

# CITY INSIGHTS



Winter 2021-22

Published by the City of Moorhead

## Cadet Program Helps Build Moorhead Police Department

Working in today's law enforcement environment can be a stressful task for officers with many years of experience. The intensity and variety of incidents, the sometimes long shifts, and a constantly changing public perception of public safety officers make the work even more challenging.

Finding qualified officers can be difficult for departments. It is even more difficult to find female and minority applicants that diversify police forces and represent the composition of communities. When the Moorhead Police Department hires new officers, it can only select individuals licensed or eligible to be licensed by the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (POST). This requires a minimum of a two-year degree in a criminal justice related field and completion of an 8-week law enforcement skills program.

Moorhead Police Chief Shannon Monroe thought of a creative way to recruit applicants and also expose them to the type of work they would perform as police officers. In 2020-2021, without increasing the MPD budget, Monroe re-organized the department to create the Police Cadet program to provide a new opportunity with emphasis toward increasing female and diversity hires.

Cadet applicants must be pursuing a criminal justice-related degree that would qualify them to be future police candidates. Cadets patrol parks and trails and gain experience through low-level calls for service such as animal complaints and traffic control at vehicle accidents or parades. They work flexible evening and weekend hours, allowing them to assist Patrol and Investigations staff.

They build relationships within the police department and our community with the goal of continuing to serve the citizens of Moorhead as future police officers.

While the cadets bring a willingness to learn, the department commits to assist them with successfully completing the police skills program and hiring them as police officers, where they will serve as role models in new

officer training academies. The cadets win by getting "on the job" training that will prepare them for a career in law enforcement, and the department and City win by gaining a more diverse force that reflects our changing community.

Anyone interested in the Police Cadet Program should contact Sergeant Chris Martin at the Moorhead Police Department.



**Suham Ali**

Suham is a twin and grew up in Fargo, ND. She is currently attending MSUM (Criminal Justice) and has already graduated from M|State (Criminal Justice). She will be attending Alexandria's Skills program next summer. Suham speaks multiple languages.



**Sam Mukanya Mukengeshayi**

Sam grew up in Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He attends M|State and will be graduating with his Criminal Justice degree in December 2021. He plans to attend Skills in Alexandria in 2022. Prior to moving to the US he graduated from the Durban Center of Photography in South Africa and worked as a photographer. Sam can speak, read and write in five languages.



**Alexandra "Alli" Garding**

Alli grew up in Becker, MN and is currently completing her final year at NDSU (Criminal Justice). She will be attending Alexandria's Skills program next summer.



**Nathan Wambach**

Nathan grew up in Moorhead and is in his final year at M|State (Criminal Justice). He will be attending Alexandria's Skills program next summer. He is currently an MP with the Marine Corps.

# Work for the City You Love!

Discover the excitement and rewards of working for a vibrant city and enjoy the satisfaction of doing work that helps make Moorhead a great place to live, work and play!

The City has a wide variety of full-time positions that come open throughout the year as well as over 100 seasonal temporary positions.

Applications for spring and summer seasonal positions will open in early February. Seasonal positions offer job training and career development, flexibility to work around your schedule, supplemental income and provide important services to the community. Positions will be available in the following areas:

- Parks and Recreation
- Village Green and Meadows golf courses
- Swimming and wading pools
- Sports Center
- Hjemkomst Center
- Park Maintenance
- Forestry
- Engineering and Wastewater/Stormwater
- Street Maintenance and Sanitation

For more information, visit [cityofmoorhead.com/jobs](http://cityofmoorhead.com/jobs). You can apply for jobs, sign up for job alerts to be notified when a new position is posted, read why our employees love their jobs, and check out benefits.

**Crystal, a former AmeriCorps Community Forestry employee and seasonal forestry worker since 2019, says:**



**"I love the camaraderie, being outside and learning about tree care in the urban forest. I enjoy combining theory with hands-on projects.**

**"The most rewarding part of my job was assisting with planning the Food Forest and seeing the project come to fruition. I love talking to homeowners and educating them about pests and diseases that we help to mitigate against and prepare for. The City offers a flexible schedule, allowing me to spend time with my children."**

# Sales Tax Referendum Would Help Build Library/Community Center

For many years, the idea of a new regional library and a community center that would give citizens a place for indoor activities – especially during the winter – has been a hot topic in Moorhead. Now, the City has received legislative authorization to request voter approval for a one-half cent sales tax for a regional library/community center, financing up to \$31.59 million plus financing expenses over a period of up to 22 years.

In September 2021, Moorhead Mayor Shelly Carlson appointed a citizen-based Steering Committee to work with local firm JLG Architects to create a vision for a library and community center that will serve Moorhead and the surrounding area into the future.

**Steering Committee Members:**  
 Cani Aden                    Greta Almie  
 Lisa Borgen                Sajid Ghauri  
 Doug Greenley            James Hand  
 Oliver Judd                Shane Kvalevog  
 Karla Solum                Nick Woodard  
 Danielle Wright

The Steering Committee will serve as a sounding board for our community and will be ambassadors for local outreach. This effort will help bring the hopes and dreams of residents together into a common vision for a project to serve Moorhead for decades. The Steering Committee will

facilitate public engagement and report back to the City Council as it makes the final decision on whether to put the local option sales tax question on the November 2022 general election ballot.

**Check [cityofmoorhead.com](http://cityofmoorhead.com) for more updates and sign up for e-notifications so you get the information first!**





The 11 Street underpass project (simulated picture) will allow traffic to flow under both sets of downtown railroad tracks.

## 11 Street Underpass Project Will Improve Safety, Traffic Flow

The City of Moorhead has been working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Clay County to design underpasses on 11 Street that would go under the two sets of railroad tracks currently bisecting the downtown to improve safety and mobility in Downtown Moorhead.

A Downtown Moorhead underpass has been a goal of the City since at least the 1970s. Two studies completed with the assistance of the Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) identified 11 Street as the preferred location and enabled the City and MnDOT to begin preliminary design and environmental review of that location and to request funding for the project.

The rail lines now carry approximately 70 trains per day, blocking the downtown crossings an estimated 22% of the time. By 2045, rail traffic is expected to increase to 90 trains per day, blocking the crossings nearly 30% of the time. This has severe impacts on pedestrian and vehicular traffic and increases public safety response times. The project will include:

- Two bridges
- Temporary railroad tracks
- Numerous temporary and permanent retaining walls
- A storm water pumping station
- Major utility relocations
- Pedestrian accessibility improvements
- Significant landscaping/aesthetic treatments

The Minnesota State Legislature has already authorized \$65 million

The proposed schedule for this project is to **begin construction by the fall of 2024.**

The 11 Street underpasses are planned to be **open to traffic by the fall of 2026.**

in the State bonding bill for this project. The total project cost is currently estimated at between \$99 million and \$114.7 million. The remainder of the funding is proposed to come from state, county, and city funds with a cost-share provided by the BNSF Railway. The City of Moorhead will continue to seek additional sources to supplement state and local funding for the project.

The City and MnDOT began meeting with affected property owners in January 2020 to discuss the acquisition process; approximately 11 full property acquisitions and more than 25 easements are needed to construct the project. The property acquisitions will require the relocation of some businesses, and the City, in cooperation with MnDOT, is working with these businesses to keep as many of them in Moorhead as possible. Appraisals and negotiations with property owners where full acquisition will be needed are under way. The acquisition of easements will begin later, when the plans are further developed.



“Following the Light” by Annett C. Richter is anticipated to be installed at 8 Street and 12 Avenue South.

## Utility Box Art, Bike Racks Add to City Amenities

All across Moorhead, projects are under way to beautify the City and to make transportation easier for citizens. Two initiatives right now are the Blank Spaces utility box/public art program and new bike racks funded by a grant from Partnership4Health Community Health Board (P4H) as part of a Statewide Health Improvement Project (SHIP) Grant.

### Sponsor Utility Box Art

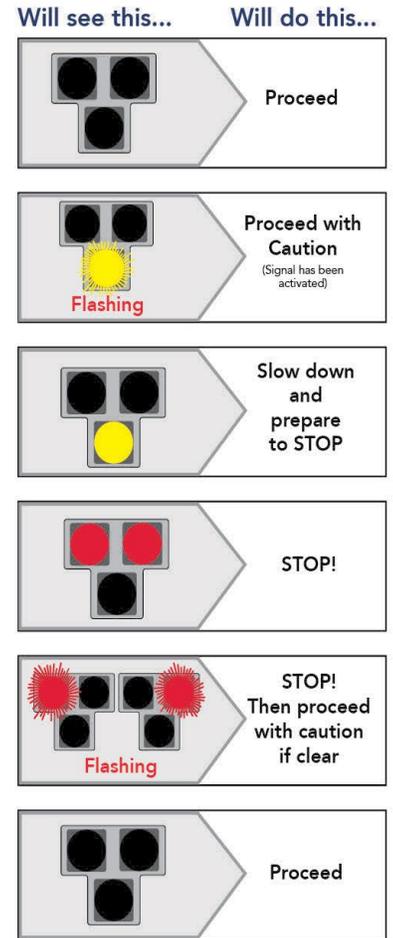
Clearly, Moorhead residents love public art and bright colors. All you have to do in many parts of town is look up and you will see one of the four award-winning art-covered water towers. But that isn't the only way you can enjoy art in Moorhead. If you live near, or own a business near, a Moorhead traffic signal utility cabinet and you want to see more public art in Moorhead, the utility box wrap/public art program can help. In May 2021, the Moorhead City Council approved a proposal from The Arts Partnership/Fargo Downtown Community

## HAWK Helps Keep Pedestrians Safe; Blue Lights Aid Traffic Enforcement

**The HAWK:** If you drive down South 8 Street past Concordia College, you will probably notice the blinking pedestrian crossing just north of 12 Avenue South. The HAWK (High-Intensity Activated crossWalk) signal is designed to help pedestrians safely cross busy streets while keeping vehicle traffic flowing smoothly at other times. But how do you know when to stop and when you can go? The graphic (at right) shows how the light works for motorists (for pedestrians, it works much like a normal traffic signal).

**Blue Lights:** You might also have noticed blue lights above the traffic signals at six intersections around town. Those blue lights are designed to help make our intersections safer for motorists and pedestrians by reducing the frequency of vehicles running red lights. When the traffic light turns red, the small blue light above the signal also comes on. If a car enters the intersection and the blue light is on, a police officer can be certain that the driver has entered when the traffic light is red and has committed a traffic offense. The City will continue to add blue enforcement lights to more intersections.

### Motorists



Partnership / Fargo Business Improvement District to allow art from their Blank Spaces program catalog to wrap the utility boxes, if sponsored. The program provides a catalog of local art for property owners to finance a wrap on privately owned “canvases” (i.e. garage door, wall or door) and now on Moorhead traffic utility boxes. Move fast, though; each piece of art can only be displayed once. For more information, visit The Arts Partnership’s website: [theartspartnership.net/virtual-catalog-of-art/](http://theartspartnership.net/virtual-catalog-of-art/)

### New Bike Racks Coming Soon

Starting in 2022, the City will be installing bike racks at various locations around the city. These bike racks were funded by a grant from P4H to promote healthy living by helping cyclists get out and enjoy our great city and all the amenities it has to offer. Moorhead has more than 40 miles of bike trails and these bike racks will allow people to safely stop and lock up their bikes while they enjoy some of our businesses/restaurants or just walk around and enjoy our nearly 50 regional, community, and neighborhood parks.



## Sewer System Failure Steps You Should Follow

Heavy rainfall, loose debris and even structural failures can cause sewer systems to not function properly. The City of Moorhead provides a 24-hour, on-call service to take care of sewer problems.

**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.**

[10 smart salting tips to protect Minnesota waters | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[Smart Salting training | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)





## Recognizing Awesomeness MoorHeart Award Honors Our Best

We all know great people and organizations who make Moorhead a special place to live. Want a way to recognize that awesomeness?

The MoorHeart award is an opportunity to recognize individuals who go above and beyond to demonstrate community within our City by their actions and service. A team of volunteers from City boards and commissions selects award recipients. The MoorHeart award is commemorated with a piece of art commissioned from Moorhead-based artist Karman Rheault especially for this purpose.

### In 2021, several awards were given:

**Johnathan Judd**, who was Moorhead’s mayor from 2019-2021 until he was appointed District Court Judge in Minnesota’s Seventh Judicial District.

**Moorhead=Fantastic administrators Mara Morken, Chris Orth, and Marsha Drewlow Wichmann**, who created and maintain a proactive, positive place for conversation on Facebook about and for the Moorhead community.

**Cani Adan, human rights advocate** who works at the Afro American Development Center, chairs the City of Moorhead Human Rights Commission and volunteers with many groups in the community.

**Wayne Ingersoll, champion for Moorhead and Clay County**, who has given his time, energy and enthusiasm to the City for decades. In his career, he has been a teacher, Moorhead Mayor, Clay County Commissioner, City Planning Commissioner and much more.

**In order for winners to be selected, they first have to be nominated!** Information on nominating individuals/organizations for the MoorHeart award can be found at [cityofmoorhead.com](http://cityofmoorhead.com). (Search for MoorHeart Award.) Contributions large and small are worthy of nomination!

## Comprehensive Plan Moving Onward!

Did you know the City of Moorhead has been undertaking an update of the City’s Comprehensive Plan? Onward Moorhead! is a plan that will set the stage for prioritizing growth and development for the next 10 years. The plan looks at future issues, goals, and visioning to prepare for coming changes in Moorhead.

Phase 4 of the update is under way. The plan is being updated based on public feedback. A final draft will be made available to the community and Mayor Carlson and the City Council in early 2022.

Stantec, the City’s consultant along with sub-consultants Folkways and Toole Design, has provided several public engagement opportunities during this work:

### Phase 1: Foundation Building

The Onward Moorhead! effort kicked off in October 2020 with meetings with the Study Review Committee made up of community members from various sectors. In January, the City hosted its first virtual public engagement event asking the public to describe their vision for the future of Moorhead.

### Phase 2: Vision and Goal Setting

In March, the team developed the citywide 10-year vision framework based on Phase I public engagement results. The City team and its consultants met with topical focus groups and City Boards, Commissions and the City Council.

### Phase 3: Focus Area Plans

This phase started in July with Design Week, a series of workshops, stakeholder meetings and a design festival at the Hjemkomst Center. It concluded in October with engagement efforts with additional City of Moorhead Advisory Boards, Commissions and the City Council.

**If you would like to review the Comprehensive Plan progress, check out the Onward Moorhead! webpage: [cityofmoorhead.com/onwardmoorhead](http://cityofmoorhead.com/onwardmoorhead)**

## 2020 Census highlights

MOORHEAD GROWTH



- The city grew from **38,065 in 2010 to 44,505** in 2020.
- Minnesota had the **No. 1 self-response** rate in the nation (**75.1%**) and Moorhead topped that (**76.3%**)!
- **12.1%** of our residents are 65 and over; **22.9%** are under 18
- **37.7%** of residents over the age of 25 have a bachelor’s degree or higher

*Thank you*

*A special thanks to the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, whose efforts will not go unnoticed over the next decade.*

## Events

### Quarter Days for Holiday Shopping

MATBUS will be offering a special rate for riders on prime shopping days this holiday season! You can ride MATBUS fixed route buses for just 25¢ on December 4, 11, and 18, and Christmas Eve (December 24). Avoid cold cars and busy parking lots, and hop on a warm MATBUS vehicle during Quarter Days.

### Skate with Santa

**Sunday, December 5, 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! Skate rental will be available (limited sizes) and free cookies and hot chocolate to those who come!

### Sleigh Rides

**December 21, 22, and 23, 1-4 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 free). Reservations can be made by calling the Parks and Recreation office at 218.299.5340. Tickets will also be available on-site. All rides include complimentary cookie and hot chocolate.

### Frostival

**January 15-February 26**  
Moorhead, Fargo, and West Fargo

Frostival is all about celebrating the “cool” 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 maybe some mittens) and join us in making cold, cool. For a complete list of events of the six-week period visit [frostival.com](http://frostival.com).

#### Some Frostival events include:

#### Fun at the Frozen Fortress

**Saturday, January 29, 11 am-3 pm**  
Hjemkomst Center

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!

#### Candlelight Trail Walk

**Tuesday, February 1, 6-9 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.

### Celtic Festival

**Saturday, March 19, 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 the Celtic heritage with dancing, music, and authentic Celtic food. Children and adults alike can learn about traditions of the seven Celtic nations through hands-on activities and table displays.

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

### Moorhead Ice Show

**March 25 and 26, 7 pm; March 27, 1 pm**  
Moorhead Sports Center

Save the Date for the Moorhead Ice Show! Learn to Skate and Advanced Skaters will perform to the theme: “An Evening with the Stars.”

**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 pm). Tickets will be available at the door beginning 1½ hours before the show.*

### Meet the Mayor Excursion

**Thursday, February 24, 6-7:30 pm**  
Viking Ship Park

Explore our downtown parks with Mayor Carlson, and hear what the City of Moorhead has planned for its future. Ask questions, get involved, and have fun!

To register or  
for more  
information visit  
[moorheadparks.com](http://moorheadparks.com)



# 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.

City of Moorhead  
500 Center Ave  
PO Box 779  
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 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**

## City Calendar

[cityofmoorhead.com/calendar](https://cityofmoorhead.com/calendar)

### December

- 4 MATBUS Quarter Days
- 5 Skate with Santa
- 11 MATBUS Quarter Days
- 18 MATBUS Quarter Days
- 21-23 Sleigh Rides
- 24 MATBUS Quarter Days
- 24 Christmas Eve | City offices closed
- 27 Christmas Day (observed) | City offices closed
- 31 New Year's Day (observed) | City offices closed

### January

- 3-14 Christmas Tree pick-up
- 15 Frostival (through February 26)
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day | City offices closed no garbage\*
- 29 Fun at the Frozen Fortress

### February

- 21 President's Day | City offices closed | no garbage\*

### March

- 19 Celtic Festival

\*Garbage collection will begin at 4 am on the next business day following the holiday.



218.299.5166



500 Center Ave, Moorhead, MN 56560



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