

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/MinotMayorkickstartszombiehomedemolitionMinotNewsletterJune2019/>



### Mayor kick-starts zombie home demolition

Evidence of continued recovery from the 2011 flood is becoming more apparent throughout the valley in Minot. This summer, the City of Minot



will begin demolition of six more blighted homes as part of a federally funded effort to restore neighborhoods impacted by the City's worst natural disaster. Using federal Community Development Block Grant funding, six structures have been purchased through voluntary acquisition to remove blighted properties. "These zombie homes have been part of our city for far too long, and while we have much work remaining, we're happy to begin removing more of these homes," said Mayor Shaun Sipma. "We're moving forward to become a more resilient community, and that means these zombie homes must be removed when we get the opportunity. I'm more than happy to help demolish this one."

Six structures are scheduled to be demolished this summer, leaving 26 structures on the list of blighted properties. For perspective, that's less than 1 percent of the properties in the valley damaged during the 2011 flood. Work continues on the remaining blighted properties, either to acquire and demolish the structures or to have the owners repair the structures.

Click [here](#) to read more on this story, or to see video of the first demolition (with help from the Mayor!) go to the [City's Facebook page](#).

### 83 Bypass expansion project continues

Work is under way on the second year of the Highway 83 West Bypass expansion project. The \$17.5 million North Dakota Department of



Transportation project includes four-laning from Fourth Avenue Northwest to the intersection with North Broadway. The project, which has a mid-November completion date, is funded entirely with state oil impact money; there is no local cost share.

There are national security considerations as part of the project as well. Once the expansion is completed, convoys from Minot Air Force Base will no longer have to drive through the heart of Minot, and instead can utilize the bypass when moving equipment and personnel from the base north of Minot to other locations.

Chad Beggs, project engineer, said roads should remain open to vehicle traffic for most of the project, although there may be brief periods when parts of the roadway could be closed. The bike/walking path that runs underneath the Fourth Avenue Northwest bridge will be closed while an additional bridge is built to accommodate the two new lanes of traffic, which will be built west of the current roadway. In addition to adding 4.5 miles of new roadway, the project includes turning lanes and other improvements at 19th Avenue Northwest and expanding the intersection at 21st Avenue Northwest. The intersection of the bypass and North Broadway will also be expanded to accommodate the new lanes of traffic. Beggs said the roadway between Fourth Avenue Northwest and approximately 19th Avenue Northwest will be raised five feet, including the two new lanes and the two existing lanes. The prime contractor is Mayo Construction Inc. of Cavalier, N.D. Many local sub-contractors are working on the project, including Gravel Products, 3D Specialties, and Dakota Fence.

### MADC honored with Global Business Award

The Minot Area Development Corporation (MADC) received the 2018 Service to Exporters Award for its dedication to building an intermodal facility and improving the



transportation options for North Dakota exporters. North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Commerce Commissioner Michelle Kommer presented the award to MADC President & CEO Stephanie Hoffart during the Global Business Awards ceremony, the annual international business event hosted by the North Dakota Trade Office (NDTO).

"It's so important to recognize the individuals, businesses and organizations that are bolstering North Dakota's economy and also to demonstrate the support they have here at the NDTO and within our state government," said Simon Wilson, executive director of the North Dakota Trade Office. "We are a state dependent on exports and organizations such as the Minot Area Development Corporation are pushing North Dakota to the world stage and providing further economic opportunities to North Dakotans."

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### **Missile defense contract at MAFB discussions**

North central North Dakota will soon be busy with additional activity and there is a lot at stake. Two companies, Northrop Grumman and Boeing, are competing to be the contractor for a multi-billion-dollar contract to provide the new Ground



Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD). GBSD will replace the Minuteman missile system currently deployed in 150 silos and operated by Minot Air Force Base. The program contract, once awarded, will take about ten years to complete and will have a significant impact on the greater Minot area.

In early June, Northrop Grumman was in Minot to talk with Minot Area Chamber of Commerce members on what this contract will entail. 120 people were on hand to learn more about the GBSD program, as well as have their questions answered. This won't be the last time for an event like this as more meetings are planned. The contract is expected to be awarded next year.

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### **Minot State holds 105th Commencement**

Minot State University held its 105th Commencement Exercise for master's, bachelor's, and associate degree candidates May 10 at the Minot State Dome. Jim McIntyre, '73, a management major who spent nearly 40 years in the utility industry, including 17 years as a senior officer with Northern States

Power and its successor company, Xcel Energy, gave the alumni address, while students Aaron Richard and Megdelyn Kuske Johnson were featured speakers.



The University awarded diplomas to 717 students in 2019. Along with the main ceremony, Minot State’s graduate school held its annual hooding ceremony in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall in Old Main.

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### **Cancer Program earns renewed approval**

Trinity Health’s cancer care program has received renewed accreditation from the American College of Surgeons’ Commission on Cancer (CoC). The full, three-year approval follows an onsite survey by a team of cancer experts and an intensive review of the program’s overall performance. Shane Jordan, director of Trinity’s CancerCare Center, says CoC accreditation is a voluntary recognition accorded only to cancer programs that demonstrate excellence in the delivery of care – including compliance with 34 quality care standards. “CoC accreditation is a rigorous process,” Jordan said. “I couldn’t be prouder of our entire oncology team. Busy as they are, they participate in the accreditation process due to their strong commitment to our patients.”



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