

# Our American Story: Local Government, Real Impact: Democracy Where It's Most Personal



By State Historical Society of North Dakota, ND250 Commission

Throughout 2026, the ND250 Commission, administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, is leading the state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Through meaningful, inclusive, and inspiring projects and events, the commission celebrates North Dakota's rich history, diverse people, and bright future while honoring the state's heritage, individual values, and spirit of community.

When Americans think about civic engagement, the focus often turns to national elections, Congress, or the presidency. But for most people, government is not something distant. It is experienced close to home, in the decisions that shape daily life in communities across North Dakota.

There is a direct structural relationship between the federal system established by the United States Constitution and the organization of state and local governments in North Dakota. Under principles like federalism and separation of powers, states develop their own constitutions and establish local governing bodies such as counties, cities, and townships, which mirror aspects of the federal framework while exercising authority granted at the state level.

County commissions, city councils, school boards, park districts, and water boards represent civic participation at its most immediate level. These are the places where decisions are made about streets and infrastructure, classrooms and curriculum, public safety, and essential services like water systems. The outcomes of these discussions are not abstract. They are real and visible in neighborhoods, schools, and communities every day.

This tradition of local governance is deeply rooted in North Dakota's history. As communities formed across the prairie in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, residents worked together to establish towns, build schools, and organize the systems needed to support growing populations. These efforts reflected a shared belief that communities are strongest when people take part in shaping them.

That same spirit continues today. Across the state, thousands of North Dakotans serve in local roles, often balancing public service with full-time jobs, farms, and family responsibilities. They are not career politicians, but neighbors who step forward to help guide their communities.

Organizations like the North Dakota League of Cities have supported this work for more than a century. Founded in 1912, the

League provides resources, training, and advocacy to help cities navigate complex challenges, from infrastructure planning to community development. Its work reflects a long-standing commitment to ensuring that local leaders have the tools they need to serve effectively.

Local government also plays an important role in civic participation. For many people, attending a city council meeting or voting in a school board election is their first direct experience with government in action. These opportunities allow citizens to share their perspectives, ask questions, and see how decisions are made.

In this way, local governance connects directly to the principles introduced in 1776 – that government derives its authority from the people. While those ideas were first expressed at a national level, they are carried forward every day in communities where residents engage, participate, and take responsibility for the future of their towns. The 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse, still open to the public today in Jamestown as a state historic site, was the birthplace of North Dakota's statehood. Important meetings were held to discuss the division of Dakota Territory.

North Dakota has long demonstrated a strong tradition of civic involvement. From early settlement through today, citizens have stepped forward to organize, lead, and contribute to their communities. Whether through public office, volunteer boards, or community organizations, these efforts reflect a shared understanding that communities depend on participation.

As the United States marks its 250th anniversary, local institutions serve as a reminder that the American story is not only shaped in national moments, but in everyday decisions made across the country. In North Dakota, that story continues in meeting rooms, school auditoriums, and community gatherings where people come together to solve problems and plan for the future.

The work of self-government is ongoing. It is built through conversations, collaboration, and a willingness to take part. It is seen in the efforts of individuals who step forward to serve and in the communities that support them.

As part of ND250, North Dakotans are encouraged to reflect on the role they play in this process. Participating in local government, whether by voting, attending meetings, or serving in a leadership role, is one of the most direct ways to be part of "Our American Story."

To learn more about North Dakota's role in the 250th anniversary and events happening across the state, visit ND250.com.

# Public Notices

www.ndpublicnotices.com

## SCHOOL ELECTION NOTICE

The Oakes Public School District #41 will hold their annual school election on Tuesday June 9, 2026. Polling Places and times are:

Dickey County: Polls open from 8 AM-7 PM Oakes Armory  
124 5th Street S  
Oakes ND 58474

Or  
Ellendale Church of the Nazarene  
112 5th St. N Ellendale, ND 58436

Ransom County: Polls open 9 am-7 pm  
Ransom County Expo Center  
612 7th Ave W Lisbon, NO 58054

Or  
Enderlin City Auditor Office  
411 Railway St  
Enderlin, NO 58027

Sargent County: Forman City Hall  
349 Main St S  
Forman, NO 58032  
Polls open 8 am-7 pm

La Moure County: Polling times 9 am- 7 pm  
Edgeley National Guard Armory  
508 1st Ave W Edgeley, NO 58433

Or  
Bank North Mall  
Community Room  
100 1st Ave SW LaMoure, NO 58458

The Directorships to be filled at this election are:  
Rural, West of Highway 1(Three-year term) Rural, At Large (Three-year term)

## AND YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

That the School Board of the School District, by Resolution duly adopted on March 17, 2026, has resolved to submit the question as to whether the following Initial Resolution for the issuance of general obligation bonds adopted by the School Board of the School District on March 17,

2026, at a regular meeting of the School Board duly called and held, shall be approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Oakes Public School District No. 41 of Dickey, Sargent, Ransom and LaMoure Counties, North Dakota (the "School District"), that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to issue its general obligation school building bonds as hereafter described:

1. The maximum amount of bonds proposed to be issued is \$6,300,000.

2. The purpose for which the bonds are proposed to be issued is to provide funds, together with any other funds available, to replace the existing high school heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, and update and expand the elementary school kitchen and related service areas, and to otherwise improve, renovate, update, construct and equip school property and make site improvements to school property.

3. The assessed valuation of all taxable property in the School District as defined in N.D.C.C. Section 21-03-01, is \$262,183,046 as last finally equalized for the year 2025.

4. The total amount of bonded indebtedness of the School District, all issued for school building purposes, is \$0.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the School District intends to issue the \$6,300,000 general obligation bonds resulting in an additional millage of 18.82 mills, equal to \$18.82 on each

\$1,000 of taxable valuation for the first taxable year after all of the bonds are issued.

(Submitted to the Oakes Times 05/14/2026, 05/21/2026)

# Oakes Senior Center What's Happening:

Thursday, May 14th: Birthday Dinner Day! Let's celebrate the May birthdays! Call 742-3509 by 9:15AM to sign up for lunch that includes cake and ice cream.

Monday, May 25th: Happy Memorial Day! We will be closed for the day.

Tuesday May 26th: National Paper Airplane Day. We will be making paper airplanes and having a flying competition whose plane flies the furthest.

Wednesday, May 27th: Join us for Brew Crew at 2:00PM! Coffee and treats provided by the Senior Center. If you're not a coffee drinker, we have lots of teas to choose from as well, and conversation

Tuesday May 26th: Dickey County Health District will be offering foot care at the Oakes Senior Center. Call 349-4348 for an appointment. The fee for this service is \$30.00

Thursday, May 28th: National

Beef Burger Day! Will be having burgers for lunch.

Thursday May 28th: Craft day... We will be doing a craft at 1:00PM. Craft yet to be determined.

BINGO: Every Monday after lunch at 1:00PM. Play for cash and other prizes! The more people that play, the greater the cash prize. Come join us!

Wii Bowling: Tuesdays at 1:00PM

Bone Builders: Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00AM.

On the first Wednesday of every month, we will be joined by Jamie, from BEYOND THE FLEX, who will observe, teach, and share helpful tips with us. OPEN TO EVERYONE!



## PARADIS LAW OFFICE

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# Cooper's Corner

by Martha MacLeod

Last week Cooper had a birthday. He's three years old now. He was such a little pup when I got him at a pet store in Grand Forks. He was eight weeks old and weighed four pounds. At first I thought he was a runt but the sales person assured me he wasn't. He was so small you could hold him in one hand.

Something attracted me to Cooper even though there were several other Shih Tzu that looked healthier. He was white and beige and very shy. I didn't know it at the time but I think he was taken from his mother too soon and was withdrawn because of all the attention he got at the pet store from people handling him.

I had been looking for a small dog for nearly three months after Snickers died. There was nothing to be found in the tri-state area. I made many phone calls and searched the internet but the dogs for adoption were all big. There were no small ones for adoption or for sale until I heard about the ones in Grand Forks. I took the little pup who called to my heart.

Cooper was a bit dazed when we got home to Oakes. It was such a big change for him. He was quick to adapt to his new circumstances and soon became very playful and had a good appetite.

About a couple months after I got him I noticed that his baby teeth were not falling out while the adult ones were coming in. This is very common with Shih Tzu puppies because of the breeding that took place a thousand years ago to give them a flat face. Cooper has no snout. He has a cute little turned up nose, a small mouth and big eyes.

The problem with his teeth was corrected with surgery. But he had another problem



of a different kind. When one stretched out a hand to greet him he backed up. He was afraid and then his anxiety caused him to attack. This was much harder to treat since he didn't respond to personal touch. He began to bite. Finally, he was given a daily dose of "doggie Prozac" which calmed his anxiety and he stopped biting.

Since Cooper was so small when I got him I thought he would be a small dog. But no. He kept eating and growing and his adult weight is fourteen pounds. He gets food for sensitive stomach and skin because he couldn't keep regular dogfood down. He has become a very playful dog.

At first Cooper didn't play fetch. He didn't get the part about "bring the ball back!" I took him to Milnor to play with other dogs and that's where he learned to play by watching other dogs. He loves to interact with a group of dogs. It's beautiful to watch him run and chase. He is not a fighter. He's a player.

Cooper is very affectionate and attached to his owner. He never lets me out of his sight. He is also very smart and we make up little games to play hide and seek in the house.

Long live the little Shih Tzu, my Sweet Bobboo, the Prince of MacLeod.

## NORTH DAKOTA NICE

Dean B. Kaner

Hummingbirds hum because they can't remember the words.

# 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.

742-3234-EXT. 155 • OAKES PUBLIC LIBRARY, OAKES, ND

**Robert B. Parker's Booked** by Alison Gaylin.

Author Grady Green's life changes in an instant. While on the phone with his wife, Abby, he hears her stop suddenly, get out of the car—and then silence. Later, her car is found by a cliff, lights on and door open, but Abby is gone. A year later, Grady is still grieving and unable to move on. Hoping to heal, he travels to a small Scottish island—where he sees a woman who looks exactly like his missing wife.

**In the Likely Event** by Rebecca Yarros.

Izzy Astor boards a plane for the holidays, expecting a stressful trip. Instead, she meets Nate Phelan, a charming stranger she feels an instant connection with. Just minutes after takeoff, the plane crashes, changing their lives forever. Nate joins the military, and Izzy goes into politics. Over the years, they cross paths, but the timing is never right. Their lives come together again in Afghanistan, where Nate is assigned to protect

Izzy. As danger grows, so do their feelings for each other.

**Paradox** by Douglas Preston.

A man is found brutally murdered in the Colorado wilderness. Agent Frankie Cash and Sheriff Jim Colcord investigate and uncover strange killings, suspicious money transfers, and a dangerous secret group. Meanwhile, mysterious Neanderthals living in the mountains seem to be waiting for something big.

We continue to have a generous collection of Large Print books from NDSDL. 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. Watch for Holiday hours.

# – Business Directory –

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## CITY CORNER WASTE DISPOSAL SITE

Landfill open 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month 8 am-1 pm Starting in May

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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