



MINNESOTA BUILDERS EXCHANGE

Weekly Bulletin

Issue No. 36 • Wednesday, September 4, 2024 • www.mbox.org

Five Quick Things To Know/Do This Week:

- 1.) Join MBEX at Old Vermillion Trail in Duluth next Wednesday (September 11) for [Sporting Clays North](#). Teams may have up to 5 shooters each.
- 2.) Next week (September 9-13) is [Construction Suicide Prevention Week](#), dedicated to raising awareness about the unique challenges workers face in construction that lead to suicide and what we can do to prevent it. And on [Monday, September 9](#), a moment of silence will be observed at 1:50pm CT.
- 3.) Congratulations to member company, JE Dunn. Their new preconstruction tool, Align, won the [Fast Company 2024 Innovation by Design award](#) in the large business category. Align leverages data from more than 1,400 JE Dunn projects, with which users can set an accurate cost baseline, delivering estimates within a 1% margin of error, according to *Fast Company*.
- 4.) Minnesota's [minimum-wage rate](#) will be adjusted for inflation on January 1, 2025, to \$11.13 an hour for all employers in the state.
- 5.) WATCH: [Playgrounds now versus playgrounds then](#)

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." - Thomas Edison

IN BRIEF:

- **Time to Socialize:** Registration is now open for the annual MBEX Fall Social on 10/10
- **Comin' Up Short:** Results of AGC & Arcoro's workforce shortage survey
- **Monthly Round Up:** Looking back at MBEX's past 31 days
- **In-Demand Jobs:** Engineering and construction roles at the top of the list in the U.S.
- **Access to Opioid Overdose Meds, New Federal Reporting Requirements, & Cutting-Edge Infrastructure-Issue Detecting Tech:** Five construction-related headlines for your next coffee break
- **Project of the Week:** City Hall and Police Headquarters expansion in Burnsville
- **Member Benefit:** BLD Connection's 401(k) MEP

MEMBER NEWS + EVENTS

MBEX FALL SOCIAL: OCTOBER 10

Registration Now Open for the Annual MBEX Fall Social

Get ready to connect and unwind at the MBEX Annual Fall Social!

Network with industry professionals, share insights, and build relationships in a relaxed and lively atmosphere. Whether you're catching up with old friends or making new connections, this event is the perfect way to strengthen your ties within the construction community.

- **DATE:** Thursday, October 10
- **TIME:** Doors Open and Self-Care Health Fair begins - 3:00pm | Food served - 3:30pm | Program and Special Guest Speaker - 5:00pm | Social and Networking continues - 6:30pm
- **LOCATION:** [Hilton Minneapolis / Bloomington](#) (3900 American Blvd W, Bloomington, 55437)
- **TICKETS:** MBEX Member (Early Bird - now thru September 23) - \$50 per person | Non-MBEX Member - \$70 per person

But that's not all! We're also hosting our Second Annual Self-Care Health Fair, presented by MBEX POWER, as part of the event.

While the main focus of the MBEX Fall Social will be on networking and socializing, take time to explore our health and wellness stations. Discover tips and resources to help you stay balanced and energized in both your personal and professional lives.

Don't miss out on an afternoon filled with great conversations, delicious refreshments, and the opportunity to connect with the best in the business.

Register by September 23rd to secure your Early Bird member ticket price.

See you there!

Event Highlights include:

Networking

Connect with fellow commercial builders, contractors, architects, and suppliers in a friendly and inviting atmosphere. Share ideas, discuss upcoming projects, and build meaningful relationships that extend beyond the workplace.

2nd Annual Self-Care Health Fair

Take time to focus on your well-being with our Self-Care Health Fair, presented by MBEX POWER. Explore a variety of wellness-focused stations offering practical tips for maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Whether you're looking to reduce stress or improve your workspace ergonomics, you'll find valuable resources to support your overall health.

2024-2025 MBEX / TBG Construction Scholarship Recipients

Join us in celebrating this year's [MBEX / TBG Construction Scholarship awardees](#). Meet them, recognize their achievements, and help kickstart their professional networks.

Raffles & Door Prizes

Get in on the excitement with our 50/50 raffle --- tickets available at the event. Plus, we've got some fantastic door prizes up for grabs, including a special giveaway for those who visit all Self-Care Health Fair stations. Who knows? You might just walk away with something that will continue your self-care journey beyond this event.

Food Stations & Refreshments

Enjoy a variety of delicious bites as you mingle and relax. Treat yourself to seasonal flavors and beverages, perfect for celebrating the fall season.

Questions? Please contact Melanie at melanie@mbex.org.

Thank you to the following for their event support:

Premiere Sponsor:
[The Builders Group \(TBG\)](#)



[Register Now for the MBEX Fall Social](#)



2024 WORKFORCE SHORTAGE SURVEY

The banner features a background image of construction workers in orange safety gear working on a site. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing the text '2024 WORKFORCE SHORTAGE SURVEY' in white, bold, sans-serif font. The rectangle has white corner brackets in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

AGC & Arcoro's 2024 Workforce Shortage Survey

The nation's failure to invest in construction workforce education and training programs is having a real, measurable impact on the country's ability to build infrastructure and other construction projects, according to the results of this workforce survey conducted by the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America and Arcoro, the leading HR technology company supporting the construction industry.

Noting that 94% of contractors report they are having a hard time filling open positions, construction officials called on federal leaders to adopt better workforce policies.

"The most likely path to addressing construction workforce shortages is for the federal government to adopt better workforce policies," said Jeff Shoaf, the association's chief executive officer, during a virtual media briefing to release the results. "Federal officials need to support, instead of undermine, our national infrastructure and economic development policies."

View the AGC news release, 2024 survey analysis, a recording of the announcement, as well as the full report and fact sheets broken down by region, state, union or open-shop, firm's size, project type, contractor type, and industry priority [here](#).

[View Midwest Region Results](#)

[Visit Minnesota Results](#)

MBEX BY THE NUMBERS

RECAP OF THE PAST 31 DAYS (AUGUST)



MBEX August Round-Up

At the start of each new month, we look back at the past 30-ish days to review project progress, Online Plan Room stats, and membership goals.

Numbers below reflect data in the date range of August 1-31, 2024.

Total # of Projects Added (August 2024)

401

Total # of Projects Added (August 2023)

386

Total # of Projects YTD (Jan 1-Aug 31)

3,225

New Member Companies Joined

9

No. of Plan Issuers

239

No. of Bidders Added to Bidders Lists (Members & Non-Members)

5,423

Total Visitors on Project 2024-09D6

438

Total Unique Visitors on Project 2024-09D6

7,030

Project Name:

City of Woodbury - Water Treatment Plant - P005574-2023-005

Bid Date: September 5, 2024 @ 2:00pm



TOP CONSTRUCTION TRADE JOBS

Construction Among Top Trade Jobs in the U.S.

A new report has named the top 10 most in-demand jobs in the U.S., with engineering and construction roles at the top of the list.

The research, carried out by the experts at Pro Tool Reviews, has found the most in-demand and highest-paying trade jobs in the U.S. by analyzing the average wages, the state with the highest wages, the most common job roles, and the roles with the most employment opportunities.

The 10 Most In-Demand Jobs in the U.S.

- 1.) Maintenance and Repair Worker
- 2.) Construction Laborer
- 3.) HVAC Installer
- 4.) Electrician
- 5.) Pipefitter, Plumber, and Steamfitter
- 6.) Heavy Equipment Operator
- 7.) Machinist
- 8.) Sheet Metal Worker
- 9.) Carpenter
- 10.) Industrial Machinery Mechanics

Additional research also revealed:

- The vacancy surge for HVAC installers is likely driven by new building constructions, renovations of existing structures, and the increasing focus on energy efficiency and climate control technologies in living and working environments.
- Elevator and escalator installers are the biggest earners when it comes to trade jobs, with an average annual wage of more than \$100,000.
- The highest-earning state for tradespeople is Hawaii, with an average annual salary of \$79,770 for construction and extraction workers.
- Maintenance and repair workers are the most common construction trade in the U.S., with more than 1.5 million employees across the country.
- Welding jobs are more searched for than any other in the U.S., with over 338,000 Google searches in the last year.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics were used to find the following data for each relevant job under the "construction and extraction" sector as of May 2023: Mean Hourly Wage, Annual Mean Wage, and Number of Employees. The same data source was used for the geographic profile for each trade job as of May 2023. Information was also gleaned from LinkedIn, Indeed, and Glassdoor to find the number of job opportunities for each trade in the U.S.

[Read More inside Modern Contractor Solutions](#)

UPCOMING MBEX EVENTS

A valuable benefit of an MBEX membership is invitations to our social and educational events; by being an employee of a member company, you too can take advantage and attend any and all MBEX-sponsored events.

*** indicates a newly added event*

September 9-13 - Construction Suicide Prevention Week

Every year during September --- National Suicide Prevention Month --- the construction industry dedicates a week to raising awareness about the unique challenges workers face in construction that lead to suicide and what we can do to prevent it. [Learn More](#)

September 10 - Bluebeam 1: Baseline Basics

Attendees will learn interface navigation including menu dropdowns, toolbars, various tool panels, keyboard shortcuts and a few recommended settings. While learning various markup and measurement tools, several tips and tricks will be shared to increase accuracy and speed. [Register Here](#)

September 11 - Bluebeam 2: Material Takeoffs & Estimates (Basic)

Attendees will go through the standard measurement tools and settings, then move into various customization options and discuss the results in the Markups List. [Register Here](#)

September 11 - Sporting Clays North

Get your shotguns locked and loaded. MBEX is proud to present its annual Sporting Clays North at Old Vermillion Train in Duluth. Join us for an epic afternoon of clay-breaking, industry networking, and a delicious meal. [Register Here](#)

September 12 - Bluebeam 3: Material Takeoffs & Estimates (Advanced)

After finishing the Bluebeam Takeoffs & Estimates (Basic) course, attendees will move into creating custom columns, embedding formulas, and information organization. [Register Here](#)

September 13 - Bluebeam 4: Document Management & Best Practices

This course will not only improve consistency and accuracy in document management, but it will eliminate all the time wasted navigating through drawing sets and wondering who has the latest drawings. [Register Here](#)

September 17 - Bluebeam 5: Collecting Field Data

Learn to create and place custom punch symbols, quickly embed images or videos, and create summary reports. [Register Here](#)

September 17 - TBG Clay Shoot for the Trades

Please MBEX is proud to sponsor this TBG event, which is sure to be a fun afternoon of shooting, camaraderie and good times with friends from around the trades. Funds raised during this event further the work of the TBG Education Foundation. Register individually or in groups up to five. [Sign Up](#)

September 18 - Bluebeam 6: Administrative Professionals

Administrative teams have unique document workflows that demand a different set of tools compared to design and construction teams. [Register Here](#)

September 19 - MBEX Online Plan Room Demo

From navigating the Desktop, setting up filters, understanding project information, and adding your company to a project's bidders lists, this free one-hour session is a great introduction to our Online Plan Room. Time is saved at the end of the demonstration for questions and answers. [Register Here](#)

September 19 - Bluebeam 7: Civil Workflows

Yes, there are tools in Bluebeam Revu for Civil Designers and Engineers! Not only will

students learn navigation and analysis, as well as work flows like Calibrating Plan & Profile drawings with different X-Y scales, ideas for Cut & Fill calculations, combining several PDFs into one large area map, and adding images. [Register Here](#)

October 3 & 4 - Reading Construction Documents

Designed to quickly familiarize students with the basics of reading and understanding construction documents, this two-part online program is perfect for apprentices, entry-level tradespersons, project coordinators, assistant project managers, new project managers, estimators, specialty sales representatives, entry-level architectural or engineering designers, or anyone in career transition looking for a refresher. [Register Here](#)

October 9 - Q3 Construction Economic Update & Forecast

With less than a month before Americans head to the polls for a presidential election, ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu will share the latest on overall economic conditions as well as specific construction indicators, including materials prices, jobs and unemployment reports, construction wages, the most recent ABC Construction Confidence Index and Construction Backlog Indicator reports, and the hottest market sectors and regions. [Register Now](#)

October 10 - MBEX Fall Social

Featuring MBEX POWER's 2nd Annual Self-Care Health Fair

Join us at the annual MBEX Fall Social for an afternoon of inspiration and connection. Back again is the 2nd Annual Self-Care Health Fair, presented by MBEX POWER, to present both members and non-members alike opportunities to explore ways to better their mental and physical well-beings. [Register Now](#)

[View Full 2024 MBEX Event Calendar](#)

	CORPORATE OFFICE	Saint Paul, MN 55126	888-627-3464	Phone 651-483-6631
	FARGO DIVISION	Fargo, ND 58102	800-950-1139	Phone 701-235-4224
	BISMARCK DIVISION	Bismarck, ND 58504	877-935-4224	Phone 701-255-5982
	BRAINERD DIVISION	Baxter, MN 56425	888-627-3464	Phone 218-765-3450
	VIRGINIA DIVISION	Mountain Iron, MN 55768	888-627-3464	Phone 800-247-1328
	WILLISTON DIVISION	Williston, ND 58801	800-950-1139	Phone 701-255-5982

CONSTRUCTION HEADLINES

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

LABOR + SAFETY

□ [Why Construction Needs More Access to Opioid Overdose Meds](#)

Drugs like fentanyl kill more workers in construction than in any other industry, but some states limit permissions around Narcan and other lifesaving antidotes, says a Nevada union leader. (*Construction Dive*)

LEGAL REGULATIONS

□ [What New Federal Reporting Requirements Mean for Construction Businesses](#)

The Corporate Transparency Act took effect earlier this year, and most companies --- including contractors --- are required to complete a Beneficial Ownership Information report and submit it to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network by January 1. Here's what you need to know to make sure your construction firm complies. (*ConstructioNext*)

CONTECH

□ [Cutting-Edge Tech Detects Infrastructure Issues Before They Become Disasters](#)

A recent study published in the *Transportation Research Record* reveals that high-resolution synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite data can identify infrastructure problems early, much like annual health checkups can help prevent more serious issues in humans. SAR allows researchers to inspect and characterize pavements, retaining walls, and embankments from space and can help determine if there are flaws that should be further inspected for repair, saving valuable time. (*Sci-Tech Daily*)

CONSTRUCTION DATA

[Study Finds Most Dangerous States for Construction Workers](#)

A study by personal injury experts Jones & Swanson compiled data regarding fatal accidents across various industries in different states across America to determine the most dangerous states for construction workers. North Dakota tops the list as the most dangerous state, with 22 fatal injuries per 100 workers, and Louisiana ranks second, with 21.6 fatal injuries per 100k workers. (*Contractor Magazine*)

SUSTAINABILITY

[Former Golf Course in St. Paul is Being Transformed Into an All-Electric Housing Development](#)

Construction is underway in St. Paul, Minn., on a major affordable housing development that will combine solar, geothermal, and all-electric appliances to create one of the regions largest net-zero communities. Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity broke ground in June on a four-block, 147-unit project on the site of a former golf course that's being redeveloped by the city and its port authority, which made the decision to forgo gas hookups. (*Fast Company*)



PROJECT OF THE WEEK



Burnsville Clears Hurdle for City Hall Expansion

[Read more about this project on Finance & Commerce](#)

The city of Burnsville is one step closer to remodeling and adding to its current city hall and police headquarters, after the planning commission held a hearing about the expansion at its August 26th meeting.

The expansion will more than double the square footage of city hall and police headquarters from its current 95,659-square-feet of space to 215,933-square-feet, according to public documents.

The type of parking on the property is also likely to shift around. Police headquarters will receive a parking lot that will grow from 31 total stalls to 74 stalls. The number of stalls in the city hall lot will move from 136 down to 72, documents say, though some of this will be offset from a new lot of 25 stalls that will be built where only city vehicles can park.

The need for training space for police officers and the Behavioral Health Unit at the Burnsville Police Department is also a reason for the expansion.

The city is looking to collect bids on the project "in a couple of months," with the hope of starting construction in mid-2025. Construction is expected to be done in phases over three years, ending sometime in 2028.

ABOVE PHOTO: The city of Burnsville is planning a significant expansion of its city hall and police headquarters. Rendering by CNH Architects.



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INDUSTRY EVENTS



Let's Talk About Silica --- Yes, Again
Presented by *Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA)*

DATE: Tuesday, September 17

TIME: 7:00am

LOCATION:

- In-Person - [MnDOT Training and Conference Center](#) (1900 West County Road I, Shoreview), or
- Virtually via Teams

[Register to Attend Virtually](#)

COST: Free

The first Construction Seminar of the season!

Worker exposure to silica continues to be a health hazard and an area of concern in the construction industry. Let's talk, listen, and learn about silica-related exposures in the construction industry, such as using masonry saws, grinders, drills and jackhammers, and using heavy equipment for grading and excavating.

MNOSHA Compliance's Otis Heymann, certified industrial hygienist, will be talking about the standard and welcoming questions and conversation from attendees.

MNOSHA Compliance's free construction seminars feature a presentation about a specific construction safety or health topic --- with time for questions, answers and input -- plus an update from MNOSHA Compliance about what's currently happening regarding investigations.

MCC BIG Shoot Sporting Clays and Scholarship Fundraiser

DATE: Monday, September 30

TIME: Shotgun start at 1:00pm

LOCATION: [Minnesota Horse & Hunt Club](#) (2920 220th Street East, Prior Lake, 55372)

[Register Here](#)

COST: \$175 per shooter. Includes 100 sporting clays, dinner, and prizes.

Join MCC at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club for their 17th Annual BIG Shoot Sporting Clays Event and Scholarship Fundraiser.

Schedule of Events:

- 11:30am - Registration Opens
- 12:45pm - Mandatory Safety Meeting
- 1:00pm* - Shotgun Start
- 4:00pm - Social
- 4:30pm - Dinner and Prizes

*Please note the new start time.

Teams should be five people or less. All net proceeds from this event benefit the MCC Scholarship Fund.

MEMBER BENEFITS



Benefit of the Week: BLD Connection 401(k) MEP

Streamline your 401(k) management with the Multiple Employer Savings Plan (MEP) from BLD Connection.



This plan consolidates member plans into a single, expertly managed group 401(k).

Say goodbye to the hassle and hello to more time for what truly matters --- growing your business.

Whether you're already offering a 401(k) or exploring options for your team, the BLD Connection 401(k) MEP could be the perfect fit.

Discover if it's right for your company today by contacting Dan Gardner: [\(612\) 743-4961](tel:6127434961) or dgardner@osaicwealth.com.

PROJECT INFORMATION + UPDATES

- Total Projects Received at MBEX from 8/26/2024 - 8/30/2024: **83**
- Total Projects Leads Reported on at MBEX from 8/26/2024 - 8/30/2024: **2**
- Total Active Projects Received/Reported on at MBEX as of 9/3/2024: **323**
- Total Projects in the Online Plan Room as of 9/3/2024: **3,247**

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

Click the button above to view the most recent project data from 8/28/2024-9/3/2024.

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 \(TBG\)](#).

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- [September 18](#) - Bluebeam 6: Administrative Professionals
- [September 19](#) - Online Plan Room Demo
- [September 19](#) - Bluebeam 7: Civil Workflows
- [October 3 & 4](#) - Reading Construction Documents online class
- [October 9](#) - Q3 Construction Economic Update and Forecast
- [October 10](#) - MBEX Fall Social - featuring the 2nd Annual Self-Care Health Fair

Connect with the Builders Exchange:



Revisit Past Bulletins:

[Aug 28 - No. 35](#) | [Aug 21 - No. 34](#) | [Aug 14 - No. 33](#) | [Aug 7 - No. 32](#) | [July 31 - No. 31](#)

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