



Delay in flood insurance maps is good for Souris Valley residents

Homeowners in the Souris River valley will get more than an extra year before a federal flood insurance mandate takes effect, thanks to city leadership and its partners.

The City of Minot, its consultants, and Ward County have successfully lobbied the Federal Emergency Management Agency to revise flood risk maps for the Minot area. The proposed maps would have required all properties with federally backed mortgages in the flood inundation area to carry flood insurance, adding a financial burden to many homeowners in the valley. Now, that burden has been delayed.



City Manager Tom Barry updated the Minot City Council at its May 7 meeting on the potential map changes. Barry said FEMA will issue new, updated maps for the Souris River basin.

"This is great news for Minot and its residents," Barry said. "This will result in improved and more accurate maps and provide more time for implementation. It also allows the City more time to earn Community Rating System points, which will help lower flood insurance premiums for our residents."

Barry said the new timeline shows that the preliminary maps will be released in December 2018, which will be followed by a 90-day appeal window and additional time to provide comments on the appeals before a final determination letter is released in September 2019. The new maps likely won't be implemented until at least March 2020. The original risk maps were to be released in the summer of 2018.

[Click here](#) for more information on the number of structures/properties that could be positively impacted by revisions in the flood risk maps.

First concrete pour of 2018 on new Broadway Bridge

The U.S. 83/Broadway Bridges Replacement project hit a milestone on May 4, pouring concrete for the first time this season - to form the footing for the north



abutment of the southbound bridge. Lunda Construction crews placed 100 cubic yards of concrete under the nice conditions – the equivalent of 10 concrete trucks. This footing will serve a double purpose, also helping to form the necessary flood protection through this area. The bulk of the funding (nearly 80 percent) for this two-season project is coming from Federal Highway Administration dollars. The remaining cost is being shared by the State of North Dakota and the City of Minot. Lunda Construction was awarded the bid in late 2016, at an estimated construction cost of \$20.8 million. For the latest on this project, go to the [City of Minot's Facebook page](#).

MADC and city delegates team up for Downtown Minot

Minot Area Development Corporation President and CEO Stephanie Hoffart and Marketing Director Terri Phillion, along with other delegates from The City of Minot, recently traveled to Main Street Square in Downtown Rapid City, S.D., to meet with officials from the Rapid City Economic Development organization as well as Destination Rapid City.



The purpose of the visit was to glean from other professionals the successes, opportunities, and challenges surrounding their vibrant downtown community and gathering space. This activity was among the preliminary recommendations received from the International Economic Development Council following their team's March site visit to Minot. The trip coincided with Rapid City's "Frühlingsfest + Spring Market," an event the Magic City could potentially duplicate in downtown Minot.

Amendment to Disaster Recovery funds to help gathering space

The City of Minot has [prepared a substantial amendment](#) which it will submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development after the 30-day public comment closes as it

seeks to spend up to \$2.5 million to acquire property needed for a downtown gathering space.

As part of \$74.3 million awarded to Minot in 2016 through the National Disaster Resilience Program, a total of \$6 million was set aside to fund the creation of a downtown gathering place.

Because acquiring property wasn't specifically identified in Minot's original approved NDR application and Action Plan, HUD is requiring the City to amend its request to specifically identify acquisition for the Gathering Place as a new activity pursuant to HUD rules and identify the portion of the \$6 million which will be used for acquisition. The city has identified \$2.5 million for property acquisition.



"In the approved Action Plan, the City promised that it would provide the land on which the Gathering Place is to be built. Therefore, the City did not include acquisition of property as an activity for the Gathering Place," said John Zakian, Minot's program manager.

The Minot City Council approved the plan at a special meeting. Until HUD acts on the request, the City can't negotiate with property owners or use funds to further develop plans for the gathering space. HUD's response could take considerable time but, if the city's proposed amendment is viewed as straightforward and uncomplicated it could be approved within 45 days of official submission.

The amendment is available for public comment by [clicking here](#).

Zakian said HUD requires that the public have an opportunity to comment on any significant change in an approved action plan. He also said HUD, for NDR grants, has the authority to re-score the City's revised action plan following the public comment period. If the action plan's score were to be lowered because of the changes, it's possible HUD could take a portion of the grant funds back but Zakian is confident this specific substantial amendment will not be rescored because the changes are only more clearly defining a project included in the original approved Action Plan and is not proposing a different project which would trigger rescoring.

Citywide cleanup happens during first weekend in May

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce citywide cleanup was another success this year! The Minot Chamber Project CLEAN (Community Leaders Enhancing Area Neighborhoods) Committee held its annual Citywide Cleanup in early May to prepare the community for visitors this spring and summer. Chamber members were asked to clean up around their buildings and to provide volunteers to clean the city entrances. Thanks to the City of Minot for supplying the garbage bags – and thanks to all the volunteers for making the Magic City look beautiful again!

X marked the spot for MADC and Unmanned Vehicle Systems

MADC President and CEO Stephanie Hoffart and Marketing Director Terri Philion, as well as Board Members Jay Fisher and Alan Walter, partnered with the North Dakota Department of Commerce to attend the AUVSI Xponential Conference 2018 in Denver, Colo. An intersection of cutting-edge innovation and real-world applications, Xponential is the one event that

brings all things unmanned into sharp focus. The conference boasts more than 8,500 industry leaders and forward-thinking users from both the defense and commercial sectors who convene to learn the latest on policy, business-use cases and technology applications. This billion-dollar sector is currently one of the MADC's targeted industries.



Germ-fighting robots enhance infection control in Minot

A germ-fighting robot that uses ultraviolet light to sanitize rooms at Trinity Hospital is giving a boost to the hospital's infection control program. Trinity Health deployed two Xenex LightStrike® Germ-Zapping Robots® two years ago as

part of its ongoing efforts to reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) – infections that patients acquire while receiving treatment in a hospital. An analysis of data from the first year of using the robots shows that HAI infection rates declined by almost half. "We experienced an average 47 percent reduction in HAIs after adding UV disinfection to our cleaning protocols," said Sue Niebuhr, coordinator of Trinity Health's Infection Prevention and Control program. "That included a 34 percent reduction in MRSA, a 60 percent reduction in VREs, and a 39 percent drop in C. Diff." Niebuhr described the early results as encouraging and in harmony with the hospital's goal to make patient safety its top priority.



MSU students, alumnae, faculty earn Severeid Awards

Minot State University alumnae Alexis Arthur, students Leif Bakken, Kayle Borner, and Nolan Axten, and professor Neil Roberts all earned Eric Severeid Awards at



the Midwest Broadcast Journalist Association Conference in Bloomington, Minn. this spring. Arthur, who graduated in December and currently works for KX News, captured a First-Place Award in Spot News award for her entry "Bomb Threat – Central Campus." Roberts, Bakken, and Borner teamed to earn a First-Place Award for the series "Purple Pillage Radio Series" on KZZJ in the Series category. Roberts also won a First-Place Award in Best Use of Audio in the Series category for "N.D. Pheasants Down but not Out." He also won Award of Merit with "N.D. Pheasants Down but not Out" in Soft Feature and Sports Reporting. He earned an additional Award of Merit for the series "Spring Fever Baseball – Season Opener!" Bakken, a senior broadcast major, earned an Award of Merit for Sports Play-by-Play Student Market TV for his coverage of Minot State Men's Basketball vs. USF NSIC First Round Playoff Game from 2016. Axten, a senior broadcasting major who currently works for KX News, earned an award of Merit for Sports/Program with his entry "KX Sports 12-29-2017."

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