



At Your Service...

2001 - A Year of Progress...

As I look back at the accomplishments of the past year I do so with mixed emotions.

On a national level, it has been a year of tragedy and triumph. The attacks on our Country happened hundreds of miles away, but locally, were felt as deeply as if they happened in our own community. Midland citizens responded with their typical outpouring of generosity and, for that, I am very proud.

On a local level, your city government endured a year of amazing progress.

It was the "summer of the sewers" as miles and miles of city streets were disrupted and numerous detours took over our city. And soon, Midland will reap the rewards of the past year's driving challenges as our sanitary sewer improvements are put into full operation this spring.

We also are enjoying the benefits of a new interchange at Eastman Ave. and US 10. The expanded roadway and improved

access ramps make traveling to mall-area businesses much safer and more convenient.

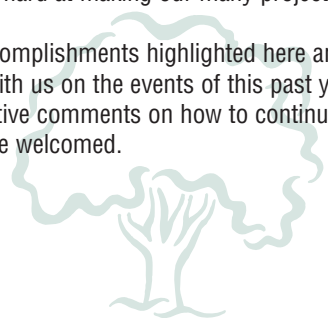
I appreciate Midland motorists and businesses for their patience and cooperation and I commend the city staff and employees who worked so hard at making our many projects run smoothly.

There are many more accomplishments highlighted here and I invite you to reflect back with us on the events of this past year.

As always, your constructive comments on how to continually improve our community are welcomed.

Sincerely,

Karl S. Tomion
City Manager



Annual Report 2001

Sanitary Sewer Project Becomes a Reality

Midland made considerable progress in the effort to better protect Midland homes and businesses from the threat of sewage backups in basements during this past year.

The biggest accomplishment was the completion of \$13 million in sanitary sewer improvements that doubles the systems capacity to transport sewage. The sanitary sewer improvement project, which began in spring 2001 and wrapped up in late fall, included construction of the:

- Saginaw Rd. 42" force main from WWTP to Sugnet St. = \$5.7 million
- Ashman St. 30" gravity sanitary sewer from Circle to Nelson St. = \$820,000
- E. Ashman Street force main from Waldo Ave. to Swede Ave. = \$500,000
- Elizabeth St. 24" force main from Eastman Ave./Buttles/Elizabeth St. to Gordon = \$760,000
- E. Patrick Rd. force main from Waldo Ave. to Swede Ave. = \$250,000
- Nelson Area Pump Station at the Circle = \$1.49 million (completion this Spring)



Additional costs were incurred by smaller miscellaneous pump stations, engineering and inspection fees and other related costs.

While completing all of these projects in one construction season seemed aggressive, it was necessary for the system upgrade to take place at the same time in order to utilize the improved system. If only a couple projects were completed each year, it would take a number of years before the system improve-

April - November 2001

- Constructed six and a half miles of sanitary sewers using more than 2000 sewer pipes
- Reconstructed 5.3 miles of city streets using 120 million pounds of asphalt
- Projects completed by six different contracting firms with a total of 80 different employees on the jobs.
- LOST TIME INJURIES = 0!

ments could be utilized.

The cost of the improvements was \$2.3 million less than originally estimated and the project is right on schedule with the final component, the Nelson Area Pump Station, scheduled to begin operating in May 2002.

In technical terms, Midland is now protected against the effects of a 50-year

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Sewer Project

continued from page 1

storm event, which would produce 2.7" of rainfall in three hours. Most communities have a sanitary sewer system with half the capacity of our improved system.

Roof Drain Disconnection

Another major project completed this year was the disconnection of roof drains from the sanitary sewer system.

Since 1998 the city has identified 113 residential and commercial properties that, because of former building practices, directed rainwater from roof drains, yard drains and parking lot drains directly into the sanitary sewer system. Too much rainwater in the sanitary system was one problem that contributed to the 1996 sewage backups into homes and businesses.

With all known drains disconnected from the sanitary system, the city estimates that 500,000 gallons of rainwater will be diverted from the sanitary sewer system during a peak one-hour storm event.

Thank You Midland for Your Patience with The Road to Progress Construction Year...

The road was long - and it wasn't always convenient. The 2001 construction year brought more than just driving challenges; it brought an improved sewer system and a full interchange at US 10 and Eastman Ave. Best of all, Midland motorists and businesses endured the construction with their usual class and patience.

Keeping motorists informed was a top priority for the City of Midland; from May 4 through Nov. 9 more than 40 construction alerts were issued via e-mail and fax to 175 citizens and businesses.

Watching Out for Each Other

The Key To Safer Communities

Of 29 crime categories tracked by Midland's Police Department, 21 experienced a decline in activity over the past year.

Yet two homicide cases last year overshadowed Midland's historically low crime rate.

"Our community has been deeply saddened by these horrific and shocking crimes, but we must keep in mind that Midland's overall crime statistics show that we are still one of the safest communities compared to other cities of our size," says Police Chief James St. Louis.

Larceny, damage to property and non-aggravated assaults are the categories that receive the most number of complaints at the police department. Activity in each of these categories is down from 1999-00 figures.

Categories that are up in criminal activity include liquor license establishment violations and minors in possession.

So what is it that Midlanders do - and should keep doing - to maintain our safe community?

Chief St. Louis shares the following tips:

- **Know your neighbors and neighborhood...** get to know your neighbors

and know when someone's there who doesn't belong. Don't let your fear of being labeled a "nosey neighbor" keep you from acting on something that doesn't seem right. You just might prevent a crime.

- **Call 911 if something looks suspicious...** nothing is insignificant. If something doesn't look right, let the police check it out. That's their job; you will be helping, not hindering our law enforcement efforts.
- **Start a neighborhood watch program...** according to national statistics neighborhoods that are organized and look out for each other are vic-

timized less. For further information on neighborhood watch programs, contact the Police Department's Public Relations Officer at 631-5716.

- **Remember to practice the basics...** know where your kids are and who they are with. Keep doors and windows locked around the home. Lock your car doors and do not leave things like store purchases, purses and CD holders in your cars.

It's been proven that criminals do not prey on communities that are vigilant about looking after themselves and each other. Let's keep Midland one of those communities.

Top three formal complaints filed with the Midland Police Department:

	99-00	00-01
Larceny	716	644
Damage to Property	525	360
Non aggravated assault.....	305	290

Categories experiencing the greatest increase in frequency:

	99-00	00-01
Liquor license establishment violations	1	7
Minor in possession	118	282
Parental kidnappings	1	2

Crime statistics are recorded based on a June 30 - July 1 fiscal year. The homicides in Midland occurred in the '01-02 fiscal year and therefore do not appear in this reporting period.



Eastman Avenue Expansion Project

One of Midland's most congested intersections found relief last fall as the Michigan Department of Transportation completed the reconstruction of the US10-Eastman Ave. interchange. This project expanded Eastman Ave. at the US-10 overpass from five lanes to seven and moved the eastbound US-10 exit and entrance to Wackerly St.

Another portion of the Eastman Ave. improvement project was completed in 2000 with the construction of the westbound US-10 entrance ramp near Airport Rd.

The \$11 million endeavor required two closures of Eastman Ave. at the interchange and a detour of US-10 traffic while the two bridge decks were demolished and rebuilt. The project was completed eight months ahead of schedule.

New Landfill Look!

A new administration building now greets visitors to the City's landfill.

Opened last November, the new building replaced the renovated construction trailer that served as the landfill gatehouse for the past 10 years.

The new building features a more convenient drive-up window for customers, new employee locker rooms, lunchroom and meeting areas, and an up-to-date records and filing area.

Visitors will also enjoy an improved drive with drainage that prevents the muddy mess customers have become accustomed to. In addition, the new building is wheelchair accessible for handicapped patrons and, the new dual entrance to the gatehouse helps traffic flow by separating daily traffic users — like refuse trucks — from the general public.

The cost of this new facility was \$431,000, which included construction of the building and development of a new entrance road.



Jerome Street Parking Area

More Parking! Better Looking!

Who can take an abandoned gas station site and turn it into a beautifully landscaped parking area? The city can - with a lot of help from its friends.

"It was truly a joint effort that made this new parking lot a reality," said Mayor R. Drummond Black at the Jerome St. Parking Area dedication in November 2001.

The city began eyeing the area for improvement more than 10 years ago, however, it wasn't until the Midland Economic Development Council (MEDC) acquired the land in 1999 that the parking lot became a reality. Generous finan-

cial contributions by the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, the Dow Chemical Foundation and The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation made the parking area possible.

Extra thought went into the lot to ensure that neighbors and visitors entering Midland via M-20 would find the area visually pleasing.

The new 100-space parking area provides additional parking for members of First United Methodist Church, downtown area businesses and visitors to nearby parks.



Area foundations, the First United Methodist Church, the Downtown Development Authority, MEDC, A.S. Arbury and Sons Inc. Insurance, Spencer Oil Co. and the City of Midland helped fund the construction of the \$2 million new Jerome St. Parking.

Bring Your Own Suit!

BYOS

Midland's wettest new attraction opened in September 2001. Located near the Tridge, just north of where the rail trail begins, the Sprayground offers a fun alternative to hitting the beach. Kids of all ages can linger in the watery playground that foams, shoots and squirts away the summer time heat. Donated by the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, the Sprayground is free to the public and operates daily from dawn until dusk.



Photo provided by Julia A. Close

FORE-tunate to Have Great Improvements

If you've been around the Currie Municipal Golf Complex lately, you're sure to have seen the many changes! A new nine-hole addition opened at Currie West in August 2001 - about the same time renovation of the original nine-hole course began.

When the \$2.8 million expansion and renovation project is complete in August 2002, golfers will enjoy a new and improved 18-hole golfing experience on Currie West.

The course improvements were made possible through generous donations from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation and the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation.

In March a new clubhouse will open. The new clubhouse was generously donated by the family of Gil Currie, whose father Gilbert A. Currie helped fund the construction of Currie Municipal golf course and actually designed the first course.

The 4000 square-foot club house with a 40 x 60 adjoining shelter will overlook the pond at Currie West's 18th green.

Currie Municipal Golf Course is operated as an enterprise fund - which means the golf course supports itself through player fees - it does not use taxpayer dollars.



70,000 rounds of 9-hole golf are played at Currie Municipal Golf Course each year.

The First Foursome!



Jim, Joni and Jamie Real and David Caraffino won the lottery to become the first foursome to play Currie West's new nine-hole course on Aug. 24, 2001.

Get the News from City Hall On-Line!

City Hall News, Midland's electronic newsletter, hit the information super-highway in February 2001.

City Hall News delivers press releases, meeting notices, reminders of upcoming events and other important information that affects city residents directly to your computer. As a subscriber to City Hall News you also are on-line to receive urgent notices for

situations concerning the City of Midland and its services.

By subscribing to City Hall News, the electronic newsletter will be posted to your e-mail address each Friday.

To subscribe to City Hall News, visit the City of Midland website (www.midland-mi.org) and look for the e-news link on the City's homepage.

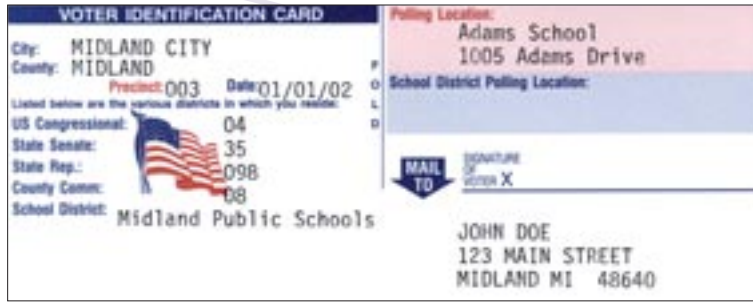
Watch for New Voter ID Cards in May!

As a result of the 2000 Census, voting boundaries all across our State are being redrawn to reflect changes in population.

For the City of Midland this means a change in our ward and precinct boundaries. For some, this may result in a change in your polling location.

The city will mail new voter identification cards to everyone in May. Be sure to review your card and note any changes.

But don't look for the same card you currently have in your purse or wallet!



The new voter identification cards have been redesigned with a red and white theme and proudly display the American flag.

The clerk's office has been busy redrawing Midland's ward and precinct boundaries so that each ward is approximately equal in population

and each precinct is approximately equal in numbers of registered voters.

In March, a proposed ordinance with the new ward and precinct boundaries was presented to City Council for their approval. Upon approval of the ordinance, the new ward and precinct boundary maps will be off to the State of Michigan where they will be filed and changes will be made to the State's Qualified Voter File.

For questions or further information, you may call the City Clerk's office at 837-3310.

Community Development TOOLBOX

Like a hammer to a carpenter and a trowel to a mason, the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances are valuable tools to Midland's future.

As Midland's citizens, business owners and developers, you are invited to roll up your sleeves and help the city sharpen these two important community development tools.

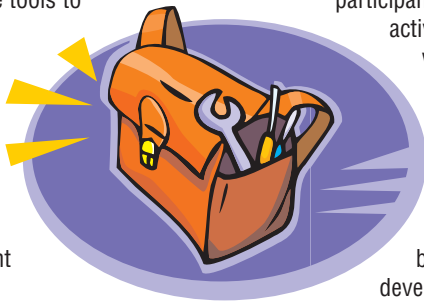
- What are your thoughts on landscaping in the community?
- What do you think neighborhoods should look like?
- Are businesses easy to get to?

Add your opinion to the Community Development Toolbox

Tuesday, April 2 • 7 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Nuts and Bolts Sessions *(topics to be determined)*

- Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m. City Council Chambers
- Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m. City Council Chambers
- Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m. City Council Chambers



Professional planners from the consulting group of McKenna Associates will lead participants through an interactive discussion that will help identify specific development issues - the nuts and bolts - that are most important to Midland citizens, businesses and developers.

Your input at this first session will set the stage for "Nuts and Bolts" sessions that will tackle specific issues and shape revisions to Midland's Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance.

For Questions or Further Information Contact the Midland Planning Department at 837-3374



It's All About Accident Reduction...

*Running Red Lights!
Speeding in Residential Neighborhoods!*

Helping motorists recognize common driving mistakes and - in the process - reducing traffic accidents is the goal of the new "Safe Driving" campaign implemented last year by the Midland Police Department's traffic safety team.

Using the city's website, MGTV and the local media, the Safe Driving Campaign first educates citizens about driving problems common to Midland motorists. Then, for a two-week period Midland Police Officers watch closely for that problem and stop violating motorists.

The topics for the program come from complaints that the department receives about the driving habits of Midland motorists.

"If, through our education process, we're able to remind motorists of the driving basics and a driver puts that into practice to avoid an accident, than the program is accomplishing its goal," said program coordinator Lt. Jerry Ladwig.

The Safe Driving Campaign has targeted safe driving in school zones, seat belt safety for children and adults, safe driving in construction zones and neighborhood driving and plans to target other issues like aggressive driving, running red lights and loud driving.

For questions or further information, contact the Midland Police Department at 631-5716.

At Your Service...

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