City Snapshot

Spring 2011

CITY OF Fargo

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Did you know?

You can now watch TV Fargo 12 online? Find it at www.cityoffargo.com/streaming.

Volunteers Rally at Sandbag Central

Residents Help to Fill 3 Million Sandbags

This spring, residents are joining together to fill 3 million sandbags in an effort to protect our community from a potential spring flood. That's the second largest sandbag filling goal in Fargo history, second only to the 3.5 million made during the 2009 flood when the Red River reached 40.82 feet in Fargo. The City of Fargo opened Sandbag Central on February 14 and so far there has been an overwhelming show of support from residents. Individuals and volunteers from businesses, schools and universities have helped fill roughly 100,000 sandbags each day.

Volunteers fill sandbags using the spider machine.

About Sandbag Central

Sandbag Central is located in the City's Solid Waste Building. Inside are 3 large spider sandbag filling machines, manual filling stations and a break area where volunteers can rest and get something to eat and drink.

How to Get There

Shuttles circulate every 15-minutes from the Coliseum and West Acres (JCPenny parking lot) where volunteers can park their vehicles and take a shuttle to and from Sandbag Central. The City of Fargo would like to thank volunteers for the tremendous effort put forth to help protect our community. Visit www.myfirstlink.org for volunteer information.

Three Tier Plan to Build/Monitor Levees

Engineers, Firefighters & the National Guard

In the event of a spring flood, the City of Fargo will have approximately 52 miles of primary perimeter protection including the Red River Corridor, Drain 27, Drain 53, Rose Coulee and the south end of Fargo which is exposed to overland flooding. To effectively build and maintain this extensive line of flood protection, these areas have been separated into 5 segments and further broken down into 12 subdivisions. Each will be overseen by three groups. A team of engineers and firefighters in the field, a support team at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the National Guard. Field teams will oversee construction, the EOC team will provide logistical support and the National Guard will monitor dike integrity and be ready to respond in case of a levee breach. Visit www.cityoffargo.com/flood for flood information.

FEMA to Unveil Floodplain Map
2011

The final phase to finish the new FEMA Floodplain Map is nearing completion. The new map will be released in 2011, according to Nancy Steinberger, a senior hydrologist/regional hydraulic engineer for FEMA. The final phase focuses on areas with existing levees and their protection boundaries. Areas protected by an accredited levee system will remain in the lower risk area. Listen to local media for public announcements concerning the new floodplain map. You can learn more about the mapping process by searching on FEMA's Web site. If you have flood insurance questions, please contact your insurance agent. There is a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance to become effective.

Watch for Sump Pump Discharge Changes
During Spring Flooding

The Sump Pump Waiver allows homeowners to discharge to the sanitary sewer system from October 1 to March 31. With early projections indicating that the Red River may rise above flood stage again this spring, homeowners who are discharging their sump pumps into the sanitary sewer system may be advised to divert back to the outside of the home during high water events.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant normally releases about 11-million gallons a day of treated wastewater back to the Red River during the winter. As the river rises the normal discharge point cannot be used, and the treated wastewater must then be routed to the wastewater stabilization ponds until the river levels return to normal. Discharging the sump pump water to the outside may reduce the influent flows by a million gallons or more per day. The reduced flows will allow the lagoons to operate efficiently and effectively.

Please be aware of the possibility that we may have to switch the sump pump discharge back to the outside of the home earlier than the March 31st date. Public broadcasts will be made if that decision is necessary.

Vulnerable Population Registry
Plan Ahead

Planning for the needs of vulnerable populations during a disaster is a key component of public health emergency preparedness planning. Fargo Cass Public Health has created a pre-registration system to help identify where those individuals who are most vulnerable can be located, and if necessary, assist them in relocation to a safe place until they can return home.

At risk or vulnerable populations are often those who live independently or with the help of a care giver and yet may need additional assistance in the event of a disaster, especially in the area of transportation. These populations include, but are not limited to: those with a disability, are frail or have significant health issues, elderly with no family/friend assistance, those with social or behavioral challenges and homeless.

The Vulnerable Population Registry has been designed to assist public health and other emergency workers to better plan for future disasters. Registering into this system should not be considered a guarantee that you will be placed on a priority list for emergency responders; however, it will make us aware of your individual situation and help us to be better prepared to assist you.

If you may need assistance during a disaster, or know of someone who may need assistance, call Fargo Cass Public Health at 701-241-1360 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Are You Prepared E-Newsletter
Sign-up Online

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Winter Preparedness at Home and on the Road

Sign up for the "Are You Prepared" quarterly e-newsletter from Cass Fargo Emergency Management and Fargo Cass Public Health to receive updates, tips and learning opportunities to become better prepared for weather and emergency events in our area. Go to www.cityoffargo.com/emergencies.

Home Improvements on a Budget

How the City Can Help

A home improvement project made possible with NRI assistance.

Now that spring is just around the corner, you may be thinking about a home improvement project. The Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) could be just the ticket to help make your home improvement dreams come true. This program offers homeowners the opportunity for a low-interest home improvement loan. The City of Fargo and Gate City Bank have partnered on this program for the past 8 years and hundreds of homeowners have used it to make millions of dollars worth of improvements to their homes. If your house needs some work, why not check out the NRI home remodeling loan? More information can be found on the web at www.cityoffargo.com/nri or by calling Fargo Community Development at 241-1474.

Alley Paving Ideas

Financial Assistance Available

Alleys are a fact of life in Fargo's older neighborhoods. For those of us who live with a gravel alley, it's often a love-hate relationship. Many people like having a garage in the back with no long driveway to shovel, but don't like to put up with dust, mud, or potholes. There is a solution – alley paving. Neighbors can get together and jointly decide to pave their block, and the cost can be special assessed to their homes with payments spread out over 25 years. However, for some, the cost can be an obstacle. In order to pave an alley, the majority of the homeowners on the block must be in favor, and sometimes projects don't happen because several homeowners opt out.
The City of Fargo can offer financial assistance to help pay for alley paving for households earning 60% or less of area median income. The City's Special Assessment Assistance Program can pay all or a portion of the annual cost of the special assessment levied on a particular property, and the homeowner will need to apply for assistance each year on the basis of annual household income. The following table shows the current maximum qualifying income levels for various household sizes:

1 -$28,620	5 - $44,220
2 - $32,720	6 - $47,460
3 - $36,840	7 - $50,760
4 - $40,920	8 - $54,000

For information on how to initiate an alley paving project on your block, call the Engineering Department at 241-1545. For more information on the Special Assessment Assistance Program, call the Department of Planning and Development at 241-1474.

Fargo Fire Quiz

Fire Escape Plan

Q: What's the most valuable thing in your house?

A: Your family.

Take a few moments to sit down with the whole family and go over your home escape plan. Make sure your children know:

✓What the smoke detector sounds like (push the test button).
✓What to do once the detector sounds (try to plan two ways out).
✓How to get out (doors and windows).
✓Where to go once they are out (once out, stay out).
Pick a neighbor's house you can all meet at and call 911.

The Chemistry of Color

Science Program for Kids

Kids ages 8 to 12 are invited to join us for a free hands-on workshop full of cool and colorful chemistry experiments with Dr. Graeme Wyllie and the Cobber Chemistry Crew. Build a rainbow in a tube, create a simple lava lamp and make lots of colorful slime. Two sessions of this educational and fun workshop are scheduled at the Main Library on Saturday, March 19. The first session is from 9 to 10:30 a.m.; a second session is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Space is limited; pre-registration required. Register online or call Children's Services at 241-1495.

Design a Bookmark Contest

March

Calling all young artists! March is Youth Art Month and to celebrate, the Fargo Public Library is holding a bookmark design contest. The top three designs will be made into full-color bookmarks that will be printed and distributed throughout the year at all three library branches and select library events. For full contest rules, visit the library's Web site or call the Children's Librarian at 241-1495.

Award Winning Author/Illustrators

Visit the Library

The Fargo Public Library welcomes two award-winning author/illustrators of children's books for a visit in April. Rick Chrustowski and Lauren Stringer will talk about their art as well as their writing when they visit the downtown Main Library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13. An author and an illustrator of several children's picture books, Stringer is best known for her award-winning children's book Winter is the Warmest Season. Noted for his vivid and realistic illustrations in his books, Chrustowski is the author and illustrator of Big Brown Bat and Turtle Crossing. This event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for sale and treats will be served.

National Library Week

Events Scheduled in Mid-April

A variety of programs to meet the interests of library patrons of all ages are being planned in conjunction with National Library Week and the Week of the Young Child, in mid-April. This year's theme is "Create Your Own Story @ Your Library".

A sampling of scheduled events and programs include:

- Scrapbooking Class for adults and teens with local scrapbooking expert Kim Thompson on Saturday, April 9 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Main Library. Call 241-1492 or visit www.fargolibrary.org to register. A second class featuring digital scrapbooking is scheduled for Saturday, April 30 at 10 a.m. at the Main Library.
- Visit with Kim Brown, the real "D.W." and sister to author Marc Brown of the award-winning, "Arthur" books for kids. Monday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library. Call 241-1495 for details.
- Scrapbooking for Kids class is for kids in grades 1 - 3. Join us Tuesday, April 12 at 4 p.m. at the Main Library. All materials provided. Register online or call the Children's Librarian at 241-1495.
- Bookmaking for Kids class is for kids in grades 4 to 6. Join us Thursday, April 14 at 4 p.m. at the Dr. James Carlson Library. All materials provided. Pre-registration is required. Register online or call the Children's Librarian at 241-1495.
- Literary Book Dating: Adults 21 -35 will have an opportunity to meet novel friends or a new love during this Literary Book Dating evening. Participants were encouraged to bring a book they love or loathe as a talking point for their 3 minute speed dates. The event is scheduled on Thursday, April 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Main Library. Pre-registration is required. Light refreshments will be served. Register online or call 241-1492 for more information.

A calendar of activities and events will be posted at all Fargo Public Library locations and announced in, The Title Page, the Library's bimonthly newsletter. A complete schedule of events is also available on the Library's Web site at www.fargolibrary.org.

Fargo Public Library

Get Ready for Spring Cleanup!

May 2-6

During the week of May 2-6, the Department of Solid Waste will collect extra garbage from your boulevard for no extra charge. Items will be picked up on your regular garbage day.

***DO* remove doors from appliances.**

***DO NOT* place all items in one pile. Please seperate.**

Please follow the guidelines below during Cleanup Week:

✓Items must be on the boulevard by 7 a.m.
✓Place garbage in disposable containers, except for oversized items.
✓No building materials or concrete.
✓Limit of two (2) appliances per household.
✓Separate items such as furniture, household garbage, brush, etc.; items are collected with separate trucks.
✓Electronics such as TVs and computers will NOT be collected. Please take them to the Household Hazardous Waste facility located at 606 43 ½ St. N. For more information visit www.cleanupweek.com.

Annual Electronics Recycling Event

April 30

The annual Electronics Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, April 30 at the Solid Waste Facility, 2301 8th Ave. N., Fargo from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Bring your old computers, televisions, monitors and other residential electronics and recycle them for FREE!! For more information, call 241-1449.

Yard Waste Disposal Sites to Open

May 9

Yard waste will not be collected between May 9 – October 7. During that time, all yard waste (grass, leaves, garden trimmings, excess fruits and vegetables) must be hauled to a recycling center or composted in your back yard. Brush is collected by the Forestry Department from May 1 - October 31. For information, call 241-1465.

Compost & Wood Chip Giveaway

Pick up Yours Starting in May

Free compost and wood chips will be available this spring to help spruce up your lawn or garden.

When: Every Wednesday and Thursday from May 11 – June 2 (3:30-5 p.m.) and Saturday, May 7 (7 a.m. – 12 noon).
Where: Compost facility, 7th Ave. N., east of 45th Street.
✓Residents with bags & cans must load their own compost.
✓City crews will help load pickups and trailers.
✓One-yard maximum.
✓Proof of residency is required.

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 that you can access to fill your own bags or cans is located next to the scale house at the landfill, 4501 7th Ave. N.

Spring holiday garbage schedule is on the next page >>

Watch for MATBUS on Flickr

Photos to be Posted Online

In the first half of 2011, MATBUS will debut web pages on Flickr, a social media photo-sharing network. The pages will showcase photos of Fargo and Moorhead transit vehicles in action, MATBUS staff members' involvement in the community and the MATBUS NDSU advertising campaign. Another exciting development will be the introduction of a new blog and the creation of a MATBUS page on YouTube to share MATBUS videos.

MATBUS Exceeds 2 Million

Ridership Numbers Increase

MATBUS and MAT Paratransit together gave more than 2-million rides during 2010, an increase of 6.7% over 2009. Increasing gas prices, low winter temperatures, additional college/university students using the bus and continuing marketing efforts all factored into helping MATBUS achieve these numbers. MATBUS' fixed route services provided more than 2-million rides in 2010, with Fargo contributing 1,624,637 to the total and Moorhead 376,697. MAT Paratransit's door-to-door services provided 57,850 rides in 2010.

New Southside Route a Success

Route 23

MATBUS is now successfully serving southwest Fargo with new Route 23, providing front-door service to Osgood, Woodhaven, Microsoft and Walmart neighborhoods. Route 23 operates from 6:35 a.m. to 10:08 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 7:35 a.m. to 10:08 p.m. on Saturday. These extended hours allow those working evening and overnight shifts to use transit services.

Stay Informed about Fargo Parks

Online and on TV

The Fargo Park District has a new telephone number for Administration and Recreation offices. Please update your records to our new number, 701-499-6060. You can learn more about upcoming Park District events and programs online at www.fargoparks.com. You can also stay on top of what's happening with the Fargo Park Board by watching monthly meetings on cable access channel TV Fargo 12.

Monthly meetings are rebroadcast on:
Mondays at 9 p.m.
Fridays at 4 p.m.

Holiday Garbage Schedule

March through May

Good Friday, April 22- Week of April 18: Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Good Friday, April 22.

Memorial Day, May 30 – Week of May 30: Monday garbage and recycling collection on Tuesday; the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, May 30.

Watch the ND Legislative Session

On TV and Online

The 2011 North Dakota Legislative Session is being broadcast live on cable access channel TV Fargo 12. This channel is available to Fargo residents who subscribe to Cable One. You can also watch TV Fargo 12 live on the City of Fargo Web site by visiting www.cityoffargo.com/streaming.

Each month, one session is broadcast live during the lunch hour and the other session is rebroadcast in the evening. Broadcast times change daily based on the legislature's schedule. Live and rebroadcast sessions will be preempted by live City of Fargo meetings. Weekly schedules are broadcast regularly on TV Fargo 12.

Walk This Way

Begins March 29

Walk This Way events give you a chance to explore some great walking trails and meet new people in the FM Area. Come join us! Meet for the first walk, led by Mayor Walaker, at the Fargo City Commission Room, 200 3rd St. N. on March 29 at noon. Walk This Way continues through May 17, with walks on Tuesdays and Thursdays at different locations in the FM area. For more information and to register, go to www.fmwalkthisway.com.

Join us on Facebook at Walk This Way. In recognition of Earth Week, April 18-April 23, Walk This Way participants will be able to ride the MAT buses for free with a Walk This Way passport. There will also be 2 for 1 coupons for rides on the SS Ruby.

2011 Arthritis Walk

Let's Move Together

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States, affecting more than 50 million people, including 300,000 children. Let's Move Together to fight this debilitating disease and provide resources to those living with daily challenges associated with arthritis.

Lace up your shoes and come to the 8th Annual Fargo-Moorhead Arthritis Walk. Walkers can choose from a one or three mile route. Strollers, wheelchairs and dogs are welcome. The event includes fun festivities for the whole family, including kids' activities, a health fair, refreshments and door prizes.

When: Saturday, May 7
8 a.m. - Registration
9 a.m. - Walk
Where: Courts Plus Fitness Center
3491 University Drive, Fargo

Participants and teams can register online at www.fargo2011.kintera.org. For more information about the Arthritis Walk, contact Kelly Brekke at 701-388-1988 or kbrekke@arthritis.org.

let's move together
WALK | ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

FARGO CITY COMMISSION
200 N. 3RD ST.
FARGO, ND 58102

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT NO. 3

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

2011 Flood Resources

Phone Numbers and Web sites

Volunteer Information:

Volunteer Hotline: 701-476-4000
www.myfirstlink.org
volunteerstatus.cityoffargo.com

Flood Information:

www.cityoffargo.com/flood

Live Flood Meetings & Media Conferences:

TV Fargo 12 (Cable One in Fargo)
www.cityoffargo.com/streaming

A semi trailer delivers filled sandbags to a sandbag storage site. Photo by TH Penuel.

Emergency Notifications

Sign up for CodeRed at www.cityoffargo.com/emergencies
Stay tuned to local media