

FARGO CITY COMMISSION

# WRAP·UP

THE CITY OF  
**Fargo**  
FAIR. MORE.™



2/8/2021



## Fueling Services Agreement Between The City of Fargo and Fargo Park District

The City of Fargo and Fargo Park District have entered into an agreement that will allow the Park District to utilize the City's fueling stations. This mutual aid agreement will extend major cost savings to the Park District as well as Fargo taxpayers. Fargo Public Schools has been utilizing and benefiting from this agreement for nearly a decade.

The City purchases fuel in bulk on a quarterly basis at a price well below market rates (the current purchase price is \$1.42 per unleaded gallon and \$1.62 per diesel gallon). Adding the Fargo Park District fuel needs to the City and school district's existing purchasing agreement may also drive the cost down further, as fuel will be purchased in greater volume.

"The City has enjoyed major cost savings ever since we began purchasing fuel in bulk. Cost savings can range from \$200,000 to nearly \$500,000 annually. That is a huge savings for taxpayers," said Public Works Director Ben Dow.

The City strives to find new ways to improve efficiencies and cost-savings to best serve its residents. This agreement is effective immediately.

**The Fargo City Commission voted 5-0 to approve and authorize the execution of this agreement between the Fargo Park District and City of Fargo.**



## FARGODOME Adding Industry-Leading Lighting

The FARGODOME is gearing up for the fall 2021 event season and will be adding four industry-leading Robert Juliat followspots (spotlights) to be utilized for future shows and events. These additional spotlights will better serve the vast array of events held at the FARGODOME, will be another positive factor for attracting high profile performers to the venue and make the experience even more impactful for concert-goers.

"It's great to be able to be able to work with the FARGODOME staff and provide them with this industry-leading lighting and other solutions, and know that it will help make their great events even better," said HB Sound & Light's Darren Bjerke. "These spotlights with their even light, no hotspots and little edge fall off take any production to the top level. Their precision optics, fine craftsmanship and ergonomic designs define the industry standard."

The FARGODOME staff has been working on many improvement projects to prepare for the return of the event season and to deliver a more dynamic and region-leading experience for its guests.

**The Fargo City Commission voted 5-0 to approve the selection of HB Sound & Light for the purchase of four Robert Juliat Lancelot 4Kw followspots for use at the FARGODOME.**





## MATBUS Reducing Energy Usage and Increasing Savings

The City of Fargo's Metro Transit Garage will be undergoing a lighting improvement project, which will drive down energy consumption and spur cost savings for taxpayers.

"We are always looking for ways to improve efficiencies and lessen our environmental impact," said MATBUS' Fleet & Facilities Manager Jordan Smith. "Our facility operates at full capacity for twenty hours a day, which mean our lights are on almost all the time. We saw this as an opportunity to decrease our electricity usage while still being able to fully function. Our current lighting fixtures are metal halide and fluorescent lights."

The Metro Transit Garage will be switching to LED lights that produce the same brightness (measured in lumens) but at a much lower wattage. This will result in an estimated 25% reduction in electricity usage, which equates to roughly \$12,000 in savings per year. Grant funding through the States of North Dakota and Minnesota will fund the majority of the project, which will allow the Cities of Fargo and Moorhead to realize a return on the initial \$20,000 capital investment in less than two years. With a life expectancy of eight years, this project will have an estimated lifetime cost savings of \$96,000.

**The Fargo City Commission voted 5-0 to award Superior Electric of Fargo, LLC for the lighting replacement project. Transit staff will execute the contract.**



## A Novel Approach to Insourcing a Critical Component of Cleaning Fargo's Drinking Water

The Fargo Water Treatment Department is purchasing and installing a new system in the Water Treatment Plant which allows for the in-house creation of oxygen, used for the sanitization of drinking water. This new system is known as Vacuum Swing Absorption (VSA), and will extract 93% pure oxygen from outside air (outside air is normally less than 25% oxygen). This oxygen will be used to create ozone in the treatment plant. Ozone serves an important role in the disinfection and removal of compounds which cause taste & odor issues.

"Currently, the Water Treatment Plant uses Liquid Oxygen (LOX) in the ozone generators to create ozone. LOX is very expensive for Fargo because it needs to be trucked in from the Twin Cities. The VSA will produce oxygen more economically compared to buying LOX. For return-on-investment, it will require about five years to payback the purchase and installation. The VSA should last over 20 years," explained Water Utility Director Troy Hall.

**The Fargo City Commission voted 5-0 to approve the implementation of a Vacuum Swing Absorption system from Pacific Consolidated Industries.**



## **Update on Drug Usage and Overdoses in Cass County**

Fargo Police Chief David Zibolski and Fargo Cass Public Health leaders updated the community and Fargo City Commission regarding drug use, overdoses and the effectiveness of ongoing efforts to combat these issues.

Preliminary data from 2020 indicates that Cass County saw an increase in drug-related deaths compared to 2019. In 2020, there were 42 methamphetamine-related deaths (a 75% increase), 19 opioid-related deaths (a 27% increase), and 72 alcohol-related deaths (a 31% increase).

In 2020, there was a 51% increase in the number of visits to the Harm Reduction Center for the Syringe Services Program (SSP). The SSP is a safe space and provides an opportunity to discuss concerns with a Harm Reduction Specialist or Peer Support Specialist. In addition, participants can connect to social, mental health and medical services in the community. The SSP also supplies safe and secure syringe disposal, safer injection education, Narcan and injectable naloxone (medication that rapidly reverses opioid overdose), overdose response and Narcan/naloxone administration training and more. There were 155 self-reported opioid overdose reversals from July 2020 to December 2020. The SSP distributed 39% more naloxone doses in 2020 than in 2019.

The Gladys Ray Shelter (GRS) works to address core issues of homelessness, including chronic chemical dependency, mental illness and physical disabilities, as well as unemployment and affordable housing issues. GRS is committed to helping ensure that adequate housing options and resources are available to all guests leaving the emergency shelter. You can learn more about available Fargo Cass Public Health's Harm Reduction Programs on its website.