

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/NewlookcomingsoonforMinotCityCouncilMinotNewsletterJune2017/>



New look coming soon for Minot City Council

A special city election will be held next Tuesday, June 13. This election is necessary because of the vote to change the size of the City Council in



June 2016. Voters will elect six people to replace the existing 14-member council. Mayor Chuck Barney will complete his term, which ends in June 2018. The mayoral position will become a voting member of the council. Seven of the existing city council members are running for one of the six spots, along with two newcomers.

Advancing the MAGIC Sky Initiative in Minot

The Minot Area Development Corporation is continuing to achieve its MAGIC Sky Initiative, after attending the Drone Focus Conference in Fargo from May 31 to June 1. Thanks to the networking opportunities, guest speakers – including U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, U.S. Senator John Hoeven and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum – and workshops, the effort to bring Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) businesses and partners to Minot is growing. This was the first year that MADC attended the two-day conference, joining more than 600 other attendees. For more information on MADC's MAGIC Sky Initiative, [click here](#).

Pouring concrete for new Broadway Bridge

Contractors are two months in to the two-year project of replacing the U.S.

83/Broadway Bridge at the heart of Minot, and just passed a big milestone. In May, concrete was poured to form some of the new east bridge supports. Contractors on the new bridge, which will be nearly 1,000 feet long when

finished, are pouring concrete footings and columns that will become the six piers that will support the new east-side structure. Crews anticipate finishing the east bridge before the end of this construction season. The demolition of the old east bridge on the Broadway Bridge Replacement Project is about 95 percent done. [Click here](#) for the latest facts on this \$21 million project.



MSU Foundation exceeds capital campaign goal, raises \$31.2 million

In 2009, the Minot State University Development Foundation embarked on "Our Place, Our Time," a \$26 million capital campaign to raise significant funds to support

students, university programs and facilities. The campaign concluded Dec. 31, 2016, exceeding its goal, raising \$31.2



million from alumni and friends of the university, making it the most ambitious and successful fundraising campaign in Minot State history.

“The successful completion of this campaign is truly a remarkable feat thanks to the MSU alumni, friends, and supporters, who have contributed their time, talent, and treasure. This effort has further strengthened MSU’s ability to educate current and future students alike,” said Dr. Steven Shirley, Minot State president. “It is a great day for the entire MSU community and we are excited for a bright future. Thank you to all who have made this day possible!”

The campaign consisted of five initiatives: scholarships, academic programs, academic facilities, athletics and the annual fund. Within the \$4.9 million scholarship initiative, 100 new endowments were created, and 127 existing scholarship endowments increased in size.

A major contributing factor to the campaign’s success was Minot State’s opportunity to utilize the North Dakota Higher Education Challenge Grant Fund, which was supported by the N.D. Legislature to advance academics at the state’s institutions of higher education. The program awarded nearly \$3.1 million in matching funds to Minot State University. It allowed for \$1 of matching funds for \$2 privately raised by North Dakota university and college foundations.

City using federal funds to make housing affordable

The City of Minot continues to move forward with efforts to bring more multi-family affordable housing to Minot utilizing funds from the National Disaster Resilience Competition.



At its June 5 meeting, the Minot City Council approved a plan to call for proposals to create more affordable multi-family housing units. The City will review the applications and determine grant awards. Construction would need to begin by October. The goal is to renovate existing facilities within the city rather than construct new buildings.

Minot was awarded \$74.3 million in January 2016 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development through its National Disaster Resilience Competition. Of that total, HUD

approved \$34 million for affordable housing projects, with about \$21 million earmarked for multi-family housing. Minot's application included several projects, but one of the key aspects of becoming a more resilient community is to strengthen the city's affordable housing market.

The first funding allocated toward an affordable housing project happened when the Minot City Council awarded \$1.85 million to help rehabilitate 35 existing units at Park South Apartments and build more units. Thirty of the units must be offered at affordable rates for 30 years, and four units will be handicapped accessible.

City of Minot names John Zakian as NDR Program Manager

The City of Minot has hired John Zakian as its National Disaster Resilience program manager. He will oversee Minot's \$74.3 million NDR program and all of its associated projects, plans, and activities. Zakian began his duties June 1.



"We're excited to have someone with John's background and experience join our team," said Minot City Manager Tom Barry. "We have positioned ourselves to move forward with the projects we have targeted to help us become a more resilient city, and having John on our staff will help us accomplish those goals. He will be a great addition."

Zakian has an extensive background in economic and housing development, finance, municipal services, and disaster recovery consulting. Since April 2013, Zakian has been a contract consultant working for the New York City Office of Management and Budget, providing guidance as the city administers HUD's \$4.2 billion Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery plan following the devastation caused in 2012 by Hurricane Sandy. For more information, [click here](#).

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