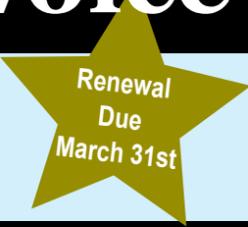


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★ VelvaareaVoice

Thursday, March 26, 2026 Volume 27, Issue 13 Velva, North Dakota 58790 \$1.50

Highway 41 Bridge Project begins in Velva, Bringing Long-Term Flood Protection

Reporter Heather Tudor

Construction is now underway on a major infrastructure project in Velva as crews begins work to replace the Highway 41 bridge over the Souris River.

The project, which officially kicked off this week, is part of a broader regional effort to reduce flood risk following the devastating 2011 Souris River flood. The existing bridge has long been identified as a bottleneck during high water events, restricting the river's natural flow through the community.

The new structure will be longer and higher than the current bridge, allowing water to pass more freely and helping to protect homes, businesses, and farmland in and around Velva.

This project is about protecting our community for the future, a project official said. "By improving the bridge and surrounding infrastructure, we're reducing the risk of flooding while also modern-

izing a key transportation route."

In addition to replacing the bridge, the project includes roadway improvements and enhancements to nearby levees. Together, these upgrades are designed to work as part of the larger Mouse River Enhanced Flood Projection Plan, a long-term initiative aimed at safeguarding communities throughout the Souris River Basin.

The project comes with an estimated cost of approximately \$10 million, with funding provided through a combination of state resources and local flood-control sales tax dollars.

Construction is expected to continue through the summer, with completion anticipated in the fall of 2026.

During this time, motorists traveling through Velva should expect reduced traffic flow on Highway 41, including one-lane traffic, flagger-controlled zones, as well as width restrictions. Drivers are



encouraged to plan for minor delays and use caution when passing through the construction area.

While the temporary inconvenience may be felt by residents and travelers alike, local leaders emphasize the long-term benefits.

"This is an investment in Velva's

future," one official said. "It's about making sure our community is better protected and better connected for years to come."

As construction progresses, updates will be shared with the public to help residents stay informed and prepared.

Eligible North Dakota Homeowners Encouraged to Apply for Primary Residence Credit Before Upcoming April 1st Deadline

Submitted Article

North Dakota Tax Commissioner Brian Kroshus reminds eligible North Dakota homeowners to apply for the Primary Residence Credit (PRC) to potentially receive up to \$1600 on their property tax credit statement. The PRC helps reduce the financial burden of property taxes for homeowners who meet residency and other qualifying criteria. To date, over 156,000 applications have been received for the 2026 property tax year.

"I strongly encourage all eligible individuals to apply by the quickly approaching April 1 deadline in order to receive the credit,"

said Commissioner Kroshus. "The application process only takes a few minutes and must be completed each year to verify eligibility."

The PRC was established during the 2023 Legislative Session under House Bill 1158 and significantly increased during the 2025 Legislative Session under House Bill 1176. The credit provides North Dakota homeowners with the option to apply for the state property tax credit through the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner at www.tax.nd.gov/prc. Eligibility requirements for the PRC property tax credit include:

- The home must serve as your

primary residence

- No age or income restrictions
- Limit of one credit per household
- Applications must be submitted by April 1, 2026

Homeowners must apply annually for the credit and may also qualify for additional property tax credit programs, including the Homestead Property Tax Credit and the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit, if they meet eligibility requirements.

"Participation in the program has been extremely strong this year and we're again on track to receive a record number of applications,"

Word on the Street

FOOD PANTRY:

April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15

The food pantry is open from 5:45-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of OVLC, Main Street. The pantry is short of these items: canned meats, canned fruit, personal hygiene products and laundry pods and can be dropped off at OVLC Mon.- Fri. 9am-3pm.

PURDY GOOD OL BAND:

If you're interested in joining the Purdy Good Ol Band for the Velva 4th of July, please call Carman at 340-9513 or Marlowe at 626-1724.

VELVA KINDERGARTEN:

Velva Public School Kindergarten Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Must be 5 years old by August 1, 2026. Registration forms are available on the school website or at the school office. Register by March 17, 2026. Questions, please call 701-338-2022.

ANAMOOSE DRAKE

KINDERGARTEN:

Anamoose Drake Elementary School Kindergarten Registration, call 701-465-3258 to register. Students must turn 5 years old by July 31, 2026. Bring a copy of student's birth certificate and immunization record to the school office.



said Commissioner Kroshus. "For anyone without computer access, please don't hesitate to contact our office to submit your application over the phone."

North Dakota homeowners are advised to review the specific eligibility requirements and apply before the upcoming April 1st deadline at www.tax.nd.gov/prc, or by calling 701-328-7988 to speak with a property tax specialist who will be more than happy to assist.

For more information on North Dakota tax-related matters, please visit the Office of State Tax Commissioner's website at tax.nd.gov or connect with us on social media.