



**2015 Legislative Surge funding making many Minot projects a reality**

Thanks to funding from the 2015 North Dakota legislative session the City of Minot has made large improvements across the board. With \$32 million in surge-based funding, the City of Minot has been able to move projects



forward that are a result of growth and impact from the energy sector. Approximately \$8.5 million will eventually go into the three-year Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project that is two-thirds complete; \$1.4 million helped establish a new, five-lane urban street in a rapidly growing area of the City on 37th Avenue SW; and another \$16.9 million is being used to assist with the growing need for water and sewer infrastructure all over town.

For more details on this funding, go to [this article](#) on the City's website.

**SkySkopes opens office in Minot**

On Dec. 19, SkySkopes announced the opening of a Minot office, which marks the company's first location outside of Grand Forks. SkySkopes is a national leader in UAS flight operations and specializes in energy infrastructure inspections, security purposes, precision agriculture, industrial inspection, and other uses.



"Between military and commercial uses, there are so many opportunities for SkySkopes in Minot, and even more opportunities for the businesses that utilize their services," said Stephanie Hoffart, President/CEO of the Minot Area Development Corporation. "SkySkopes has helped businesses save up to 70 percent in business costs. This will be huge for Minot businesses and MADC couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of this exciting milestone." [Click here](#) to read more.

**MADC launches MAGIC Sky initiative**

2016 brought a new focus for MADC - the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Industry. With support from the Department of Commerce, MADC is pushing for Minot to have a role in this evolving industry.



By first attending the AUVSI Conference in New Orleans, then co-hosting the 2016 "Bridging the Atlantic" Business to Business Seminar, which was deemed the "best B2B yet," MADC's trade mission to Norway last month solidified Minot's potential within the UAS industry.

With strategic partners in place, including SkySkopes and the Department of Commerce, MADC has launched the MAGIC Sky initiative. MAGIC Sky will promote Minot as a destination for UAS companies, offering close proximity to the Bakken and endless opportunities for precision ag, energy infrastructure and more. MADC will be executing the MAGIC Sky in 2017 and hopes this initiative will create jobs, increase opportunities, and align with MADC's mission to stimulate the Minot area economy.

**City of Minot flood control efforts net savings for property owners**

City of Minot property owners in potential flood hazard areas can now get a 10 percent discount on federal insurance premiums through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's insurance program, effective May 2017. The reduction



comes after the City partnered with Ward County to meet FEMA requirements, including flood planning, property damage reduction, and community education. To read more, [click here](#).

**2016 Tourism success in Minot**

The City of Minot had another successful year drawing crowds from around the region for the events held in the Magic City. When it comes to the state's two largest events, the North Dakota State Fair drew 293,123 attendees and Norsk



Hostfest tallied more than 55,000 visitors. Northern Neighbors Day, an event held at Minot Air Force Base, pulled in 12,500 guests for the single-day open house. Long-time attractions in Minot continued to see positive numbers as the Roosevelt Park Zoo increased its attendance to over 90,000 attendees; many seasonal establishments like the Dakota Territory Air Museum saw 6,000 attendees over the past year. To view the latest on what is happening in Minot, go to [www.visitminot.org](http://www.visitminot.org).

**Big ribbon cuttings mark 2016 growth**

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce remained very busy in 2016, including helping to open some new public buildings.

Membership is steady with 750 members the past few years, with small businesses the number one type of membership. Speaking of members, some are brand new and asked for a ribbon cutting, while others who have been in Minot for a while, made renovations or moved and asked the Chamber to provide the red jackets and big scissors.



In total, 57 ribbon cuttings took place in 2016 with two ground breakings. That compares to 47 ribbon cuttings and six ground breakings in 2014 and 78 ribbon cuttings and one groundbreaking in 2015. Some of the more notable ribbon cuttings in 2016 include the Ward County Office Building, John Hoeven Elementary School, and a new, third sheet of ice at Maysa Arena.

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