

# Public Notices Continued...

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### City Council Meeting March 10, 2026

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center/Zoom with the following members present: Council: Kelly, D. Hollingsworth, Day, J. Hollingsworth and Hernandez-Waite. Employees present: Matt O'Brien Chad Raatz, Brent Larson, Fallon Kelly and Zasha Johnson.

**Appointment:** Due to a vacancy, it is required that the council appoint someone as Vice President of the council, Mayor Sitzler suggested councilman Day. J. Hollingsworth moved, D. Hollingsworth second to appoint Councilman Day as Vice President, carried.

**Engineer Report:** Brandon Reber presented the construction agreement for the water plant improvement project, Kelly moved, J Hollingsworth second to approve agreement, carried. The construction engineering agreement for the project was also presented, J Hollingsworth moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve agreement pending attorney review, carried.

Kelly moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve invoice 007946 for preconstruction engineering, carried. Invoice 007846 for water plant assistance and a heater part was presented, Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve invoice, carried. The geotechnical report for the Main Ave sewer was received, no irregularities were found. Discussed sewer concerns that could also be addressed in other areas of town. Plan to have initial quotes in April. Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve front-end engineering to prepare information and bids, carried. Planning & Zoning committee met to discuss the walking path/Highway 1 corridor study, narrowed down scope and specific areas to examine, they will meet the second time in March with plans to report in April or May.

Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve front-end engineering costs to conduct surveys and prepare report, carried. Lead service line door-to-door visits were fairly successful, a second attempt is planned as weather improves.

**Minutes, Auditor and Court Reports:** J Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve minutes, carried. Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve police report, carried. J Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to approve auditor reports, carried.

**Game of Chance Permit:** D Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve permits as listed, carried.

- Schmitz Benefit, Raffle  
- Oakes Hospital Foundation, Raffle & Raffle Board

**Bills:** J Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve bills as presented, carried.

Advanced Business Methods	147.65
Aflac	591.64
American Welding & Gas	40.86
Aqua Pure	5016.18
Avid Hawk	200.00
City of Fargo	28.00
Computer Express	1595.00
Dakota Improvement	4222.50
Dakota Valley Electric	886.00
DRN	966.19
Economy Propane	877.50
Fabian Pest Control	105.00
Heritage Insurance	40146.00
Information Tech	186.50
Jones & Kelly Attys at Law	3073.40
Kustom Machine	117.47
Napa	423.06
NDPERS-Ins.	22,219.06
NDPERS-Retirement	9593.37
OEI	18,906.63
Oakes Times	240.48
OtterTail	10378.39

Pitney Bowes	164.97
Praskas	762.56
Rod's Cleaning	80.00
Sanitation Products	867.99
Starion Bank	2,407.04
Starion Bond Services	446873.75
Sweeney Controls	10328.40
Sweets & Stories	78.20
Tornado Stop	2731.30
Verizon Wireless	688.50
Visa-Library	800.93
Visa-City	1780.24
Vistos	559.50
Zacks Repair	1565.88
Salaries	14,399.66
Payroll Taxes	63,776.59

**Visitor:** Elizabeth Heinz with ND Rural Water gave a presentation about their apprenticeship program for water plant operators. She took questions and is willing to attend another meeting if more specific information is requested.

**Committee Reports:** Kelly inquired about the gym floor and replacement of damaged tiles. He will reach out to Total Home for information. D Hollingsworth told the council the tree board would be meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The landfill opening schedule was briefly discussed, will revisit in April. J Hollingsworth is going to look into WSI grants for equipment/tools for the public works employees.

**Unfinished Business:** J Hollingsworth will consider taking the City position on the county JDA Board. Attorney Kelly provided a summary of where we stand after the hearing with Judge Cruff and explained that we are awaiting a decision from him before we take further action in regards to Great Plains Oil Company.

**New Business:** NDIRF is offering a sewer insurance endorsement to help residents who experience sewer backup. Council would like Johnson to reach out to Heritage Insurance for costs and further information. It was recently discovered that our Off-Highway Vehicle Ordinance was mistakenly changed during our latest update, the previous version aligned with state century code. D Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to change it back to the previous version, carried. Attorney Kelly will draft first reading for March. City of Oakes needs to appoint a representative to the county Planning & Zoning Board; D Hollingsworth will reach out to a county commissioner for more information. Public works department presented several equipment upgrades and needed repairs. 3 bids for lawnmowers were received from Bobcat, John Deere and Badboy, Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve bid from Bobcat, carried. Quote from Swanston was received to replace the engine in the sweeper, during replacement they will also inspect the hub to determine if it also needs to be replaced, J Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to replace the engine and if needed replace the hub as well, carried. Raatz would like to replace the Bobcat with a smaller model to make cleaning Main Avenue sidewalks easier. He received quotes but council would like to demo the model before moving forward. Larson explained the need to upgrade the water testing equipment that is used for daily samples and the water plant. The old equipment is still operable and would be kept as a back-up, J Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to purchase the SL1000 model, either through the WTP Upgrade grant if allowed or outright if not, carried.

D. Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to adjourn the meeting at 7:35PM.

Submitted to the Oakes Times (04/02/2026)

## Lenten Traditions Explored

The Lenten season marks a period of 40 days when faithful Christians prepare for the glory of Easter Sunday. Easter commemorates the miracle of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is foundational for the Christian faith.

Lent is a season when Christians reflect and prepare to celebrate Easter. Lent is a period of spiritual purification that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. Fasting, giving alms and prayer are some of the hallmarks of Lent.

Many Lenten traditions are well known, but others are not. Here's a glimpse at some of those traditions.

### The first 'Lent'

Lent is based on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert in preparation for his public life. Matthew 4:1-11 shares that Christ was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit for a period of fasting and prayer, where He constantly encountered the devil and his temptations. Lent also mirrors the period of time (40 days) that the Israelites spent in their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Israel.

### Black fasts

While certain Lenten restrictions have lightened up a bit in recent years, it once was the norm to consume a single meal per day of bread, water and herbs after sunset on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, which was known as a black fast. During the other days

of Lent, no food was allowed until 3 p.m., which Christians believe was the hour of Our Lord's death.

### Piñatas for Lent?

The Lenten tradition of hitting a papier-mâché creation filled with candy originated in Italy. Eventually the idea was picked up by the Spanish and brought to Mexico, where the familiar piñatas now known to partygoers across the globe appeared. Professor Michael Foley, author of "Dining with the Saints," says the original piñata had seven cones to represent the seven deadly sins. Hitting the cones and defeating the sins revealed the heavenly reward in the form of candy.

### Prayerful pretzels

In the early Middle Ages, when other foods were not allowed during Lent, pretzels became popular. The twisted shape of the pretzels was associated with arms entwined in prayer.

### Hot cross buns

Hot cross buns are synonymous with Easter. Although they may predate Christianity and might have been a tradition adopted to make Christianity more relatable to the masses, one legend suggests they originated with a twelfth century Anglican monk. This monk reportedly baked the buns and marked them with crosses in honor of Good Friday. These yeasted sweet rolls have since become a popular treat on Easter weekend.

Lent precedes Easter each year and is full of time-honored traditions.

## Cooper's Corner

by Martha MacLeod

### Family

Last Tuesday I took Cooper to Day Care in Milnor so he could play with his friends both big and small. Along the way I began to reminisce. My father told me he came to Oakes from Norwegian Grove in Minnesota on that road at the age of seven. At the time it was a prairie trail through tall grass that would around the sloughs. It was 1924 and my grandfather, Henry Hagen, was coming with his wife, Martha, and four children, to a job with Standard Oil in Oakes where he was to run the delivery truck with fuel to farms in the area. Their team of work horses, Joe and Flo, stayed back in Minnesota. The future was to be with the motor car and tractor. They were on the edge of a new and exciting age of modern machines.

It's been 102 years since my family came to Oakes. The road is numbered Highway 13 and it's straight and made of black top.

The tall prairie grasses are cultivated and turned into large grain fields. Small single family farms are mostly gone now and turned into mega farms. The tree claims became old and many have been taken down so one can see for miles. I pondered the fact that I was driving along in a blue 2012 Ford Fusion with my pet Shih Tzu that isn't even a farm animal. Cooper is a companion dog and I am retired.

Cooper knew that I was taking him to play with his friends and he could hardly wait. When we finally got to Milnor I put his leash on and he jumped out of the car. The first thing he did was smell around the doorposts. He was eager to get the latest update on who was there and was his friend Orson, the Boston Terrier, there. "Yes," he sniffed. Orson was there. It was going to be a good time.

After I let Cooper off I drove



back to Gwinner, got a sandwich at Teals and did some planning as I ate. Our family has a sibling gathering on Easter weekend. It's been ten years since we were together all at the same time. Judy from St. Louis, Missouri is already here. Bill is coming from Guam, that's in the Pacific Ocean on the other side of the globe, Carl is riding his Harley Davidson out from Fallon, Nevada and our youngest sister, Verna, is flying in from Florida. It's a big event for us. Three of them are staying at Harvest Inn. Judy is at my house.

I was born in Oakes during the war. Bill and Judy were born in Iowa after the war. Then the family moved back to Oakes and Carl and Verna were born here.

The plan is to put a big table in the front room so we can have some meals there. Cooper's kennel is beside that table. The other day we moved that table out part way to see how it would work. When we pushed the table back in place we discovered Cooper had crawled into his kennel. He sat in there to claim his space and be sure the kennel didn't get moved without him. He is very mindful and protective of his territory.

We look forward to our Easter gathering. To all of my readers and fans of Cooper, "Happy Easter." Although the weather outlook isn't too great "Happy Spring."

## LIBRARY CORNER

### REVIEWS SUBMITTED BY JEANINE PAHL

HOURS: MON, TUES & THURS 1:30-5:30PM, WED 1:30-7:30PM, FRI 1:30-3:30PM. PLEASE FOLLOW THE OAKES PUBLIC LIBRARY ON FACEBOOK FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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### Harbor Pointe by Irene Hannon.

Devyn Lee, a principal dancer for a top New York ballet company, returns to her hometown of Hope Harbor on the Oregon coast because of a family emergency. What should have been a short visit turns into a longer stay. Aaron Steele, a widowed mill worker, isn't interested in the town gossip about the famous dancer visiting. But when his grieving nine-year-old daughter becomes attached to Devyn—especially after Devyn agrees to help with a local charity show the girl is in—he begins to notice her. As the show lifts his daughter's spirits, Devyn also brings light and hope back into Aaron's life, and he slowly falls for her. Still, Aaron wonders: how could a successful, sophisticated dancer from the big city ever fall for a small-town lumberman who can't dance at all.

### There I Find Rest by Jessie Gussman.

(LP) Strawberry Sands is a peaceful town on Lake Michigan where single mom Kim Tinsley hopes to start over. She wants a safe place to raise her baby, pray for her struggling older child, and run a small horse- rental business—no romance needed. But when she arrives, she finds her inherited house already occupied by a man of strong character. As they work together in their close-knit community, Kim begins to wonder if God might be

opening the door to love again—right in Strawberry Sands.

### I'm Not the Only Murderer in My Retirement Home by Fergus Craig.

After spending decades in prison, former serial killer Carol moves into a luxurious retirement home, hoping to relax and leave her dark past behind. But when another resident—a former police commissioner—suddenly dies, everyone immediately suspects her. Carol's identity is exposed, and she soon discovers the home is full of retired cops and officials who all think she's the obvious culprit. Now she has to prove she didn't commit this murder...without adding anyone else to her body count

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We continue to have a generous collection of Large Print books from NDSL. Stop by and look!

Bookworm Discovery Class - 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in the library. (Year round)

Lego Lovers - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00. (September-May)

Library hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 1:30 to 5:30, Wednesday 1:30 to 7:30, Friday 1:30 to 3:30.

During the Winter months the Oakes Public Library board has decided to follow the plan of the Oakes Public School. Snow days at the school will also mean a snow day for the library.

## PARADIS LAW OFFICE

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*Kelley & Rhonda Lovelace*

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- The Oakes Times reserves the right to edit for length, taste and libel considerations. Letters must be 250 words or less and deal with only one topic.
- Be legible.
- Preference will be given to letters from the Dickey County area. Letters from outside the area will be considered if they are of sufficient interest.

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**CITY CORNER WASTE DISPOSAL SITE**

*Landfill Closed for the Winter*

From Oakes: The Disposal Site/Compost Pile is located 2 miles west on County Rd 3 - then 3/4 of a mile south on 108th Ave

Waste will now be disposed of in large metal containers; trees and branches must be separated as they are no longer allowed in compost area. Recyclable metal items should be separated from other waste.

Contact City Hall at 742-2137 for more info

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