City Snapshot

CITY OF Fargo

Summer 2013

The unpredictable job of predicting the Red

Predicting a flood isn't easy, but this year hydrologists faced an even greater challenge - trying to predict a flood without any historical data. For the first time in recorded history, the Red River in Fargo crested in May. Typically, it crests in March or April. "We've never crested in May. The National Weather Serviced didn't have a track record to run with," said Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker.

In late March, the NWS was forecasting a 95% risk of major flooding and a 50% risk of 38.1 ft. That prediction continued to stay high right up until the week of the crest, at which time it dropped dramatically. "The frost left the ground and snow pack turned to water and permeated into the soil. We had a dry fall and a perfect melt", said Walaker. "There is no one to blame. The precipitation just wasn't as much as anticipated," he added. The Red River in Fargo crested at 33.32 feet on May 1.

"There is no one to blame. The precipitation just wasn't as much as anticipated"

Fargo South students help place sandbags near Southwood Drive.

Storing sandbags

The City of Fargo typically builds temporary levees high enough to protect the community from the 10% chance of flooding. Early predictions suggested a 10% chance of 43 feet. 1.7 million sandbags were filled *(for use in Fargo and Cass County)* in an effort to meet that requirement, but due to the reduced forecast, only 100,000 bags were used in Fargo. "We have about 1 million filled bags leftover which will be stored at the composting facility and Public Safety Building. They will be shrink wrapped and professionally tarped to protect them from UV light, which can cause the bags to disintegrate," explained City Enterprise Director Bruce Grubb. Unused sandbags from previous floods will be reclaimed, and the sand will be used in the next landfill cell project.

Community volunteers

Students and residents pulled together once again this spring to help protect the community. **Continued on page 2.**

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Legislature helps fund Diversion

FLOOD DIVERSION AUTHORITY

www.FMDiversion.com

North Dakota House Bill 1020, which includes financial support for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project, was signed into law by Governor Jack Dalrymple on May 2. The legislation provides $100 million for flood protection efforts in Cass County. The legislation also provides legislative intent for a total of $450 million in state funding for the F-M Area Diversion Project once certain conditions are met. The $100 million is included within the total $450 million.

"We are pleased to have the support of the state legislature and Governor Dalrymple for the FM Area Diversion. Together we will work to make sure people in the Fargo-Moorhead area have the flood protection they deserve," said Darrell Vanyo, Cass County Commissioner and Chair of the FM Diversion Authority.

The legislation specifies that the $100 million appropriated this biennium can be used only for levee and dike protection projects until the following conditions are met:

1. The Diversion Project receives federal authorization.
2. A project partnership agreement has been executed.
3. A federal appropriation is provided for the project's construction.
4. The budget for the Diversion Project is approved by the State Water Commission.

HB1020 expresses the interest of the State Legislature in hearing biannual updates at the budget section on the status of these conditions along with information on crop insurance, easements, costs and the status of ongoing mitigation efforts.

The legislation also allows for time for the mitigation of impacts from the Diversion Project on upstream communities. The legislation has language that prohibits construction, except for ring dikes and levees, south of Fargo's extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction until July 1, 2014.

Summer vacation checklist!

As we head into the summer months, many of us will leave our homes while traveling or going to the lake. Before you leave, make sure your home is protected.

Protect your home from burglary

The Fargo Police Department encourages you to remember a few basic crime prevention tips this summer, so you don't become a victim.

✓ Notify a trusted neighbor or Neighborhood Watch Group of your absence so they can report suspicious behavior.
✓ Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers to build up. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or have a friend or neighbor take them regularly.
✓ Lock your doors and windows.
✓ Make your home look occupied.
✓ Arrange for your lawn to be mowed.

Check your sump pump

✓ Check for leaks at pipe connections and discharge lines. You may have to add water to the pit so you will be able to hear the pump run. Replace the pump if it makes loud noises or has been in service for many years.
✓ Consider a battery backup system.
✓ Be sure to keep your discharge line at least three feet away from your neighbor's property line. Do not discharge water along wooden fences to prevent water damage to the posts.
✓ Water discharged onto the sidewalk or hoses extended across the sidewalk will create a trip hazard for pedestrians.

Call 701-461-7867 or visit www.cityoffargo.com/sumppumpprogram for more information.

Predicting the flood, continued...

Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker says this kind of volunteerism and community involvement runs deep, "We are once again awed by the youth of our community and the many others who came forward to fill sandbags to protect our community."

Here is a breakdown of volunteers and volunteer hours at Sandbag Central:

- 4,158 public volunteers donated a total of 22,329 hours.
- 4,103 student volunteers donated 20,515 hours.
- 120 Salvation Army and Red Cross representatives logged more than 700 hours.

The 2 + 1 Conversion

Crews remove and replace deteriorating brickwork at Broadway and NP Avenue.

The number of lanes on a couple of downtown Fargo one-ways won't change, but the direction they move in will. Starting in September, 1st Ave. and NP Avenue will be converted into "2 + 1" roadways which means there will be two lanes of traffic moving in the dominant direction, and one lane moving in the other direction. Fargo City Commissioner Mike Williams says this progressive approach will offer a wide variety of benefits, "These corridors will continue our revitalization of downtown with signature streets that are interesting for people who visit, live, work and play downtown." The 2 + 1 conversion was approved by the Fargo City Commission in 2011. Construction is already underway and is expected to be completed by the beginning of September. Follow this project online at www.FargoStreets.com/2plus1Conversion or on Twitter @FargoStreets.

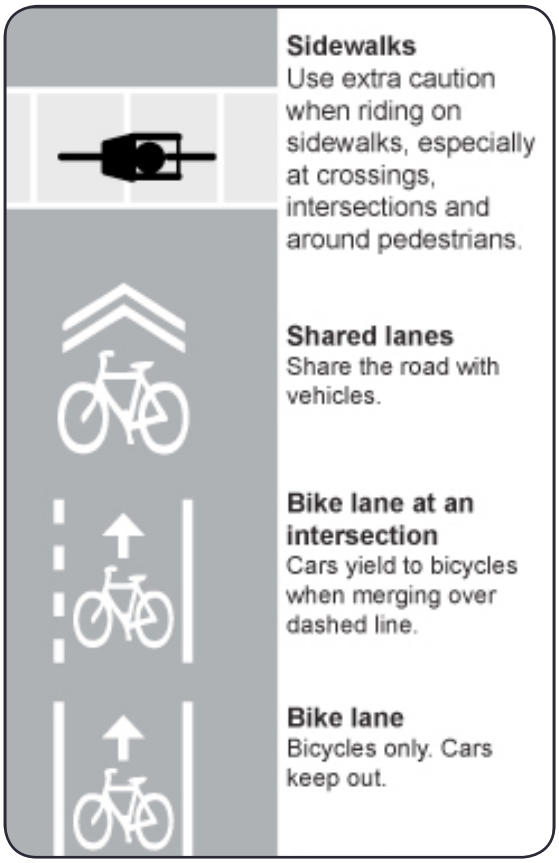
THE 2+1 CONVERSION
NP Ave & 1st Ave N.
Becoming Two-Way Streets

25th St. expansion set for 2014

Plans are underway to expand 25th St. S. between 17th & 23rd Avenues. The stretch of roadway is getting lower than average scores when it comes to congestion, delays and crash rankings. To improve this road's performance, 25th St. will be expanded to six lanes, including the bridge deck over I-94, an eastbound on-ramp will be added to ease access onto the interstate and double left turn lanes will be installed for vehicles exiting westbound I-94. The project also includes plans for a walking path and an 8 foot tall decorative fence to help reduce the visual impacts and noise levels for the Prairiewood Crossing residents. The project will begin in the spring of 2014 and be completed by October.

Bike lane basics

You can't travel far in Fargo without seeing a bike lane, but do you know what they mean? Here's a quick overview for drivers and bicyclists. Solid lined bike lanes are designated for bikes only. Drivers may only cross them to enter/exit a driveway or when solid lines become dotted such as they do near intersections. Learn more about bike lane markings at www.SharetheRoadFargo.com.



Streets Alive!

July 14 & Aug. 25

Streets Alive! are action-packed urban street events to spark movement in our communities. You'll want to jump in, get in motion and have some human-powered fun! Three miles of streets through downtown Fargo and Moorhead are closed to motorized traffic so you can walk, run, bike, rollerblade, skate, hoola-hoop and move! Fitness classes, healthy food vendors and demonstrations are held all along the route. You'll enjoy a great day of physical fun regardless of your current physical condition. For a map and more details visit www.fmstreetsalive.org.

From the Firehouse

With Fire Marshal Norm Scott

Legal or not, fireworks too risky for amateurs

As July 4th approaches, it's important to know that fireworks are illegal in the City of Fargo. A person cannot buy, possess or use fireworks within Fargo city limits. Fireworks can cause permanent scarring, loss of vision and dismemberment.

In recent years, fireworks have been one of the leading causes of injuries serious enough to require emergency room treatment, such as severe burns, fractures, scars or disfigurement that can last a lifetime and even death. The thousands of serious injuries each year typically harm the eyes, head, or hands, and are mostly reported in states where fireworks are legal. Even sparklers, which are considered by many to be harmless, reach temperatures of more than 1,000° F.

A substantial portion of the structure fires caused by fireworks involve bottle rockets or other fireworks rockets. These rockets can land on rooftops or wedge within certain structures and still retain enough heat to cause a fire.

This year, enjoy fireworks the safe way – in the audience. Displays conducted by trained professionals are beautiful and much safer than lighting them yourself. Visit www.FargoFire.com.

Norm Scott
Fargo Fire Marshal

FCPH moving to south Fargo

Renovation of the future Fargo Cass Public Health building will begin this summer.

Keep an eye out for changes at the former CVS/Sunmart building on the corner of 25th St. and 13th Ave. S. The building was recently purchased by the City of Fargo and will be renovated to become the new home for Fargo Cass Public Health and will also house some Fargo Police Department offices. "This is an exciting time for Fargo Cass Public Health as we work towards designing a space that will be efficient and effective in meeting the public health needs of our community," said Fargo Cass Public Health Director Ruth Bachmeier. The design phase is currently underway with renovation to begin later this summer. Proposed occupancy of the new building is set for late 2014. Learn more about FCPH services at www.FargoCassPublicHealth.com.

Fighting obesity in ND

Overweight and obesity are major health problems in the United States, including ND. According to the CDC, 64% of North Dakota's adults fall into these categories.They've been shown to increase the chance of health problems such as heart disease, stroke, type-2 diabetes, and certain types of cancer. Overweight and obesity are measured by using a person's "body mass index" (BMI). Adults with a BMI between 25 - 29.9 are considered overweight and those with a BMI of 30 or greater are obese.

Health experts encourage adopting a healthy lifestyle to maintain an appropriate body weight. Make small changes such as drinking fat-free or low-fat milk, choose water instead of sugary drinks, make half your plate fruits and vegetables, and avoid oversized portions. A healthy lifestyle also includes regular physical activity.

Fargo Cass Public Health works with community partners to provide residents with information about nutrition and healthy living through initiatives such as CassClayalive!, Let's Eat Local, Walk This Way, and programs for school-age children. Visit www.metroinmotion.org to learn more.

WATER

A key ingredient for healthy trees

When trees begin experiencing drought stress, they can become vulnerable to pest attacks and declining health. Aphids are a good example of pests that thrive in stress prone environments. Aphids are small, soft-bodied, pear-shaped insects that vary in color and are about the size of a pinhead. They frequently feed on ash, elm, maple, and linden, but will also attack other trees. They feed by sucking juices from the plant, and produce a sticky byproduct called honeydew. Aphids are rarely harmful for a healthy, mature tree; this is why we encourage property owners to keep their trees healthy and vigorous by supplemental watering during dry conditions. A long and slow soaking at the outer edge of the trees branch line every 7-10 days is the most effective. In addition to watering, wood chip mulch should be used. Learn more at www.cityoffargo.com/forestry or call the Forestry Department at 241-1465.

Yard Waste Disposal

Yard waste will not be collected May 13 – October 14. All yard waste (grass, leaves, garden trimmings, excess fruits and vegetables) must be hauled to a recycling center or composted in your back yard. Call 241-1449 for recycling center locations or visit www.FargoRecycles.com. Please do not put branches in the yard waste containers. We provide a service for elderly and physically challenged residents who are unable to haul their yard waste. Please call 241-1449 for details.

Fight the Bite!

Warm, wet weather could set the stage for mosquitoes this summer. The best way to reduce our mosquito population is to eliminate the places where mosquitoes breed. Standing water provides the ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Visit www.MetroFighttheBite.com for ideas on how to avoid standing water and reduce the mosquito population in your neighborhood.

Holiday Garbage Collection

Independence Day week of July 1: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday collected one day early, remainder of the week will be on schedule. Garbage and recycling will not be collected on Thursday, July 4. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Thursday, July 4.

Labor Day week of Sept. 2: Monday collection will be on Tuesday; the remainder of the week will be on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, September 2.

Visit us online at www.fargogarbage.com.

Taking out trash during street construction

If your street or avenue is under construction and traffic is being detoured, our garbage and recycling trucks will not be able to reach your home. Please place these items on the nearest street or avenue that is accessible. Questions, call 241-1449.

Where to recycle toxins/poisons

Fargo residents can bring items labeled danger, toxic, poisonous, corrosive or flammable to the city's **Household Hazardous Waste Facility.** Our facility also accepts used computers and televisions, with a limit of one each per household per month. The HHW facility is located at 606 43 1/2 St. N. in Fargo. It is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 - 5, Wednesday from 9 - 6 and the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon. Businesses should call for an appointment and rates. Call 281-8915 for more information.
Please visit our website at www.FargoGarbage.com and look at the "City Message Center" on your monthly utility bill for current information.

Landfill Summer Hours

Monday - Friday: 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 7:15 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Address: 4501 7th Ave. N. (45th St. and 7th Ave. N.)
Questions: Call the Scale House at 282-2489.

321 Community Reading and Art Project

In partnership, the Fargo Public Library, Moorhead Public Library, West Fargo Public Library, and Plains Art Museum are engaged in the Three Communities, Two Books, One Art Exhibit (3.2.1) project which continues this summer through October. All area residents are encouraged to unite in reading one or both of the featured novels - Herman Melville's classic *Moby-Dick* and Sena Jeter Naslund's novel *Ahab's Wife*. In September, as part of this community read and art project, the Plains Art Museum presents the exhibit T.L. Solien: Toward the Setting Sun, featuring new works inspired by these two remarkable novels. Readers are encouraged to participate in related events at each of the participating libraries and the Plains Art Museum.

3.2.1. events

Events include theme discussions at all three public libraries; the Fargo Public Library will explore the theme 'Obsession' on Thursday, July 25 at 7 p.m. at the downtown Main Library. Other events include movie screenings, children's storytime and arts events, an author visit in mid-October from Sena Jeter Naslund, and many other engaging programs. Visit any Fargo Public Library location or www.321fm.org for a complete line-up of events and related resources.

Big Diggers at the Main Library

Kids of all ages will enjoy the opportunity to get up close with big digging machines at the library. Join us Tuesday, July 2 at 2 p.m. at the downtown Main Library when City of Fargo Public Works Department professionals will bring some great big diggers to the library courtyard. Kids can ask questions and check out these large earth movers up close. A small craft project will also be part of the fun! All ages are welcome at this free event. For information, contact the Children's Librarian at 241-1495.

Clay County's WWII German Prisoner of War Camp

In 1944 and 1945 scores of German POWs were housed in Moorhead where they worked on area farms planting, cultivating and harvesting crops. Join us Monday, July 15 starting at 7 p.m. at the downtown Main Library for a program titled "Algona Branch Camp #1: Moorhead's World War II German Prisoner of War Camp." Presented by Mark Piehl, Archivist with the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County in Moorhead. All ages are welcome. Contact Greg at 241-1492 for details.

Talent Show for Kids and Teens

Do you have a talent you'd like to share? Area kids and teens are invited to show off their talents and enter the library's annual "Hit the Big Time" Talent Show scheduled for Wednesday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the community room at the Main Library. Pre-registration is required to participate in this event. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. Contact the Children's Librarian at 241-1495 for details or to register.

Teen Iron Chef Competition

Area teens are encouraged to join us for two special library culinary competitions just for teens! Teens will form teams to compete for the top teen chef trophy starting at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30 at the Dr. James Carlson Library. A second competition is set for Thursday, Aug. 1 starting at 2 p.m. at the downtown Main Library. All materials will be provided. Space is limited; pre-registration required. Contact the Teen Librarian at 476-5978 or email teens@cityoffargo.com for details or to register.

City of Fargo Employment

Find job openings at
www.cityoffargo.com/employment
or on Twitter
@CityofFargoHR

Busses in Black Ties

A 40 foot New Flyer Excelsior is dressed up in black tie attire and unvieled at the "Busses in Black Ties" event.

MATBUS is excited to welcome the latest and largest hybrid busses to the F-M metro. Four 2013 New Flyer Xcelsior busses, with state-of-the-art hybrid technology on board, have been added to the MATBUS fixed route fleet. They were recently welcomed at the "Busses in Black Ties" event in downtown Fargo. The 40-foot vehicles, the largest ever to be used in the region, were manufactured and assembled in Crookston and St. Cloud. The vehicles were purchased largely through capital grants made available by the Federal Transit Administration. Two of the four busses were specifically purchased using clean fuels grant funds, which were awarded to the City of Fargo through a competitive process.

Special features

- Quieter ride and smoother acceleration, thanks to the hybrid-electric power train engine.
- The 40-foot busses can hold more than 80 people—20% more than our current busses.
- Quicker boardings and deboardings will be possible via wider doors and aisles.
- Sleeker, ergonomically-designed seats, more headroom, larger windows and quick release folding seats for special needs accommodations.
- On-board cameras and door sensors.
- Generate less than 50% of the greenhouse gases emitted by typical diesel vehicles and use 30% less fuel than their diesel counterparts.

These busses are amazing machines that do more than transport people – they transform communities!

$ummer Deals on MATBUS

MATBUS Summer Youth Pass - $26!

The "Summer Youth Pass" allows youth in grades K - 12 to use unlimited rides on the MATBUS system now through August 31. The pass is only $26 and can be purchased from any of our dispatch team members at the Ground Transportation Center at 502 NP Avenue.

Read Books & Ride with MATBUS

MATBUS is providing free rides to youth grades K - 12 going to and from the Fargo, West Fargo or Moorhead Public Libraries when they show the bus driver their library card now through August 31.

Take MATBUS to the Street Fair

MATBUS offers park and ride locations for the 2013 Downtown Street Fair, July 18 - 20.

Park your car at one of MATBUS' designated park and ride lots for free and ride to the Street fair for a discounted rate during this event. With the location of MATBUS' Ground Transportation Center (GTC) right next to the heart of the street fair, fair goers will have the option to take an air conditioned bus to and from the event. Park and ride locations are at Kmart (S. Univ.), Skills and Technology Training Center, Cashwise and The Hub.

Fargo fact:

Did you know the 2012 US Census population estimate for the City of Fargo is 109,779?

That's up from 105,549 in 2010!

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ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Plan a block party with your neighbors!

The 5th Annual Night to Unite is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2013. Night to Unite is designed to help residents get to know their neighbors, build neighborhood involvement by bringing police and communities together and bring awareness to crime prevention and local law enforcement efforts!

Night to Unite events are organized by individual neighborhoods. To participate, complete the Special Permit Application, available on our website at www.FargoPolice.com.

For more information please contact Officer Jessica Schindeldecker at 701-461-7872.

NIGHT to UNITE!
Neighbors Joining Together