



# CITY INSIGHTS



Winter 2024-25

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## SERVICES HAVE MOVED

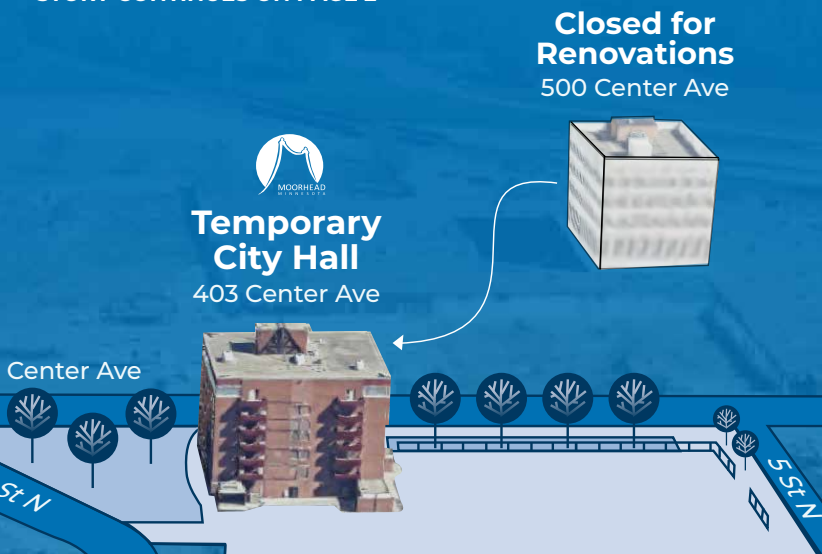
Moorhead City Hall offices have temporarily relocated across Center Avenue for renovation of the existing City Hall building.

City offices are now located at the Frederick-Martin Center (FM Center Building) at 403 Center Ave, previously home to U.S. Bank.

Moorhead Public Service (water and electric utilities) has relocated to 2901 South Frontage Road Suite 2. An after hours drop box is also available at this location.

In August, the city council approved a lease agreement for the temporary relocation and selected a construction manager at risk for the renovation project. This method ensures a guaranteed maximum price for the project, with the construction manager responsible for keeping it on budget.

» STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



## CITY HALL SERVICES

### NEW LOCATION:

**403 Center Ave**

(use the north door)

Community Development

Engineering

City Clerk

Information Technology

Prosecution

Finance

Human Resources

Administration



## WATER & ELECTRIC SERVICES

### NEW LOCATION:

**2901 S Frontage Rd, Suite 2**



Renovated City Hall Concept

Renovation of City Hall will take place over the next year and half during the Downtown Center redevelopment project. As part of the renovation, a plaza and green space will be created on the west side of the building for community celebrations and gatherings. The plaza will be a place to enjoy a wide array of family-friendly events.



Civic Plaza Concept


The Community Center Library and the first mixed use housing and business building are already under construction. The majority of the former Moorhead Center Mall site is planned as businesses and housing. Spanning nine city blocks, the Downtown Center redevelopment will transform the former mall, which is essential to the future growth and vitality of the city. The vision is to create a place where people come together.

By creating an area of mixed-use housing and retail, the site will re-establish key streets and strengthen Moorhead’s connection to the river. The architecture will be multi-story and compact with integrated parking.

We appreciate your patience during this exciting phase of progress for our city!



Vision for Downtown Moorhead



# Find a Career

## In the Community You Love!

**Police and Fire**

**Public Works**

**Engineering**

**Parks and Recreation**

**Internships and Seasonal Positions**

[cityofmoorhead.com/jobs](http://cityofmoorhead.com/jobs)





# 11 St Underpass Construction Progress

The Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of Moorhead have partnered to construct two underpasses at 11 Street in Moorhead. Construction is underway through November 2026.

What to expect over the winter for construction and traffic:

- Portions of 11 St and 1 Ave N will remain closed over the winter.
- Piling/loud noises and vibrations will continue through December as weather allows.
- Weather pending, construction may pause January and February. Work zones will remain in place.

Follow signed detours to navigate around construction, and never enter an area blocked by barriers or cones.

In 2025, Stage 1 work will continue on 1 Ave N and 11 St, and Stage 2 on Main Ave will begin in summer 2025.

Are you a resident or business owner with questions about current construction? Call 218.292.8779 (Project Liason)

Stay informed by signing up for project updates from MnDOT. You'll also find maps, contacts and other project information.

[mndot.gov/d4/projects/moorhead11thstunderpass](https://mndot.gov/d4/projects/moorhead11thstunderpass)

## REMINDERS

**Train horns have resumed in the Downtown Quiet Zone during construction hours** (Monday-Friday, 6am-7pm). This is a railroad safety requirement, and we appreciate your understanding as worker safety is prioritized.

**Moorhead businesses are open during construction!** If your destination falls within/near the work zone or along the detour routes, please check in with the business to determine the best route there.

**Never enter an area that is blocked by barriers or cones.** It is not safe to drive, walk or bike around barricades, even in areas where workers aren't present or active. Those boundaries are set up for your safety. There are signed detours installed for motorists and pedestrians. Please use those routes.

**There may be other construction projects in Moorhead that could affect your travel routes**, so please check in with the City of Moorhead for plans and impacts. Sign up for eNotifications at [CityofMoorhead.com/notifications](https://CityofMoorhead.com/notifications)



- STAGE 1 - 2024**
  - Construct Lift Station, Storm Sewer along 1 Ave, and Outfall to the Red River through Davy Memorial/Riverfront Park.
  - Reconstruct 1 Ave N
  - Reconstruct 11 St from Center Ave to 2 Ave N
  - Construct Railroad Shooflies and Bridges for BNSF Railroad Track
- BRIDGE - 2024**
- SUMMER - 2025**
- STAGE 2 - 2025**
  - Reconstruct Main Ave
  - Reconstruct 11 St from 2 Ave S to Main Ave
- STAGE 3 - 2026**
  - Reconstruct Center Ave
  - Reconstruct 11 St underneath BNSF Bridges, from Main Ave to 1 Ave

# “Onward Moorhead: A Plan in Action!”



The City of Moorhead’s Comprehensive Plan is a roadmap that helps the City implement the community’s vision over the next 10 years. Community members, businesses and others worked with the City to create the Plan.

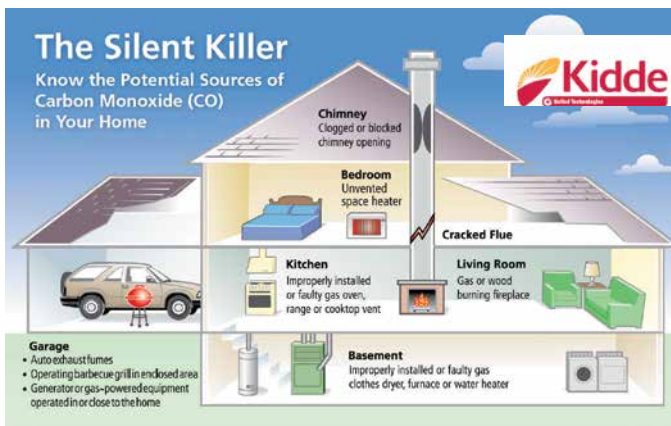
## Recent projects and initiatives:

- **Street Light Conversion Grants:** the City of Moorhead and Moorhead Public Service received two grants to convert street light fixtures to LED. The grants converted 298 fixtures along commercial corridors, including 8 St, 20 St, SE Main Ave, 34 St and in the MCCARA Industrial Park.
- **Zoning Updates:** As guided by the Onward Moorhead plan, code updates were made to all residential zoning districts. The updates provide modernization to the codes and flexibility for homeowners and builders.

## FIVE BIG IDEAS

1. Transform Downtown Moorhead into the ‘heart of the community’ by incorporating a range of housing and retail options, cultural amenities, parks, and public services.
2. Integrate a mix of mutually supportive land uses and experiences in redevelopment areas by building upon and strengthening existing retail centers and utilizing experience-based marketing.
3. Connect neighborhoods to parks and trails and provide multimodal access to downtown, the Red River, and community amenities.
4. Embrace resilient environmental and equitable solutions, planning for infrastructure, building development, energy, and climate adaptation while building a greener community.
5. Build and nurture local businesses as key partners in building and maintaining a prosperous community.

## Protect Your Home from Carbon Monoxide



Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning causes up to 1,200 deaths and 50,000 emergency room visits in the US each year, according to the National Carbon Monoxide Association. Carbon monoxide is odorless and invisible. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. People who are sleeping can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

Ensure your home has working CO detectors. Smoke detectors and CO detectors often look alike. Some can detect smoke and CO, while others detect only smoke. Install a CO detector near all sleeping areas and make sure you have one on every level of your home. Check or change the batteries in your CO detector every six months.

- Service your furnace, water heater and any other gas or oil burning devices annually.
- Keep your basement furnace exhaust and intake free from snow.
- Never run your car, generator or other gasoline powered device in the garage, even with the door open.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.
- If you suspect CO poisoning, call 911 immediately.

## Get Smart about Salting

As we enter the winter season, many people rely on salt to clear snow and ice from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots. Salt helps keep surfaces free from ice but can have a negative effect on the environment. You can help reduce the amount of salt used by following smart salting strategies, which will save money and reduce damage to infrastructure, vehicles, plants and water supplies.

**Shovel where possible.** The more snow and ice removed manually, the less salt you will have to use.

**15 degrees F is too cold for salt.** Most salts stop working at this temperature. While sand does not melt ice, it provides traction.

**Apply less.** More salt does not mean more melting. Be patient; these products take time to work. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee cup.

**Use a handheld spreader to help you apply a consistent amount.**

**Sweep up extra salt and sand** if visible on dry pavement. It is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. Use it somewhere else or throw it away.

For more tips and training about smart salting or to find a certified Smart Salting contractor, visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) website.

## Live Bus Tracking on RideMATBUS.com

Before you head to the bus stop, check the new MATBUS Live Bus Tracker at **RideMATBUS.com!**

On this website, you can view your bus's real-time position on a map or see estimated arrival times for your specific bus stop. With more certainty on bus arrival, riders can stay inside longer and reduce bus stop wait times in poor weather conditions.



## MATBUS Offers Discounted Business Pass for Employers

The 31-Day Business Pass is an easy way for employers to provide an additional benefit to their employees – whether assisting current staff with transportation needs or acting as a perk to encourage new applicants. These unlimited ride passes are valid for 31 days from the first use, and can be purchased for only \$27, rather than the adult fare price of \$42. Employers can buy the passes in person at the Metro Transit Garage (650 23 St N, Fargo), or contact MATBUS to arrange for them to be mailed. There is no minimum purchase requirement. Interested employers can learn more by calling 701.232.7500 Option 3 or emailing [transit@matbus.com](mailto:transit@matbus.com).

## Border City Workers Comp Credit

As a designated Minnesota border city, Moorhead offers existing businesses a tax credit to reduce a portion of their Minnesota workers compensation insurance expense.

This fully refundable tax credit program is available to all qualified Moorhead businesses who file MN income taxes and pay workers compensation insurance.



Complete the online application with your phone or laptop using the QR code below to receive a 25% workers comp credit up to \$30,000 per business.

<https://apps.cityofmoorhead.com/WorkersCompTaxCredit>



# Insurance Sewer Riders Important; Contact City about Odors/Back-ups

Heavy rainfall, loose debris, tree roots, and pipe deterioration or damage can cause sewer systems to not function properly. The City of Moorhead provides a 24-hour, on-call service to provide guidance to homeowners with sewer problems. There are several very important things to remember when it comes to sewers:

**There are two kinds of insurance riders for sewers: one for backup (and damage caused by backup) and one for physical damage to the pipe. The second type of insurance is relatively new. Here are some important things to know:**

- Standard homeowners insurance coverage for sewer pipes is typically limited to physical damage from covered events, such as if plastic sewer pipes melt in a fire. This is often limited in scope.
- A water-backup endorsement includes coverage for damage caused by a variety of water backups, including sewer backups, but not floods.
- A service-line endorsement includes coverage to replace sewer pipes damaged by corrosion, tree roots and other underground threats. This often includes repairs and replacement of underground utility lines, including sewers, between your home and the main service line in the street.
- Both endorsements, or riders, are fairly inexpensive but offer property owners more peace of mind when it comes to sewer issues, which are often not apparent until they are a major issue.

**If you experience slow drains or sewer back-up, there are some important steps to take:**

- Contact the City at 218.299.5386 (prior to calling a plumber).
- City staff will inspect the sewer main and determine if the blockage is in the main line or your private service. The sewer from a building to the sewer main is owned and maintained by the property owner. The City is responsible for the sewer main, which is generally located in the middle of the street.
- If a plumber has made repairs before the City evaluates whether the problem may be a City responsibility, the City cannot pay the plumbing costs.

**Sewer odors can occur when basement floor or other drain traps dry up and allow sewer gas to enter buildings. Other times, a blocked roof vent may prevent sewer gas from releasing outside. In order to prevent sewer odor:**

- Periodically check seldom-used drains and refill with water.
- Add a tablespoon or two of vegetable oil or mineral oil to slow evaporation.
- Keep roof vents free from obstructions, such as leaves, snow and ice.
- If sewer odor persists, call the City at 218.299.5386.

## Taking a long vacation or headed south for the winter?

The City of Moorhead Police Department offers free home checks while you are away. Police volunteers will conduct security checks at your home and ensure house and garage doors, windows, fence gates and vehicles parked in the driveway are secure. If the Police volunteer notes anything suspicious, an officer will be called to the scene to investigate and make sure the home is secure.

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**Make your request online using the QR code or call the Police Department at 218.299.5120 | Monday-Friday 8 am-4:30 pm.**

[cityofmoorhead.com](http://cityofmoorhead.com)



# Homestead Exclusion Applications Due December 31

The due date for new Homestead Exclusion applications is Dec. 31, 2024. Applications submitted by this date and approved will be effective beginning with the 2024 assessment, taxes payable in 2025.

Homeowners who own and occupy their home as their primary residence may apply for the Homestead Exclusion, which can discount their property taxes every year. The median valued home of \$235,600 would receive a homestead discount of about \$330 on their property taxes annually. The exclusion decreases as market value increases, phasing out at a value of \$517,200.

In addition to the discount off the top of the property tax bill, homestead registration is necessary to qualify for the Minnesota Property Tax Refund each year. More information can be found at [www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund).

If you have any questions or would like to verify the homestead status of your property, please call the City of Moorhead Assessor's Office at 218.299.5258 or visit [moorheadproperty.org](http://moorheadproperty.org).

## EVENTS

### Holiday Kickoff

**Tuesday, Dec. 3, 5 pm | Hjemkomst Center**

Welcome the festive season as we light the City of Moorhead's holiday trees! Enjoy music and free refreshments; program starts at 5:30.

### Skate with Santa

**Sunday, Dec. 8, 2:15-4:15 pm | Moorhead Sports Center**

Lace up your skates and enjoy an afternoon of free open skate with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Free hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Skate rental will be available in limited sizes.

### Sleigh Rides

**Dec. 26, 28-29, 1-4 pm; Dec. 27, 4-7 pm**

**M.B. Johnson Park**

Take a scenic sleigh ride through beautiful M.B. Johnson Park! All rides include a complimentary cookie and hot chocolate.

- Cost is \$5 per person (children 2 and under are free).
- Reservations can be made by calling the Parks and Recreation office at 218.299.5340 after December 1. If space allows, tickets may also be available on-site.

### Celtic Festival

**Saturday, March 15, 11 am-3 pm | Hjemkomst Center**

Take in the sights, sounds and tastes of Celtic heritage with dancing, music and authentic Celtic food. People of all ages can learn Celtic traditions through hands-on activities and table displays.

- Admission is \$5/person; 10 and under are free!
- Bus service will be available.

### Moorhead Ice Show

**Mar. 21-22, 7 pm; Mar. 23, 1 pm | Moorhead Sports Center**

Take in the popular event that's run for more than 40 years. Learn to Skate and Advanced Skaters ages 3-adult will perform as well as a national/world-class guest skater.

- Tickets are \$6 for ages 3-11, \$9 for ages 12 and older.
- Purchase your tickets in advance at the Moorhead Parks and Recreation office during regular business hours (8 am-4:30 pm).

## FROSTIVAL EVENTS

**Jan. 31-Feb. 8**

**Moorhead, Fargo and West Fargo**

Frostival is about celebrating the fun of winter with outdoor events and family-friendly activities across our North of Normal city, Fargo, and its sister cities West Fargo and Moorhead. Grab your friends, bring your spirit of adventure (and some mittens) and join us in celebrating how #coldiscool. For a complete list of events over the six-week period, visit [frostival.com](http://frostival.com).

### Fun at the Frozen Fortress

**Saturday, Feb. 1, 11 am-3 pm**

**Viking Ship Park**

Embrace the cool of winter with a day of outdoor activities and events featuring snow sculptures, free cross-country skiing and snowshoe rentals, outdoor games, a hot chocolate station, a marshmallow roast and much more frosty fun!

### Snowflake Spectacular

**Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6-8 pm**

**Viking Ship Park**

Come gather for games, bonfires, s'mores and hotdogs available to enjoy with ski rentals and hot chocolate available inside the Hjemkomst Center.

# Snow Removal Reminders

Sidewalks are required to be cleared of snow and ice by 9 pm after it stops snowing. Here are some other important tips:

- If you live on a corner, all sidewalks must be cleared, including the crosswalk approaches.
- Do not shovel or blow snow onto neighboring properties or into the street.
- Make arrangements with a neighbor or a snow removal service to care for your property if you are going to be on vacation or are otherwise unable to shovel your sidewalk.
- Consider helping your neighbors with snow removal when they are out of town or when health issues become obstacles.

**To report a sidewalk that is not being shoveled, contact Neighborhood Services at 218.299.5434.**



**City Calendar**  
cityofmoorhead.com/calendar

## NOVEMBER

- 11 Veterans Day (observed)  
(City Offices closed | no garbage\*)
- 28 Thanksgiving (City Offices closed | no garbage\*)

## DECEMBER

- 3 Holiday Kick Off
- 8 Skate with Santa
- 26-29 Sleigh Rides
- 24 Christmas Eve  
(City Offices closed | no garbage\*)
- 25 Christmas Day  
(City Offices closed | no garbage\*)

## JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day  
(City Offices closed | no garbage\*)
- 6-17 Christmas Tree pick-up
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
(City Offices closed | no garbage\*)
- 31 Frostival begins (through February 8)

## FEBRUARY

- 17 President's Day (City Offices closed | no garbage\*)

## MARCH

- 15 Celtic Festival

\*Please check News at [cityofmoorhead.com](http://cityofmoorhead.com) for holiday garbage collection changes.

City of Moorhead  
403 Center Ave  
PO Box 779  
Moorhead, MN 56560

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## 2024 Moorhead City Council



**Mayor**  
Shelly Carlson  
218.299.5307

### Ward 1



Matthew  
Gilbertson  
218.299.5541



Ryan  
Nelson  
218.299.5549

### Ward 2



Laura  
Caroon  
218.299.5543



Heather  
Nesemeier  
218.299.5547

### Ward 3



Larry  
Seljevold  
218.299.5544



Deb  
White  
218.299.5548

### Ward 4



Chuck  
Hendrickson  
218.299.5545



Sebastian  
McDougall  
218.299.5542

City Council meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30 pm at the Hjemkomst Center. Visit our website for agendas and materials.

## City Services

Administration (general information)	218.299.5166
Engineering	218.299.5390
Community Development	218.299.5434
Moorhead Public Library	218.233.7594
Police (non-emergency)	218.299.5120
Fire (non-emergency)	218.299.5298
Parks and Recreation	218.299.5340
Public Works	218.299.5422
Moorhead Public Service (MPS)	218.477.8000

**Emergency**

**911**