

North Dakotans reminded to Call Before You Dig

Governor Armstrong Proclaims Safe Digging Month in North Dakota

ND – Governor Kelly Armstrong has proclaimed April as Safe Digging Month in North Dakota. In recognition, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) is reminding everyone of the potential dangers and consequences of digging without first clicking or calling 8-1-1, North Dakota's Call Before You Dig number.

"Spring has arrived, and with it comes a surge of outdoor projects. Before any digging begins, the North Dakota Public Service Commission has an essential reminder: always call 811 first," said Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hofart, who oversees the damage prevention portfolio.

"This simple step is one of the most effective ways to prevent dangerous and costly accidents.

Underground utility lines – whether gas, electric, communications, water, or sewer – are closer to the surface than many people realize. Striking one can create serious safety hazards and contributes to billions of dollars in damages each year. By making a quick call to 811, you're protecting yourself, your property, and your community. Safe digging starts with knowing what's below – don't take the risk."

North Dakota law requires anyone conducting an excavation to notify 811 at least two business days in advance of digging. This is a free service to homeowners and farmers working on their own property/land. Personnel will be sent to mark the locations of the underground facilities, typically within a couple of days. The markings are valid for 21 days after they are placed as identified on your excavation notice ticket. This process is coordinated through North Dakota One

Call. The PSC's role is to enforce the requirements of the state's damage prevention laws and act when violations are reported to the Commission. The PSC can levy a fine up to \$25,000 per violation depending on severity.

Each year North Dakota's

underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional

damage from those who fail to call 811 to have underground facilities located prior to digging. Since

2009, the PSC has received and processed 384 complaints related to violations of the Call-Before-You-Dig law. In total, approximately \$473,000 in fines have been assessed against companies or individuals who have violated the law. The consequences of striking an underground utility can be severe including explosions resulting in injury or death, service interruptions or damage to the environment.

The significant residential and business growth occurring throughout North Dakota and the increased demand for pipeline infrastructure to support the energy industry have dramatically increased demand for the One-Call Program.

Safe Digging Month is endorsed each April by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, the Common Ground Alliance and the North Dakota One-Call Board. For more information about 8-1-1 and begin your excavation notice, visit the North Dakota One-Call Board's website at www.ndonecall.com. For safety tips, best practices and other information, visit the Common Ground Alliance website at www.commongroundalliance.com. (A copy of the Governor's Proclamation is included on the next page.)

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

Memory Lane

100 years ago

"Chinook" is the name selected for the paper edited by the English III Class of McClusky High School, and which makes its appearance today.

Publishing the paper was made possible by advertising space purchased by several local businessmen, and by offering copies of the paper for sale.

All of the news was gathered and written by the editors Ruth Jeffers, Henry Pavey, and Alvin F. Schroeder, who also solicited the advertising. The edition contains school news of interest, poems by high school pupils and editorials.

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All news and editorial writing for the Paril 2 3rd issue of the McClusky Gazette will be done by members of the McClusky High School.

Editors, reporters, and rewriters will be chosen by the teachers from among the high school pupils. Every member of the high school will have a chance to contribute to the issue of April 23rd.

75 years ago

Fire Tuesday morning destroyed the Goodrich Machine CO. building at Goodrich, causing a loss estimated between \$50,000 and \$70,000.

The fire started when a tractor in the workshop backfired. The Flame from the exhaust quickly ignited oil and gas-soaked waste. The flames spread so rapidly that work-

men in the shop were unable to remove two tractors which were being repaired and a new plow which had just been set up.

The conflagration was spectacular because of the highly combustible matter in the building such as acetylene tanks, oil, gasoline, paint stocks and other inflammable material.

Mr. Doering highly commended the work done by the members of the Goodrich Volunteer Fire department, who, with farmers and others assisting, quickly removed all new machinery and equipment from a warehouse located near the burning structure. The warehouse and the Herman Liebig residence and garage located near the flaming machinery building were saved by the firemen.

The McClusky Fire Department was called and several members of the department accompanied the fire truck to Goodrich. The local fire truck, equipped with booster pump, was used to pump water from a slough as the Goodrich water supply threatened to run low.

50 years ago

Possible businesses to be included in the proposed McClusky mini-mall shopping center were discussed at an April 6 board meeting of the Mid-Dakota Development Corporation.

Considered were a men's or women's clothing store or combination, farm and coun-

try store, restaurant, poet office, beauty and/or barber shop, hardware or appliance store, tavern and/or steak house, grocery store, drug store, parts store, professional offices (lawyer or accountant) and several others.

Area merchants may be contacted soon to determine their desire to relocate into a mall.

Reuben Lehmann Jr. presented his design proposal to the board. It was decided that four Minot architects, three of whom, have contacted President Vernon Kluck, will be invited to the next board meeting to present their proposals for McClusky's Mall.

The next board meeting will be at 9 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, in the city Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

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Youngsters from the Tri-City Seventh Day Adventist School did most of the entertaining at a benefit show Friday night in McClusky.

The show had a Bicentennial theme, and the children sang songs that are in important in American history ("Yellow Rose of Texas", "Shenandoah").

The Kitchen Band also performed, along with other individuals and groups from the local area.

Adventists from McClusky, Goodrich and Hurdsfield combined for the show, a fundraising effort for the Tri-City SDA School.

Dakota Gardener

By Carrie Knutson, Horticulture Agent – NDSU Extension - Grand Forks County

Growing strawberries

Weeds are the number one nemesis of strawberries.

I always try to grow a new fruit or vegetable in my garden every year. This year, I am experimenting with a family favorite — strawberries. I love strawberries, and our family makes a trip just about every July to harvest fresh strawberries in the sweltering heat. However, I haven't tried growing them at home.

What stopped me from growing them was time and space. While I still don't have more time, some space has opened up in my garden beds. Let's explore what you and I need to know if we want to try growing strawberries this growing season.

First, there are three types of strawberries: June-bearing, everbearing and day-neutral. The type you pick will depend on your strawberry needs. Do you want to make jam, pies and crisps, or would you rather have some to snack on all summer?

June-bearing strawberries will produce a large crop in mid-June to early July. Everbearing strawberries produce one crop in early summer and a second crop in the fall. Day-

neutral strawberries will produce fruit throughout most of the growing season. There are many strawberry varieties available through seed and nursery companies. Make sure it is the bearing type you want and is hardy enough for where you live.

Strawberries require full sun — ideally at least six to 10 hours of direct sunlight each day — to produce a good crop. They should be planted in well-drained soil. When selecting your site, be aware of potential shade from growing trees and shrubs, as well as the competition from their root systems.

Have a soil test done to determine whether you need to add nutrients before planting. Adding compost before planting will provide nutrients over the growing season. Space plants 18-24 inches apart and rows 3-4 feet apart. The crown of the plant — the point where the leaves and roots meet — should be just at the soil surface, with the roots completely buried in the soil.

Like most garden crops, strawberries do best with 1 inch of rain per week. Water the plants in the morning to

reduce the chance of disease development.

Weeds are the number one nemesis of strawberries. Strawberries are shallow-rooted and can be easily damaged; hand weeding around the plants is recommended. Mulch can help with weed competition, conserve water and reduce disease.

Remove any flowers for the first few weeks of establishment. This will help the plant grow leaves and roots first. This will eventually help the plant produce better fruit. Move and train runners to fill in bare areas. Later, cut runners back to keep the plants where you want them.

The crown of strawberry plants is sensitive to cold temperatures. Adding mulch after repeated frosts will provide additional protection, especially in winters with minimal snowfall. Cover the plants with 4-6 inches of weed- and herbicide-free mulch, such as straw or leaves.

I am "berry" anxious to see how the plants grow in my garden this summer. Happy gardening



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