

# Menan Haight Mail

May 2019

Good evening everyone. April has passed and Winter is still reluctant to release her icy grip. But the water supply and the snow pack are looking good for this Summer, so I guess it's all to the good.

I want to start this Haight mail off with an apology. Last month I stated that the Levy override vote would be on the first Tuesday of May. Obviously, I was way out in left field. It is the third Tuesday in May. It will be at the Menan city building. We have successfully held all of our hearings and informational meetings. All of the meetings and hearing required by Law (and More) have been held. Some people are for, some people are against. We have done our best to get the word out there. We have done our best to help people understand what we would use the money for. Now it is up to you. One person one vote. Where this is only a two-year override, it would pass by a simple majority. 50% plus one vote. As a personal note, I would encourage people to vote for it. If something aggressive isn't done in the next couple of years, the roads will be too far gone to fix. Then we will be looking at replacement. Gravel paths worked pretty well in the 1800's, but they're not so appropriate today.

Please carefully consider our options as a city and as a community. Menan has always been very generous when it comes to doing the things that need to be done. I hope this is one of them. But if it isn't will just have to go to plan "B". I am just not sure what plan "B" would entail.

Speaking of community, the Menan community activities committee is alive and doing well. It was named the Greater Menan Community (or GMC) after the one that existed a few years ago. That one just sort of faded out due to lack of new blood. Let's not let that happen to this one. This group has a lot of enthusiasm and new ideas. But many hands make light work. Consider contacting them and asking to help on some small task. There is enough labor to go around. I know that the time is precious, but this is a great cause. And I think it would do much for our sense of community.

The greater Menan community has a Facebook page. If you were into Facebook, I would encourage you to go and take a look. One thing the old GMC did not have was the social media abilities that we have today. This will allow them to communicate more rapidly and be much more flexible and responsive than was previously possible. I would like to see them have enough people to consistently run the Easter egg hunt, the Trunk or Treat, and the Christmas Tree and Main Street lighting. They are also talking about a couple of movie Nights in the city park. That will take some looking into. But I think it is a possibility.

City of Menan cleanup day will be May 18th. We will have the dumpsters down at City Hall as usual. There will also be an area to get rid of electronics and scrap metal. E cyclers will come and take them away and dispose of them in it ecologically responsible manner. If you have an old refrigerator around, E-cyclers will take it for free and recycle the freon. If you take the same refrigerator to the county, I think they charge \$25 to recover the Freon and dispose of the unit. So, if you have an old one laying around that you have wanted to get rid of for a long time, this would be the opportunity. We might even be able to round up a couple of guys to help you get it onto a trailer and drag it down to the city building. Things that we will **not** be able to handle are: tires, chemicals, and old-style televisions. Tires can be taken to the landfill and there is a small charge to dispose of them. Jefferson County will occasionally have a chemical day to get rid of unwanted chemicals. Please use this as an opportunity to take care of some of those things that you just haven't been able to get rid of yet. If you have a larger project in mind, perhaps we could get enough volunteers, and with a little guidance from you we could make a lot of progress in a very short amount of time. Especially when we have the dumpsters available. Contact me, or the greater Menan community through their Facebook page. Perhaps we could put something together that would get a lot of work done on clean-up day.

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The next big thing will be the 4th of July. Every year it gets to be a bigger thing and a bigger thing. Last year the estimates from the police department were twenty-five thousand people. This makes Menan look like a parking lot for a single day. There will be modifications to some things that we have been doing for years. We simply have to do them differently. The parade route will probably change because we can no longer get it safely down the backstreet. With everyone parking on the back streets, there is simply no room for a parade to pass safely. Speaking about parking. This could be an opportunity to do your community a service, and perhaps make a little money. If you have a pasture or open lot, and your kids would like to make a little money, allow people to park there. You'd want to exercise a little Caution on how you do this, but people are parking almost a mile out of town and hiking in. I think they might be willing to pay a few dollars and walk. This would also help us get some of the cars off the streets. And no, you can't rent out the right-of-way in front of your house. It is a public property and so is available for parking. However, your driveway is a right-of-way and you don't have to allow people to block it. This can be a tense time for everyone. Everyone feeling a little constricted and closed in. Try to be nice to our guests. 99.785% of them are going to treat our town with respect. The others we will merely have to clean up after. 4th of July is always followed by the 5th of July and it's going to be fine.

On that note, does anyone want to be in the parade? We are trying to make the parade a little bit more "small town" like it used to be. Old tractors and cars, kids on horses and on bikes. If your family wants to be in the parade, come up with a cool idea and put it into action. It could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Or you might just enjoy doing it every year. But give it a try once.

We are going to try to use the website more fully this year to communicate with people our plans for the 4th of July activities and Facilities. We are going to try to make it much more of a single contact point for everyone desiring information about a Fourth of July plans. We will also put up maps and posters in the usual places.

**Fiber Optic internet.** So far so good. If there are no paperwork snafus or legal snafus at the last minute, they could be bringing the main trunk into town early this spring. After that, they estimate that it would take them 2 Summers to hook us all up. Those that want to be hooked up. There are a number of technical details that I don't want to promise as it could be subject to change. But it looks like it would be hundreds of times faster than anything we have available right now. The Company is currently doing market analysis to try to ascertain what percentage of our population would be interested in hooking up. They mentioned that they may be doing some door-to-door surveys. If they do that, they would have ID and badges. We will let you know any further developments on that front. It is getting so that I almost hate to mention this subject anymore because I have been disappointed so many times. I believe this one will actually work. This company seems to have money to do the job, the technical expertise to make it work, and the determination to get the job done. If this works, this would make Menan the first small town to have functional, edge to edge fiber optic internet service. As information becomes available, I will let you know.

I hope your April went well and that your May will be fantastic. This is a time of cleaning up, improving things, planting gardens and flowers and all of the other things that we treasure during our short summer months. I hope they go well for you.

Sincerely yours, Mayor Tad Haight