

## Board of Review Begins in March Watch for Change in this Year's Process

City of Midland property owners appealing their 2001 property assessment can expect a positive change to the Board of Review process this year.

In previous years, the Board of Review was conducted on a first come, first served basis; depending on the line up ahead of you, your wait could have been anything from eight minutes to an hour.

This year the process has been improved. You may now call the City Assessor's office ahead of time to schedule your appointment with the Board of Review.

This initial phone call accomplishes two important things: First, it gives the assessor's office the opportunity to identify your questions and potentially answer any concerns you might have. Second, the assessor's office will be able to gather the necessary information so that everything is ready for your Board of Review meeting.

"Not only is this process more convenient for the citizen, but it gives the assessor's office staff an opportunity to talk with citizens and, many times, save them a trip down to the Board of Review," said City Assessor Kathleen Paul.

Watch for your Change of Assessment Notice in the mail during the first week of March. If you have questions or concerns about your assessment or would like to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review, please contact the Assessor's office at 837-3334.

### 2001 Board of Review Schedule:

**Monday, March 12**  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, March 13**  
9:00 a.m. - noon and 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
9:00 a.m. - noon and 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 15**  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### At Your Service ...

is produced by the City Manager's Office,  
333 W. Ellsworth, Midland, MI 48640.  
Selina Crosby Tidale, editor 837-3304

### Midland City Council

R. Drummond Black, Ward I / Mayor  
John Coppage, Ward II  
Hollis McKeag, Ward III  
Mary Carnie, Ward IV  
Marty Wazhinski, Ward V / Mayor Pro Tem

## 2001-02 City Budget Planning Process Mark These Dates on Your Calendar...

**April 9**  
City Manager Presents the 2001-02 Proposed Budget  
7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers  
**April 16**  
City Council Budget Work Session to review General Fund  
7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers  
**April 23**  
First public hearing on the Proposed Budget  
7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers  
**April 25**  
City Council Budget Work Session to review other funds  
7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers  
**May 7**  
Second public hearing on the proposed budget  
7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers  
**May 21**  
Adoption of the proposed budget  
7:00 p.m., City Council Chambers

All meetings cablecast live & replayed on MGTV 5

### The City of Midland - Right at Your Fingertips!

Be sure to check out the new City of Midland website ([www.midland-mi.org](http://www.midland-mi.org)). The new site loads faster and is easier to navigate. Come back often! New information will be added frequently in the upcoming months as City Departments work toward the goal of putting the most information about your City right at your fingertips.

Also new to the website is a chance to subscribe to City Hall News - a weekly electronic newsletter published by the City of Midland.

If you choose to subscribe to City Hall News, the electronic newsletter will be posted to your e-mail address each Friday. Information like press releases, meeting notices, reminders of upcoming events and other important information that affects city residents will be communicated directly to your computer. As a subscriber to City Hall News you will also be on-line to receive urgent notices for situations concerning the City of Midland and its services.

To subscribe to City Hall News, just look for the e-news link on the City of Midland homepage.

If you have suggestions for things that you'd like to see on the City of Midland website, please let us know by contacting us via e-mail at [cityhall@midland-mi.org](mailto:cityhall@midland-mi.org)

PRSRST STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 5  
City of Midland, MI

\*\* ECRWSS \*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



# At Your Service...

A Newsletter for the Citizens of the City of Midland

February 2001

To the Citizens of Midland:

On behalf of the employees of the City of Midland, I am proud to share with you our City's 1999-2000 annual report. This annual report serves as an opportunity for our community to reflect back on the many exciting events of the previous year.

During the past year, with the support of City Council, we have continued to provide our full range of high quality municipal services.

In this annual report we're focusing on some of our additional accomplishments, ranging from progress in improving our sanitary sewer system and constructing our new storm water retention basin to celebrating milestones at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library and MCTV. From recreation to beautification, it has been a year of exciting changes that continue to make Midland a great place to live, work and play. I invite you to read more about these and other interesting and noteworthy accomplishments in this newsletter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the employees of the City of Midland. Our success is a direct result of their hard work, innovation and commitment to our community. We all look forward to working together with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Karl S. Tomion, City Manager



# At Your Service...

## A Look Back at Fiscal Year 1999-2000

### Sanitary Sewer Anticipation...

It's been a year since Midland voters approved a \$15.8 million bond issue that opened the doors to upgrade Midland's sanitary sewer system.

So what has happened in the sanitary sewer improvement process during the past year? Maybe not much that you can physically see, but the planning and design phase is all but complete. During the past year, plans have been drawn, reviewed, approved by the State and are in line for construction to begin - and be substantially completed - yet this year.

After voters approved the bond proposal, the City Council hired the engineering firm of Ayres, Lewis, Norris and May (ALNM) to design the improvements.

ALNM reviewed the improvements that were proposed by Hubbell, Roth and Clark (HRC) and approved by City residents last February. With minor adjustments to the HRC proposal, ALNM developed a "basis of design" or the technical elements of the improvements.

As was promised by City Council, a second engineering firm, Rama Rao and Alfred, Inc. (RR&A) was hired to review ALNM's work to insure that the proposed improvements are properly designed and cost effective.

RR&A identified some improvements that could be made to ALNM's design. These recommendations were incorporated and the basis of design was filed with the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in September 2000.

The MDEQ held several meetings with the City and ALNM to review the basis of design, which was ultimately approved in January 2001.

The City has now filed the final design plans with the MDEQ and anticipates the issuance of construction permits by the end of March. Upon approval from the State, the City will bid out the construction project and begin construction. Once construction has begun, the City anticipates the project will take about one year to complete.

### What Exactly Will Be Done to Improve the Sanitary Sewer System?

The sanitary sewer improvement project approved by voters and the State of Michigan includes community-wide improvements to double the capacity of Midland's sanitary sewer system. Specific improvements include:

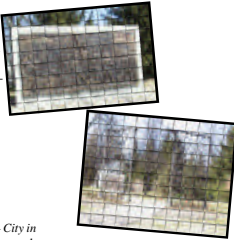
- 1 new pump station in the Nelson St. area
  - 2 force main improvements
  - 2 gravity interceptor improvements
  - 3 pump station enlargements
  - 6 generators for backup power
- Anticipated Cost: \$15.8 million

### Park Beautification...

A major entrance to Midland became even more welcoming this year. On May 12, 2000 the Centennial Passage sculpture and City of Modern Explorers mural were unveiled at the Dow Centennial Garden in Ned S. Arbury Park located at the corner of Jerome and Main Streets in downtown Midland.

The Centennial Passage sculpture, commissioned by a community group following the Midland Community's 1997 "Celebration of the Century," celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Dow Chemical Company's existence in Midland.

The "City of Modern Explorers" mural is a bronze replica of the one created by Corrado Parducci in 1942. The mural hung in the Midland Circle Theatre, which became the Circle Bowl, and was salvaged from the building when it was demolished in 1998. The mural chronicles Midland's history from its Native American roots to its industrial boom. The original artwork is featured in the Midland Center For the Arts.



### Sharing Information...

When surfing the channels on TV, be sure to check out the new program on MGTV — *City in 15*. This 15-minute monthly program began in April 2000 and highlights issues, services and events pertaining to the City of Midland. Each new program begins on the last Friday of the month. Catch the show daily on MGTV 5 at the following times: 8 a.m., Noon, 5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

### Improving Transportation...

Relief is in sight at one of the most congested intersections in Midland. The Michigan Department of Transportation has committed nearly \$9 million for improvements to the US-10 interchange at Eastman Avenue, and the intersection at Eastman Avenue and Wackerly Street. The first phase of the project, a new ramp for motorists traveling south on Eastman who wish to head west toward Sanford, was completed in the summer of 2000. The ramp was constructed at the former intersection of Airport Road and Eastman Avenue.

The next step will involve the replacement of the two US-10 bridges located above Eastman Avenue. Additionally, a portion of Wackerly Street will be widened. The off-ramp for eastbound US-10 and on-ramp for southbound Eastman Road traffic desiring to proceed eastbound on US-10 will be relocated to Wackerly west of Eastman. Relocating the ramps will allow the removal of the traffic signal just north of Wackerly Street, which will increase traffic capacity. Finally, Eastman Avenue will be widened from four to seven lanes, nearly doubling its size and eliminating a bottleneck.

### Expanding Recreation...

The City began a \$2.8 million enhancement to Currie West Municipal Golf Course, which will see a total renovation of the current nine holes and the addition of nine holes.

The project renovates the existing nine holes on the Currie West course and adds other nine holes, to make it an 18 hole-course. The project began in the summer of 1999 and will be phased in over a three-year period. The new nine is expected to be complete by midsummer 2001. Following the opening of the new nine, the original nine will undergo a renovation.

The Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation and The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation donated the funds for the renovation and expansion of the Currie Municipal Golf course Complex. A grant from the Currie Family will fund the construction of a new clubhouse to service both courses.

The entire 18 holes of the West Course is expected to be open by August 2002. The renovation and construction schedule for the Currie West course will not restrict golf play as nine holes on the West course will be open throughout each phase of the construction.

For more than 40 years, the Currie Municipal Golf Course has operated as an enterprise fund by the City of Midland. As an enterprise fund, the Golf Course supports itself through player fees and does not use any taxpayer dollars. These generous donations allow for the popular golf course to expand and improve without the assistance of tax dollars.

### Software Implementation...

In addition to tackling the Y2K bug, the Information Services Department took on an even bigger challenge, the implementation of new HTE software. The HTE software integrates applications and information, and increases efficiency between departments within the City organization. Several thousand staff hours were committed to the successful implementation of the new software. The planning and implementation of HTE required cooperation

and coordination among the City departments to ensure that installation, security set-up, user training, file conversion and many other activities took place with minimal disruption to day-to-day services. Just a few of the City services enhanced by HTE include: customers' ability to pay for building permits at Treasurer's office, enhanced documentation to walk users through the tax billing process and a Central Dispatch incident entry program for Police and Fire records management.



## Fiscal Year 1999-2000 A Sens-ation-al Year!

### Milestone Celebrations...

The Library celebrated its 100-year anniversary with a weeklong celebration for patrons of all ages. Throughout the week of April 9 – 15, 2000 the Library attracted more than 3500 special guests (in addition to the usual 1100 guests per day). The events were planned and carried out with extraordinary staff support. Starting in January, a committee of staff, Library board, and Friends of the Library representatives organized and carried out a wide spectrum of events. It was good for staff and community alike to be reminded of the library's rich history, its place of pride in Midland and the exciting possibilities for the next one hundred years. The featured performers included local authors, the Chenille Sisters, Men of Music, games, poetry, street performers and much more.

Library employees Joan Somerville (retired) and Joyce Fisher (right) helped celebrate the Library's 100th anniversary with an English tea and book talk.



10,000 programs have been submitted for cable casting.

Community access has developed into three channels, MCTV 3 & 15 and MGTV 5 (Midland Government Channel) and now features a state-of-the-art studio located on the lower level of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Volunteers are an integral part of MCTV, by helping to produce programming for the City, they also create, produce and film many programs for the community including football games, concerts, and non-profit organization activities. Congratulations to the MCTV staff and volunteers on 15 successful years!

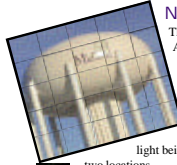


MCTV volunteers Joan Newman, Herb Roth, and Joe Harner contribute to the programming excellence of MCTV.

### New Creation...

The Plymouth water tower, located near the intersection of Swede Avenue and Wheeler Street, was taken out of service for approximately three months in 2000 while it was sandblasted and re-painted. The new four-coat epoxy paint system was applied to the interior and exterior surfaces as part of a \$470,000 project. It took a crew of six approximately 73 days and more than 1,050 gallons of primer and paint to cover the 130 foot high tower.

The tower, which was previously a sky blue color, was painted light beige and the City of Midland logo was also placed on the tower in two locations.



### Storm Water Accommodation...

The major rainfalls that the City of Midland experienced in June of 1996 caused our wastewater treatment facility to overflow partially treated sewage to the Tittabawassee River. This was a violation of our permit requirement with the State.

To prevent future overflow situations, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) required the City to construct a 43.5 million gallon retention basin.

This retention basin will retain any sewage that exceeds the 21 million gallon storage and treatment capacity of the plant until it can be treated. The cost of this project is \$5.4 million. The City applied for, and received, a low interest loan from the State's Revolving Loan Fund for an anticipated savings in interest expense of \$2.4 million over the 20 year loan. As an additional savings cost, the basin will be lined with clay from the City's landfill. The City is currently in the design phase and will begin constructing the retention basin in the fall of 2001, once the state funds become available.

### Employee Safety Innovation...

In October 1999, the City's Employee Health & Safety Action Committee (EHSAC) unveiled a new program designed to catch employees... in the act of being safe. The program was developed in an effort to recognize employees who go the extra mile for safety. Employees who "get caught" are recognized internally and featured in an ad in the *Midland Daily News*.

Who is on the lookout for safe employees? Citizens and fellow employees have turned in 11 employees that they noticed were working in a safe and efficient manner. EHSAC feels that there are more employees working safely than otherwise, and they should be publicly commended.

If you observe an employee demonstrating safe work practices, call the Citizen Comment Line at 837-3400 or send an e-mail note to [cityhall@midland-mi.org](mailto:cityhall@midland-mi.org). Please remember to describe the safe action(s) observed, time of day and location.



City employees Brian Hall (above) Jerry Gilmore, and Garry Jines (right) are just three workers who "Got Caught" working safely this year...