with a 10 percent local share coming in around \$324,000. It’s important to note, not all road construction projects are eligible for state and federal aid. This particular set of projects is eligible to receive grant monies because it is on a state highway, meets federal and state requirements, and is located in the core downtown area of the city.

More information. The project is set to be bid in October 2019 with construction in 2020. The North Dakota Department of Transportation has created a webpage dedicated to the 2020 project linked at www.cityofmandan.com/news.

Main Street traffic signal replacement project proves challenging

The City of Mandan is between a rock and a hard place with regard to removal and replacement of traffic signals on Main Street and 10th Ave NW. As part of a federal aid project, the traffic signals must be removed. The City does not have the option to keep them at its own cost.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) traffic operations studies of the Main Street intersections of First Ave NW and 10th Ave NW found signals to be unwarranted based on factors such as vehicular and pedestrian traffic volume and turning movements. Essentially there’s not enough north-south traffic going straight through the light or turning left.



A concept drawing of the curb bulb-out and streetscape option for Main Street.

See **TRAFFIC SIGNAL** pg. 4



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

Energy Transfer *from page 1*

"This contribution is part of our commitment to be a valued business partner in North Dakota," said Chris Curia, Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer of Dallas-based Energy Transfer. "We are grateful for the

support we received from the people of Mandan throughout the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline, and we wanted to find a way to benefit residents of all ages throughout the county."

The donation will help create a more inviting library and help make the parks more useable throughout the year for activities such as farmers markets, concerts and events.

Morton County residents and others currently visited the library building 106,237 times in 2018 to check out materials, participate in programs, use computers or meeting spaces, and receive other services. The bookmobile saw another 10,644 visits on its routes throughout the county. Mandan's Dykshoorn and Heritage parks are the prime location for many community festivals including Buggies-n-Blues, Art in the Park, and Oktoberfest plus weeknight summer concerts.

Community leaders will seek other donations for any additional costs associated with the projects.

Energy Transfer is the developer of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The company also donated \$10,000 for the renovation of the Mandan Veterans Memorial Ballpark. Across the state of North Dakota, the company has donated more than \$5.2 million over the past three years.

Traffic signal *from page 3*

The City of Mandan will receive \$1.7 million in federal funds toward the replacement of more than 30-year-old traffic signals at Sixth Ave NE, Collins Ave, Third Ave NW and Sixth Ave NW. The new signals will have updated video detection equipment and interconnection technology for better synchronization. The local share of the project is expected to be 10 percent or \$170,000 paid for with funds from the 1 percent local sales tax. Since Main Street is part of the state highway system, the traffic signals would have to meet warrant requirements with or without federal funds in order to remain.

As advised by the NDDOT the city's acceptance notice stated should any information arise during the design of the project that would allow the signals to remain, the City would want to pursue that option. The decision document submitted in June also included a note stating the same. The City requested exploring signalized pedestrian crosswalks at both intersections if the traffic signals are removed. Two-way stops would be likely for the intersections where signals are removed.

The signals are currently in a mandatory 90-day flashing period for the NDDOT to test traffic effects if the signals are removed. Unless the signal becomes warranted, the traffic signals at First and 10th Avenues NW will remain in flash mode until removed with the 2020 project.

Garbage tote placement reminder

Household garbage totes must be placed with wheels and handle facing the home within 5 feet of the curb or alley and ideally 5 feet away from obstructions such as vehicles, retaining walls, mailboxes, utility poles and trees. If the Armstrong Sanitation driver deems a garbage container is too close to objects to safely be picked up, the garbage container will not be dumped.

City Contacts

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& Communications 667-3485
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& Zoning 667-3225
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