

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/Minotnamed2018CityoftheYearMinotNewsletterOctober2018/>



Minot named 2018 City of the Year

The North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC) has selected Minot as its 2018 City of the Year. The award was announced at the NDLC's Annual Conference in September.



The City of the Year honor was established in 1984 to recognize North Dakota cities for the quality, number, and progressiveness of activities undertaken in the community. This is the first time Minot has won the award.

"It truly is an honor to receive this recognition from the North Dakota League of Cities," said Minot Mayor Shaun Sipma. "We certainly thank them for this award and for recognizing some of our major past achievements, but we also know our great city has much work ahead as we continue to move forward in creating a more resilient community."

Several critical accomplishments were key to Minot earning the recognition, according to NDLC Executive Director Blake Crosby, who presented the award. Those projects include:

- Completion of the three-year, \$29 million downtown Minot infrastructure project that helped create a revitalized

- downtown that is prepared for future development
- Ongoing work on the Northwest Area Water Supply project, which establishes Minot as a source of reliable drinking water for other cities in the region
 - The ongoing Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection project that will ultimately help protect the entire basin from future flooding
 - Completed work to protect the Minot Water Treatment Plant from future flooding

For more information on the award [click here](#).

Construction underway on nearly 1 million square-foot Trinity Health campus

Hundreds of individuals turned out on a cold, rainy day on September 18 to celebrate the ongoing construction of Trinity Health's new regional



healthcare campus and medical district in Minot. Scheduled for completion in 2021, the 970,000-square-foot campus will feature a six-story hospital tower with 200-plus private rooms, an emergency/level II trauma center with 24 treatment bays, and a medical office building.

President/CEO John M. Kutch called the occasion an exciting day for the future of Trinity Health, the Minot community, and northwestern North Dakota. "This project is not really about building or buildings. It is about people," said Kutch. "It's about fulfilling our mission to improve the health of the people, the community, and the region we serve." Among the officials on hand were representatives of TEG Architects, Trinity Health's architectural partner throughout the building process, and Yates-Northwest Contracting, a joint venture which is managing the project's construction. The public can follow construction progress west of the Minot Family YMCA by logging on to Trinity Health's live cam website at www.trinityhealth.org/livecam.

Downtown Minot project wins fourth major award

The three-year Downtown Minot Infrastructure project recently

won its fourth major award, this time being named the Project of the Year for cities over 5,000 in population by the North Dakota American Public Works Association (NDAPWA).



Of all projects built in North Dakota during the downtown project’s timeframe, NDAPWA chose Minot’s project as the best public improvement project. The downtown project involved replacing underground water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer lines as well as streets, curb and gutter, and other aspects over a 26-block area.

Minot City Engineer Lance Meyer said cities in North Dakota and consultants are asked to submit projects they feel meet the categories for project of the year. The executive committee of APWA selects the best project from the submittals.

“This is the highest award for projects selected by city official peers,” said Meyer. “A lot of people and agencies were involved making the Downtown Minot project a success, and we’re honored to have been selected as the project of the year.”

This is the fourth major award won by the Downtown project. [Click here](#) to see the complete list of awards.

First Minot resident takes advantage of city’s Resilient Homebuyer Program loan

A new program designed to help low- and moderate-income households buy a home in Minot inked its first completed home purchase in late September.



The Resilient Homebuyer Program is set up through the National Disaster Resilience (NDR) Program, funded through a Department of Housing and Urban Development Disaster Recovery grant. The program’s goal is to retain, within city limits, Minot residents who were impacted by the 2011 flood by providing gap financing to help residents like Bryan Juenger, 48, and a Minot native, own a resilient, affordable home.

“It was tough, but there was help – and we made it through it,” said Juenger, of his experience living in a home in southeast Minot that flooded in 2011. “And after I found out that my property was needed for enhanced flood protection in the valley, I was grateful to have a cousin tell me about the financing available through this (Resilient Homebuyer) program.”

Juenger signed paperwork September 20 to purchase his new home and take advantage, as a qualified buyer, of the City’s program to receive up to a \$60,000 loan at zero interest to cover purchase costs not funded by a conventional mortgage.

The City of Minot entered into a sub-recipient agreement with the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) to manage the loan underwriting portion of the program and to minimize staffing costs associated with program management. If the city had chosen to create its own program management staff, the cost would have been five times the amount that is being paid to NDHFA. An attractive element of the program is the opportunity to have the NDR gap financing loan forgiven after 15 years of payments, providing the homeowner meets certain conditions including remaining in the home for the full term.

The primary qualifications to participate in the Resilient Homebuyer Program are as follows:

- Live in a residence that is being purchased for the City’s enhanced flood protection project – OR – Lived in a home or apartment that was substantially damaged by the 2011 Souris River Flood.
- Be purchasing a home within the City limits, in a resilient neighborhood outside of the proposed 100-year FEMA flood plain.
- Qualify as having a low to moderate income per Ward County averages based on the number of people living in your household. (For example, a family of five would qualify at \$75,300 or less.)
- Secure a 30-year fixed mortgage through a NDHFA participating lender.

The complete set of guidelines and steps needed to fully participate in the Resilient Homebuyer Program can be found at, cdbg.minotnd.org, and click on housing.

Sixth annual “Bridging the Atlantic – International B2B Networking Seminar”

Private and public sector leaders convened during North America’s largest Scandinavian festival to strengthen global partnerships and discuss entrepreneurial opportunities and challenges within the local ecosystem and beyond. The Minot Area Development Corporation, Minot State University (MSU),

and the Norsk Høstfest hosted a panel of enterprisers with proven results at the annual Bridging the Atlantic – International B2B Networking Seminar. This year's theme was "Economic Development Entrepreneurship: Local, State, National, and International."

Among the distinguished speakers were Director of MSU's Severson Entrepreneurship Academy, and former City of Minot Mayor, Chuck Barney; Managing Member of Aksal Group, Jessica Ackerman; and City of Minot Disaster Resilience Grant Program Manager, John Zakian. The panel was moderated by Jacek Mrozik, associate vice president of MSU.



The sixth annual event was well-received, with nearly one hundred attendees present. The diverse audience included makers, small business owners, corporate executives, city and state leaders, and students from MSU's Severson Entrepreneurship Academy. "I feel this was our most successful seminar to date based on the energy and engagement of the audience," said Mrozik. The next B2B forum will be held on September 24, 2019.

A successful 2018 for Norsk Høstfest

Norsk Høstfest was a great success this year in Minot. The Magic City welcomed thousands of visitors from all over the world. Scandinavian culture was showcased by artisans, woodworkers, and chefs throughout the four-day festival. The entertainment was a



success, with the shows all selling more tickets this year than their comparable shows from last year. Even with the cancelation of Alabama, the Righteous Brothers were able to fill in and they were a welcomed hit by attendees. Darci Lynne was a sold-out concert and brought many families through the doors. An astounding 1,000 RVs filled the ND State Fair parking lots. Save the date for next year's scandimonium, September 25-28 of 2019!

Minot State opens cadaver lab

Minot State University students will have a unique opportunity to study the human body as the university officially opened a cadaver lab to enhance its Biology 220 and 221, Anatomy and Physiology I and II classes. The cadaver lab – one of only two such labs at public institutions in North Dakota – has two stations for dissection and an observation room. The lab was built in response to a request from Minot State students for hands-on learning experiences.



Minot State partnered with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences to receive the cadavers. The lab will consist of one male and one female cadaver each academic year.

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