

CITY INSIGHTS



Winter 2022-23

Published by the City of Moorhead

Sales tax would fund community center/public library

On November 8, Moorhead voters have an opportunity to help position the City for a bright future by approving a sales tax that will fund a new community center/public library in downtown Moorhead. The renderings of what this community amenity would look like show a modern, dynamic place for people to gather in all seasons to enjoy:

- Gathering/collaborative space
- Walking track
- Indoor play area
- Meeting place for all ages
- Coworker/maker hands-on learning spaces
- Greenspace/plants

This vision has even caught the attention of national leaders. U.S Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith successfully pushed for the inclusion of \$1 million in federal funding in the draft Fiscal Year 2023 federal budget for

the City of Moorhead to build a “Community Center for Entrepreneurship” within the planned Community Center/Public Library. The current regional library is more than 60 years old and has nearly \$3 million in infrastructure repairs necessary to keep the building viable. Those repairs, however, don’t bring the current building and location in line with the standards of modern libraries. A community center is a major part of the plan. Moorhead residents have asked for space to grow and learn and a place to connect with one another for a variety of activities year-round.

In January, the City Council unanimously agreed to place a 0.5 percent local option sales tax question on the November ballot and allow residents to have their say. In April, the City of Moorhead – in conjunction with the Moorhead Library and a Task Force named by Mayor Shelly Carlson to work on the opportunity – held public listening sessions to

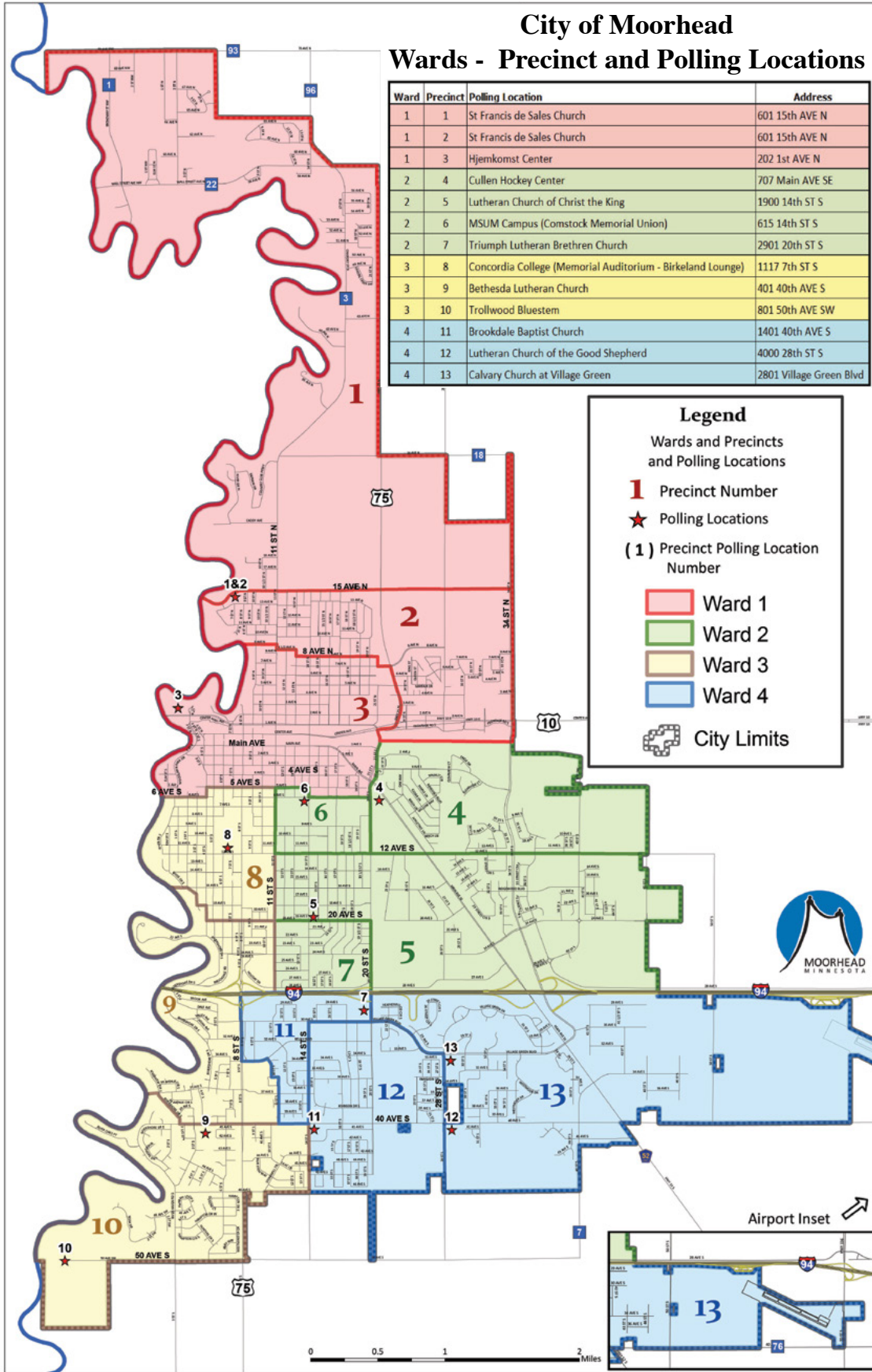
gather input from the community on features and functions of the new Community Center and Public Library.

A Local Sales Tax Impact Analysis showed that approximately 30 percent of sales tax paid in the City of Moorhead comes from out-of-town visitors; Moorhead residents would pay for about 70 percent of a new Community Center and Regional Library. The average Moorhead resident would pay just over \$2 a month (or \$25 a year) in sales tax to fund the project. A \$100 taxable purchase in Moorhead would cost 50 cents more than it does now.

In August, local developer Roers along with JLG Architects released a plan and a vision for downtown Moorhead that would revitalize and re-energize the area. On November 8, Moorhead residents have a chance to place a cornerstone in that downtown development that will serve generations to come with a “yes” vote on a sales tax option.



For more information, visit cityofmoorhead.com/library



Your vote counts!

The 2022 General Election is coming up November 8.

The 2022 General Election in Moorhead will be on Tuesday, November 8. These candidates are running for Mayor and City Council:

Mayor

Shelly Carlson (incumbent)
Kevin Nese Shores

Ward 1

Ryan Nelson
Siham Amedy

Ward 2

Heather Nesemeier (incumbent)
Eileen Johnson

Ward 3

Deborah White (incumbent)
Dr. Rick Melbye

Ward 4

Chuck Hendrickson (incumbent)

Also, Moorhead voters have the opportunity to vote on a half-cent local option sales tax that will be used to construct a new downtown community center and public library.

For more information on voting in Minnesota, visit vote411.org/minnesota.



How to avoid CO tragedies

In December 2021, a family of seven people – including three children – died in a south Moorhead home from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. An investigation showed the likely cause was a furnace malfunction. Although there were CO detectors present in the home, they were not installed at the time.

Every year in the United States, CO poisoning causes up to 1,200 deaths and 50,000 emergency room visits, according to the National Carbon Monoxide Association. During the winter – when heating homes in Moorhead is essential – taking time to prepare your home in the event of a CO emergency can be the difference between life and death.

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.

The first step is ensuring 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. While smoke detectors should be mounted high on the wall or on the ceiling because smoke rises, CO detectors can be mounted at any height. Battery-operated and wall plug-in devices work equally well.

Install a CO detector near all sleeping areas and make sure you have one at every level of your home. Check or change the batteries in your CO detector every six months. Taking some simple precautions can help keep you and your family safe from CO poisoning.

- Service your furnace, water heater and any other gas or oil burning devices annually.
- Keep your 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 or a healthcare professional right away.

The Silent Killer
Know the Potential Sources of Carbon Monoxide (CO) in Your Home

Chimney
Clogged or blocked chimney opening

Bedroom
Unvented space heater

Cracked Flue

Kitchen
Improperly installed or faulty gas oven, range or cooktop vent

Living Room
Gas or wood burning fireplace

Garage
• Auto exhaust fumes
• Operating barbecue grill in enclosed area
• Generator or gas-powered equipment operated in or close to the home

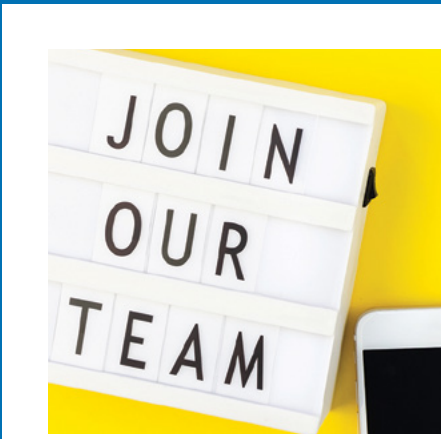
Basement
Improperly installed or faulty gas clothes dryer, furnace or water heater

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states, carbon monoxide (CO) is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the US, claiming more than 400 lives each year. In addition, over 20,000 people visit the emergency room and more than 4,000 are hospitalized due to accidental CO poisoning annually.

CO is produced anytime fuel is burned, and two-thirds of Americans use gas, wood, kerosene, or another fuel source to heat their homes—but only 50 percent of homes have working CO alarms.

The only safe way to detect CO is with a working CO alarm. Experts recommend installing one on each floor and near sleeping areas.

Information provided by Kidde.



City of Moorhead offers flexibility and great benefits

Are you looking for a place where you can have a career and not just a job? A place where hard-working, dedicated people join together every day to make a positive impact on our City, have fun while doing it and leave the day knowing their work made a difference?

If that sounds like someplace where you would fit in, check out the job opportunities at the City of Moorhead. Great benefits, competitive pay and awesome co-workers are just a few of the other bonuses that you will gain, too!

Check out our current openings at cityofmoorhead.com/jobs.

You might be surprised at the variety of positions and skills it takes to keep a city running smoothly!





“Onward Moorhead: A Plan in Action!”

In March 2022, the City Council approved the City of Moorhead Comprehensive Plan to help the City prioritize growth and development for the next 10 years. Thank you to all of the community members, businesses and others that helped create this Plan. Here is an update on recent or upcoming projects and initiatives that advance the Five Big Ideas:

Center Avenue Reconstruction:

From the Red River to 8 Street, Center Avenue has been transformed. In addition to the reconstructed street, new bike paths, sidewalks, transit shelters and planting areas make the area more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

MCCARA Industrial Park:

New lots will be available in 2023 to expand business opportunities in the park. This expansion was made possible by a \$2 million grant from the State of Minnesota.

Public Art:

Breaking the Surface – one of the City’s first large public art installations – was completed in Davy-Memorial Park. The larger-than-life sculpted beavers were created by artists Catie Miller and Emily Williams-Wheeler. The artists wrote that beavers symbolize “the persistence and hard work of the community of Moorhead.”

GreenStep Cities Step 5:

In June, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program – which focuses on sustainability and achieving quality-of-life goals – recognized the City of Moorhead as a Step 5 city, which is the highest program level. Step 5 metrics cover a wide variety of sustainability goals including walking/biking infrastructure, transit options, local food, water usage, renewable energy, and solid waste.

5 BIG IDEAS

that will guide Comprehensive Plan activity over the next five years:

1 TRANSFORM

Downtown Moorhead into the ‘heart of the community’

2 INTEGRATE

a mix of mutually supportive land uses and experiences in redevelopment areas

3 CONNECT

neighborhoods to parks and trails and provide multimodal access across the City

4 EMBRACE

resilient environmental and equitable solutions to ensure a greener community

5 BUILD AND NURTURE

local businesses as key partners

If you would like to review the Plan or the Plan process, check out the Onward Moorhead webpage: cityofmoorhead.com/onwardmoorhead

Body camera selection under way

The City of Moorhead Police Department (MPD) is currently in the process of selecting body-worn cameras (BWCs) for its officers. The goal is to have the cameras ordered and possibly implemented by January 2023.



BWCs are intended to:

- Improve officer safety
- Increase evidence quality
- Reduce civilian complaints
- Reduce department liability

MPD collaborated with the City's Information Technology (IT) Department, which will oversee the technology; data retention and collection; and any necessary redaction of captured footage. The departments worked together to develop a list of product features that would work best for both departments' responsibilities. Key features include image point of view, pre-event capture, comfort and size, mounting options, durability and reliability, ease of use, data management, and resistance to weather conditions. Based on these criteria, selection was narrowed to three vendors.

MPD is in the process of testing the three products in the field. Currently, four officers are "wear-testing" the devices. The testing provides actual footage and allows the IT Department to analyze each product's back-end data management systems. The products' difference in capturing day and night video and audio quality is also being analyzed.

"Body-worn cameras will help ensure that accurate information is gathered during interactions between officers and the public," said Capt. Deric Swenson, who is leading the selection process. "At the end of the day, our goal is to increase safety for all involved."

The selection will be narrowed to two products and financial costs, product quality, and available features will be compared. Once the final selection is made and the devices are ordered, the City's IT Department will begin the pre-arrival technical support and training.

MPD also plans to have public meetings to showcase and explain the systems before installing the devices. The City's policy regarding the BWC system is available at cityofmoorhead.com or by contacting the MPD.

Once implemented, the BWCs will be worn by uniformed patrol officers and their supervisors, community service officers, and cadets during their shifts; investigators during specific operations; and administration and the community policing coordinator during particular duties.

Going on vacation or heading 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.

If you are interested, complete a "Residential Check Request" on-line at moorheadpolice.com/crimePrevention/houseChecks.asp or call the Police Department at 218.299.5120, Monday - Friday from 8 am - 4:30 pm.



Veterans Homestead Property Tax Exclusion Program

The State of Minnesota has a market value exclusion available for veterans with a service-connected disability of 70% or more. Veterans who qualify can have \$150,000 to \$300,000 of estimated market value excluded from taxes on their primary residence. Surviving spouses of veterans with total and permanent disability may also apply for the exclusion.

For more information, contact: Clay County Veterans Services Officer Curt Cannon, 218.299.5041 or Amy McDonnell at the Moorhead City Assessor's Office, 218.299.5258.

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.**



Smart Salting Helps Environment, Vehicles

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 as well as 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.

Snow removal: Do it better, cheaper and pollution-free! | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)
Smart Salting training | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)

EVENTS

Holiday Shopping with MATBUS

This winter, avoid cold cars, icy roads and busy parking lots when you ride MATBUS! You can reduce winter driving stress and relax on a warm bus with MATBUS behind the wheel. Ride on Saturdays between Thanksgiving and New Year's for prize drawing opportunities on board.

Skate with Santa

Sunday, December 4, 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

December 27-29, 1-4 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.

Frostival

January 14-February 25
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 cities of Moorhead, Fargo, and West Fargo. 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.

Frostival events include:

Fun at the Frozen Fortress

Saturday, January 28, 11 am-3 pm
Viking Ship Park

Embrace the cool of winter with a day of outdoor activities and events featuring the Moorhead Business Association's Snow Sculpture Contest, free cross-country skiing and snowshoe rentals, outdoor games, a hot chocolate station, a marshmallow roast and much more frosty fun!

Celtic Festival

Saturday, March 18, 11 am-3 pm
Hjemkomst Center

The annual Celtic Festival is a celebration of the rich culture of the seven Celtic Nations, featuring the intriguing history, arts and traditions of Brittany, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Galicia, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Take in the sights, sounds and tastes of Celtic heritage with dancing, music and authentic Celtic food. People of all ages can learn about the traditions of the seven Celtic nations through hands-on activities and table displays.

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

Moorhead Ice Show

March 24-25, 7 pm; March 26, 1 pm
Moorhead Sports Center

Save the dates for the annual Moorhead Ice Show! Take in the popular event that's been running 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. The themed ice show features a fantastic soundtrack, lights and costumes.

Tickets: \$6 for ages 3-11; \$9 for ages 12 and older

Skip the line at the show and purchase your tickets in advance at the Moorhead Parks and Recreation office during regular business hours (8 am-4:30 pm). Tickets will be available at the door beginning 1½ hours before the show.

Candlelight Trail Walk

Tuesday, January 31, 6-8 pm
Viking Ship Park

Take a scenic stroll and photos along a lighted path around Viking Ship Park and through Mary's Light Tunnel. There will be games, bonfires, s'mores and hotdogs available to enjoy with ski rentals and hot chocolate available inside the Hjemkomst Center.

Sleigh Rides

Saturdays, February 4 and 18, 12-4 pm
M.B. Johnson Park

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

To see more Frostival events, visit, moorheadparks.com.

Ridgewood Park improvements enable rink skating year-round

Moorhead Parks Maintenance has coordinated concrete and pavement improvements at Ridgewood Park, 1818 31 St S, to increase accessibility and usage. In August, workers poured concrete into the hockey rink to enable rollerblading and skating through all seasons. In September, a new concrete driveway was installed and fresh asphalt was put on the parking lot.

Parks Maintenance is backfilling dirt around the new concrete and paved areas this fall. Hockey nets are in place, and the public is encouraged to take advantage of this smooth skating surface this fall, winter and beyond!

Snow removal reminders

City of Moorhead code requires that sidewalks must 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 snow onto neighboring properties or into the street.
- Do not blow snow beyond your neighbor's fence line.
- 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 walk in a timely way.
- 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 of Moorhead
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Moorhead, MN 56560

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Moorhead City Council



Mayor
Shelly Carlson
218.299.5307



Ward 1
Shelly Dahlquist
218.299.5549



Ward 3
Larry Seljevold
218.329.9214



Ward 1
Matthew Gilbertson
218.299.5541



Ward 3
Deb White
218.299.5548



Ward 2
Laura Caroon
218.299.5543



Ward 4
Steve Lindaas
218.299.5542



Ward 2
Heather Nesemeier
218.299.5547



Ward 4
Chuck Hendrickson
218.299.5545

City Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 5:30 pm at the Hjemkomst Center. Visit our website for agendas and materials.

City Calendar

cityofmoorhead.com/calendar

NOVEMBER

- 8 Election Day
- 11 Veteran's Day (City Offices closed | no garbage*)
- 24 Thanksgiving (City Offices closed | no garbage*)

DECEMBER

- 4 Skate with Santa
- 27-29 Sleigh Rides
- 23 Christmas Eve (observed) (City Offices closed | no garbage*)
- 26 Christmas Day (observed) (City Offices closed | no garbage*)

JANUARY

- 2 New Year's Day (observed) (City Offices closed | no garbage*)
- 2-13 Christmas Tree pick-up
- 14 Frostival begins (through February 25)
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (City Offices closed | no garbage*)

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 18 Celtic Festival

*Please check News at cityofmoorhead.com for holiday garbage collection changes.



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



218.299.5166



500 Center Ave, Moorhead, MN 56560



cityofmoorhead.com