

# Parking restrictions lifted at school

By Luann Dart

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The Elgin City Council rescinded a decision to restrict parking near the school and shared election information during the council's regular meeting Feb. 5.

Last month, the council approved restricting parking during school hours on West Street North. Parking was not going to be allowed along the east side of the street across from the school, beginning at the parking lot entrance and extending to an alley north of the school. That area includes about nine parking spaces that would have been left open during school hours to alleviate traffic congestion when buses load and unload.

Buses currently park on the west side of the street, which creates a narrow opening on the street.

Following complaints about last month's decision, the council reversed its decision last week, but had a conversation with Superintendent Dr.

Sherlock Hirning, who attended the meeting, about traffic congestion on that street.

"Just changing the motion or previous action of the board doesn't still solve the problem," Hirning said.

"There was really a lot of backlash," Mayor Ron Bartz said.

Following an accident at the school in which a student was struck by a vehicle in 2024, the council lowered the speed limit to 10 miles an hour on West Street North and the school started placing a portable sign at the intersection with First Avenue between the two crosswalks.

Maneuvering around the portable sign requires driving on the opposite side of the street, said council member Ron Fischer, who also drives bus.

That sign could be moved to a better location, Hirning said.

Buses not driving down the bus line also creates a problem, as one bus might still be waiting for students and other buses pull out of the bus line to depart.

"In all reality, it should be when the first one takes off, you

follow along," Fischer said. "That's the way it should be done in all reality."

Following the bus line would solve the problem best, Bartz said.

"To me, that's the only way you're going to solve it, so they can all leave straight up, but they have to be a little patient," he said.

Parents parking in the middle of the street awaiting their children also create traffic congestion and cause children to walk in-between the buses to the waiting car, Fischer said.

"It's a chaotic mess," he said.

The council asked the school to consider having parents pick up children in the back of the school rather than street side.

Fischer indicated parking situations arose in the back of the school as well when that was allowed.

"It certainly does deserve some attention to see what we can figure out," Hirning said.

## Election information shared

The mayoral position and three

council seats will be on the June 9 ballot, and candidates must file the proper forms by 4 p.m. April 6 to appear on the ballot.

The current mayor is Ron Bartz and council seats up for election are currently held by Kristian Roth, Ron Fischer and Brian Richardson. Forms are available from the city auditor's office. The positions are at large for four-year terms.

## In other business:

The city attorney shared an opinion that the Elgin golf course could request a special event permit to serve liquor at the clubhouse outside of its regular permit dates of May 1 through Oct. 31.

A water usage report indicated the city had 916,880 unaccounted gallons for 2025, compared to 1,549,800 in 2024. Community center use, flushing hydrants and fire department training are not metered uses of water.

The 2025 financial recap showed \$9,789 revenue over expenses, with an ending balance of \$1,047,864.

# GRANT COUNTY School News



## Schedule of Events

Fri., Feb. 13: Varsity boys' basketball at New England, 5:00 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 14: Varsity girls' basketball district 7 Tournament at Bowman, TBA; Speech meet at St. Mary's, TBA.

Sun., Feb. 15: Open swimming 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.; Adult Water Aerobics 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 16: Varsity girls' basketball District 7 Tournament at Bowman, TBA; No School - President's Day.

Tues., Feb. 17: Varsity girls' basketball District 7 Tournament at Bowman TBA; Open swimming 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 18: Adult Water Aerobics 3:30 - 4:30 and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Artist in Residence for Junior High and High School.

Thurs., Feb. 19: Varsity boys' basketball at Bowman, 5:00 p.m.; Open Swimming, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

## Breakfast Menu

Fri., Feb. 13: Caramel rolls, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Mon., Feb. 16: No School - President's Day.

Tues., Feb. 17: Pancakes, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Wed., Feb. 18: Breakfast wrap, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Thurs., Feb. 19: French toast, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

Fri., Feb. 20: Assorted pastries, juice, fruit, cereal, toast, and milk.

## Lunch Menu

Fri., Feb. 13: Chili and cornbread, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Mon., Feb. 16: No School - President's Day.

Tues., Feb. 17: Hamburger on a bun, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Wed., Feb. 18: Macaroni and cheese, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Thurs., Feb. 19: Pulled pork on a bun, sweet potato fries, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

Fri., Feb. 20: Brunch for lunch, whole wheat products, fruit and vegetables, salad bar, milk.

## ELGIN & NEW LEIPZIG SENIOR meals menu

coffee.

Thurs., Feb. 19: Pork chop, baked rice, peas and carrots, fruit salad, milk, coffee.

Fri., Feb. 20: Egg salad sandwich, potato soup, relishes, carrot cake, milk, coffee.

For meal reservations in Elgin, call Our Place Café, 584-3150. In New Leipzig call Nancy Grade at 584-2351 by 9:00 p.m. the day prior to the meal.

All menus subject to change due to availability of foods.

## ATTENTION BARLEY GROWERS

The North Dakota Barley Council election for Sioux County will take place on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (CT) at the Senior Center, 43 Main Street N, in Selfridge, ND.

## ELECTION

Each person, landlord, tenant, husband and/or wife who planted Barley in 2025 or intends to plant Barley in 2026 and who has not claimed any barley tax refund within the past year (except for duplicate payments), are eligible electors and can be candidates.

For more information, contact the North Dakota Barley Council at (701) 929-0123.

Fri., Feb. 13: Turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, Valentine treat, milk, coffee.

Mon., Feb. 9: Elgin - Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, peaches, milk, coffee. New Leipzig - No Meal.

Tues., Feb. 17: Pork roast, baked potato, squash, baked apple slices, milk, coffee.

Wed., Feb. 18: Sloppy joes on a bun, macaroni salad, baked beans, ice cream, milk,

## HISTORIC BRIDGE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION AND PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT

Grant County, in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration, is proposing work on one bridge along 52nd Ave SW, south-southwest of St. Gertrude, ND. The Project Number is BRJ-0019(026); NDDOT # 23711.

Bridge 19-131-47.0 is a single-span, Warren, pony truss bridge constructed in the 1920s and relocated to the current location between 1957 and 1970. It is approximately 82 feet long and 21 ft wide (curb to curb). The bridge crosses Cedar Creek approximately 16 miles south and 6 miles west of St. Gertrude, ND. This bridge will be removed and replaced with a new bridge. Since this bridge is listed in the National Register of Historical Places, FHWA has determined that its removal constitutes an Adverse Effect on it, and for the project as well. Hence, public comment is sought on both of these Adverse Effect determinations.

Further, since this historic bridge could be relocated while maintaining historic integrity, it must be offered for adoption to any responsible state, local, or private entity willing to take over, relocate, and preserve the bridge at a new location (23 U.S.C. 144). Any entity willing to "adopt" the bridge would have to agree to maintain it and assume all future legal and financial liability, as well as liability for the structural integrity and safe use of the structure. The bridge needs to be relocated prior to road closure work, scheduled to begin in the 2026 construction season.

Any parties interested in adopting Bridge 19-131-47.0 or wishing to comment on the National Register and/or Adverse Effect determinations above should respond by February 14, 2026 to John Sauber Jr., PE/PLS, Project Manager, Sauber Engineering Inc., phone -(701)751-5993, email - [jsauber@sauberengineering.com](mailto:jsauber@sauberengineering.com), or mail - 2401 46th Ave SE, Suite 110, PO Box 399, Mandan, ND 58554.

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## ELGIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

The Elgin Rural Fire Protection District will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elgin Fire Hall for the purpose of electing four directors.

•One from Leipzig Township, Grant County. Present director, **Chris Zimmerman**.

•One from Fisher Township, Grant County. Present director, **Pete Hetle**.

•One from Elm Township, Grant County. Present director, **Kerry Ulmer**.

•One from the Hoerauf Township, Grant County. Present director, **Fred Eslinger**.

Voting will be at-large. Other business will be discussed. Anybody interested in these positions can call Ron Bartz at 584-3725.

Ron Bartz, Secretary

2/5, 2/12