



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

mandan messenger

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July Meetings

City Commission, July 7 & 21 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, July 20 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, July 13 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, July 9 & 28 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning & Zoning, July 27 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Fireworks allowed July 2-5

The possession, use, discharge and explosion of fireworks, not including sky lanterns and bottle rockets, is permitted between the hours of noon and 12 a.m. on July 2 and 3, and from the hours of noon on July 4 to 2 a.m. on July 5, of each year. Sky lanterns and bottle rockets are prohibited. Violations result in a \$75 fine.

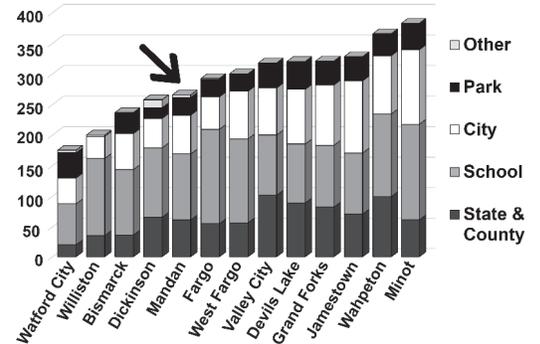
Utility Billing customers now able to pay by phone

The Utility Billing Department is excited to announce a new secure payment phone line. Customers wishing to pay utility bills by phone must call 1-833-368-2463 and will need to know their account number. For a complete list of all payment options, visit cityofmandan.com/payments or call 667-3219 with questions.

Mandan property taxes in lower half of largest cities

A North Dakota League of Cities report indicates Mandan's consolidated mill levy, at 265 mills, ranks the fifth lowest among the state's 13 largest cities. Mandan's levy for 2019 was 1.33% of value on a commercial property and 1.19% for residential property.

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



Main Street project on hold due to high bids

With the low bid coming in 25% over estimate and equating to a local share nearly \$1.2 million over budget for Main Street traffic signal replacement, concrete pavement repair, and lane reallocation with curb extensions, the City Commission voted May 5 to reject the bid. The project is planned to be re-bid in the fall for 2021 construction.

Engineering staff have been working with the N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) on signal replacement since 2016. Parts are no longer readily available to repair existing signals. A concrete pavement repair project was later added. This project received commitment of federal funds under both the NDDOT Urban Regional and Urban Grant Programs. The Urban Regional Program allows for federal and state contributions to increase if bids are over estimate so the local match stays at 10%.



The dilemma is the coinciding lane reallocation and curb extension components added after the City of Mandan received the Urban Regional Program approval for a separate \$675,000 in funding under the Urban Grant Program. This program is intended to improve pedestrian safety and economic vitality of downtowns through the governor's Main Street Initiative. This federal and state share through the grant has a fixed maximum.

A local share originally estimated at \$323,000 climbed to about \$1.5 million after bid opening. Engineering staff asked the NDDOT about options such as eliminating curb extensions, which accounted for the majority of additional local cost, or perhaps the entire Urban Grant Program scope of the project. The NDDOT cannot allow those changes at this juncture and instead recommended rebidding in the fall.





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Education important for future of recycling

Waste Management Public Sector Representative Paul Kalibabky gave a recycling update to the City Commission in April. Recycling has significantly changed in recent

years, and public education is necessary to keep up with market requirements.

Single sort recycling has led to "wish recycling" where individuals hope an item placed in the container is recyclable without actually knowing if it is. It is best to place items in the garbage if you're not sure if it is recyclable. Recycling contamination occurs when trash ruins otherwise good recyclables. Contamination continues to be the main area of concern for recycling programs. On average, the country has a 25% contamination rate. The goal is 0.05%.



Keep it simple. Only recycle paper, plastic bottles, cans and cardboard boxes. Keep food out of recycling containers, keep recyclables dry and don't bag any of the materials. Plastic bags are not recyclable and cause many issues and delays during sorting. The chasing arrow symbol with a number on products does not mean it is recyclable. This symbol only identifies the product's composition.

A little history. In 2017, over 25% of the world's recyclables were imported by China, including about 50% of the world's paper and plastics. China implemented a new import policy banning materials and limiting contamination rates, impacting recycling programs all over the world. By 2021, China will no longer accept any imported consumer recyclables. U.S. recyclers will have to start looking for other markets, particularly domestic markets.

Mandan recycled 971 tons of aluminum, cardboard/paper, tin, plastic and glass in 2019. That is over 20 tons more than in 2018! The city's recycling contract with Waste Management expires at the end of 2020. Contract renewal talks will begin soon. The monthly cost of the recycling program is expected to increase due to the changing recycling environment. Visit cityofmandan.com/recycle for more information.

Volunteers pick up litter in Mandan

Over 230 volunteers participated the 7th Annual Litter Clean-Up Day in Mandan on May 16. The event, originally planned for April 26, looked a lot different this year than previous years. Due to COVID-19 concerns, routes were assigned to pre-registered volunteers and route leaders delivered supplies to their groups. Volunteers picked up litter in ditches along major roadways. Thank you to all event sponsors and volunteers. Our community looks better because of your efforts!

Mandan's growth continues

The U.S. Census Bureau released new population estimates for cities on May 21. Mandan and Morton County are among areas in North Dakota that are gaining. Mandan's population is estimated at 22,752 as of July 1, 2019. The bureau again adjusted estimates going back to 2011. The new estimate indicates 1% growth from 2018 to 2019 and a 24% increase since 2010. Mandan remains North Dakota's eighth largest city.

Morton County's 2019 population is estimated to be 31,364, up 1% from 2018. The Bismarck-Mandan metropolitan statistical area (communities with populations of 50,000 or more) is home to an estimated 128,949 people, up 17% since 2010.

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Building Inspection 667-3230
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& 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
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Public Works 667-3240
Special Assessments 667-3271
Utility Billing 667-3219
Waste Water
Treatment 667-3278
Water Treatment 667-3275

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