

Photos by Anna Paige / The Forum

The Red Rayen, a coffee shop and community center located off Main Avenue in Moorhead, is closed on Saturday, Sept. 6, after an announcement was posted to Facebook that the shop will limit its hours and permanently close at the end of September, according to a Facebook post by the operators.

Moorhead's Red Raven coffee shop to close at end of September

BY INGRID HARBO The Forum

MOORHEAD — A Moorhead coffee shop is closing, with co-operators citing a lack of resources and support from the shop's legal owners.

In a post on social media on Friday, Sept. 5, The Red Raven announced the shop will be closing at the end of September. "We found ourselves as

the last two people of what had been an eight member team," the post read. "This work is not sustainable with two people, especially when we are volunteering our time and effort, and we were not given the tools or the resources needed in order to sustain the shop long term."

While the shop was billed as a co-op, with multiple employee-owners, it never operated that way, co-operator Margaret McKenzie-Ray told The Forum.

"When me and my cooperators signed on, we never anticipated being fully in charge of any of these things," McKenzie-Ray said. "It was supposed to be, again, a collective of people all taking on responsibilities and helping each other.

The shop is closing about a year and a half after it moved to Moorhead. The shop has historicany been a nub ior members of the LGBTQ+ community, artists and local activists.

The Red Raven Espresso Parlor first opened in 2005 on Roberts St. in Fargo. Five years later, it moved to 916 Main Ave. in Fargo. The business lost its lease at the Main Avenue location in 2022. It reopened in a strip mall off Main Avenue in Moorhead in February 2024.

After opening in Moorhead, the Red Raven also operated BLK Cat Studios two doors down in the same building, which was intended to be an artist space and music venue.

McKenzie-Ray came on as a volunteer in March 2024, and said she was told employees would eventually be paid. However, volunteers were never paid, McKenzie-Ray said.

The business opened without a working espresso machine, McKenzie-Ray said. The shop's location did not attract regular foot traffic, while BLK Cat Studios was not set up for artists or shows, she added. Without revenue from the artist's space, the business pavs for additional space without gen-

erating revenue from it. All of the money generated from the coffee shop went to paying the two leases, McKenzie-Ray said. Workers had to chip in to cover rent and utilities.

"You can't simultaneously have what is supposed to be a free, paywhat-you-can, all-inclusive, no-one-turned-awayfor-lack-of-funds space, and then be paying a



Flyers are posted in the window on Saturday, Sept. 6, of Red Raven, a coffee shop and community center located off Main Avenue in Moorhead

commercial landlord," McKenzie-Ray said.

LexX Francis, one of the people whose name is on the leases, said they stepped away from the business around two years ago due to safety concerns and not feeling like their voice was being heard or respected.

Francis was one of the owners in the Red Raven's previous location and helped it move to Moorhead. They said they agree the way the shop has been run is not sustainable, equitable or safe for its workers.

"I'd say that there are many sides to each story, and I'm not trying to say 'well, this happened to me, so it had to happen to you,' but I was also never given resources," Francis said.

Francis said the shop was less-than-inclusive because of the lack of transgender people and

people of color involved in the collective. They said others with names on the leases stepped away from the business around the same time.

"I hope that this doesn't deter people from wanting to organize and continuing to try to build in community, because we can ask ourselves to be better," Francis said of the shop's closing.

McKenzie-Ray said updates about the shop's hours will be posted on the shop's Instagram

page, @redravenep. The coffee shop will host three last events before closing: Underdogs Doodle Club from 6-8 p.m. on Sept. 16, FM Craft Club from 5-8 p.m. on Sept. 19 and Sacred Chaos Political Collage DIY from 12-2 p.m. on Sept. 20.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Ingrid Harbo at iharbo@forumcomm.com or 701-241-5526

Fargo to host virtual development code meeting

FARGO — The city of Fargo is holding its fourth meeting in a series of virtual Code Connect informational sessions about the Fargo Land Development Code 2026.

The virtual meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11. Anyone interested in attending should visit the project website FargoLDC.org for a link to the live, online informational session.

Fargo LDC 2026 is a project to realign Fargo's land development code, such as zoning and land use regulations. It is the first comprehensive update to the code since 1998.

Moorhead Police Department arrests woman suspected of attempted murder

MOORHEAD - Moorhead police arrested a woman suspected of attempted murder.

According to a press release from the city of **BRIEFS**

WANTED PERSON

LENA DEOLIVEIRA

ATTEMPTED MURDER

23 YEARS OLD

5'7" 130 LBS.

BROWN HAIR BROWN EYES

tip 411

Call 701.451.7660 or text a tip with keyword FARGOPD to 847411



Contributed / Fargo Police Department Lena Deoliveira is suspected of attempted murder for an assault Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, in Fargo.

Fargo, the Moorhead Police Department arrested 23-year-old Lena Deoliveira, of Moorhead, without incident on Sunday, Sept. 7.

The Fargo Police Department identified Deoliveira as the suspect of a Friday morning, Sept. 5, aggravated assault in Fargo. The

victim was found with significant injuries. Deoliveira is known to the victim, police said.

Deoliveira is currently being held at the Clay County Jail and is expected to be transferred to Cass County, the release said.

Forum staff reports

LIBRARY CONTINUED from A1

the project has gone from a steel skeleton to a partially enclosed building.

Jon Pistorius, senior project manager at McGough Construction, said crews are currently working on all floors of the building, which has two stories and a basement.

Crews are working from east to west on the exterior of the building. The last windows on the second floor are expected to be installed in the next week. Through the fall and early winter, crews will finish up work on the library's facade.

Over the summer, other projects have started in the area around the future library, meaning extra planning and coordination, Pistorius said. Nearby, City Hall is being renovated. The city is also beginning to pour new streets to the east and north of the new library.

"Everybody's been coordinating with each other fairly well," Pistorius said.

Inside, crews are working on mechanical and electrical work. Once complete, work will begin on interior finishes, like drywall and painting.

The building is on schedule to be completed in the spring.

Moorhead Public Library Director Megan Krueger said library staff members are looking forward to many things at the new location, including a refreshed children's area and a more visible location. While the new building will have a similar number of books, it will provide more space for meetings, community events and hanging out.

"I grew up going to this



Chris Flynn / The Forum

The Moorhead Public Library is pictured on Wednesday, Sept. 3, in Moorhead.



Chris Flynn / The Forum

Construction crews build the new Moorhead Library on Wednesday, Sept. 3, along Center Avenue in Moorhead.

library, so I have, obviously, some sentimental feelings towards this building, but we also know that it doesn't meet the community needs anymore," Krueger said.

In the meantime, library staff members are beginning to figure out how the library will arrange for moving needs, Krueger said.

Along with speaking during the Sept. 22 City Council meeting, members of the public can also provide written

comments to the city before Sept. 22 through mail or email. Comments can be mailed to the City of Moornead, Economic Development, Box 779, Moorhead, MN, 56561. Comments can be emailed to economicdevelopment@moorheadmn.gov. The Economic Development Department can be reached by phone at (218) 299-5441.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Ingrid Harbo at iharbo@forumcomm.com or 701-241-5526.



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THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF FARGO WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM AT THE FARGO PARKS SPORTS CENTER AT 6100 38th STREET SOUTH, FARGO, WITH PRESIDENT VICKI DAWSON, PRESIDING. Please note: This is an in-person event and streamed virtually. Members of the public and media can view the live meeting at www.fargoparks.com/news/ park-board-meeting-september-agenda-2025

6:00 p.m. Budget Hearing

A. Call to Order

B. Board to Approve Order of Agenda

Consent Agenda – approve the following:

- b. August Bills
 c. Board to Reject Snack Food Vending Bid for Concessions
- d. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the City of Fargo for the Construction of the Red River Shared Use Path (15th Avenue North to the Woodcrest Addition).
- e. Approval the Governance Policies (GP 1-2-3-5-7), Commitments, Board Culture, Committee Structure, Commissioner Duties and Responsibilities, and Commissioner Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest.
- f. Approval of Commissioner/Executive Director Relationships (C/ED 1-2-4-5).
- Single Point of Contact, Single Unit Control, Authority of the Executive Director, and Executive Director Accountability.
 g. Approval of the final draft of the Park Board Benefits.
- h. Approval of North Dakota Department of Transportation Authorizing Resolution for Valley Senior Services.
 i. Approval of the Selkirk 4th Developers Agreement.

Regular Agenda

- 1. Recognition of Audience/Public Comments 2. Director's Report
- 3. Consideration of a Single-Track Bike Trail; Dave Bietz, presenter 4. Consideration of Agreement for Installation of Synthetic Turf at Tharaldson Little League Complex; Tyler Kirchner, presenter
- 5. Consideration to Approve the Beverage Concessions and Vending Bid; Kevin
- 6. Adjourn

Individuals who wish to attend Park Board meetings but need special arrangements or would like to address the Board, please contact the Fargo Park District office at 499-6060 by noon on the Monday before the Board Meeting.

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