



MINNESOTA BUILDERS EXCHANGE
Weekly Bulletin

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To our members,

With the holiday season upon us, we want to take a moment to thank you for being part of the MBEX community. Your dedication and contributions have made this year one to celebrate.

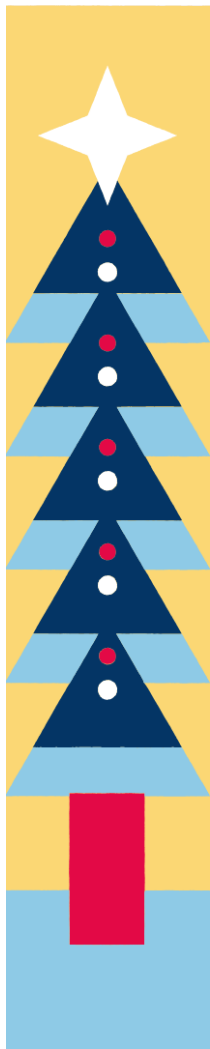
From all of us here at MBEX, we wish you a joyful, restful, and safe holiday season filled with cheer. May your days be merry, your projects run smoothly, and your well-deserved downtime be filled with family and friends.

Here's to building even more together in the new year!

With gratitude,

The Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX) staff

PS - This will be the last *Weekly Bulletin* of 2024. The next issue will land in inboxes on January 7, 2025.



MBEX Holiday Hours

DEC. 23	Staff working remotely
DEC. 24	CLOSED
DEC. 25	CLOSED
DEC. 26	Staff working remotely
DEC. 27	Staff working remotely
DEC. 30	Staff working remotely
DEC. 31	CLOSED
JAN. 1	CLOSED
JAN. 2	Regular Business Hours
JAN. 3	Staff working remotely

Please make note of our holiday hours. While our physical office may be closed, staff will be [available on the indicated days](#) for member assistance.



Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership by December 31

Renew your MBEX membership before the last day of the year to avoid plan room disruptions and to keep building with us in 2025.

Invoices and statements were sent via email in November and December to all member companies; please either mail a check to MBEX's [Minneapolis office](#) or [call Julie](#) to pay with a credit card (a \$45 service fee will apply).



CAST YOUR ONLINE BALLOT

Cast Your Vote for the 2025 Board of Directors

Online ballots for the 2025 MBEX Board of Directors election must be submitted by 11:59pm on Friday, December 27, 2025.

If you have not yet done so, please [cast your ballot here](#). (You will need your company's specific log-in to access the ballot, and that information has been emailed to your company's main contact. Only one ballot per member company is permitted.)

Results will be announced at the [MBEX Annual Meeting & Luncheon](#) on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 (see more details below).

For assistance with voting or accessing your online ballot, please [email Ashlee](#).



ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

MBEX Annual Meeting & Luncheon - January 15, 2025

The MBEX Annual Meeting & Luncheon provides members an opportunity to enjoy lunch and socialize with fellow industry professionals and industry leaders, congratulate new, incoming Board members, recognize those leaving the Board, and all while actively observing annual meeting proceedings.

- **DATE:** Wednesday, January 15
- **TIME:** 11:00am - Social & Networking | 12:00pm - Lunch | 12:30pm - Program Begins | 1:00pm - Special Guest Speaker, Kate Bischoff, HR and Employment Labor Law Attorney
- **LOCATION:** [TPC Twin Cities](#) - Blaine, Minn.
- **COST:** \$50 per person | \$275 for table of six

This year, we will be joined by special guest speaker [Kate Bischoff](#), an HR and Employment / Labor Law attorney.



There are several key changes to Minnesota's labor laws taking hold in 2025 that will specifically impact construction.

These include:

- Changes to the state's Earned Sick and Safe Time
- The new 14-factor independent contractor requirement
- Increases in minimum wage rates for all employers
- Inclusion of starting minimum and maximum annual salaries in job postings

She will also touch on escalation clauses in construction contracts as a way to handle possible inflationary pricing due to proposed tariffs by the incoming administration.

Along with hearing from Kate, we will be announcing the results of the 2025 MBEX Board of Directors election, welcoming those new members as well as showing appreciation to those departing the Board.

Additionally, two special member recognition awards will also be presented at this event: Volunteer of the Year and Distinguished Member of Service.

We look forward to kicking off 2025 with you!

[Register Here](#)

CONSTRUCTION HEADLINES

Five construction-related headlines you need to read over the next coffee break.

ECONOMIC REPORTS

□ [Construction Starts Increase 5% in November](#)

Total construction starts increased 5% in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.2-trillion. Nonresidential building starts grew 2%, nonbuilding starts moved 16% higher, while residential starts fell 1%. Manufacturing starts were down 40%, commercial starts were up 5%, and institutional starts were 18% higher for the 12-months ending November 2024. *(Dodge Construction Network)*

CONSTRUCTION LAW

⚖️ [The Site Report - Construction Law Insights - Issue 12](#)

The construction industry is ever-changing and is impacted by extreme weather, new technology, labor issues, material and supply chain restraints, and code changes. This year was no different. As we [Spillman Thomas & Battle] wind up 2024, we wanted to look back at the top issues that affected our clients, colleagues, and the industry. *(J. D Supra | Spillman Thomas & Battle)*

INFRASTRUCTURE

[Congress Passes, Biden Signs Continuing Resolution, Staving Off Government Shutdown](#)

Federal funding for construction and infrastructure programs will remain at current levels until mid-March 2025, under a stopgap spending measure passed by Congress on December 20th. Other disaster relief spending in the CR includes: \$3.4-billion to repair storm damage at U.S. Department of Defense installations; \$3.1-billion for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvements; and \$1.5-billion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for rehabilitation and repairs, studies and projects to reduce the risks of future disasters, and to address water infrastructure needs. (*Engineering News-Record*)

COSMIC CONCRETE

[Building Concrete on Mars From Local Materials](#)

Imagine you've just gotten to Mars as part of the first contingent of settlers. Your first challenge: build a long-term habitat using local materials. Those might include water from the polar caps mixed with specific surface soils. They might even require some very personal contributions --- your blood, sweat, and tears. Using such in situ materials is the challenges a team of Iranian engineers studied in a research project looking at local materials on Mars. (*Phys.org*)

PROJECT TO WATCH

[Data Center Developer Pitches 447-Acre Project in Rosemount](#)

An entity tied to Denver-based Tract has put forward plans to transform an eight-parcel site in Rosemount, which is currently farmland located along Courtyard Boulevard and bordering Hastings. The company confirmed that it is in the early stages of working with the city on a potential data center campus on the site. The proposal is currently undergoing the Alternative Urban Areawide Review environmental-review process with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board. Construction is expected to begin in 2025. (*Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal*)

PROJECT INFORMATION + UPDATES

- Total Projects Received at MBEX from 12/16/2024 - 12/20/2024: **74**
- Total Project Leads Reported on at MBEX from 12/16/2024 - 12/20/2024: **13**
- Total Active Projects Received / Reported on at MBEX as of 12/23/2024: **259**
- Total Projects in the Online Plan Room as of 12/23/2024: **4,464**

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

Click the button above to view the most recent project data from 12/18/2024-12/23/2024.

For information about the *Bulletin's* content, technical issues, or to place an ad (such as a Minority Notice, Job Posting, or Event Notice), contact [Ashlee](#), Membership + Communications Manager.



The MBEX *Weekly Bulletin* brought to you in part by [The Builders Group \(TBG\)](#).

UPCOMING MBEX EVENTS

- **December 24 & 25** - Closed for Christmas
- **December 31 & January 1** - Closed for New Years
- **January 14** - Construction Estimating Principles & Application
- **January 15** - Introduction to Upcoming Bluebeam Revu Courses (Bluebeam 1-7)
- **January 15** - Annual Meeting & Luncheon
- **January 15 & 16** - Reading Construction Documents
- **January 16** - Online Plan Room Demo
- **February 11** - Regional Member Meetup: Rochester
- **February 18** - Regional Member Meetup: Duluth
- **February 25** - Regional Member Meetup: Fargo / Moorhead
- **March 4** - Regional Member Meetup: St. Cloud

Connect with the Builders Exchange:



Revisit Past Bulletins:

[Dec. 18 - No. 51](#) | [Dec. 11 - No. 50](#) | [Dec. 4 - No. 49](#) | [Nov. 27 - No. 48](#) | [Nov. 20 - No. 47](#)

Information within the MBEX *Weekly Bulletin* are obtained from sources deemed reliable. The Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX) does not assume responsibility for its completeness or accuracy. You are urged to check your own sources in addition to the information contained in this publication. This issue contains plans and other bidding information received prior to and including the date noted above. The project data within this newsletter is intended for member company's and their employees use only.

2024 BOARD OFFICERS: President - Mike Carlson, *Max Gray Construction*; Vice President - Heidi Sedlacek, *KLJ Engineering*; Treasurer - Brian Kalla, *St. Cloud Acoustics*; Past President - Greg Grazzini, *Grazzini Brothers* | **2024 DIRECTORS:** Allie Brady, *Veit*; Kevin Bohrer, *Donlar Construction*; David Brandt, *Schadegg Mechanical*; Jason DuVal, *Tenet*; Chuck Geisler, *Iron Eagle Industrial Services*; Chris Niemand, *Frattalone Companies*; Sean Ochis, *Northern Industrial Insulation*; Jason Rentmeester, *Kraus-Anderson Construction*; and Nate Sapik, *Benson Electric Company* | **STAFF:** David Siegel - *Executive Director*; Julie Miller - *Executive Assistant/Project Coordinator/Accounting*; Ashlee Hartwig - *Membership & Communications Manager*; Melanie Hendrickson - *Events & Membership Coordinator*; Jeff Boelter - *Project Acquisition & IT*; Shauna Baska, Peggy Esboldt, Madison Gentil, Michelle Siegel & Ka Yang - *Project Reporters*; Don O'Connor - *Duluth Manager*

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