

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/MinotPublicSchoolsonthegrowMinotNewsletterSeptember2019/>



Minot Public Schools on the grow

The 2019/2020 school year began with an increase in student enrollment at Minot Public Schools (MPS). Recent enrollment numbers released by the school district on Sept. 4 show a gain of 93 students from the same time last year. Current school enrollment is 7,722 students in grades PK-12.



"Large elementary class sizes continue to be noted and enrollment has also increased at the middle school level," according to MPS Superintendent Mark Vollmer. Currently, Jim Hill Middle School is nearly 80 students over capacity, with 793 students enrolled. Erik Ramstad Middle School, reconstructed after the Souris River Flood in 2011 to hold an additional 100 students, has now surpassed ideal capacity. Large elementary enrollments will continue to put more pressure on Minot's already over-crowded middle schools. Minot's Central Campus High School is also over capacity.

The Minot Public School Board has begun discussions on how to address larger enrollments. The board will be hosting a series of meetings to discuss options for moving forward. "It's a wonderful issue to deal with" stated Vollmer, adding, "Our community has a history of pulling together to support our youth - we just need to work together to determine what our

best option is."

City completes more Safe Routes to School projects

The City of Minot continues to improve walkability and accessibility in the community through the federally funded Safe Routes to School program.

Most of the work done this summer was in the area around

Washington Elementary School in southeast Minot. Jesse Berg, a project engineer with the City of Minot, said approximately eight blocks had work done in 2019. Some of the streets already had sidewalks on one side, so the project added sidewalks to the other side of the street.



As part of its Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), the North Dakota Department of Transportation solicits projects and awards funding based on how the submitted proposals are scored. Projects under TAP include bicycle and pedestrian projects, scenic and environmental projects, and historic projects.

To read more about this story, [click here](#).

Flood protection projects seeing major progress in 2019

Three large components of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project are happening at the same time in Minot - and all have seen great progress in 2019. Phase MI-1 work is located along or near Fourth Avenue NE/NW on the north side of the river. The contractor has focused this season on building the Broadway Pump Station, erecting the majority of the nearly 2,000 linear feet of floodwalls and completing most of the underground work needed to reroute and/or upsize watermains, sanitary sewer lines and storm water pipes. The work on Phase MI-1 will continue through the 2020 construction season.

Work has progressed along the MI-2 and MI-3 projects throughout the summer. Several major project elements are nearing completion including levee and rip rap placement, closure structure installation along 16th Street SW, and Dakota

Bark Park restoration. The Wee Links golf course impacted holes have been reconstructed and seeded. The Perkett Ditch Pump Station, Bark Park Gatewell, and Wee Links Irrigation buildings are substantially completed, and pump testing was conducted in August. Crews are continuing significant utility replacements in the area of 16th Street SW, which required the roadway to be closed for four weeks earlier this summer. These two phases of the larger project are currently ahead of schedule.



For the latest updates on all three phases of this critical flood control project, designed to help protect the entire Souris River Basin, go to the website [here](#) or follow the many projects on [Facebook](#).

MADC connects with oil & gas leaders at API Bakken Golf Tournament

With more than forty businesses in the Minot area, the oil and gas industry play a very important role in Minot's economy. The [Bakken Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute \(API\)](#) consists of industry professionals who strive to educate its members and community, to promote technology, social responsibility, and to preserve the environment. For the last six years, the Bakken Chapter has hosted the API Golf Tournament as its primary fundraiser, to provide for the Commission on Aging, local industry related scholarships, and other community improvement projects. This year the annual golf tournament was held at the [Souris Valley Golf Course](#) on Aug. 8-9. MADC was a sponsor for Hole 19 during this event and gained over



130 contacts in the oil and gas industry. Attending this event was a great opportunity to connect with industry leaders and to show Minot’s appreciation for their business and employment in the Minot area.

Minot hosted FMCA 100th International Convention

The Magic City hosted the Family Motor Coach Association’s 100th International Convention and RV Expo. This convention brought 1,800 motor coaches into Minot to celebrate their milestone. Visitors traveled from far and wide to attend the convention;



47 states and six provinces were represented at the event, as well as a few international travelers. The famous Captain “Sully” Sullenberger was the featured keynote speaker at the expo opening ceremonies. Captain Sully is best known for his incredible safe landing on the Hudson River in 2009. Visit Minot facilitated a Tuesday night event called the ‘Main Street Classic’ which brought more than 1,000 attendees to Downtown Minot. The Family Motor Coach Association had not been to Minot in over a decade, and their return was welcomed.

City, other agencies form new nuisance committee

A new committee that includes City of Minot representatives and other local agencies will be tasked with improving the process to handle nuisance complaints.



The committee will include representatives from several City of Minot departments, including planning, inspections, police, fire, and public works, as well as the First District Health Unit and the Minot Housing Authority.

“Who can do what? That’s the question we’ll ask ourselves as departments,” said Brian Billingsley, community and economic development director for the City of Minot. “Some nuisance complaints affect multiple departments, so we want to work together to determine that maybe the Fire Department is the

best one to handle a specific complaint. Maybe the First District Health Unit should handle another complaint. If we come together, we can streamline that process and handle complaints in a more efficient manner.”

For more details on how the committee will operate, [click here](#).

Trinity Health honored for support of nursing education

Trinity Health was one of two organizations to receive the North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education’s Impact Award for Business/Education Partnership last month. Trinity Health was recognized for leadership in providing classroom facilities and other support to Dakota College at Bottineau when the college assumed management of practical nursing and associate degree nursing programs in Minot. “Not only did Trinity Health offer the college use of recently vacated space, its Facilities Management staff remodeled the space into mock surgery rooms, pediatric rooms, a trauma bay, an emergency room, an obstetrics suite, and an interactive classroom,” said Jerry Migler, DCB campus dean. Also cited was Trinity Health’s “Nursing for the Future” initiative - a partnership between Trinity Health, Minot State University, and Dakota College of Bottineau to provide scholarships to nursing students.



Minot State to honor Walter Piehl with reception

Minot State University will host a reception in September at the Northwest Arts Center to honor Walter Piehl for his generous donation to the University’s Permanent Art Collection.



Piehl, a long-time professor of art at Minot State and pioneer of

the contemporary cowboy art movement, donated 45 original paintings, prints, and drawings to the Minot State Permanent Art Collection, many which have been on display at the gallery bearing his name in the Northwest Arts Center.

“As a faculty member for 47 years, Walter had a huge impact on our campus, shaping the lives of hundreds of students during his time at Minot State,” said MSU Vice President for Advancement Rick Hedberg. “With the donation of his collection to Minot State and the Northwest Arts Center, he will continue to impact art on our campus and the region. Walter is a wonderful ambassador for our campus, and we are grateful for all he’s done for Minot State and our students. I’m happy that we will have this opportunity to thank him for his gift.”

The reception is planned for Thursday, Sept. 19 from 4:30-6 p.m. with a short program set for 5 p.m. Light hors d’oeuvres will be served. The Northwest Arts Center and the Walter Piehl Gallery are located on the south side of the Gordon B. Olson Library on the west end of Minot State’s campus.

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