

A Boost For Students



BankNorth donated \$5,000 to the Enderlin Chapter of Dollars for Scholars this past week.

Dollars for Scholars is a national 501(c)3 organization dedicated to making post-secondary education more affordable by increasing scholarship opportunities.

There are 64 local chapters

Enderlin Area Community Endowment Fund Announces 2026 Grant Opportunities

Enderlin, ND – The Enderlin Area Community Endowment Fund is now accepting applications for the 2026 Grant Process. If you are an eligible 501(c)3 organization, or a tax supported entity such as the School District, City, township, etc., you may submit your application via [NDCF.net/Grants Login](https://www.ndcf.net/Grants Login). The amount available for 2026 is over \$11,000. Applications will be accepted through April 15th.

Since 2014, local volunteers and community leaders have been building a permanent endowment fund that gives back to local organizations and projects in Enderlin, Alice, Sheldon & Nome. The Enderlin Area Community Endowment Fund now has an endowment balance of just over \$318,000. The available balance is determined using 4% of the average of the previous 12 quarter balances. This ensures that grants are paid from the earnings and do not reduce the principal balance. In the 10-year history of the fund, over \$53,000 has been paid out to deserving projects and organizations in the area.

Applications are reviewed and decided by a local advisory committee. Individuals on the Advisory Committee include Chair, Nancy Farnham, Daryn Christl, Deb Gillund, Annell Alger, Candy Lund, Chris Armbrust, Heather Jorstad, Dr. Maggie Peterson, Judith

across North Dakota as well as a statewide chapter. Since beginning in North Dakota, Dollars for Scholars has awarded over \$21.1 million to over 41,000 students.

Above BankNorth loan officer, Alex Weston, presents the donation to Enderlin Dollars for Scholars Vice President Cyndee Chesley.

Krueger, and student representatives, Weston Clauson and Kendra Iwen.

The EACEF conducted a Super Bowl Board this year and also conducts an annual letter appeal to grow the fund. They also co-sponsor the Enderlin Honors Event every other year.

If you would like to learn more about the Enderlin Area Community Endowment Fund, how you can donate or how to include the foundation in your estate plan, please visit [NDCF.net/enderlin](https://www.ndcf.net/enderlin).

Grant history includes:

- Enderlin Historical Society & Museum – restroom restoration, technology, historic artifact displays, elevator installation, flooring...
- Enderlin Municipal Library – after school STEM club, bookshelves
- Enderlin Senior Center – interior improvements
- Enderlin Wellness Center – gym operation hardware
- Enderlin Rural Fire Protection – roof & lighting updates, PPE & training for COVID, Sheldon fire hall & community center improvements
- Happy Trails Childcare – new facility, COVID relief, kitchen improvements
- Nome Schoolhouse – animal education center
- SMP Health – van project, whirlpool bathing tub, bladder scanner, resident room refresh project
- United Prairie Foundation – leafy spurge beetle program
- Enderlin Lions Club – Ransom County Sheriff K9 program
- All Hands On Deck Committee – community pool

City Moves Ahead on Meter Reading Software for This Year Lions Speak About Reforestation Service Project

Frank Egan
The Enderlin City Council met for its' monthly meeting on February 2nd, 2026, at 7 PM.

In attendance were Mayor Deon Maasjo, council members Roger Maras, Tim Michaelson, Kevin Bunn, Kayl Hamre and Terri Egan. City Auditor Cyndee Chesley, Assistant City Auditor Emily Wolf, City Engineer Tracy Eslinger and City Attorney Fallon Kelly. Guests were Mike Martin and Karl Stordalen representing the Enderlin Lions Club and Frank Egan from the Enderlin Independent. Street Superintendent Rick Gillund and council member Shelly Hanson were absent. The previous month's meeting was adjourned. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The minutes were accepted as submitted. The monthly bills were approved as submitted. The treasurer's report was approved. The payroll was approved.

City Engineer Tracy Eslinger presented his report. A sulfate study final report was presented from subcontractor BOE. Three options were presented. The option of gypsum desalination was recommended. Moore Engineering will conduct bench testing of these three solutions. Moore Engineering will review water plant modifications. Construction will start in '26 or '27. Moore Engineering will present their recommendations for the water plant upgrades to the council in March. The Corps of Engineers will be able to provide partial funding. The Corps will limit its grant to the physical building but not the equipment. Mr. Eslinger spoke next about the intersection widening project. Currently there is no additional funding for this project available at the state level. Moore Engineering will pursue grant applications for next year. Mr. Eslinger completed his report by presenting a bill from BOE in the amount of \$4800. This was for their work involving the sulfate study. The council approved payment of the bill.

Mike Martin and Karl Stordalen, representing the Enderlin Lions Club came to the council meeting to present the Lions service project for reforestation of properties damaged during the tornado. Mr. Martin presented some details of the idea behind the Enderlin Lion's service project. Previously, the CDC

approved the Enderlin Lion's Club request for \$31,000 from the sales tax fund to help finance the project. Mr. Martin and Mr. Stordalen left the meeting after Martin's presentation. The council indicated their support for this project and discussed the process and timeline for allocation of funding and implementation.

The council reviewed the street report from Mr. Gillund. There was a quote from CASE/Gwinner for a replacement loader. Council tabled the discussion to get more feedback from Mr. Gillund, who was absent. Mr. Kelly presented the flood zone ordinance section 1.1 for a first reading. The federal and state laws governing flood zone management changed, so the process must begin again with the ordinance approved now as the first reading. There was a second reading for the Otter Tail power franchise agreement. The council approved this.

The council discussed last month's presentation by Core and Main for meter reading software. The cost to the city would be \$53000 for first year installation. The information would be read from existing meters from an antenna mounted on the water tower. The antenna would only be able to read meters for business and residences within the city limits. The council approved moving ahead with the system.

The council approved a Pledge of securities from Bank North in the amount of \$4.3mm covering the city's \$3.9mm in deposits. Additionally, the official depository was approved by council for Bank North. The 2025 annual financial statement was submitted and approved by council. In code violations, the Nellerroe property is continuing to be reviewed, and the property owners are working to clear the property by June 1st. City auditor Cyndee Chesley reported that the auditors are requesting \$17,000 for the cost to review the city's accounts. Council approved. The council in other business approved a four-year lease at \$26,000 per year for the pay-loader. Assistant auditor Emily Wolf gave an overview of the review process she is working on to incorporate area businesses on the city website. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.



BEE Continued from Page 1:

Above Back Row from Left to Right:
Lisbon Students: Emily Pederson, Abby Nelson, Avery Ness, Abby Sutherland
Enderlin Students: Hezekiah Adargo, Max Lemna, Bryson Lemna, Harrison Fraase, Axton Glarum

Front Row from Left to Right:
Lisbon Students: Asa Carlson, Case Qual, Grace Welton, Brynn Nelson
Enderlin Students: Averie Geske, Vaeda Eberhard, Dylan Welch

Football Board A Touchdown for Endowment Fund

Dr Margaret Peterson
The Enderlin community had more to cheer for than just touchdowns on Super Bowl Sunday this year.

The Enderlin Area Endowment Fund's annual Super Bowl Pool fundraiser was a resounding success, bringing together football fans, families, and local businesses in support of a lasting cause. By the end of the big game, the scoreboard showed more than just a championship win — it reflected another strong show of community generosity.

Organizers reported a generous level of participation in this year's pool, with all available squares sold out well before kickoff. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go directly into the Enderlin Area Endowment Fund, which provides ongoing support for local projects, nonprofits, and community improvements.

"We're thrilled with the response," said a representative of the Enderlin Area Endowment Fund committee. "The Super Bowl Pool has become a fun tradition, but more importantly, it's a way for people to invest in the long-term future of our community."

Participants purchased squares on two 100-square boards, each corresponding to potential score combinations at the end of each quarter. Winners received cash prizes of \$200 for quarters 1,2, and 3 and \$400 for 4th quarter. The other half of the proceeds designated for the endowment fund.

This years winner are:
1st: Tracy Ekeren and Betty Kaslofsky
2nd: Delbert Berntson and Maggie Peterson
3rd: Annie Johnson and Dan Lund
4th: Heather Cavett and Mike Lemna

Organizers noted that the event continues to grow each year, both in participation and impact. They were able to fill two boards this year.

The Enderlin Area Endowment Fund, established to create a permanent source of funding for community needs, and supports a variety of initiatives. Because it is an endowment, contributions are invested, and earnings are used to provide grants, ensuring long-term benefits for the area.

Committee members expressed gratitude to everyone who purchased a square, helped spread the word, or volunteered their time to organize the event.

"It's amazing what a small community can accomplish when we all work together," the representative said. "Events like this show that supporting Enderlin's future can be both meaningful and fun."

With another successful Super Bowl Pool in the books, organizers are already looking ahead to grant reward season. Application are now available at <https://www.ndcf.net/learn/community-endowment-funds/enderlin.html>. Applications must be received by April 15 of each year.

North Dakota 4-H announces 2026 STEM Challenge

Youth across the state can stretch their problem-solving skills by attempting an edible and engineering-minded task.

North Dakota 4-H has introduced the 2026 North Dakota 4-H STEM Challenge, which is an exercise involving science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The challenge is not a competition but an accessible, independent activity to engage youth and adults in STEM throughout the year.

The 2026 challenge, the Edible Engineering Experiment, tasks participants with designing and building a bridge made from only four full-size chocolate bars, without glue, tape, wrappers or any reinforcements. Youth must create a bridge structure that can hold the greatest possible weight while meeting all design specifications. The activity guide can be found at

[ndsu.ag/STEMchallenge-26](https://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu4h/STEMchallenge-26).

"When the National 4-H STEM Challenge was discontinued, the North Dakota 4-H STEM team committed to providing engaging, hands-on STEM learning experiences designed to spark interest in science or engineering learning," says Margo Bowerman, North Dakota State University Extension 4-H STEM specialist.

The 2026 North Dakota 4-H STEM Challenge is open to all North Dakota youth through local 4-H clubs, after-school programs, classrooms, home schools and community groups.

For more information about educational activities for youth, contact a local NDSU Extension office.

North Dakota 4-H is a program of NDSU Extension.



An Edible Engineering Experiment at Stutsman County's Youth Activity Day.

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