City Snapshot

CITY OF Fargo

Spring 2013

Get to "Know Your Neighborhood"

www.cityoffargo.com/neighborhoods

Every neighborhood has its own characteristics that make it unique. In fact, neighborhoods are the building blocks of our community. Now you can get up to date information about where you live on the "Know Your Neighborhood" website, www.cityoffargo.com/neighborhoods. 38 neighborhood descriptions are currently available. "We are committed to supporting neighborhoods because strong neighborhoods make for a strong community," says Melissa Sobolik, City Commissioner and Community Development Committee Chair. "The Know Your Neighborhood website is part of an ongoing effort in Fargo to increase the level of service provided to residents. It is also a toolkit for residents and neighborhoods that want to get involved."

38 neighborhood pages are currently available on the Know Your Neighborhood website.

The site includes detailed neighborhood maps and helpful information about schools, parks, housing, where to vote, police beats, bus routes and other neighborhood-specific points of interest. You can also learn fun facts such as the percentage of owner-occupied homes and rentals, neighborhood populations, and bike routes. Some pages also include links to neighborhood associations. Thank you for making Fargo's neighborhoods great places to live, work and play.

Low-interest home improvement loans

Loans are currently available through the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) program at an interest rate of 3.5%, just in time for a spring start to your remodeling project. Owner-occupied homes which are over 40 years old, located within the NRI boundaries, and have an assessed value under $150,000 are eligible. For more information and to request an application form, call the Fargo Planning and Development office at 241-1474, or visit our website at www.cityoffargo.com/NRI.

Scan this code with your smart phone and read the City Snapshot on the go!

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Next 4 steps for the diversion

As we head into what forecasters are expecting to be a relatively dry spring, Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker says it's important to remember that flooding is cyclical, "We're looking at 100 plus years of history. No one will forget 1989, 1997, 2009, 2010 and 2011. There is a big difference between the beginning of a drought and the long term need for flood control."

Over the next two years, Mayor Walaker and the Diversion Authority will work to achieve four main goals in the effort to build a 36-mile long diversion to protect the metro area and several outlying communities. "We all know construction costs are going to increase significantly once the recession is over. Currently loan and constructions rates are low. These factors are important in financing the protection plan."

1. Secure federal authorization from Congress

The Diversion Authority is working with Congressional delegations from Minnesota and North Dakota and the Army Corps of Engineers and there is optimism Congress will adopt the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) legislation in the next two years. The WRDA bill will authorize the project and make it eligible for federal funding.

2. Continue constructing levees in Fargo to 42 ½ feet

Continue constructing levees/floodwalls up to 42.5 feet. These would tie into areas where emergency flood protection may still be needed and provide protection for flood events up to 41.5 feet. To date we have expended $100 million of local and state funds on levee work.

3. Ring levee construction for the Oxbow/Hickson community and rural farmsteads and residences that may be impacted by flooding

"The staging area is a critical part of reducing impacts on upstream communities", says Walaker. "Without staging we don't have flood protection." The Diversion Authority is also working on flowage easements for farmland impacted by flooding and crop insurance for crop damage when and if the Diversion project should impact such events.

4. Begin diversion construction on the north end of the project

This portion of the project will benefit the towns of Argusville, Harwood and along I-29 which are severely impacted by the flooding of the Sheyenne and Maple Rivers.

Stay up to date on progress of the diversion project at www.FMDiversion.com or by signing up for the Diversion Dialogue monthly e-newsletter. Signup at the diversion website listed above.

Flood insurance premiums

It is that time of year again when flood insurance policy premiums are coming due. If you want to learn more about the insurance topic or view the preliminary FEMA Floodplain Map there is help available.

The City of Fargo has tools available to help you make an informed decision about many flood related topics. Please visit www.cityoffargo.com or www.FargoFloodInsurance.com for more information on floodplain topics. Your insurance agent is the single best source for flood insurance policy questions. If you don't currently have a flood insurance policy, know that most homeowners insurance does not cover loss due to flood. Only flood insurance covers damage from a flood.

FEMA's remapping of Fargo's floodplain is now in the comment phase and it is projected the final version will be effective on August 18, 2014. You can view the preliminary map by simply typing "preliminary map" into the search browser at either website above.

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

Talk with your teens: Designate a texter

Distracted driving: There is no doubt the topic is a hot and important one. A 2010 survey by AAA and Seventeen Magazine of 1,999 teens ages 16-19 found that 86% had driven while distracted even though 84% knew it was dangerous. A texting driver is 23 times more likely to get into a crash than a non-texting driver.

As parents you are the most influential people in your child's behavior. You can make a difference by getting involved and helping them develop a lifetime of good driving habits. "The statistics are staggering," says Sgt. Ryan Dorrheim, "Which is why it will take more than just a police officer issuing a citation."

Take that first step: Talk with your child about what it means to be a safe driver and set ground rules for when they are behind the wheel. Make a family pledge to drive distraction-free. Set a positive example for your kids by putting your cell phone away while driving, making sure everyone buckles-up, practicing safe following distances, obeying posted speed limits, stopping for stop signs and red lights and making safe and defensive driving your #1 priority.

Have your teen driver designate a passenger to do the texing while he or she is driving.

FACT: Under North Dakota law (39-08-24), any use of an electronic communication device by a minor to talk, compose, read or send an electronic message while driving is prohibited. Violation carries a $100 fine.

Since Fargo Police heightened enforcement on distracted driving in 2012, they have issued 157 citations for texting & driving. For more information, visit www.Distraction.gov.

City of Fargo Employment

Find job openings at:
www.cityoffargo.com/employment
Follow us on LinkedIn.

"Eyes Forward" (:FWD) event

Please join us at West Acres Mall on Saturday, March 2, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & take the pledge to limit distractions in the vehicle while driving.

From the Firehouse

With Fire Marshal Norm Scott

"Rules of the Road"

If you or someone you love is in need of emergency assistance, you want help to get there as soon as possible. Did you know there's one thing everyone can do to help fire fighters provide this emergency assistance? It's as simple as "Move Right and Stop for Lights and Sirens!"
Emergency vehicles always have the right of way. When an emergency vehicle is flashing its red, white, or blue lights or using its siren, you must immediately come to a stop along the right-hand curb or edge of the road. You must remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed. Do not stop in the middle of the intersection.
When an emergency vehicle is parked at the scene of a crash with its emergency lights flashing, you must drive to the right-hand side of the roadway and stop. Once stopped, you may pass at your risk when the roadway is clear. If there is a police officer directing traffic at the scene, you must obey the officer's instructions.
If an emergency vehicle is parked on a multi-lane highway with its emergency lights flashing, you may move over to the opposite lane and proceed with caution. Visit www.FargoFire.com.

Norm Scott
Fire Marshal

New recycling containers at drop sites

Next time you visit one of Fargo's 27 recycling drop sites, look for the new 300 gallon containers used to collect colored glass, clear glass and tin/aluminum cans. The new containers replace aging white bell shaped receptacles and can be emptied with an automated truck making collection faster and more efficient. When using the drop sites, please keep in mind the City of Fargo's recycling program does not accept plastic bags, however, garbage containers are provided for their disposal. For our program to run efficiently we ask residents to sort materials into the appropriate containers. Containers contaminated with foreign objects, garbage or items that are not recyclable, are a safety hazard for those involved with the collection and separation of these recyclables. If you have questions about recycling drop sites, visit www.FargoGarbage.com or call 298-6944.

Walk This Way

Walk This Way is a community walking program with the goal of getting citizens out walking and exposed to the various trails and places to walk throughout the Fargo/Moorhead area. We have 15 different walks scheduled for spring 2013 between March 26 - May 16.
Walk This Way also promotes and encourages physical activity. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, current physical activity recommendations for adults are to engage in moderate-intensity physical activities for at least 30 minutes on 5 or more days a week. Walking is a great way to be physically active and helps reduce the risk for chronic disease.
Participants of Walk This Way will have an opportunity to be entered into a prize drawing at each walking event. Individuals who attend 5 or more walks will be entered into a grand prize drawing. For more information and to register, please go to www.fmwalkthisway.com or call Kim Lipetzky at 241-8195.

Spring cleanup week May 6 - 10

This annual event will be held the week of May 6, on your scheduled garbage pickup day.

- Items must be on the boulevard by 7 a.m.
- Place garbage in disposable containers, except for oversized items.
- Separate items such as furniture, household garbage, brush, etc.; items are collected with a separate truck.
- No building material or concrete.
- Limit of two appliances per household.
- **Electronics such as TVs and computers will not be collected.** Please take them to the Household Hazardous Waste facility or the Electronics Recycling Event on May 4.
- Household hazardous waste products such as paint, varnish and other chemicals will not be collected. Please take these items to the Household Hazardous Waste facility.

Visit www.CleanupWeek.com for more information on cleanup week.

Electronics Recycling Event May 4

The annual Electronics Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Solid Waste Facility, 2301 8th Ave. N., Fargo. Bring your old computers, televisions, monitors and other residential electronics and recycle them for FREE! If you can't make it to the event, you can drop off electronics and household hazardous waste at the HHW facility year-round at no charge. Visit www.FargoGarbage.com for facility hours.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility open year-round

You can bring household hazardous waste to our facility year-round at no charge during regular business hours. Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes items labeled danger, toxic, poisonous, corrosive or flammable such as paints, thinners, stains, varnish, drain and oven cleaners, poisons, automotive fluids, weed and insect killer, fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts, etc. The HHW facility also accepts one computer set (tower, monitor and accessories) as well as one television per resident, per month. The City of Fargo does not pick-up electronics or HHW during Cleanup Week.

Water + Mulch = Healthy Trees

Important care tips for boulevard/yard trees

The summer of 2012 was hard on many trees due to lack of rainfall. When drought stress begins to occur, trees can become more vulnerable to pest attacks. Newly planted or smaller trees typically do not have a well established root system and will need extra watering.

Healthy and mature trees will be able to handle drier conditions for one season, but season after season of dry conditions will likely cause them to become stressed. Extra watering will help these trees withstand pest attacks and remain healthy. A long and slow soaking at the outer edge of the drip line (the area shadowed by the trees branches) every 7-10 days is the most effective.

In addition to watering, use mulch! Mulch reduces turfgrass competition and weed growth, improving moisture conservation, and adding critical nutrients into the soil as it breaks down. Spread mulch three to four inches deep as far out as the lower branch tips. Go further out if you don't mind the mulch. Keep mulch three to six inches away from the base of the tree. These simple steps will help keep your trees vibrant and healthy.

Compost & woodchip giveaway

When: Every Wednesday and Thursday from May 15 to June 6 from 3:30 - 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 11, from 7:15 a.m. – noon.
Where: Compost facility, 7th Ave. N., east of 45th St.
Details: One-yard maximum. If available, additional yards of compost may be purchased for $10/yard and woodchips $8/yard.
Proof of residency is required (utility bill or drivers license).
The compost and wood chips are located west of the Household Hazardous Waste facility, 606 43 1/2 St. N. The small pile of compost you can access to fill your own bags or cans is located next to the scale house at the landfill, 4501 7th Ave. N. Visit www.FargoGarbage.com for more information.

Yard waste collection

Yard waste will not be collected May 13 to October 14. All yard waste including grass, leaves, garden trimmings, excess fruits and vegetables must be hauled to a recycling center or composted in your back yard. Questions, call 241-1449.

Residential brush chipping

The Forestry Department will dispose of residential brush on your regular garbage day, beginning May 1 and continuing through October 31.

- Brush must be bundled and placed on the boulevard by 7 a.m.
- Please do not place it in cans, boxes or bags.
- Stumps and roots will not be collected.
- Brush up to 10" in diameter will be chipped.
- Brush is not allowed in the yard waste containers at recycling drop sites.

Residents can haul brush year round to the landfill at no charge. For more information, visit www.cityoffargo.com/Forestry or call Forestry at 241-1465.

Holiday garbage collection

Good Friday, March 29 – Week of March 25:
Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Good Friday, March 29.

Memorial Day, May 27 - Week of May 27:
Monday garbage and recycling collection on Tuesday; the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, May 27.

Library hosts trio Sonic Escape

The Fargo Public Library welcomes Sonic Escape, a New York City-based flute-violin-cello trio, to the Main Library on Sunday, March 24 starting at 2 p.m. in the community room. Join us for a diverse offering of classical and original music and music styles from around the world. Sonic Escape has performed classical and world music throughout the US. The concert is free and open to the public.

Zinio™ now available at library

There is something new for your tablet, laptop, or smartphone. The Fargo Public Library has added Zinio™, a downloadable online magazine service, to the online resource collection. Library cardholders can download popular full-text and photo magazines to their computers and mobile devices for free. Approximately 100 titles are currently available. Popular titles in the collection include Car and Driver, Harvard Business Review, The Economist, Skateboarder, Elle, Runner's World and Rolling Stone. This new service is open to anyone with a Fargo Public Library card, or cardholders from one of the other participating libraries. To get started using Zinio™, visit www.FargoLibrary.org, and click on "Downloads".

Will Weaver to Visit Main Library

Award-winning Minnesota author Will Weaver will visit the downtown Main Library on Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m. Weaver will share how a novel is adapted to film, including insights and anecdotes into working with Hollywood producers on a television movie, and the successful indie film *Sweet Land*. Weaver's short story "A Gravestone Made of Wheat" was adapted as the independent feature film starring Ned Beatty. *Sweet Land* premiered in theaters across the United States in October 2006. Weaver, a Minnesota native, will share film clips and compare scenes from fiction with their film expressions. All ages are welcome at this engaging author event.

Fargo Public Library

Family history and genealogy research series

This spring, the library is offering a 4-part genealogy series intended to help those who want to learn how to research their family history and genealogy and tell their family's story using both library resources and other tools. These 90-minute workshops will be held at the downtown Main Library starting Sunday, April 28. Take any or all of the sessions. Topics include:

- Family History Resources @ your library: April 28, 2 p.m.
- Online Genealogy Records: May 5 at 2 p.m.
- Recording Your Family: May 12 at 2 p.m.
- Make Mine Digital: May 19 at 2 p.m.

Space is limited; pre-registration is required. Register online at www.FargoLibrary.org or contact the Main Library Information Desk at 241-1492 for details.

You asked - we listened!

MATBUS extends service hours

Beginning January 2, many MATBUS evening routes began running one hour later - until 11:15 p.m., Monday through Saturday. MATBUS also enacted several minor route modifications. Check out www.MATBUS.com or search on Facebook and Twitter (keyword MATBUS), to view our new maps/timetables.

Get your "can" on MATBUS

1 can = 1 ride

Celebrate Earth Week by using public transit April 22 - 27, 2013. Riding MATBUS will only cost one aluminum can! Taking MATBUS to work or school makes a big difference in conserving our natural resources. One bus carrying 50 people saves 32 gallons of gas in one day, which preserves the air we breathe and conserves fossil fuels. So remember, reduce air pollution and conserve energy during Earth Week – get your "Can" on the bus! Proceeds from the collected cans will be donated to charity. Enter the drawing on MATBUS vehicles or at the Ground Transportation Center for MATBUS T-shirts to be given away during Earth Week. This promotional fare only applies to the fixed route service.

Fargo Cass Public Health: 80 years and growing

2013 marks the 80th anniversary of public health in Fargo and Cass County (FCPH). Beginning in 1923 as a Commonwealth Fund Demonstration project, FCPH has a long and distinguished reputation of providing quality service to the residents of Cass County. The first health department employed nine people and was divided into six districts offering prenatal and infant care, school health, disease control and public education. Today, FCPH employs around 115 people and is divided into five divisions: Public Health Nursing, Health Protection and Promotion, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

A FCPH Health Inspector checks food temperature at a local restaurant.

During the past 80 years, public health has been in the forefront of community health concerns. From the polio epidemic of the 1940s to the H1N1 pandemic of 2009, to the floods of 2009, 10 and 11; public health has risen to the challenge of providing accurate health information, assuring quality health services, and being the catalyst for community collaboration.

National Public Health Week

April 1 - 7

This year's theme for National Public Health Week, April 1-7, is "Return of Investment." There's no doubt that investing in a resilient public health system is smart in terms of dollars and cents. But the real value of public health goes beyond numbers on a spreadsheet. It's the knowledge that the food we eat at our local restaurants is safe. It's the teenagers who avoid potential injury or death because they know to fasten their seat belts. It's the new mom who learns breastfeeding will protect her child's health now, and into the future. It's the clean air we all breathe - whether at work or play; and it's the flu shot that keeps an aging parent out of the hospital and healthy at home.

To see more on how public health works in our community, go to www.FargoCassPublicHealth.com and click on the video links.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Fargo Cass Public Health

Smoke free law

In Dec., 2012, North Dakota's new smoke-free law took effect making all public places and workplaces smoke-free. The law will protect all people from exposure to secondhand smoke in all enclosed public places and places of employment, including: restaurants, bars, truck stops, guest rooms and common areas within hotels and motels, healthcare facilities, long-term care centers, assisted living centers, licensed adult day care facilities, retail tobacco stores, hookah establishments, workplace vehicles, charitable gambling and gaming licensed facilities.

Under the law, businesses are required to remove ashtrays from smoke-free areas and post no-smoking signage inside buildings and at all entrances where smoking is no longer allowed. In addition, smoking is no longer allowed within 20 feet of entrances, exits, operable windows, air intakes and ventilation systems of enclosed areas protected by the law. A variety of signs are available to download and print at www.breathend.com/partners. For questions about the law or to report a violation, please call Robyn Litke Sall, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator at Fargo Cass Public Health, 241-1341.

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RED RIVER CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Walk with Courage

Please join the Red River Children's Advocacy Center as they "Walk with Courage" for child victims of abuse. The event will be held April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at Scheels Arena. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and a special time to acknowledge our community's commitment to stopping child abuse. Every day children have the courage to tell their stories. Please join us April 25 and show your support with each step you take. For more information contact Anna Frissell, Red River Children's Advocacy Center, 234-4580.