

Street parking to be limited near Dome

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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With fieldhouse construction and the start of 2014-15 athletics, the DakotaDome will become a more congested place at times. As a result, University of South Dakota officials are asking for the removal of parking in designated areas during DakotaDome events. The Vermillion City Council approved the request at Monday night's meeting. The council unanimously voted to remove parking on both sides of N. Dakota Street, from W. Duke Street to Highway 50, during DakotaDome events. USD athletic director David Herbster explained the increased demand on the DakotaDome in the coming weeks. "We have new construction going on at the Dome, and we also have Game Day activities (for football)," Herbster said. Those sentiments were echoed by James Bandy, USD senior associate director of athletics and internal operations. "With the expansion of the new facility, we have a fenced-off construction zone," he said. "We are also looking at Tailgate Nation (during home football games)." As a result, USD officials are preparing for new traffic patterns this fall, Bandy said. "We anticipate fans parking in various areas of town that they haven't in the past," he said. "We anticipate more foot traffic, so we

want to ensure that pedestrians coming from the southwest part of town have safe passage." The removal of parking on N. Dakota Street should reduce one traffic hazard, Herbster said. "Our worry is that (pedestrians) will come out between parked cars," he said. "There may be some adults who do it, but it's mostly kids 8 or 9 years old who bolt between cars." While parking would be shut down, Dakota Street would remain open during DakotaDome events, Bandy said. The move would allow continued traffic flow, particularly for emergency vehicles, on one of Vermillion's busiest streets and a key access point. "Dakota Street would need to stay open for through traffic, but we are encouraging that you close parking for the six USD football games," he told the council. Bandy reviewed a map of the DakotaDome area. He noted the construction site south of the Dome will be fenced off, moving the tailgating area to the east side parking lots. Access to the Dome will be from Taylor Street on the east and the north entrance from Dakota Street. For public safety, USD officials have received permission to close a portion of Rose Street during DakotaDome events. The council approved closing a portion of Rose Street from the southern corner of Coyote Village to the DakotaDome parking lot for USD Tailgate Nation. The closures will take place for

the six home football games:
• 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 6 and 20 and Oct. 25;
• 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 11;
• 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 8;
• 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 15.
The approval included the dedication of parking stalls along the east side of N. Dakota Street immediately south of the DakotaDome service entrance for visitor team bus parking. With the construction area south of the DakotaDome, the south player and student entrance will be closed, Bandy said. The new agreement allows parking as many as three visitor buses, providing easier access for those teams. "This makes it easier for the visiting bus to have access before and after the game," Bandy said. The council members and USD officials talked about possible sites for parking to handle the loss of spaces elsewhere. Questions were raised about usage of the USD Foundation parking lot and adjacent field. The field near Howler's also becomes used for parking. Herbster sees most of the traffic issues occurring during the football season because of the larger crowds and the tailgating. However, congestion could become a problem during particular basketball games drawing 5,000 or 6,000 fans, he said. "During basketball games, I'm not sure how parking will be on that (open) field, with the winter conditions," he said. "However, we won't have the tailgating like we do



The Vermillion City Council unanimously voted to remove parking on both sides of N. Dakota Street, from W. Duke Street to Highway 50, during DakotaDome events at a meeting Monday.

Randy Dockendorf/The Plain Talk

during football season." One of the biggest demands on the DakotaDome doesn't involve an athletic event, Herbster said. The DakotaDome and its parking spots usually remain full during the three-day Dakota Farm Show held in early January, he said. The traffic spills onto nearby streets. "During the Farm Show, we have things like trailers," he said. "I think we will have a safety issue." One party expressed concerns about the plan to remove parking from N. Dakota Street during DakotaDome events. Amanda Whittecar, general manager at the Holiday Inn Express on Dakota Street, noted the problems that could arise for her employees and guests. "We have 56 (hotel) rooms with 56 parking spots, so we need every

parking spot," she said. "We need at least 20 extra parking spots for our employees and some guests." In response, Herbster said space could be reserved for the hotel's additional parking needs. However, the question arose as how to restrict those additional spots only for the hotel guests and staff. Herbster expressed confidence a solution can be found. "We need to stay fluid," he said. "Can we have assurance that there will be spots at the Holiday Inn Express (for guests and staff)?" asked council member Kelsey Collier-Wise. "Definitely," Herbster responded. "With that assurance, the council voted unanimously in favor of the USD request."

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alarms were not an acceptable alternative and denied the request. Councilman Parker Erickson cast the lone dissenting vote. Christensen said he wanted to enforce the upcoming Sept. 1 deadline for installing hard wired smoke alarms. Landlords have known for years of the Jan. 1, 2014, compliance date, he said. "They have already received a nine-month extension that we have given them to comply," he said. However, Mayor Jack Powell noted the landlords without hard wired alarms will be given the needed time to make the improvements. The additional time will also allow property owners to defray what could amount to considerable costs for the alarms, he said. The allowance will benefit not only the landlords but also their tenants, Powell said. Without the extra compliance time, tenants would be forced to move out of what would be posted as substandard housing and unlawful for occupancy, he said. "If you make them vacate the premise, that's very harsh,"

the mayor said. Sioux Falls attorney Jan Olson represented Houser during Monday's meeting. Olson pointed to the significant investment required with hard wired alarms. "We're not against smoke detectors. (Landlords) want to protect their tenants as much as you do. But when you approved the building code, you were imposing huge cost," the attorney said. "It may not seem like much difference (per smoke alarm), but when you have 100 units, it adds up really fast. You are talking \$9,500 cost for hard-wired alarms compared to \$2,950 with the lithium powered sealed battery." The hard wire batteries also represent structural challenges, Olson said. "It's easy, when you have new construction, to hard wire," she said. "But when you have old buildings -- and we're talking 100 year old buildings in some cases -- they may have concrete walls. There are some real obstacles to hard wiring." Landlords such as Houser need to look at the bottom line when they are required to install hard wired smoke alarms, Olson said. "(Property owners) want to keep the tenants safe, and there is liability," she said. "(Landlords) have a human interest but also an economic

interest. When you're talking three times the cost (for new alarms), it becomes quite a bit." In addition, Olson noted the Vermillion city code's requirement for hard-wired alarms only covers rental units. "You excepted out property owners," she told the council. "You go home tonight to single-family dwellings, and you aren't required (to follow the stricter code)." However, Christensen pressed the council not to relax the current standards. He noted it was not only a matter of public safety but also fairness to property owners who have already complied with the code. Christensen said city officials have held extensive discussions over the years with property owners, including the multi-housing authority, about the hard-wired smoke alarms as the only allowable option. He said he had not approved Houser's use of battery powered alarms as an acceptable alternative. Houser had been instructed that, to continue renting the units, he must provide the city with the name of the electrical contractor that would be installing the required hard-wired smoke detectors and would complete the work no later than Sept. 1, Christensen said.

The Housers responded that their batteries exceed the city's guidelines, Christensen said. "I received an email that they were not very happy with the idea (of hard-wired smoke alarms) and had no intention of responding to it," he said. "They were going to use their own smoke detectors." Monday night's meeting included the presentation of studies from both Christensen and Olson on the effectiveness of hard-wired and battery-powered smoke detectors. "No city or state has declared the battery to be the equivalent to a hard-wired alarm," Christensen said. "National studies show hard-wired is superior to Lithium." Olson cited studies for the long-term effectiveness of Lithium-powered alarms and sought an allowance for the units already in place. "I haven't found any other community that hasn't grandfathered in the Lithium system," she said. Christensen countered that the 10-year life span for Lithium batteries creates a problem with knowing when the smoke alarms lose their effectiveness. "It's a nightmare for the inspectors. They don't know for sure what is left (for power) unless you get the chirping (when the battery dies)," he said.

"Hard-wired smoke alarms don't rely on batteries for their primary power, so if the test is good, the inspector knows the occupants are protected." Christensen noted the hard-wired alarms have made a dramatic difference in Vermillion's public safety. Prior to the requirement for hard-wired smoke alarms, nearly 90 percent of the rental units inspected had smoke alarms that were not working. Last month, nearly 90 percent of the rental units inspected had working smoke alarms. "We have gone from smoke detectors with a 90 percent failure rate to the new smoke detectors with nearly 90 percent working," he said. "In two years, the improvement in fire safety in registered rental units has been remarkable," he added in separate comments. The council asked City Attorney Jim McCulloch for his legal opinion on the matter. McCulloch said he wasn't asked specific questions but could reply in general terms. "The intention of the city over the years is to make rental properties of higher safety in terms of quality," he said. "One of the safety features is smoke alarms. I think smoke alarms have been discussed widely by the city." The issue isn't new, McCulloch said, adding he

was city attorney in 2012 and the smoke alarm issue and the code's enforcement have been addressed over that period of time. "The change from a 90 percent failure rate to a 90 percent passage rate (for smoke alarms in rental units) shows the results of the city council and city staff efforts to provide greater safety," he said. In addition, the owners of rental property legally need to be aware of advances in technology and safety, ready to make changes over time, McCulloch said. In that respect, the city stands on solid ground by sticking with its requirement for hard wired alarms, the attorney said. "As long as the city doesn't make it an immediate requirement and allows it over time, I think you're legally OK," he said. With that, the council voted to deny the appeal. Houser and Olson, along with other audience members, then left the council chambers. You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.plaintalk.net

CHURCH SCHEDULES

1101 Announcements - Events
Bergen Lutheran Church: "The little white church on Timber Road". Worship 10:30 am, Sunday School 9:15 am.
Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, 995 N. Sioux Point Road, Dakota Dunes, SD. Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
BRULE Creek Lutheran Church, Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 11:00am, Sunday School 9:45am to 10:45am.
CHRIST OUR SAVIOR Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Worship Sunday 6:00 p.m., Bible Study Tuesday, 9:00 p.m., Neuharth Center, 624-5398 or 1-800-998-1234
CHURCH OF CHRIST, 102 Prosp: Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Bible Study 9:00 a.m.; Bible Study 12:00 noon; Wednesday Night Classes, 7:00 p.m.
Concordia Lutheran Church (LC-MS) 7 South University Street, Vermillion. Divine Service - Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School - Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Samuel Needham. Contact us at (605) 624-3459 or at lcmsvermillion.org
CORNERSTONE CHURCH: *A Place To Grow.* Located at the corner of Crawford & Cherry St. Celebration Service: Sunday during the School year 9:00am and 10:30am (subject to change during holidays) in the summer Sunday 10 AM. Check us out at cornerstonesd.org or call (624-8809) for further information.

1101 Announcements - Events
DALESBURG BAPTIST Church 30503 466th Ave., Beresford, Pastor Darren Regehr. 9:45am, Sunday School; 11:00am, Morning Worship; Mid-week Services Wednesdays, 7:00pm. (605)253-2622. www.dalesburgbaptist.org
Dalesburg Lutheran Church: 12 miles North of Vermillion on University Road. Worship Services 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Website: www.dalesburglutheran.org
Elk Point Baptist Church. Sunday worship at 11:00am, Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:00pm. 101 North Green St., Elk Point, SD 57069. (605)222-1981
FAITH FELLOWSHIP of the Open Bible on Bypass 50 and Highway 19: Sunday Celebration 10:30 a.m. Pastor Tony Armbrust, 624-2921.
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH: 401 Main Street, Makell, NE. Worship: 9am. Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays. (605)658-0240 (home) (402)-692-3323 (church).
Faith United Lutheran Church, ELCA, 44874 303rd St/Po Box 168, Volin, SD 57072, (605)267-2277. Sunday Worship: 9:30am with Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sundays. WOW Wednesday program beginning at 6:30pm for all children 3 yrs old - 7th grade, and confirmation classes for those in grades 8th & 9th.
IMMANUAL Lutheran Church, Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

1101 Announcements - Events
FIRST BAPTIST Church Elmer "Sandy" Aakre, Pastor 624-6391 home, 624-4658 church. Time: 9:15 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship. Sunday Choir Practice, 11:50 a.m.
Gayville Lutheran Church: 9:00 am Worship, Sunday School 10:15 am.
GOSPEL CHAPEL Church, 708 Jessie St./Highway 12, Newcastle, NE. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.; AWANA Wednesday at 7 p.m., 402-355-2305. Pastor Chuck Myers, 402-355-1335.
GRACE BAPTIST Church, SBC, Pastor Steve Ford, 1102 E. Main. Phone 624-4949. Adult's and Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Prayer Meeting Wednesday Night 7 p.m.
HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1800 Constance Dr. Worship Sept.-May 10:30a.m. AWANA Small groups; 9:10:15 Worship May-August 10a.m., 605-624-4862, www.hillside-cc.com Like us on Facebook!
KOMSTAD COVENANT Church, Rural Beresford and Centerville, SD: Matt Styles, Pastor. 18 miles north on University Road. Phone 563-2402. Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m.
PLEASANT VALLEY Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Holy Communion First Sunday of every month. All welcome.

1101 Announcements - Events
PROVIDENCE REFORMED Church, 830 Madison: Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. "We Welcome You To Historic Protestant Worship And Fellowship."
St Paul Lutheran Church, 31903 475th Ave, Elk Point, SD 57025, Sunday Service 10:30 am, Pastor David Bentz.
ST. AGNES Church, 416 Walker St., Fr. John Fischer: St. Agnes Church and Parish Office, tele. 624-4478. St. Agnes Rectory, 505 Catalina, tele. 624-1995. Mass schedule: 5 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30a.m. Sunday, Week-day Masses - consult weekly bulletin; Sacrament of Penance, Saturday 4-4:45p.m.
ST. PAUL'S Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Linden. Sunday: nursery available. 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 11:00 a.m. coffee hour. Call 624-3379 for more info.
Sunday evening Experience at ONE HOUR is comprised of two primary elements: powerful worship and a life-changing message. Worship at ONE HOUR is led by a talented live band in a style that is consistent with todays culture and a relevant teaching message from LifeChurch.tv's senior pastor, Craig Groeschel, via video broadcast. The worship is intense and the teaching is challenging but the environment will be relaxed and casual. ONE HOUR on the USD Campus at the MUC, 6:30pm Sundays! www.one-hour.org

1101 Announcements - Events
The Luther Center at USD: Life at the corner of campus and faith. Located at Cherry & Plum Streets, Vermillion. We worship weekly on Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm and host service and fellowship events throughout the year. Visit us online at www.luthercenter.org or find us on facebook!
The United Church of Christ Congregational, Highway 12 Newcastle, NE. Worship: 7:00 p.m. Saturday. Pastor Gary Kimm. Come join us!
The Vermillion First United Methodist Church, a welcome place reaching out to all God's people. Located at 16 N. Dakota St. Adult Sunday School 9am; Sunday Worship 10:25am; Children's Church after Children's Sermon (PreK-5). Welcome Table-serving free meal Mondays 5:30-7pm. Youth Group with Meal (Gr. 6-8) Wednesdays 5:30-7pm. High School Youth Group 7pm. Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm. Praise Band rehearsal 8pm. Friday Morning Book Study and Breakfast 6:45am. Call (605)624-2179 for more info. Pastor Rick Pittenger.

1101 Announcements - Events
Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E Clark ST, Vermillion Summer Worship Schedule (Memorial Day through Labor Day, May 28 through September 1)
Worship Times: Wednesday evening: 6:15 PM and Sunday morning: 10:00 AM. Live Radio broadcast: Sunday morning at 10 AM on KVTK Radio, AM 1570. Interim Pastor Robert D. Hansen. Phone: (605)624-4442. Facebook: Trinity Lutheran - Vermillion, SD. Website: www.trinityvermillion.org
Unitarian Universalist "The Uncommon Denomination." Services are the first and third Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the United Church of Christ, 226 E. Main. Child care services and refreshments provided. All welcome. Info: www.unitarianvermillion.blogspot.com
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL, 226 E. Main St., Pastor Steve Miller. 10:30a.m. Worship Service. *No Longer Strangers* www.uccvermillion.org

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