

Editor:

After reading several letters to the editor concerning the main street initiative, I thought I would weigh in. I think about towns that are seeing people with creativity and compassion as the driving force behind how they are remaking themselves.

One of my favorite television shows is CBS Sunday Morning. Last Sunday they featured James Fallows, author of "Our Towns". He and his wife wanted to travel to "America's overlooked places" that have recently been stagnant or in a down cycle. One of their travels took them to Duluth with a stop at the Bent Paddle Brewing Co. This business was started by two young couples that loved their town and wanted to create a way to make it better (and tasty too, I might add). Similar activity of thinking out of the box was going on around them to make Duluth come alive.

Another stop was Greenville, South Carolina. Their downtown needed a shot in the arm. One of their spots of interest was a beautiful waterfall which was concealed by a massive bridge which was probably built as a by-pass. A group worked hard and convinced the town conservatives to tear down this bridge and replace it with a walk bridge which now sees heavy use by locals and visitors. Downtown became more vibrant with an increase in traffic, car and foot. This is another example of civic residents taking a long term look at what their towns will look like for future generation.

Fallows stated these and many more people are trying hard to make things better. I'm thinking we should not lose what made Valley City in the beginning. Since early Valley City and the years following, we had people that were thinking we need paved streets, traffic lights, street lights, tourist information, flood wall and so many more improvements. I'm thinking those people that came before our present leaders also met the negative comments. In a democratic society, we all have our say. Some negative comments shared to me commonly begin with, "well, I heard....". I hope we all step away from the noise and make our own fact-based opinions. And in the end, I hope we look at the old with new eyes.

Sheryl Solberg
Valley City, ND