



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

mandan messenger

JULY 2020 • VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 6

August Meetings

City Commission, Aug. 4 & 18 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Aug. 3 & 17 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Aug. 10 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Aug. 13 & 25 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning & Zoning, Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Buggies-n-Blues, Aug. 14-15

The 27th Anniversary of Buggies-n-Blues, Mandan's annual classic car show and music festival will be held Aug. 14-15. Cruise over to Main Street to look at some of the coolest rides around. Classic cars will line Main Street and musicians will perform on the bandshell stage.

The event kicks off with live music in Dykshoorn Park at 3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 14. A classic car parade follows at 8 p.m. On Saturday, Aug. 15, a classic car show will be held on Main Street and food vendors will be set up in Dykshoorn Park at 11 a.m.

COVID-19 guidelines for large gatherings caused the Mandan Progress Organization to move the June event to August. Visit buggies-n-blues.org for more information.

Additional measuring event required before decommissioning remediation system

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring one more measuring event for wells in the diesel fuel remediation plume area before giving the final decommissioning green light.

The Mandan Remediation Trust (MRT) met June 2 and is working on scheduling the measuring for June or July.

In a letter to the MRT, the DEQ states that an additional round of monitoring should be performed as some wells showed an increase in free product between 2018 and 2019. The DEQ officials do not think that the increase is showing an upward trend in amounts of free product system-wide, but want more data to verify.

If new measurements do not show a significant increase in free product, there are no odor complaints in the affected area, and the data indicates site stabilization after system shutdown, the DEQ would agree to initiate closure of active remediation.

Earlier this year, trustees and consultants began working with property owners in the area of remediation to make arrangements to plug wells, remove remote manifolds and other equipment.

History. The MRT consists of City of Mandan representative Jim Neubauer, independent consultant Francis "Fritz" Schwindt, and DEQ Director Dave Glatt. The MRT oversees the remediation of petroleum contamination first discovered underground in downtown Mandan in 1984. In 2004, the State of North Dakota and City of Mandan reached a settlement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway for clean-up of an underground fuel spill. A remediation system was constructed between 2005 and 2007.

Downtown parks & library project out for bids

In a recent meeting, City Commissioners approved the plans to seek bids on the downtown parks and library project. A \$3 million donation from Entergy Transfer kick-started an expansion of the Morton Mandan Public Library and improvements to the adjacent Dykshoorn and Heritage parks. Consultants for the project, Bartlett & West and Stantec, have been working on plans since early fall 2019. Improvements will likely be made in phases over the next two to three years.

In the plans that went out for bid, the library addition includes additional working space for librarians, a garage area for the bookmobile, a community meeting space, additional public restrooms and more.

see **BIDS** pg. 4





NEW & EXPANDING MANDAN BUSINESSES

New

- Apache Industrial Services, 1710 E Main St.
- Lifeless Arts, 214 W Main St.

Renaissance Zone Project

- Rice Bowl, 107 Fourth Ave NW

Expansion & New Location

- Kupper Subaru, 700 Old Red Trail NW

Provisions outlined for outdoor seating in public right-of-way

Outdoor seating may become more important to food service businesses as a response to occupancy restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City Commission recently passed an ordinance to establish requirements for seating and display areas in the public right-of-way such as sidewalks.

Key provisions include an unobstructed pedestrian corridor and fences that don't interfere with Americans with Disabilities standards. Fences or barricades must be free-standing. Special requirements apply if alcohol is to be served. Smoking, vaping or the use of e-cigarettes is not allowed in such areas. Tables, chairs, fences or other dividers may not be set out prior to April 1 and must be removed by Nov. 1.

An encroachment agreement with the City is required prior to installation of any seating area in the public right-of-way. Exempted from permitting requirements are small items like flower pots and benches. Additional permissions may be required from the N.D. Department of Transportation for state highways like Main Street. For more information, contact City Planner John Van Dyke. Find the full ordinance at cityofmandan.com/code.

Hanging flower baskets help beautify Main Street

Flower hanging baskets were installed along Main Street in downtown at the end of May. This is the second year for the beautification project, known as Mandan Flowers, made possible by Growing BisMan. The group, formed through the Leadership Bismarck Mandan Class of 2019, is dedicated to the beautification of the greater Bismarck-Mandan area through community enhancements designed to improve the economy and livability of the area.

Thank you to Cashman's Nursery for providing nursery services and BOS Solutions for volunteering again this year to water the plants.

Mandan Flowers by Growing BisMan is currently seeking sponsorships in order to bring the flowers back to Main Street in 2021. Learn more at mandanflowers.com.



'Good neighbor' practices encouraged when using fire pits

Fire pits are a great way to entertain family and friends during cooler evenings, but can cause damage or bodily harm if not properly operated. These portable fire places should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The Fire Department highly encourages residents to practice good neighbor habits when using a fire pit:

- The fire code requires the use of a screen cover to reduce embers in the air;
- Trash and leaves cannot be burned in fire pits;
- The pit must be an approved device. A hole dug in the ground or logs in the driveway are not acceptable;
- Fire pits should be at least 10 to 20 feet away from a house or other structure, trees, shrubs, and other combustible materials;
- Do not leave a fire to burn out, extinguish the fire when you are done using it;
- Fire pits should be tended to at all times while in use;
- Never empty ashes into combustible containers, in garbage or near structures; and
- Be mindful of neighbors with windows open and smoke entering their homes.

When there is a burn ban in place, all open burning is prohibited except for portable outdoor fireplaces. For questions relating to fire pits, contact Morton County Emergency Management at 667-3307 or Mandan Fire Department at 667-3288.

Mid-Town East street improvement construction begins

Construction of a street improvement project that will address poor street conditions in a much needed area of downtown is now underway. The Mid-Town East street improvement project area runs north of Main Street to Fifth Street NE and east of Collins Avenue to Fourth Avenue NE.

The roads in the area are very old and need to be reconstructed to address the pavement and base of the road. A surface treatment alone will not suffice.

The bid opening in April came in 3% over the final estimate and 8% over the estimate that was put together for the preliminary engineering effort used in notice letters sent to district property owners in December 2019.

To bring costs back closer to the noticed estimate, the City Engineering Department identified savings within the special assessment portion of the project. Cement Stabilized Base (CSB) was bid as an alternate in lieu of traditional aggregate base under asphalt pavement. "CSB is a viable alternative in the project area when looking at existing materials," said Engineering and Planning Director Justin Froseth. While it's not as tried and tested as aggregate base and is harder to cut into should utility lines need to be accessed in the future, Froseth recommended the CSB alternative for significant cost savings and to limit disruption during construction. This alternate knocks about \$354,530 or 8% off the assessed portion of the project.

The City originally intended on buying down 20% of the assessed portion of the project with Municipal Infrastructure Funds. However, with low oil prices and an uncertain economy, these funds are not guaranteed. The City has since identified an inter-fund loan out of the water and sewer utility fund as a means to buy down 20% of the assessed portion. Should the Municipal Infrastructure Funds become available, the inter-fund loan will be paid back. Some of the underground utility work will be paid for through sanitary lining funds that have been being banked up for a future project.

The City Commission awarded the bid to Strata Corporation during a May meeting. Construction began in early June and is expected to run into October, pending weather conditions. There will be some finalization work to complete in 2021. Special assessments are anticipated to appear on property owners Dec. 2021 tax statements.

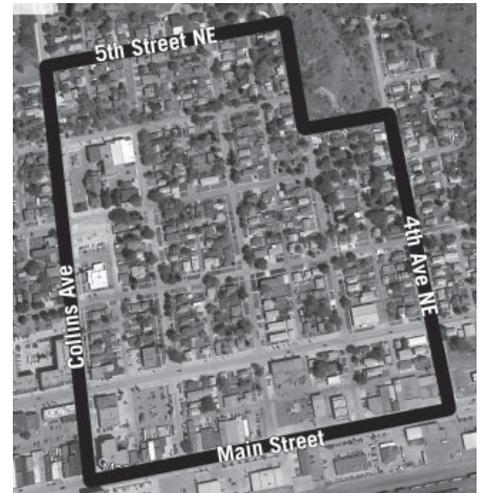
Weekly construction meeting information, contact information, and bi-weekly updates are available at cityofmandan.com/roadprojects.

Memorial Highway project enters final design phase

The City Commission recently approved moving forward with final design for reconstruction of Memorial Highway. In reviewing alternatives, their vote included a preference for a concrete roadway.

The Commission also considered five storm water options to control the rate of releases into major water bodies. They approved an option that avoids large retention ponds because of concerns about long-term maintenance costs and consumption of significant acreage off one of the city's busiest commercial corridors that could otherwise be put to better use. They instead chose another viable option that requires greater length of deeper and larger storm water pipe as well as another penetration into the Heart River levee.

see **MEMORIAL HIGHWAY** pg. 4



The scope of the project includes new street light poles and wiring, an upgraded storm sewer system and water line replacement.



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Receive the Mandan e-Messenger directly in your e-mail inbox

Sign up to receive the monthly Mandan e-Messenger directly in your e-mail inbox at cityofmandan.com/messenger. This monthly e-newsletter gives the City of Mandan another tool to get the most current information in resident hands in a timely manner. The monthly newsletter will continue to accompany mailed utility bills through 2020. As more people adopt utility e-billing services, the newsletter may go to an online version only.

City Contacts

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Airport Authority 663-0669
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Building Inspection 667-3230
Business Development
& Communications 667-3485
Cemetery 667-3240
Engineering, Planning
& Zoning 667-3225
Finance 667-3213
Fire 667-3288
Forestry 667-3240
Grounds
Maintenance 667-3240
Human Resources 667-3217
Landfill 667-3240
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

No August Mandan Messenger

There will not be a printed issue of the *Mandan Messenger* accompanying August utility bills. The printed issue will resume in September. Stay tuned to cityofmandan.com for an August issue of the Mandan e-Messenger.

Bids

from page 1

Park enhancements include meandering sidewalks, shade sails, a small playground area, fire pits and a history plaza. Future improvements to Heritage Park, such as an open pavilion, plaza and splash pad, will be completed as a separate project as funding becomes available.

A number of steering committee and stakeholder meetings, pop-up events, and a community open house have occurred over the last several months for purposes of public input and information.

Bid opening is scheduled for July 14, with hopes of a late-summer groundbreaking. Stay tuned to cityofmandan.com for more information.

Memorial Highway

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There's a 10% local cost share on design and construction for all items related to the roadway and storm sewer or any other above-ground features and a 100% local share for costs of design and construction for all water and sanitary sewer system elements. These local costs likely will be covered through a combination of sales and property tax revenue, utility funds and special assessments to property owners. More will be known as the City explores grant options from the State Water Commission and as there's more certainty about the availability of Municipal Infrastructure Funds (nicknamed Prairie Dog funds) from the state.



This option consists of splitting storm water collection into two regions divided near 40th Avenue SE.

The current project schedule would entail construction of off-corridor storm and sanitary facilities in 2022 with corridor reconstruction taking place in 2023 and 2024.

HDR, a consulting engineering firm, has been issuing newsletter updates. Find these, at cityofmandan.com/roadprojects.

Receive E-mail Notices

Sign up to receive notice of city meetings and news at cityofmandan.com/updates. Meeting dates and agendas are also available.