FARGO CITY COMMISSION

WRAP·UP

The City of Fargo
FAR MORE

3/22/2021

A New Approach to This Spring's Cleanup Week

The City of Fargo's Solid Waste Department is preparing for this year's Cleanup Week, and it will be slightly different than it has in the past. Solid Waste staff have determined it is needed to spread the event over two weeks, starting May 3 and concluding on May 14. This change will greatly reduce the number of temporary hires needed and will best allow for social distancing among Solid Waste employees.

The new Cleanup Week schedule will coincide with the residential recycling collection schedule. Residents can utilize this collection schedule webpage to determine if their household falls into week A or week B.

The City of Fargo would also like to remind Fargo residents that they have access to the new transfer station and can dispose of unwanted household items at no charge. To learn more about Cleanup Week, visit Cleanup.com.

The Fargo City Commission voted 5-0 to proceed with conducting spring cleanup week over a two-week period, May 3-7 (recycling week B) and May 10-14 (recycling week A).

Protecting our Region from Drought Emergencies

The impacts and repercussions of droughts can affect local economies and disrupt the way of life for a region. Droughts have been recorded in the Red River Valley of North Dakota since the 1900's and are an ongoing concern for the City of Fargo, especially as the City's overall need for water has increased because of rapid population growth in recent decades. City Administrator Bruce Grubb and Water Utility Director Troy Hall updated the City Commission on the current state of water demands, drought impacts, water supply needs, Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWS) and goals for our region. The majority of Fargo's water demands (104 gallons per capita per day) are for essential use such as hygiene, consumption, indoor use and more. When including non-essential uses (such as lawn care or swimming pools) roughly 120 gallons per capita per day are needed in total. As it stands today, if this region were to experience a severe drought the existing Red River Valley water supplies would be inadequate, inflicting an expected $27 billion economic impact over 10 years.

The City of Fargo is prepared with a short term drought plan, however, "Permanent drought protection is really important to us and we are working really hard to get to that," remarked City Administrator Bruce Grubb.

The Red River Valley Water Supply project (RRVWS) aims to drought-proof Fargo by providing a steady supply of water from Lake Ashtabula whenever the Red River's and Sheyenne River's flows become too low. The project will have a cost share of 75% state and 25% local, with an additional $13 million in carryover grant funds from the 2017-2019 RRVWS budget. Fargo is a city on the grow and during times of water scarcity it is essential to protect public health, ensure ongoing economic vitality and provide for environmental benefits in the river systems.

Supporting a Safe, Clean and Hospitable Downtown Fargo

The Downtown Fargo Business Improvement District (BID) presented an annual report to Fargo City Commissioners at Monday's meeting. The BID works to improve and enhance the overall attractiveness and appeal of Downtown Fargo; this is achieved by making sure our downtown is clean, safe, maintained and properly-promoted. The BID is managed by the Downtown Community Partnership (DCP) and is funded through assessments approved by downtown property owners. Each zone receives different levels of service based upon revenue received by way of these assessments.

Since establishing the BID, the Downtown neighborhood has benefited from additional education on ordinances, panhandling responses, hospitality assistance, motorist assistance, graffiti removal, landscaping and decorating.

In 2020, BID team members removed over 56,000 pounds of trash and recycled 4,100 pounds of recyclable materials. In partnership with the Fargo Police Department, there were 186 instances of outreach and public safety assistance as well as 274 instances of ordinance enforcement.

"Knowing that we have a direct and positive impact on our Downtown community is humbling. There isn't another place quite like Downtown Fargo and we will continue doing our part in keeping this community clean, maintained, safe and promoted," said BID Operations Manager Chris Schlepp.

Improving Fargo's Amtrak Passenger Terminal

Amtrak will be making improvements to the Downtown Fargo terminal as a part of its Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) Stations Program. Amtrak has been fully compliant with the ADA and accessible to all passengers and is making these improvements in response to a property survey and an ADA assessment of the station. Residents can expect to see the replacement of fencing around the pedestrian signal/gate arms along the tracks between Broadway and 4th Street, as well as the connection of a new platform trench drain and underdrain to the City storm line. The City will provide Amtrak with continued access to improvements as long as Amtrak provides rail passenger services at the station. There is no cost to The City of Fargo for this improvement project.

The Fargo City Commission voted 5-0 to approve Amtrak's improvement project plans.