information Fargo

Fall 2015

# Fargo rolling out automated parking system

Finding a City owned parking lot is going to be a little easier in the coming months as a new and improved parking system is unveiled in Fargo. In addition to the new Fargo Parking signs being placed at City owned parking facilities, digital payment stations, a new user friendly website and a mobile app are also being rolled out in the coming months to make your parking experience more convenient. Fargo Planning Director Jim Gilmour says, "These system improvements are part of a strategic plan to improve the visibility, efficiency and productivity of the downtown parking program."

To help provide these services, the City of Fargo and Fargo Parking Commission have contracted with nationally recognized parking management firm Interstate Parking. Interstate manages the daily operations of the off-street parking system and will also monitor and analyze local parking needs to ensure an efficient system for users.

*Canopies will be added above digital pay stations alerting users to pay in advance when parking in City owned lots.*

**New Fargo Parking logo**

If you are heading downtown and looking for longer term hourly parking near your destination, just watch for signs with the new Fargo Parking logo on them. The signs, which feature a black, blue and white tire shaped logo, are already in place at several locations including the lot at NP Avenue and both 2nd Avenue lots. All three of these lots accommodate hourly parking and are in locations near Broadway for quick access to dining, shopping and entertainment.

**Electronic payment accepted**

Paying with cash or check is no longer the only way to pay for parking in a City owned parking lot. Monthly contract renters as well as daily parkers can now pay via credit or debit card.

Daily parkers will have the opportunity to pay with cash or card at digital pay stations which are being installed at several of the parking lots, or via the Passport Parking mobile app. The app also allows daily parkers to pay for their parking session and extend the length of their session from their smart phone. The Passport app is available for download now at iTunes and the Google Play Store. Search for "Passport Parking."

**Website**

Monthly renters are now able to manage their account online and pay their bill via card online at www.FargoParking.com or through Interstate's website at www.Payments.InterstateParking.com. A newly designed Fargo Parking website is expected to be launched and fully operational in mid to late September. Watch for more information to be announced soon!

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

WWW.CITYOFFARGO.COM

CITY OF Fargo

# 19 miles completed

*Floodwall construction at 40th Avenue South and 32nd Street.*

Fargo engineers are expecting to wrap up another 3.5 miles of in-town flood protection this fall. That will bring the total miles of flood protection built in Fargo since 2009 to 19. Fargo Division Engineer Nathan Boerboom says this will have a significant impact during future spring flooding, "If we experienced a flood fight similar to 2009, we would need 4-million fewer sandbags." Boerboom says crews have been focusing their attention on areas north of Rose Creek and along Drain 27 which runs parallel to 40th Avenue South, "Our goal is to begin removing properties from the floodplain in those areas in 2018." These projects are part of the Citywide Comprehensive Plan which was developed to remove properties from the recently adopted FEMA floodplain which is a river stage of 39.5 feet.

These in-town projects will complement the FM Diversion and provide our community with protection closer to 500 year levels when the FM Diversion is complete.

# Lift station update

Work continues on the construction of two lift stations in the downtown area. The projects are part of the in-town portion of the FM Diversion project and will pump storm water into the Red River during times of high water. One lift station is located along 2nd Street South near the Fargo High Rise and the other is in the Civic Center parking lot at the corner of 2nd Street North and 3rd Avenue. Both are scheduled for substantial completion by the end of November.

In relation to the lift stations, construction of the floodwall project along 2nd Street North is set to begin in September. The FM Diversion Authority has awarded the project to Industrial Builders. It is anticipated that this work will require 2nd Street North to be closed from 1st to 4th Avenues North starting in September and continuing until the fall of 2016.

# Single stream recycling survey

FARGO RECYCLES

The City of Fargo will be asking you to take an online survey this fall in an effort to get your input on a proposal to implement single stream recycling. Single stream would replace the current system which requires residents to separate their recycling. The survey will be released later this fall – watch for more information online at www.FargoGarbage.com and via social media.

**Facts about existing curbside recycling program**

1. 1257 tons were recycled via the curbside recycling program in 2014.
2. 4224 tons were recycled via drop sites and commercial waste stream in 2014.
3. 70% of households participate.
4. Residents are not charged for bi-weekly collection.
5. Under the current system, the City generates approximately $150,000 of revenue each year.

**Costs associated with proposed single stream recycling program** (all recyclables in one container)

1. All residents would be charged a monthly fee which is yet to be determined. The fee would cover startup capital costs, and the costs associated with transportation and sorting of the comingled recyclables.
2. Communities that currently have a single stream recycling program include West Fargo, Bismarck and Grand Forks. Each household is charged approximately $3.60 - $5.30 per month for bi-weekly collection.

# Holiday garbage

**Veteran's Day - Week of Nov. 9 :** Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Wednesday, Nov.11.

**Thanksgiving Day - Week of Nov. 23:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday on schedule. Thursday collected on Friday. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26.

# LinkFM: get around downtown fun, fast & free!

MATBUS recently launched its newest route, LinkFM. This fun, fast and free downtown circulator route connects the communities of Fargo and Moorhead. LinkFM, a partnership between the City of Fargo, the City of Moorhead and several local businesses and organizations, is easy to spot with its brightly colored wrap and LinkFM logo. Signs, including the new logo, are now in place at all LinkFM stops.

*LinkFM operates Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

LinkFM operates Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The route features a continuous loop with 10 designated bus stops, starting and ending at the Moorhead Center Mall. LinkFM arrives every 12 - 15 minutes at each stop along its route and is within walking distance of numerous popular destinations. LinkFM is a fare-free route and transfers are allowed onto other MATBUS routes.

For more information or to view the route map, visit www.GoLinkFM.com. "Our City cores are regenerating and the metro's transportation culture is evolving; more people are walking, biking and now nearly 2.3 million annual riders use MATBUS. LinkFM will help reduce congestion, maximize parking and enable people to park once and walk, bike or jump on LinkFM to enjoy all that both downtowns have to offer," said Fargo City Commissioner Mike Williams.

As a fun addition for riders, LinkFM features the following genres of music each week:

- Monday - Pop (Top 40)
- Tuesday - Rock & alternative
- Wednesday - Country
- Thursday - Throwback Thursday ('80s, '90s & '00s)
- Friday - Local artists
- Saturday - Shuffle

Give it a try and hop on the Link today!

# Try MATBUS Week!

Nearly 2.3 million rides were given on MATBUS in the Fargo-Moorhead metro area in 2014. We invite you to ride the bus too, especially during Try MATBUS Week held from Oct. 19 - 24. Our event schedule includes:

- Half-fare rides on MATBUS fixed routes all week
  - -75 cents for adults
  - -40 cents for senior citizens, youth and persons with disabilities
- Enter to win MATBUS T-shirts on the busses and at the Ground Transportation Center (GTC) at 502 NP Ave. in Fargo
- Free popcorn and refreshments at the GTC
- It's also a FARE-FREE DAY on Tuesday, Oct. 20 for all fixed route passengers!

# MATBUS FALL CALENDAR

**Sept. 14 - Nov. 8:** MATBUS iGoEco-Challenge
**Oct. 19 - 24:** Try MATBUS Week (Half fare rides all week on fixed routes)
**Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Day:** No Bus Service
**Nov. 27 - 28 and every Saturday in December:** Half-fare days on MATBUS fixed routes

## City of Fargo Employment
## Find job openings at:

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

# FROM THE FIREHOUSE

Location matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!"

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4 - 10 and the Fargo Fire Department wants to remind local residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

***Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.***

In a fire, seconds count. Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out.

According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, three out of five fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner, if they don't respond properly.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the Fire Department from outside the home.

To learn more about smoke alarms and "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!" visit NFPA's website at www.FirePreventionWeek.org and www.Sparky.org/fpw.

## Police Chief search

A national candidate search is under way as the City of Fargo looks to fill the vacant Fargo Police Chief position. The deadline to submit applications closed in late August and now the candidate search committee is reviewing the applicants and determining which will be invited for an interview. Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney says the committee will be looking for several important skills and characteristics as they select the new chief, "A public official serving in this capacity must be honest, transparent and capable of embracing the public. We are looking for a strong leader with administrative level experience." Interviews are expected to take place in October or sooner. David Todd is currently serving as the interim Police Chief.

## Fargo One mobile app

The City of Fargo is excited to announce the upcoming launch of a new mobile app that will make reporting problems a breeze! Fargo One is a one stop shop for reporting all kinds of issues to the city ranging from potholes and graffiti, to missed garbage collection. To report a problem all you need to do is open your mobile app, select a topic and location, and push submit. You will also have the opportunity to submit a picture and additional comments relating to the issue. Once submitted, you can track your service request through completion all from the convenience of your phone! Fargo One will also be availabe via the City of Fargo website for those who prefer not to use the app. Fargo One is currently in the testing phase and is expected to be rolled out for public use by the end of September. Watch for an announcement from the City.

# FPS Adopts new Strategic Plan

On June 9, 2015, the Fargo Board of Education approved the Fargo Public Schools Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is a contract between the Fargo Public School District and its owners – the residents of the Fargo school district. The District began work on its first Strategic Plan in 2000. During the 2014 - 15 school year, a 54 member Strategic Planning Steering Committee created a new Strategic Plan. The committee met over a series of meetings throughout the winter and spring. The planning was far reaching and multifaceted, engaging our constituents through surveys and forums for feedback.

The Strategic Plan provides the District with new mission and vision statements, a values statement, and seven strategic initiatives, including:

1. Student Achievement and Growth
2. STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics
3. Positive School Culture
4. Engagement and Experiences in Co-Curricular Activities
5. Community Outreach and Communication
6. Equitable Resources and Planning
7. Continuous Improvement and Accountability

The new Strategic Plan is proactive and provides a road map to create the kind of educational experiences we want for children. A balanced mix of current practice and new initiatives can be found throughout the plan, which is comprehensive and reaches all corners of the District. Both the academic and operational branches of the District are melded together to create consistency in practice. The plan makes our priorities clear, ensures full transparency, and uses measurable outcomes to hold us accountable for maintaining focus on what benefits our students.

To view the Strategic Plan in its entirety, visit www.Fargo.k12.nd.us/Strategic_Plan.

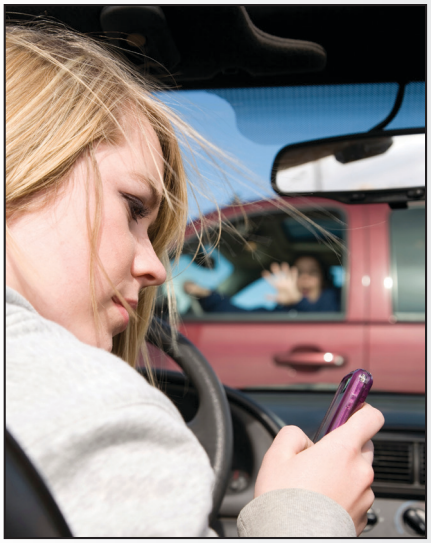
# Documentary specials on TV Fargo 56

A series of documentary specials are scheduled on TV Fargo 56 (Cable One and Midcontinnent) this fall. Below is a list of the programs that will be featured each month:

**September** - Klunkerz: Mountain bike history
**October** - Growing Cites: Urban farming in America
**November** - Deep Green: Global warming
**December** - The Light Bulb Conspiracy – The untold story of planned obsolescence

For program dates and times visit www.TVFargo56.com.

# 5 to Drive: Talk with your teen



*Car crashes are the leading cause of death among 14 - 18 year olds in the U.S.*

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 14 - 18 year olds in the U.S. In fact, almost half of the teen drivers involved in a crash die. Yet, a recent survey shows that only 25% of parents have had a serious talk with their kids about the key components of driving (nhtsa.gov). You are the biggest influence on your teen's safety behind the wheel. Talk to your kids about the 5 to Drive:

**No Drinking and Driving.** Teen drivers are at a greater risk of death in alcohol related crashes compared to drivers in all other age groups. Nationally in 2013, almost one out of five (19%) of the teen drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking.

**Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time. Front Seat and Back.** Wearing a seat belt is one of the simplest ways for teens to stay safe in a vehicle. In 2013, 64% of all the young passengers of teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes weren't restrained.

**Put It Down. One Text or Call Could Wreck It All.** In 2013, among teen drivers involved in fatal crashes, 6% were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. This age group has the highest percentage of drivers distracted by phone use.

**Stop Speeding Before It Stops You.** In 2013, almost one-third, 29%, of teen drivers involved in a fatal crash were speeding. Explain that every time your speed doubles, your stopping distance quadruples.

**No More Than One Passenger at Any Time.** Extra passengers for a teen driver can lead to distractions. Research shows that the risk of a fatal crash goes up in direct relation to the number of teens in a car. The likelihood of teen drivers engaging in risky behavior triples when traveling with multiple passengers.

Join the Fargo Police Department and AAA for our free Teen Driver Safety presentation at the Fargo Public Library on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015 at 7 p.m.
For more information, contact Officer Jessica Schindeldecker at (701) 461-7872.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Fargo Cass Public Health**

*The new FCPH building will open in mid-September.*

## FCPH NEARING COMPLETION

Fargo Cass Public Health will be in its new location on the corner of 25th Street and 13th Avenue South, (formerly SunMart) in Fargo by mid-September 2015. FCPH divisions, which were once spread throughout Fargo, will now be under one roof. The new location houses the Women's Infant and Children nutritional program (WIC), Environmental Health, FCPH Clinic Services, Health Promotion, and FCPH Nursing as well as administrative offices. The new location also boasts a larger parking lot, teaching kitchen, community meeting rooms and is a stop on MATBUS routes.

FCPH Executive Director Ruth Bachmeier says the new location will make it easier for the public to access FCPH services, "We are excited to continue to address the public health needs of our community; as well as provide a functional, healthy work environment for public health staff."

The location will also house the Cass County Coroner's office, City of Fargo Surveyors and offices for the Fargo Police Department. Fargo Cass Public Health hours are 7:45 - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with extended Clinic hours until 8 p.m. on Monday and Thursday.

A grand opening/open house for the public will be in October. Information about the event will be posted on www.FargoCassPublicHealth.com, Facebook: Fargo Cass Public Health and Twitter: FCPH.

## Parents LEAD: Underage drinking prevention

Underage drinking is a major problem in North Dakota. Simply teaching adolescents about the dangers involved with underage drinking is not always enough to change their actions; they need to be surrounded by positive influences. Believe it or not, parents are still the #1 influence in their children's lives and they can take the lead in helping to prevent their children from drinking alcohol underage.

Parents LEAD (Listen, Educate, Ask, Discuss) is an evidence-based underage drinking prevention program targeting parents through statewide, web-based communication.

The program is designed to help parents:

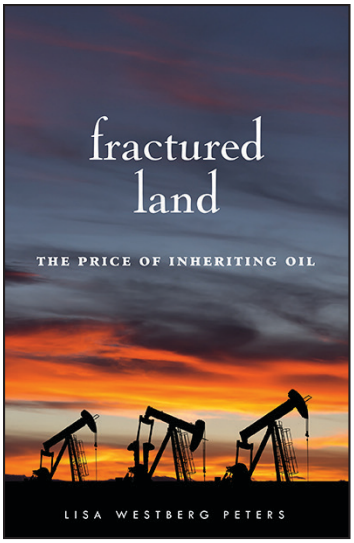
- initiate and/or continue conversations with their children about underage drinking and other difficult subjects at any age
- role-model positive and healthy behaviors
- monitor their children's whereabouts
- provide support and engagement

Parents LEAD provides activities, resources and tools to help parents take the lead to prevent underage drinking. The program is broken down by age group so that the parents can successfully focus on strengthening their relationship with their child and enable them to talk with their child about alcohol.

*Fargo Fact:*

**The Fargo Fire Department is one of only 207 accredited fire departments in the world.**

# Join One Book One Community!




*Fractured Land is this years OBOC title. Check it out today!*

In partnership, the Fargo Public Library, Moorhead Public Library, and the West Fargo Public Library are engaged in the One Book, One Community reading project for the fourth year in a row. All area residents are encouraged to unite in reading *Fractured Land: The Price of Inheriting Oil* by Lisa Westberg Peters. Along with reading the novel, readers are encouraged to participate in related events at each of the participating libraries during the project which runs from Sept. 10 to early October. Programs include an informal community book discussion, movie screenings, geology events, and many other engaging programs. Visit any Fargo Public Library location or www.1Book1Community.org for a complete line-up of events and related resources.

## Rosetta Stone available at Fargo Library

Interested in learning a new language? The Fargo Public Library now has Rosetta Stone, a popular online language learning tool, in its online resources collection. Rosetta Stone uses a mixture of pictures, dialog, and voice recognition in an interactive immersion approach to provide language building skills in 30 different languages. This resource offers core lessons in reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

In addition to Rosetta Stone, the library offers other language learning resources including Mango Languages, another online resource that teaches more than 60 languages; Pimsleur; Little Pim; as well as several additional programs available on CD. Residents learning a language can visit the library's World Languages Collection to find items available in several non-English languages. For more information about the library's world languages resources, contact the Main Library Information Desk at (701) 241-1492 or visit www.FargoLibrary.org and click on "Online Resources."

# Fargo Public Library

## Culture & colors of Somalia

In an effort to appreciate our rich cultural diversity in the Fargo-Moorhead area, join us for a special presentation by Ibtisaam Mustafa and Shire Mohamed centered on Somali culture. The session will include images of the country, a display of garments and textiles, and a presentation on cultural celebrations and festivals in Somalia. Light snacks will be served. The event is set for Sunday, Sept. 20, starting at 2 p.m. at the downtown Main Library. This program is in partnership with Cultural Diversity Resources and is part of the Welcoming Week (www.Facebook.com/welcomingfmarea) series of events. For details, contact Diane Briggs at (701) 241-1492 or visit **www.FargoLibrary.org**.

# National Fossil Day celebration

Calling all future paleontologists! The Fargo Public Library is joining organizations across the country to celebrate National Fossil Day – Wednesday, Oct. 14. Kids of all ages are invited to the Main Library at 6:30 p.m. where Dr. Lydia Tackett, Assistant Professor of Geology at NDSU, will explain how paleontologists learn about the lives of extinct animals by studying the traces left behind. We'll examine huge corkscrew burrows from ancient grasslands, dinosaur footprints, and even fossil poop! Contact Children's Services at (701) 241-1495 for details or visit **www.FargoLibrary.org**.

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# Volunteer for United Way's Day of Caring!

United Way of Cass-Clay is looking for seniors, individuals with disabilities and military families who need assistance completing household projects for the 24th Annual Day of Caring on Thursday, Oct 8.

Projects may be indoor or outdoor activities and must be able to be completed within 2.5 hours (2 – 4:30 p.m.). This is a FREE service provided to you by caring volunteers through United Way of Cass-Clay. For information on this event, please visit our website at www.unitedwaycassclay.org or call 701-237-5050.

*Day of Caring volunteers.*

**Follow the City of Fargo:**