



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

# mandan messenger

NOVEMBER 2019 • VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 10

## December meetings

**City Commission**, Dec. 3 & 17 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

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

**Park Board**, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

**County Commission**, Dec. 12 & 26 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

**City Planning & Zoning**, Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

## Small Business Saturday & Santa's Arrival, Nov. 30

Small Business Saturday, a day aimed at inspiring shoppers to explore independent local businesses to find unique gift items, will take place Saturday, Nov. 30.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be coming to town on Saturday, Nov. 30 as well. Children can visit with the special guests from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Morton Mandan Public Library. Visit [mandanprogress.org](http://mandanprogress.org) or call 701-751-2983 for more information.

## Community survey coming in November

A survey asking residents of Mandan and other communities to share their views and ideas for improvement will be available in November. Stay tuned to [cityofmandan.com](http://cityofmandan.com) for a link to complete the survey.

## Public Works will soon see new addition, improvements

After years of discussing plans for an updated public works facility, the dream will become reality in 2020. The current facility, built in the late 1970s, is in need of improvements to continue to provide services to our growing city.

The current facility lacks office space, equipment storage for utility and street departments, mechanic space to properly maintain the fleet, and the salt and sand pile must be covered to comply with stormwater regulations.

Plans brought to Commissioners in early 2018 were terminated due to deficiencies. In September, the City Commission reviewed and approved change orders to the contract. The scope of the project now includes:

- Adding an emergency generator;
- Installing proper ventilation and a fire sprinkler system;
- Painting the exterior of the current blue building;
- New interior and exterior lighting;



See **PUBLIC WORKS** pg. 3

## \$10 credit offered for signing up for Smart Hub & eBills

The City of Mandan is offering a one-time \$10 credit on the utility bill to customers who sign up for both *SmartHub* and electronic bills (eBills). Customers signing up for both services between Nov. 4 and Jan. 31 will receive the credit on their following billing statement.

As customers sign up for eBills, the City will reduce costs for printing and mailing 12 bills a year to approximately 7,500 accounts.

**What am I signing up for?** *SmartHub* is an online portal and mobile app where customers can monitor usage, see utility billing statements and set up recurring payments with a bank account or credit card. Customers making the switch to eBills will receive, view and pay their utility bill online.

Customers wishing to continue to receive their utility bill in the mail are able to do so, however, the bill credit is only available to those signing up for both *SmartHub* and eBills.

For more information on the billing conversion, visit [www.cityofmandan.com/utilitybilling](http://www.cityofmandan.com/utilitybilling), call 667-3219 or email [water@cityofmandan.com](mailto:water@cityofmandan.com).

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Account numbers will change. Customers participating in bill pay through their banking institution will need to update their account number after Nov. 4.
- There is now only one billing cycle - from the first of each month to the first of the following month.
- All bills will be mailed around the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month and automatic payments will be deducted from the customer's bank account on the same day the bill is due, 15 days after the effective billing date.





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## NEW & EXPANDING MANDAN BUSINESSES

### New

- Edward Jones, 4524 Memorial Hwy SE, Ste 205

### Expanding

- Malloy Electric, 1401 Action Dr SE
- Shawn's Repair, 162 Riverwood Ave SE

## Public Works installing blue flags to identify private hydrants

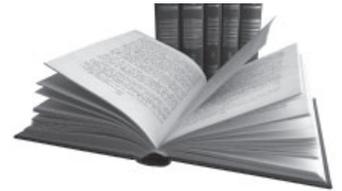
A collaborative team involving the Public Works, Engineering and Planning, and Fire departments recently identified approximately 130 privately-owned fire hydrants in the City of Mandan. To ensure that these hydrants are easily located in an emergency, public works crews will be marking and clearly identifying these hydrants as private with blue flags. Public fire hydrants are distinguished with a red flag.

Privately-controlled fire hydrants are common in Mandan and other cities in manufactured home parks and other private developments with private roadways. Developers are allowed to install private infrastructure, such as fire hydrants, subject to meeting city codes. Property owners are responsible for annual maintenance and operation.

The City Commission approved a utility department 2019 budget amendment for the purchase of 150 flags for \$4,200. Installation of the markers will occur as time and weather allows throughout the rest of the year and in 2020 if needed. The Fire Department will ensure the property owners are operationally maintaining the private hydrants as part of the annual fire inspection process.

## Doorstep Library program now available

In August, the Morton Mandan Public Library launched a new service for individuals who are unable to visit the library or bookmobile due to mobility issues. The Doorstep Library is available to all Mandan and Morton County patrons that cannot visit the public library or bookmobile due to injury, illness or disability.



Doorstep Library patrons will receive a set number of books per month that are either pre-selected by a librarian or personally requested by the patron. Program deliveries will be made the first Wednesday of each month. All materials will be exchanged in a tote bag at the scheduled delivery time. Home delivery can be seasonal during winter months only, temporary, permanent or ongoing. For more information call 667-5365.

## Volunteers help spruce up Mandan Union Cemetery



*United Way Day of Caring*

The Cemetery Advisory Board extends gratitude to two local organizations for participating in recent volunteer service projects at the Mandan Union Cemetery.

During the United Way Day of Caring in August, a group of volunteers installed lot markers, painted the old shop office and removed fencing on the east side of the cemetery.

In September, the Bismarck Mandan Young Professionals Network landscaped the entrance to the cemetery grounds.

The Mandan Union Cemetery sits on approximately 45 acres with over 9,700 graves and 4,500 upright headstones. One full-time and one seasonal employee maintain the cemetery grounds.

Thank you to all the volunteers for helping spruce up the Mandan Union Cemetery!



*Young Professionals Network volunteers help with landscaping.*

## Community calendar arriving in December

The Mandan Tomorrow – Leadership, Pride and Image committee in cooperation with the City of Mandan Business Development and Communications department is creating a collaborative calendar for 2020 as part of a joint community marketing program. Major partners in the project include the City of Mandan, Morton County, Mandan Public Schools, Mandan Park District, Mandan Progress Organization, Waste Management and Armstrong Sanitation. The committee believes the calendar will aid in marketing places to go and things to do in Mandan and Morton County.

The calendar will provide residents, businesses and visitors with important dates and resource information, including recycling and garbage schedules, the school calendar, major events and contact information. Project partners hope the calendar will be displayed by recipients or retained for the year as a directory.

Calendars will be mailed in December to all addresses with a 58554 zip code. Copies will be available for further distribution by public entities and the calendar will be posted to public websites. There will also be a digital version of the calendar that interfaces with Outlook and other calendar applications. Stay tuned to [www.cityofmandan.com](http://www.cityofmandan.com) for more information on the community calendar.

## Landfill sees increase with ‘Free Fall Landfill Week’



During the first ever Free Fall Landfill Week, the landfill averaged 177 loads per day for a total of 1,062 loads. To put this into perspective, during the same time last year, the landfill received only 121 of the same type of loads.

“The Free Fall Landfill Week was successful at getting debris from resident’s yards and structures into the landfill,” said Public Works Director Mitch Bitz.

## Public Works

*from page 1*

- Adding a new administrative office area with lockers, a break room, small conference room and a training room;
- Heated equipment storage area to preserve the life of machinery;
- Remodeling the utility building on the east side of the property to include a wash bay and minimal heated storage;
- Constructing a covered salt and sand storage structure; and
- A wash-out area for street sweepers.

A new parking area is also planned. The City will special assess the \$1.2 million parking lot improvements to itself. The majority of the site will be hard-surfaced with a small area for the material storage stock pile left unpaved.

“The public works facility is the nerve center of the water and sewer system,” says Public Works Director Mitch Bitz. “Bringing this kind of sustainability to the area will be beneficial to the city.” He added that having a conference room will allow for trainings and a space to host public input meetings.

The new project total is approximately \$5.7 million. In September, the City Commission approved amending the public works expansion budget by using the \$3 million in Hub City funds set aside for this project and transferring \$1.5 million from the sales tax fund. City staff is helping with the project, doing exterior demolition, material hauling and more to reduce costs. Construction is expected to be complete in 2020.



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## Snow removal reminders & plowing information

**Clean sidewalks of snow and ice.** Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from their sidewalk within 24 hours after its deposit. If not removed, the City may do so and charge the property owner. Report problems to the Engineering department at 667-3225. Also, please clear the area around mailboxes and fire hydrants.

**Do not put snow from your property on the street.** City ordinance prohibits snow deposits on a sidewalk, driveway apron, on the paved portion of a street or alley or within five feet of a fire hydrant, unless a waiver has been issued in writing by the City. Snow may be placed in the unpaved portion of the boulevard within the public right-of-way.



**Exception for downtown core area.** For properties in the downtown core with buildings constructed lot line to lot line, there is an exception regarding where snow from sidewalks can be placed. In these circumstances, snow may be shoveled into the adjacent on-street parking lane. Public works crews will remove it when hauling snow from the area.

**Sanding & plowing information.** Generally 4 inches of snow accumulation requires plowing of all routes. Public works staff remind residents to remove vehicles from the street as soon as possible after a storm. Following are route priorities created to provide for the safe and orderly movement of traffic throughout the city during all weather conditions, including severe winter storms. A map showing snow removal routes is posted at [www.cityofmandan.com/maps](http://www.cityofmandan.com/maps).

- **Priority 1: Major arterial routes.** High traffic volume streets and business districts.
- **Priority 2: School emergency & CAT bus routes.** Network connection for students, parents, teachers and school bus operations to eight public schools and two private schools plus CAT bus routes.
- **Priority 3-4: Residential routes and alleys.** Network connection to all residential areas.

Please be cautious when snow removal and sanding operations are underway. These vehicles must stop and back frequently. Stay a minimum of 50-feet behind them, and remember a typical snow plow is wider than most driving lanes.

**Snow hauling.** Begins on Main Street and in the central business district. Signs are posted to restrict overnight parking on streets (typically east-west in direction) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and on avenues (typically north-south in direction) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Public parking lots are next, followed by other major arterials, public schools and residential areas.

**Snow gates.** An ad hoc committee made up of Mandan residents, formed in 2017, reviewed the use of snow gates on city snow plows. The committee determined the cost of snow gates outweighed the benefit. In addition to the high cost of purchasing and maintaining them, introducing snow gates would require additional personnel and equipment. Communities that use snow gates report a 30-40 percent increase in the amount of time it takes to clear streets, and snow gates are only effective in snowfalls of 6-inches or less.

Early in 2019, the Public Works department investigated the use of snow gates again. After discussions with local cities using them, the department confirmed the findings of the 2017 snow committee. Without the use of snow gates there may be a build-up of snow at the end of driveways that residents need to clear. For more snow removal information, visit [www.cityofmandan.com/snowremoval](http://www.cityofmandan.com/snowremoval).

## City Contacts

Mandan City Hall  
205 Second Avenue NW  
Phone 701-667-3215  
Fax 701-667-3223  
[www.cityofmandan.com](http://www.cityofmandan.com)

### Mandan City Commission

Mayor Tim Helbling  
Mike Braun  
Scott Davis  
Amber Larson  
Dennis Rohr

### City Departments

Administration .....	667-3215
Airport Authority .....	663-0669
Assessing .....	667-3232
Building Inspection .....	667-3230
Business Development & Communications .....	667-3485
Cemetery .....	751-7893
Engineering, Planning & Zoning .....	667-3225
Finance.....	667-3213
Fire .....	667-3288
Forestry.....	751-7894
Grounds Maintenance.....	751-7895
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

### Receive E-mail Notices

Sign up to receive notice of city meetings and news at [www.cityofmandan.com/updates](http://www.cityofmandan.com/updates). Meeting dates and agendas are also available.