



Photo by Mara Morken.



## Monthly Newsletter March 2016

### MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID HUNSTAD

On March 10 we held the first New American Job Fair at the Moorhead Center Mall. It was intense, fun, exhausting, productive, awesome, rough around the edges, and so worth it. The event was co-sponsored by the MBA, the Afro American Development Association, Rural Minnesota CEP, and First United Church of Christ. Everyone learned something about partnerships. I am proud to be part of an organization that sees opportunities to help the Moorhead business community and jumps in and says let's do this. More opportunities are before us: join us at our annual meeting on April 14; look for the MBA at the Marathon in May; volunteer to help with the 565600H and AAH Celebration on the 4th of July; or get involved with our Back to School event and Greater Moorhead Days in September. The MBA is working to make Moorhead even better. Thank you for your partnership.

### NEW MEMBERS

Boulder Tap House  
FM Home Builders Assoc.  
Gate City Bank  
Mick's Office  
Trollwood

### RENEWING

Becky's Sewing Center  
Forum Communications  
Gary Olson Insurance  
Red River Electric  
Red River Excavating  
Sam's Club  
State Farm, Noel Moore

### Get Involved

If you're interested in joining an MBA committee or task force, or serving on our board of directors, please reach out to a current board member (listed on our website) for information.

“The seed is planted. It’s germinating.”

– Dave Anderson, referring to gubernatorial interest in establishing Renaissance Zones

“Moorhead’s greatest strength—and challenge—is that it’s a blank slate.”

– Cindy Graffeo, Moorhead EDA exec. director

## “Let’s Talk Business” Highlights

### PERSPECTIVES ON MN’S WORKFORCE

On Feb. 10, Chet Bodin of DEED discussed his organization’s research on attracting and retaining young professionals in west-central MN, where so many people are aging out of the workforce. He praised the “Live Wide Open” marketing campaign and suggested that cities in our region shouldn’t compete with each other, since each has its strengths. He stressed that young professionals value a work-life balance.

### INTRODUCING CINDY GRAFFEO

On Feb. 17, new Moorhead EDA executive director Cindy Graffeo addressed a variety of topics, including what a “modern downtown” in Moorhead might look like, what’s lacking and what’s working with the city’s business incentive programs, and trailing spouses. Ms. Graffeo encouraged us to stop comparing ourselves to Fargo and to recognize that we are a better value and fit for certain kinds of businesses.



Cindy Graffeo  
Photo by Mara Morken

### MAJOR GRANT FOR MOORHEAD PARK

Also on Feb. 17, we heard from Councilman Chuck Hendrickson about a \$1.2 million Legacy grant that has been “unanimously recommended” for MB Johnson Park. If received, the grant will provide for significant trail and bridge improvements.

### PUBLIC WORKS OVERVIEW

On Feb. 24, Steve Moore, Moorhead’s director of public works, discussed recent initiatives such as improved customer service; proactive snow and ice removal; long-term, in-house street repair; and sanitation fleet modernization. “I’m here to serve,” he stated.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### “Let’s Talk Business” Speakers

March 2: Cathy Lindquist,  
SBDC

March 9: Kim Wangler,  
Moorhead Parks

March 16: Carson  
Ouellette, Sen. Franken

March 23: Sue Wiger,  
Muscular Dystrophy Assoc.

March 30: Anna Hanson &  
Lucas Hulne, ByteSpeed

### MBA Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 14 at the  
Courtyard by Marriott,  
starting at 5:30 p.m.  
Register online.

### Meeting at Courthouse

April 27<sup>th</sup>’s “Let’s Talk  
Business” breakfast  
meeting about the new law  
enforcement center and jail  
will be at the Clay County  
Courthouse.

## 560 Connect Location

