



"WHERE THE WEST BEGINS"

mandan messenger

SEPTEMBER 2019 • VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 8

October meetings

City Commission, Oct. 1 & 15 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

School Board, Oct. 7 & 21 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Park Board, Oct. 14 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

County Commission, Oct. 10 & 29 at 5:30 p.m., Morton County Courthouse

City Planning & Zoning, Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall

Fire Prevention Week

The Mandan Fire Department will promote fire prevention and safety during Fire Prevention Week in October. Firefighters will also visit classrooms in the community to teach children about fire prevention and safety.

The Fire Department will host a fire truck parade and open house Tuesday, Oct. 8. The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. and the open house follows at Mandan Fire Station No. 1, 110 Collins Avenue, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Oktoberfest celebrates German heritage, Sept. 28

Celebrate North Dakota's German heritage! Join the Mandan Progress Organization for Oktoberfest at Dykshoorn Park on Saturday, Sept. 28. Enjoy German food, live music, fall crafts, beer tasting and more! For more information, visit www.mandanprogress.org.

NISC to provide utility billing services in November

The City Commission last year approved a proposal with National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) for utility billing services. Property owners will first see changes in November. The City's utility bill covers water, stormwater and sanitary sewer, solid waste disposal, street light services, and garbage and recycling collection.

The City's current utility billing software has long exceeded its expected useful life and does not provide features commonly available with current programs.

The services will be provided in Mandan through NISC, which also provides utility billing services for Mor-Gran-Sou and Capital Electric cooperatives and many others.

The new service includes access to an easy-to-use online and mobile billing and payment tool, Smart Hub, where customers can easily manage their accounts, pay bills, monitor usage and more. A variety of bill payment options, including one-time, automatic recurring and scheduled payments, along with credit card payments will be accepted mid-November.

Additional information is forthcoming in the October *Mandan Messenger*.



Proposed budget increases City levy by 1 mill

The Mandan City Commission preliminarily approved a 2020 budget proposal during the Aug. 6 meeting. The proposed budget would increase the City levy by one mill to 63.

The average property valuation increase was nearly 1 percent for the typical house in Mandan in 2019. This slight increase, coupled with the mill levy bump, equates to \$20 for the year, excluding any special assessments on the property.

Mandan residents will also see a \$1.75 monthly increase for utility base charges, totaling \$21 for the year. A portion of that increase, \$1.55 per month, is for the City's contribution towards a new raw water intake. The intake project will be cost-shared with the State Water Commission and Marathon Mandan Refinery. The remaining \$0.20 is for contractual increases with Armstrong Sanitation and Waste Management for residential garbage and recycling collection services.

The City's budget, as recommended by the budget and finance committee, totals \$32.2 million. The contribution from property tax revenue is \$4.9 million with the remainder covered through user fees, sales tax revenue, and funds received from other sources such as federal and state contributions.

The draft budget includes a 2 percent increase to employee salaries. It includes two new full-time hires: a police officer/detective and a mechanic for the street department.

See **BUDGET** pg. 4





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NEW & EXPANDING MANDAN BUSINESSES

New

- ÅsceND, 3327 Memorial Highway
- Kids in Motion Pediatric Therapy & Wellness, 306 W Main St.
- Lou's, 1302 First Street NE, Unit #2

Expanding

- Redline Plumbing, 2716 34th St NW

Upcoming

- Black Lions, 200 W Main St.
- House of Fade, 408 W Main St.

'Made in Mandan' business podcast series underway

As part of Mandan's joint community marketing program for 2019, the City of Mandan Business Development and Communications Department recently participated in the production of a new podcast series with local business owners and entrepreneurs under the theme "Made in Mandan."

Interviewed by Business Development and Communications Director Ellen Huber, six different business owners discuss experiences in starting, operating and growing businesses in Mandan. Some have used programs or participated in training sessions offered through the business development office or area partners such as the Small Business Development Center, SCORE, Center for Business and Technology, Lewis and Clark Development Group and Bank of North Dakota.

Watch for new episodes through mid-October. Find links at www.cityofmandan.com/business. Episodes are available via most podcast player applications including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify and Anchor FM. Video versions will be posted on Made in Mandan social media including Facebook and YouTube.



Huber interviews serial entrepreneur Randy Rhone in episode one of the podcast series.

The purpose of the podcast series is to inspire local entrepreneurship as well as to acquaint residents and people living elsewhere who may be interested in opening a business with area resources, community trends and other factors affecting their location and investment decisions. The podcast series is new to Mandan's community marketing program, which is overseen by the City of Mandan Business Development and Communications Department with guidance from the Mandan Tomorrow - Leadership, Pride and Image Committee.

7th Annual Business Start-Up 101 Workshop planned for Sept. 10

Mandan is holding its Seventh Annual Business Start-Up 101 Workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 10. The workshop will provide inspiration and information for people thinking about opening a store, hanging out their own shingle or otherwise owning and operating their own enterprise. The free session runs from 6 to 9 p.m. at Harvest Events and Catering, 308 W Main Street. For program details and to register, visit www.cityofmandan.com/register or call 667-3478.

The workshop is part of a 2019 business education series that concludes Nov. 12 with the Second Annual Mandan Business Pitch Challenge. Entries are due Oct. 1. Learn more at www.cityofmandan.com/businesspitch.

First 'Free Fall Landfill Week' set for Sept. 23-28

Mandan Public Works is offering a hybrid alternative to Spring Clean-Up Week with a "Free Fall Landfill Week" allowing residents to dispose of debris free of charge at the City landfill from Sept. 23 through 28.

This week differs from the Spring Clean-Up Week as items will not be collected curbside with residential garbage. Residents dumping at the landfill will be required to show identification with proof of their address.

Residents are reminded to tie down or tarp all loads to prevent littering along the roadway. Unsecured loads are subject to a \$20 fee. Please clean out all appliances before dumping them at the landfill. There is a \$2 charge per tire disposed of at the landfill.

The landfill is located at 4103 Co Rd 82, approximately 3 miles west of Mandan off Business Loop-94, old Highway 10. Travel south a half mile and then west 1 mile. The landfill will be open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Visit www.cityofmandan.com/landfill for more information.

Police Explorer participants recognized at banquet

The Mandan Police Explorer Post #2853 recently held an awards ceremony recognizing the hard work of youth in the program.

For the second year in a row, Shayla Newgard was voted Police Explorer of the Year by her peers. She has been enrolled in the program for over two years and is interested in a career in law enforcement focusing in forensics.

The Chief's Award, which goes to an explorer selected by the program's advisors, was awarded to Lexie Bosch. Explorers received one and two-year bars for their time in the program, and service awards were handed out in recognition of their community services hours. Sgt. David Raugust received the Advisor of the Year Award for his defensive tactics classes.



Chief Ziegler presented Shayla Newgard with the Explorer of the Year award.



Explorer leadership spoke about the training year during the banquet.

There are currently 20 program participants. Anyone ages 14 to 20 can join by attending a meeting or contacting a program advisor. The Explorers meet every other Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. and one Saturday a month. Call 701-667-3250 or follow the Mandan Police Explorer Post #2853 on Facebook for more information.

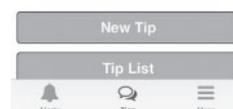
Police Department offers new mobile tip app

The Mandan Police Department recently introduced a new mobile tip app to help residents connect with the department to find information, view alerts and submit anonymous tips from their smartphone. Once a tip is shared with the police, the app lets officers respond back to create an anonymous two-way conversation.

The app is available for free. Search "Mandan PD" in the Google Play Store, iTunes App Store, or visit www.mandapd.com. Residents can still submit anonymous tips through the department's website or by texting "MANDANPD" along with the tip to 847411.



For tip submissions requiring an immediate response, please contact Mandan Police Department at (701) 667-3250



Meet Kupper, the first K-9 officer for Mandan



Photo courtesy of KFYP-TV.

Mandan Police Department's newest officer is a K-9! Kupper, a German Shepherd, was born and bred in the Czech Republic and receives commands in Dutch. He is trained in detecting meth, cocaine, and heroin, tracking, building searches, and more. He and his handler, Officer Scott Warzecha, completed their training at Shallow Creek Kennels Law Enforcement K-9 program in August. The K-9 unit has begun protecting the streets of Mandan.

Kupper is named after local business owner Bob Kupper who generously donated funds to the police department for the K-9 unit. The preliminary 2020 budget includes a second K-9, and if approved the department hopes to begin the process in selecting the next K-9 and handler early next year.



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Complaints drive revisions to parking campers, trailers on streets

City Commissioners approved an ordinance pertaining to parking of campers and trailers in residential zones during their Aug. 20 meeting.

According to Deputy Police Chief Lori Flaten, the changes stem from citizen complaints of issues in neighborhoods. Other revisions clean up language in the current code and provide consistency throughout different sections of code. Here are the rules:

- Campers or trailers less than 8 feet wide, 36 feet long and weighing 10,000 pounds or less may be parked in front of the registered owners' residence for a period of 12 hours for loading and unloading from May 15 through Sept. 15.
- The fee for violations is \$50.

Violations are often complaint driven and handled by the code enforcement officer. It's important to note that campers and trailers are still not allowed to be parked on residential streets outside the May 15 through Sept. 15 timeframe. Also, any boat, motor home, bus, camper, fifth-wheel trailer or travel trailer parked on the street longer than 12 hours or from Sept. 16 to May 14 is considered in violation of the ordinance and may be towed at the owner's expense.

Property assessment data now available online

A map that links to property data showing assessment information for most parcels is now available at www.cityofmandan.com/maps. The values are as of April 2019. Users can search for property data by address or parcel number in a search field. Contact the City Assessor's office at 667-3232 for questions or more information.

Currently special assessment balances are not included in the information. For assessment balances, call 667-3215.

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Budget

Major infrastructure projects in the preliminary budget include:

- Street and underground utility improvements east of Collins Avenue to Fourth Avenue NE from Main Street to Fifth Street NE;
- A street improvement project north of Old Red Trail including 34th Street NW, 30th Avenue NW, Crimson Street NW and Lewis Road;
- Improved drainage at the intersection of Sunset Drive and Boundary Road; and
- Emergency generators at the 40th Avenue SE lift station and Sunset booster station.

The Morton County treasurer, in accordance with new state law, mailed letters to all property owners, notifying them of proposed changes in property taxes and public hearing dates for all taxing entities. In the past, the hearing notice was only required for property owners with an increase in value of 10 percent or \$3,000. The letters notify the owner of their estimated property tax based on the preliminary 2020 budget. It also includes notice of the City Commission's public hearing on the budget scheduled for Sept. 17 at 6 p.m., prior to final consideration. The hearing will take place at Mandan City Hall.

City services only a portion of local property tax bill. City services currently account for about 24 percent of the total mill levy for Mandan property owners. The School District, Morton County and Park District services account for the remainder.

For more information about the 2020 city budget, contact the Finance Department at 667-3213. The full budget document is posted at www.cityofmandan.com/finance.

City Contacts

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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. Meeting dates and agendas are also available.