iFargo
information

New! We changed our name & design! Formerly the *City Snapshot.*

FLOOD INSURANCE RATES CHANGING

Congress has made some significant changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that could affect your annual insurance rates. The changes, part of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, are aimed at making the NFIP more financially stable by charging rates that reflect true flood risk.

The NFIP has been operating with a debt of about $17 to $20 billion, beginning with the massive storms of 2004 and 2005. Because of the borrowing done in those years, which is still being paid back, the program is forced to borrow to pay out flood claims for catastrophic events.

Here is an overview of some of the most notable changes:

- Subsidized rates are being eliminated, which means premiums will be rated based on risk.
- Discounts will be phased out, including grandfathering.
- Premiums for policyholders newly mapped into the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA Zone A) will increase by 20% a year until the premiums reach their full-risk rate.

Some changes have already been implemented and others will begin in 2014 and beyond.

The City is keeping close tabs on these changes and communicating with state and federal representatives on the ramifications for Fargo property owners.

For more information call your insurance agent or visit the City's webpage www.FargoFloodInsurance.com. To find more on NFIP changes go to the "Buying Insurance" page. The website contains additional flood insurance related information including:

- The preliminary floodplain map
- Videos explaining the changes
- Official fact sheets
- General flood insurance information

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012 requires FEMA to begin charging rates that reflect true flood risk.

You can also stop in the City of Fargo Engineering Department located at 200 3rd St. N. or call 241-1545 between 7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on weekdays for more information.

Preliminary Floodplain Map

The revised FEMA Floodplain Map is expected to become effective on August 18, 2014. You can track the map progression at www.floodsmart.gov (search "map update schedule" and select Cass Partial Countywide).

-Read about flood protection on page 3.

Scan this code with your smart phone to visit the City of Fargo website!

WWW.CITYOFFARGO.COM

CITY OF Fargo

Check your energy use

Find out how much energy your appliances use with a Power Check Meter

Getting ready for winter? Want to find out how much energy some of your older model electronics are using and how much that energy use is costing you? With winter right around the corner, and energy costs on the rise, it's important to find out how much energy old, less efficient appliances use. The Fargo Public Library has new Xcel Energy devices called Power Check Meters available for check-out at each library location. The devices can be checked out and used to measure the energy use and energy cost of any standard 120-volt appliance or electronic device. These meters can help people determine the approximate operating costs of various appliances and electronics, identify high energy-use appliances, predict savings in reducing appliance use, calculate the cost savings for replacing older, less efficient appliances with energy-efficient models, and discover which appliances use energy even when switched off. Power Check Meters check out for three weeks. For more information about these devices or to check one out, visit the Circulation Desk at any of the three library locations.

Kids quilt event

In September, the Fargo Public Library is partnering with the local chapter of Project Linus to create quilts for kids. Children of all ages are invited to participate in decorating jungle-themed squares that will be sewn into quilts and passed out to area kids who are experiencing crisis or trauma. Over the years, Project Linus blankets have been delivered to hospitals, women's shelters and social service agencies to provide comfort to children in distress, according to Norene Baeth, Coordinator of the Fargo/Eastern ND Chapter of Project Linus. Join us Saturday, Sept. 14, starting at 10 a.m. at the Dr. James Carlson Library as we prepare and decorate quilt squares for this initiative. No registration is required for this event; all materials will be provided. For details, contact the Children's Dept. at 241-1495.

Fargo Public Library

Free jazz concerts

The Fargo Public Library's annual fall music series Jazz into Fall, a series of free Sunday afternoon jazz concerts featuring local musicians, starts Sunday, Oct. 6 at the downtown Main Library. This year's concert series dates and performers are:

- **Sunday, Oct. 6 – Mary Marshall trio**
- **Sunday, Oct. 13 – Nat Dickey and Friends**
- **Sunday, Oct. 20 – Jazz Nickel**
- **Sunday, Oct. 27 – Christopher Hanson Jazz Quartet**

The series is free and open to the public. For more information, call 241-1472 or visit www.FargoLibrary.org.

Strange science event

Ever wondered where our ideas and myths about vampires come from? How about zombies? Is there a scientific explanation for them, as well? Join us for an engaging presentation by Dr. Andrew Mazz Marry, an assistant professor of bioscience at MSUM, titled "The Biology of Scary Stuff: the biological and historical facts behind the fiction of what we have been led to believe." This unique event is set for Tuesday, Oct. 15, starting at 7 p.m. at the downtown Main Library. Dr. Mazz Marry will discuss where our ideas about vampires, zombies and other scary stuff comes from. All ages are welcome; however, this session is most appropriate for ages 12 and above. For details contact Drea at 241-1472 or email amcook@cityoffargo.com.

Fall storytime

The library's Children's Services Department hosts several free storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers at the three library locations. Visit www.FargoLibrary.org for details.

FROM THE FIREHOUSE

Fire Prevention Week is October 6 – 12, 2013, and this year's theme is "Prevent Kitchen Fires." Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? Prevent them from happening at your home by keeping the following in mind:

- Cook with caution and be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the oven or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire (oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains) away from your stovetop.

The leading cause of fires in kitchens is unattended cooking.

If you have a cooking fire:

- Just get out! And, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 after you leave your home.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Remember: The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking and most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.

Fire Marshal Norm Scott
www.FargoFire.com

Permanent flood protection in Fargo

The City of Fargo continues to ramp up flood protection with the goals of reducing the amount of emergency levees necessary and attaining a flood protection level of 42.5 feet throughout the city. The city is also working to gain FEMA accreditation of these flood protection projects which will remove the flood insurance requirement for some residents. Engineers are focusing on areas that fall below 39.5 feet elevation, which will be within the new FEMA floodplain and be required to pay for flood insurance unless protected by a certified 42.5 foot levee. Current projects include the Rose Creek, River Vili and Mickelson Field areas.

Fargo City Engineer April Walker says interpreting the new flood insurance changes and certification requirements for flood protection is difficult, "The entire field of floodplain management across the nation is seeking to quantify what the legislation means. We are continuing discussions with those who have the ability to influence the implementation but we don't have any answers." Fargo residents are encouraged to learn more about flood insurance and the revised FEMA floodplain. Detailed information is available online at www.FargoFloodInsurance.com.

City of Fargo Employment
Find job openings at:

www.cityoffargo.com/employment
or on Twitter @CityofFargoHR

School zones "high priority" for police

Back to school is a transition time not only for parents and children but for all drivers on the road.

The Fargo Police Department has made traffic enforcement in school zones a high priority for patrol officers. Now that school is in session, you may see them looking for speeders in posted school zones.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "riding a school bus is 13 times safer than riding in a passenger vehicle and 10 times safer than walking to school. But, the reality of school bus safety is that more children are hurt outside the bus than inside as passengers."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration more children are hurt outside the bus than inside as passenegrs.

Fargo Municipal Code requires drivers to use care and caution when driving in a school zone and prohibits drivers from passing a school bus, in either direction, when the bus has activated its flashing red lights, stop sign control arm, or safety strobe lights.

According to Sgt. Ryan Dorrheim, during this past school year (2012-2013) the Fargo Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit followed-up on 112 school bus violation complaints where vehicles allegedly disregarded the red flashing lights and stop arms of school busses. 32 citations were issued from these follow-ups. The penalty for violating school bus laws is a $50 fine and 6 points. Something rather unique about bus law violations is a Registered Owner can be issued the citation if they don't know or provide who was driving their vehicle.

Please remember to give your utmost attention while driving, as a vehicle can be a deadly weapon. Avoid any distractions inside and outside of your vehicle in order to keep your Eyes Forward. Over 1,200 citizens have taken the pledge to keep their Eyes Forward (:FWD) since March of 2013, have you? For more information about our Eyes Forward campaign, visit www.FargoPolice.com.

NP & 1st 2 + 1's

The vision to covert one way traffic to two way traffic on NP and 1st Avenues in downtown Fargo is now a reality. NP and 1st are now 2 + 1 roads; two lanes of traffic in the dominant direction and one lane in the other direction. City leaders approved the change in 2011 based on study results that showed a conversion would have positive economic impacts on existing development, stimulated new investment and/or furthered redevelopment in other downtowns. The conversion is expected to have a $90-million economic impact in the downtown area within the next 25 years. Next time you're downtown try driving on the new 2 + 1's and don't forget to look both ways for traffic!

Flashing yellow arrows

A new type of traffic light will be showing up at high traffic intersections in Fargo. Flashing yellow arrows will allow vehicles to make left turns at intersections that currently only allow drivers to turn left on green arrows. The flashing arrows would generally be used during non-peak traffic hours. You can expect to see them installed within the next year at the intersections of 45th Street and 30th Avenue South and University Drive at 13th and 24th Avenues South. "These flashing arrows will help cut down on delays and make intersections more user friendly," says Fargo Transportation Engineer Jeremy Gorden. Flashing yellow arrows will also be included in the 25th Street South reconstruction project near I-94 which will get underway in the spring of 2014.

Update: new City Hall

The New City Hall Selection Committee is meeting regularly in an effort to narrow down potential locations for the new Fargo City Hall building. The existing City Hall was constructed in the late 1950's, was built for city staff to support 60,000 citizens and is in need of major renovation and expansion, which would not be available at the current site. In early August, committee members took a bus tour to look at the 19 proposed locations to determine the pros and cons of each site. They are now in the process of establishing the criteria for selection.

A location is expected to be finalized in October. If you would like to share your suggestions for a new location, please comment on the Fargo City Hall Project Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/FargoCityHallProject. You can also learn more about the committee and watch meeting video on the City of Fargo website, www.cityoffargo.com. Search "City Hall Selection Committee."

New online payment manager

Paying your City of Fargo utility bill online is now even easier with the payment manager. This new service allows you to set up scheduled payments using your Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card or E-Check. Here's how it works.

1. Set up a user account via the City of Fargo website at www.cityoffargo.com/onlinepayments (or log into your current account if you already have one set up).
2. Link your utility bill using your utility bill account number.
3. Select one of several flexible payment options such as monthly fixed amount, monthly billed amount, on due date, weekly, bi-monthly, or bi-weekly.

You can cancel your payment schedule at anytime. Learn more about the Payment Manager and other options www.cityoffargo.com/onlinepayments.

Fargo Fact:

The name of the new city newsletter "iFargo" was suggested by our Twitter follower @FargoMD Sreejith Gopi. Thanks!

Metro 2040

Fargo-Moorhead Metro Council of Governments (Metro COG) is excited to announce the development of Metro 2040, the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan. Metro 2040 will serve as the multimodal transportation plan for the Fargo-Moorhead area and represent the transportation needs for all modes – automobiles, walking, biking, and public transit. Recent demographic forecasts for the F-M metropolitan area show a population increase of 42%, household growth of 41%, and employment growth of 36%. Investments and strategies in new and existing infrastructure will be necessary to accommodate the future growth.

The purpose of Metro 2040 is to select projects, allocate funds, and develop policies that affect future transportation needs in the F-M Metropolitan area. Metro 2040 is your opportunity to guide decision making of future transportation investments. Currently there are two opportunities for participation. The first is a transportation survey – a quick survey to determine the usage, attitudes, and goals for the transportation system. Secondly, is a Futures Summit where interactive workshops will help identify needs and issues and demonstrate different transportation futures. Please visit www.Metro2040.com to take the transportation survey and get more information on the Futures Summit happening September 10 at the Hjemkomst Center at 6 p.m. and September 11 at the Fargo City Commission Chambers beginning at 8 a.m.

City forester honored

City Forester Scott Liudahl

Congratulations to Fargo city forester Scott Liudahl for being selected as a 2013 "True Professional of Arboriculture" by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

Liudahl has partnered with schools and other organizations to work with at-risk young people, teaching them the methods behind proper tree care. He's also been instrumental in the development of a pre-mitigation program to minimize the impact of emerald ash borer in Fargo. "I encourage the high standards and ethics of our profession whenever I can. When I am gone, I hope the passion I leave behind continues", said Liudahl. Learn more about the Fargo Forestry Department online at www.cityoffargo.com/forestry.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Fargo Cass Public Health

Teachers, counselors and youth group advisors can check out items from the Tobacco Lending Library.

TOBACCO LENDING LIBRARY

While youth tobacco use continues to decrease, it's still a problem in North Dakota. According to the 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey of high school students, the North Dakota student smoking rate was at 19.4 percent in 2011.

Holly Scott, tobacco prevention coordinator at Fargo Cass Public Health (FCPH), says that strategies proven to prevent tobacco use among youth and adults include mass media campaigns, 100 percent smoke-free laws, tobacco pricing interventions, comprehensive tobacco-free school policies, and sustained community and state-wide interventions.

The Tobacco Lending Library at FCPH is an example of a community intervention. Classroom teachers, counselors and youth group advisors can borrow items from the library to enhance current tobacco prevention messaging. For example, items such as the Tar Jar, Mr. Gross Mouth and Smoked Lung Model have been used by area elementary educators to highlight the dangers of using tobacco products. Fact sheets and activity sheets are also available and can be found at www.cityoffargo.com/tobaccolibrary, along with a complete list of items in the lending library. Contact Holly Scott at hscott@cityoffargo.com or 241-8576 for more information.

Shingle and Tdap vaccinations

Fargo Cass Public Health (FCPH) is now a Medicare Part D provider for shingles and Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis) vaccinations, for those over the age of 60. Please contact your healthcare provider to see if you are in need of these vaccines. If you would like to know your out-of-pocket expense at Fargo Cass Public Health, call 701-241-1360.

Fargo Fact:

More than half a million items were checked out at the Fargo Public Library between January - June, 2013.

Building progress

After several meetings, design of the interior space of the new Fargo Cass Public Health (FCPH) building has been completed. This new building, the old Sunmart located at 25th Street and 13th Avenue South, will house WIC, clinic services including family planning and immunizations, nursing services, environmental health, health promotions and administration offices. Currently work is under way to develop the external design. The goal is to bid the project in November with renovation starting shortly thereafter. It is anticipated that renovation will last 12-15 months.

Mattie the mascot!

Mattie is an educational ambassador for MATBUS and the Red River Zoo.

MATBUS is incredibly excited to announce the birth of our new mascot, Mattie the Chinese Red Panda. Mattie was born this summer at the Red River Zoo. As an educational ambassador for the Red River Zoo, Mattie will dually represent the Zoo and MATBUS in many events each year across the Metro. MATBUS provides millions of rides in the F-M metro each year and many of its passengers are youth. Look for Mattie in MATBUS youth outreach activities, on Summer Youth Pass designs, in advertising to promote our excellent field trip services and much more. Catch a ride on the MATBUS vehicle now displaying Mattie's picture, and introducing the new Otter Exhibit coming this fall to the Red River Zoo. For route information, go online at www.MATBUS.com or call 232-7500.

Garbage/Recycling

Veterans Day November 11 – Week of November 11: Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Monday, November 11.

Thanksgiving November 28 – Week of November 25: Monday and Friday garbage and recycling collections on schedule; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday collections one day early. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Thursday, November 28.

Saturday Winter Hours at the Landfill: November 30 through March 8; 7:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Learn about the City of Fargo recycling program online at www.FargoRecycles.com.

Brush is collected by the Forestry Department from May 1 through October 31. For information, call 241-1465.

Step up to the...

iGoEco Challenge

From September 3 - October 29, MATBUS invites you to take the iGoEco Challenge! It's time to take the plunge and give up your car, for at least one day per week, for a more eco-friendly mode of transportation. It's all about carpooling, MATBUSing, walking, biking, skateboarding or rollerblading. You can even mix and match your eco-friendly options – walk one week and take MATBUS the next! A MATBUS water bottle will be given to the first 200 people who sign up. Meet your goal each week and your name goes into an electronic drawing for a weekly prize (each valued at over $250). Complete all eight weeks and your name goes into the grand prize drawing for a Microsoft Surface, donated by Gate City Bank. To register for the Challenge, go to www.MATBUS.com and update your status each week (it takes less than a minute) for a chance to win great prizes!

Compost & Woodchips

Fall dates for woodchip and compost giveaway include one Saturday, September 7 from 7:15 a.m. - noon and every Wednesday and Thursday from September 11 to October 3 from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Each household qualifies for one free yard of compost and one free yard of wood chips. The compost and wood chips are located west of the Household Hazardous Waste facility, 606 43 1/2 St. N.

Before Sept. 7 and after Oct. 3, you can purchase compost and wood chips from the city. Wood chips cost $8/yard and compost is $10/yard. Please note these purchases can only take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 3:30 - 5 p.m. Please call or stop at the scale house before proceeding to the compost and wood chip area. To inquire about availability of materials, please call the landfill scale house at 282-2489.

Seniors and disabled residents who need assistance in collecting bags of yard waste this fall may call the Solid Waste department at 241-1449.

Fargo City Commission
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Try Transit Week October 21 - 26

Over 2 million rides were given on MATBUS in 2012. We invite you to ride transit too during Try Transit Week, October 21 - 26. During this week, riding MATBUS will be half-price per trip all week (only 75 cents for adults and 40 cents for senior citizens, youth and persons with disabilities)! Our event schedule includes:

- Half-fare rides on MATBUS all week.
- Enter a drawing to win MATBUS t-shirts.
- Free refreshments at the GTC on Tuesday.
- Senior citizens ride free on Thursday.
- Youth in grades K-12 ride free on Saturday.

Visit MATBUS online at www.MATBUS.com.

Follow the City of Fargo: