



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

mandan messenger

MAY 2020 • VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 4

June meetings

City Commission, Jun. 2 & 16 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Jun. 16 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Jun. 8 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Jun. 4 & 23 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning & Zoning, Jun. 22 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Buggies N Blues, June 6-7

The 27th anniversary of Buggies-n-Blues, Mandan's annual classic car show and music festival will be held June 6-7, pending COVID-19 restrictions for large gatherings. Cruise over to Main Street to check out some of the coolest rides around. During the weekend, 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 Saturday, June 6. A classic car parade follows at 8 p.m. On Sunday, June 7, a classic car show will be held on Main Street and food vendors will be set up in Dykshoorn Park at 11 a.m. Stay tuned to *buggies-n-blues.org* for event updates.

Vote by mail in June 9 election

The Morton County auditor's office is conducting the June 9 election completely by mail with no precincts open for early voting or on Election Day due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vote by mail means ballots are cast as "absentee."

Voters select ballot choices at home and either mail or hand deliver it to the Morton County auditor's office. Ballots will be available 40 days prior to the election and must be returned no later than June 8. If returning ballots by mail, they must be postmarked by June 8, the day before the election is to be counted.

How Vote by Mail Works:

- The North Dakota Secretary of State's office recently mailed applications to all qualified voters.

see **VOTE** pg. 4

Local candidates for June 9 election announced

The following candidates are running for office in the Tuesday, June 9 election:

Municipal Judge DeNae Kautzmann and Mayor Tim Helbling are both seeking reelection and running unopposed.

City Commission. Two seats are up for election.

- Joseph (Joe) Camisa
- Michael Braun (incumbent)

Park Board. Two seats are up for election.

- Jennifer Froehlich
- Wade Meschke (incumbent)

School Board. Three seats are up for election.

- Ellie Shockley, Ph.D.
- Marnie Piehl (incumbent)
- Darren Haugen
- Kama Hoovestol (incumbent)

Mandan will also have one measure included on the ballot regarding the publishing of City Commission meeting minutes in the Mandan News for the next four years.

The election is vote by mail. For more information, visit cityofmandan.com/elections.

County Commissioner. Three seats are up for election. Candidates for county seats will advance to the Nov. 6 election.

- Nathan Boehm
- Ronald Leingang (incumbent)
- Raymond Morrell
- Wayne Papke
- Thomas Peters

• • • • •

• The League of Women •

• Voters will host one on one •

• interviews with Mandan •

• School Board candidates. •

• The recorded interviews will •

• be replayed on Government •

• Access cable channels 2 and •

• 602 HD and can be viewed •

• on *freetv.org* leading up to •

• the election. •

• • • • •





Expanding Mandan Businesses

- A Child's Garden, 1710 E Main St.
- Bright Beginnings Academy, 1406 2nd St. NW
- Cloverdale Foods Company, 3015 35th St. NW
- Dakota Wholesale Supply, 3817 Memorial Hwy
- Gunscher's Auto Repair Plus, 1819 43rd Ave SE
- Kids in Motion Pediatric Therapy & Wellness, 1702 E Main St. #103
- Legacy Law Firm, 222 E Main St.

Library planning 'Imagine Your Story' summer reading program

Morton Mandan Public Library is preparing for its annual collaborative summer reading program. This year, it remains uncertain how the coronavirus will impact summer events but the library continues planning the free program and developing a digital platform.

This summer's theme, "Imagine Your Story," is grounded in fantasy and fairy tales. In addition to being fun and engaging, the program aids students in academic retention. Students reading for at least 20 minutes a day may avoid the dreaded "summer slide."

Summer reading programs are available for children (birth-12 years old), teens (13-19) and adults. Typically during the summer, programs take place at the main library and throughout the county. Outreach services and the bookmobile host weekly programs as well. Programming for children is planned, barring social distancing restrictions being lifted, in conjunction with the summer lunch in the park program. Adults are invited to participate through special program opportunities and prizes. Summer reading program prizes will be awarded on a tiered system as reading logs are completed.

Library staff are making arrangements to account for the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff has made tremendous strides providing digital programs and services during this difficult time.

Stay tuned to mortonmandanlibrary.org and the library's Facebook and Instagram pages to register for the summer reading program and other updates. Contact the library at 667-5365 with questions.



Help North Dakota by being counted in the 2020 Census

As of April 25, the self-response rate reported for Mandan is 61.4%. The state as a whole has a 53.7% self-response rate. Households can respond online at 2020census.gov or by calling 844-330-2020. Individuals who haven't self-responded will soon receive a questionnaire in the mail to complete and submit.

It takes approximately 10 minutes to answer census questions and all responses are kept confidential by law. Data collected is released in summary tables with no individual records released.

The importance of the census is apparent in financial figures. In fiscal year 2015, North Dakota received \$1.45 billion in federal funds for programs based upon resident count from the 2010 census and subsequent population estimates. These programs include: Medicaid, highway construction, Head Start, foster care, SNAP, low income energy assistance, special education and more. That equates to approximately \$19,100 in federal funds per resident over ten years!



Sign up to receive Business Briefs

Information for businesses is rapidly changing in our current economy. The Business Development and Communications department sends out occasional Business Briefs that address current challenges and opportunities, roadway projects, community initiatives, networking, professional development activities, and other opportunities to advance Mandan businesses. Sign up to receive these updates in your e-mail inbox at cityofmandan.com/bizupdates.

Northwest street improvement project moves forward

The City Commission, at its April 21 meeting, approved accepting the low bid for street improvement district 218 in the northwest area of Mandan.

The district is north of Old Red Trail and west of, but including, Highland Road. Many streets will see a mill and overlay or chip seal. The portion of Old Red Trail running through the project area is included in the recently completed Metropolitan Transportation Plan for reconstruction around 2026. Since a reconstruction project with federal funding assistance is planned, city engineering staff recommended an overlay of Old Red Trail for this improvement project.

The Engineering department has proposed that this street improvement project takes an assessment by parcel method, rather than assessment by front footage, which was used for the 2019 Southside and the proposed Mid-Town East street improvement projects. The reason is because subdivisions within this neighborhood have many curved roads as compared to the grid style of subdivisions in the other project areas. The bids for the project came in 31% below project estimate and were awarded to Strata Corporation.

Based on favorable bids, the Engineering department anticipates residents will see a special assessment bill for less than presented earlier this year.

The project is split into seven divisions with a few different scope approaches. As per the budget policy, 20% of the project total was to be bought down with the Municipal Infrastructure Fund, also known as Prairie Dog funds. However, with low oil prices and an uncertain economy, these funds are not guaranteed. City staff determined if these funds are not available, the city will use its cash reserve in the 1% city sales tax fund for the buy-down. Should the Municipal Infrastructure Funds become available, the City will reimburse the cash reserve.

Total project cost based on bids is estimated to be \$1,180,458. When applying the 20% buy-down, the total to be special assessed is estimated to be \$944,366.

A substantial amount of the project is to be complete this October. Chip seal and correction items will go into 2021. Special assessments will appear on property owners Dec. 2021 tax statements. Stay tuned to cityofmandan.com for project information.

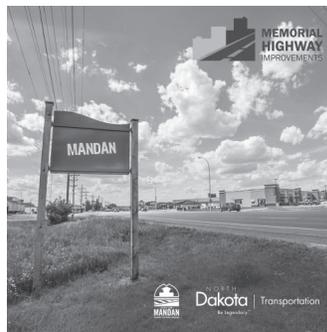


The project area is north of Old Red Trail and west of Highland Road. City Engineer Justin Froseth noted curb and gutter in the area is in fair to good condition, so few updates are needed. There is also no underground work planned.

Memorial Highway improvement project updates available

The Memorial Highway improvement project consultant, HDR Inc., issues a monthly newsletter to keep residents up to date on project planning and details. This newsletter is also posted at cityofmandan.com/roadprojects under the Memorial Highway Reconstruction link.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation has also created a project website which includes information, updated timelines, and a place to sign up to receive the newsletter at dot.nd.gov/projects/memorialhwy/.





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Vote

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• Once the application is received, review it to ensure all information is correct. Select the election(s) you wish to vote by mail, provide a daytime phone number, check the type of identification being used (such as a driver's license), sign and date. To receive a ballot, the application must be returned to the Morton County auditor's office using the envelope provided. The application must be received by the auditor no later than June 5.

- The Morton County auditor's office will review the application and mail a ballot.
- The voter will vote the ballot and return to the Morton County auditor's office either through the mail, a drop box or in person any time before the June 9 Election Day.
- Once the ballot is returned, the auditor's office files it for counting by the election board.
- On Election Day, the vote by mail election board will count returned absentee ballots. Signatures on the application and ballot must match for the ballot to be counted. To keep a ballot anonymous, ballots are in secrecy envelopes inside a return envelope. Those opening envelopes with the voter's name will not see voted ballots.

If you do not receive an application for vote by mail, have questions or are seeking more information, visit mortonnd.org/elections or contact the county auditor's office at 667-3300.

Chorne named 'If I Were Mayor' essay contest winner



Chorne

Mandan third grade students submitted 34 essays in the North Dakota League of Cities' (NDLC) "If I Were Mayor" essay contest this year. Mayor Tim Helbling selected the essay written by Scarlett Chorne as the local winner.

Chorne is a third grade student in Mr. Streifel's class at Red Trail Elementary School. She is the daughter of Michael and Katie Chorne. She will be invited to participate in a live City Commission meeting, presented with a certificate, a City of Mandan t-shirt and \$50 in Mandan Bucks provided by the Mandan Progress Organization.

Residents reminded to mow grass & control weeds

The City of Mandan reminds property owners, residents and caretakers of property within city limits that all noxious weeds and overgrown vegetation must be maintained under a 6-inch maximum height.

Failure to maintain control of grass and noxious weeds will result in the property being cut and/or sprayed by the City with the cost being added to the property owner's special assessments. Residents planning on spraying a property instead of cutting it must notify the code enforcement officer at 667-3264 or the property will be cut with the cost being added to the special assessments for the property.

To report violations or for more information, call Code Enforcement Officer Candy Fleck at 667-3264.



City Contacts

Mandan City Hall
205 Second Avenue NW
Phone 701-667-3215
Fax 701-667-3223
www.cityofmandan.com

Mandan City Commission

Mayor Tim Helbling
Mike Braun
Scott Davis
Amber Larson
Dennis Rohr

City Departments

Administration	667-3210
Airport Authority	663-0669
Assessing	667-3232
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

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.