

City Snapshot



Winter 2011

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Park After Hours - Park For Free!

After-hours parking available in some City owned parking lots

Overnight Parking Restrictions can feel like an inconvenience when you are visiting downtown in the evenings. But we have a solution that's better than just convenient, it's free, too. The City of Fargo provides free overnight parking in some city owned parking lots. We want to make sure that when cars must be moved off the street for sweeping and snow removal, drivers still have a place to park.

What are Night Parking Restrictions?

Night Parking Restrictions require vehicles to be moved off the street between 2 a.m. - 7 a.m. on the following schedule:

East/west avenues: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday mornings.

North/south streets: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

The Central Business District

This includes the area from the Red River to University Drive and from the 5th Avenue North train tracks to 1st Avenue South. Overnight parking restrictions apply throughout the year in this area. Vehicles parked in violation of this restriction may be ticketed or impounded. Street signs noting the restrictions are located in the affected areas.

How to find free parking

To help make City lots easier to find, the City of Fargo will be installing lighted signs that are visible in the evenings. If you see a lighted sign, pull on in! You can also visit www.fargoparking.com for maps, guides and brochures that will help you find an easy and affordable place to park.

Free parking locations

Drivers can park at the locations below at no charge between 6 p.m. - 8 a.m. Monday through Friday and on weekends (except in the case of special event parking):

- 2nd Avenue South Lot
- 2nd Avenue North Lot
- Civic Center Lot
- NP Avenue Lot
- Main Avenue Lot
- 4th Street Lot

Sometimes we need to remove snow from lots. We will place flyers on vehicles in advance of snow removal so drivers know that cars must be moved.

Comments/Suggestions

Share yours as part of the GO2030 community planning process at www.go2030.net.



The Civic Center lot provides free after hours parking.



Don't Let Winter Storms Fool You

Plan for the unexpected



A winter storm can arrive fast and furiously in North Dakota, making it important to always be prepared for the worst. Winter weather can cause you to be

stranded for long periods of time, so make sure you're ready, whether you're traveling or in the comfort of your own home. A few minutes worth of preparations could save your life.

Before a storm

Have extra blankets on hand and ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, a warm hat and warm, water-resistant boots.

During a storm

- Avoid going outside. If you must, wear several layers of lightweight clothing.
- Avoid traveling by car in a storm. If you must, carry an emergency preparedness kit in your car, keep your car's gas tank full and let someone know your destination, route and estimated time of arrival.
- If you become stranded in a vehicle, stay with your car - do not try to walk to safety.
- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna for rescuers to see.
- Start the car and run the heater for about 10 minutes every hour.
- Keep one window (away from the wind) slightly open to let air in.



After the storm

If you shovel snow after a storm, be careful not to overexert yourself. Strenuous activity in cold weather can put a strain on your heart.

'Tis the Season to be Watchful

Always lock your home and car doors



With the excitement of the holidays, it's easy to forget that not everyone is feeling merry. Thieves are looking for an easy target and impatient drivers are on the roads. Keep your holidays full of cheer by remembering the following at home and in your car:

Behind the Wheel

- Put down your cell phone and give the road your full attention. If something requires your attention while driving, pull over.
- Obey the speed limit, especially during winter weather. Allow extra time to reach your destination.
- Pay attention to traffic. During the holiday shopping season, you can expect the roads to be filled with visitors from out of town who are not accustomed to Fargo traffic.
- Catch a ride. If you choose to include alcohol in a holiday celebration, find a sober ride home.

Lock It or Lose It

- Always lock your vehicle doors! Most property crimes are crimes of opportunity. Thieves can steal from your vehicle in a matter of seconds if your doors are left unlocked.
- When holiday shopping, don't leave valuables visible in your vehicle. Put items in the trunk or somewhere out of sight.
- Always close and lock your home and garage – day and night. As those gifts pile up under the tree, don't make it easy for a criminal to ruin your Christmas.

Report suspicious activity

Take time this holiday season to get to know your neighbors. Great neighbors are what make great neighborhoods. Be a good neighbor by watching for suspicious behavior in your neighborhood and reporting it immediately to the Fargo Police.

Primed and Ready for Snow Removal

Keeping roads and sidewalks clear is a community effort

The people at Fargo Public Works take winter seriously. Each fall, staff makes sure the city's 29 snow removal vehicles and four sanders are in tip-top shape so they are ready to hit the road in the event of a winter storm. Fargo crews maintain 1,886 miles of traffic lanes, 34 miles of sidewalks, and use about 13,000 tons of sand/salt mixture each winter. But, the job of keeping our roads clear is also a partnership with residents. By working together, we can ensure that streets and sidewalks are kept snow free and traffic is restored to normal driving conditions as quickly and safely as possible.



Avoid getting in between plows that are in formation, as seen in the picture above.

- Pay attention to parking restrictions and move your vehicles off the street at the posted times.
- Have snow and ice removed from sidewalks and

crosswalks adjoining your property within 48 hours, after a measurable snowfall ends. If you fail to clear them you will be subject to a fine and a bill from the City to complete the work.

- Listen for street closures and snow related announcements and eliminate unnecessary travel.

If you have questions or concerns, you can contact Public Works at 241-1453 or via e-mail

at publicworks@cityoffargo.com. For more snow removal information, visit www.cityoffargo.com/publicworks.

Snow plow safety

- Always expect snow plows to make unanticipated maneuvers such as backing up or making wide turns.
- Stay four car lengths behind snow removal equipment, so the operator can see you.
- Avoid driving through "white outs" caused by plows and never try to pass the plow.
- Avoid getting between plows that are in formation, they create windrows which make it difficult for your vehicle to maneuver.

Preparation at home

- Keep the full width of your driveway approach and access to your mailbox clear of ice and snow. The Postal Service depends on this for delivery and collection.
- Don't shovel or blow snow from sidewalks, crosswalks, driveways, or parking lots onto public streets. It is a violation of City Ordinance and may result in a fine.

Save the Date!

Historic Homeowner Expo Saturday, March 17, 2012 Civic Center Centennial Hall

Learn how to care for and improve your historic home with local experts and hands-on workshops.

Keynote speaker, Steve Thomas, long-time host of This Old House and Renovation Nation.
Sponsored by the Fargo Historic Preservation Commission.

L.E.A.D the Discussion About Underage Drinking

Strategies to help you talk with your kids



Parents, if you're looking for ways to open the lines of communication with your child about underage drinking, a new online resource is available to help. The Listen, Educate, Ask, Discuss (LEAD) program is designed to provide valuable resources to parents on how to create and maintain open lines of communication about the topic.

In addition to tips and tools, communication strategies and scenario-driven approaches to discussing underage drinking, www.parentslead.org will provide the opportunity to sign up for e-mails containing information based on your child's age and/ or grade. A FaceBook page and interactive blog will also be included on the website, and will allow you to ask specific questions and get answers surrounding the topic of underage drinking. The Parents LEAD program includes methods of communication beginning with toddlers, through the college/young adult years.

The program is provided by North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), the North Dakota Department of Human Services, the North Dakota University System and the NDSU Extension Service.

Garbage & Recycling Collection Holiday Schedule:

Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25 – Week of Dec. 25: Monday collected on Tuesday; the remainder of the week will be on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, December 26.

Christmas Tree Pickup - Week of Jan. 9, 2012: Solid waste will dispose of your Christmas tree during the week of January 9, if you place it on your boulevard. Trees will be picked up on your regular garbage day. All plastic bags, and wood and metal stands must be removed. The tree should be placed at least 5 feet away from your garbage cart. Please do not deposit on snow banks.

New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1 – Week of Jan. 1, 2012: Monday collected on Tuesday; the remainder of the week will be on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, January 2nd.

President's Day, Monday, Feb. 20 – Week of Feb. 20, 2012: Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Monday, February 20th.

Landfill Hours: The Saturday hours of operation at the City of Fargo Sanitary Landfill are 7:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday hours are 7:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please place garbage carts and recycling bins on a ground surface such as the end of your driveway, not on a snow bank. The mechanical arms on garbage collection trucks are unable to pick-up cans placed on snow banks.

New recycling drop-off location: The recycling and yard waste drop-off site previously located at Broadway & 32nd Ave. N. (N. of Happy Joe's Pizza) has been moved to the Waste Water Plant located at the Intersection of 10 St. & 37 Ave. N., Fargo. The drop-off site is now located on city owned property, which will make maintenance and waste removal more efficient.

From the Firehouse

With Fire Marshal Norm Scott

Enjoy candles cautiously

The use of candles seems to increase during the holiday season, bringing warm holiday scents into our homes. But, it's important to know that candles are a major cause of fires every year. Many home fires are started with candles and about half of those fires begin in the bedroom. While the percentage of home fires has decreased, the cause of fires related to candles has increased. Most causes of fire due to candles are because they are left unattended or unsupervised. Other major causes are because candles are placed too close to combustible material and children playing with candles.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires begin with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.

Safety Tips

- ✓ Keep candles away from combustible materials.
- ✓ Never leave candles unattended.
- ✓ Make sure candles are extinguished before you go to bed.
- ✓ Use flashlights instead of candles, if possible, during power outages.
- ✓ Dispose of cracked or damaged candle holders.
- ✓ Candle holders may become hot, so handle carefully.
- ✓ Use candle holders that are hard to tip over.

Wishing you and your family safe and happy holidays,

Norm Scott
Fire Marshal



Free Publications

Did you know that you can order city brochures online at no charge? A variety of informational brochures about city services and resources are available for view, download or order at www.cityoffargo.com/publications.

Learning through “Smokey Eyes Goggles”

Tobacco prevention resources

The Tobacco Resource Lending Library at Fargo Cass Public Health now has an expanded inventory and provides more free educational resources for teachers, counselors, youth group leaders and community groups.

The library items can enhance current tobacco education curriculums or discussions, and provide the necessary tools to reinforce the important message of choosing a tobacco-free lifestyle.



The “Smokey Eyes” kit simulates vision problems caused by macular degeneration.

New items this year include Smokey Eyes Goggles, A Closer Look at Tobacco display and Tube of Toxins. A complete list of items and the request form are located at www.cityoffargo.com/tobaccolibrary. For more information or questions, call Holly Scott at 701-241-8576.

Affordable Radon Test Kit

Available at Fargo Cass Public Health

Testing homes for radon is not only important for your safety, but simple and inexpensive as well. Radon test kits that meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines are available at local public health units, the American Lung Association of North Dakota, hardware stores or online. Radon problems can be fixed by qualified contractors or the “do-it-yourselfer.” A list of contractors can be found at www.cityoffargo.com/emergencies/wintersafety, click on Radon Testing.



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

De-Clutter with MS. Simplicity

Sign up for a workshop today!



Are you overwhelmed by the clutter in your office? Is your kitchen so messy that you find it difficult to cook and eat a meal? If your New Year's resolution is to "get rid of the clutter", the Fargo Public Library has a series of workshops with you in mind. In January, the library is

hosting a three-part series on de-cluttering led by professional organizer Melissa Schmalenberger. A specialist in organizing people's homes and offices, Schmalenberger, also known as MS. Simplicity, will provide proven tips and methods to effectively organize any office or home. The free sessions will be held in the community room at the downtown Main Library. Topics in this series include:

De-Clutter Your Kitchen: Sunday, Jan. 15 at 2 p.m.

Clutter Hot Spots: Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m.

De-Clutter Your Office: Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m.

Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required.

Register online at www.fargolibrary.org or contact the library at 241-1492.

Meet Author Nate Jorgenson

February 21, 2012

The Fargo Public Library welcomes award-winning author Nathan Jorgenson to the Main Library on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. for a visit and book signing. Jorgenson's latest work, *A Crooked Number*, follows dental student Grant Thorson, his relationship with one of his instructors, and baseball. He is also the writer of *Waiting for White Horses* and *The Mulligan*. Raised on a small farm in rural Minnesota, Nathan Jorgenson now writes and practices dentistry in Fairmont, Minnesota. His writing has earned him the Benjamin Franklin Award for Best New Voice in Fiction and other honors. All ages are welcome at this event. Books will be available for purchase. For details, contact Lauren at 241-1472.

Holiday Break Activities for Kids & Teens

When the presents are opened and the eggnog is gone, the Fargo Public Library has a whole week's worth of events and programs to help parents make the most of their kids' holiday break from school.

Kids Events

Stuffed Animal Sleepover Storytime and Craft

Wednesday, Dec. 28: 10 a.m. at the Main Library.

Thursday, Dec. 29: 10 a.m. at the Dr. James Carlson Library. Leave your cuddly friend for a sleepover adventure at the library. The next morning, come back to see all of your stuffed animal's antics and make a photo frame craft.

LEGO Mania: Kids' LEGO Design Contest

Wednesday, Dec. 28: 2-3 p.m. at the Main Library.

Please read guidelines on the library website before building your LEGO design. Preregistration required. Register online or call Children's Librarian at 241-1495 for details.

Teen Events

Wednesday, Dec. 28: Watch "Zookeeper" at the Dr. James Carlson Library starting at 2 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 29: Watch "Super 8" at the Dr. James Carlson Library starting at 2 p.m.

Baby Rhyme Time

Develop a love of language & reading

Babies from birth through 18 months are invited to the library's newest storytime sessions geared just for them to experience songs, finger plays, short books, rhythms and rhymes. Sessions are scheduled on the first Thursday of the month at the Dr. James Carlson Library beginning at 10 a.m., and at the Main



Library at 6:30 p.m. Upcoming dates are December 1, January 4 and February 2. Each monthly lapsit session concludes with open play time. No registration is required. One child per grown-up lap, please. For information, call the Children's Librarian at 241-1495 or visit the library's website.

Half-Fare Days for the Holiday Shopping Season

Saturdays in December

The holidays can be a hectic time, with shopping to do and bumper to bumper traffic, but MATBUS is here to help! MATBUS passengers can ride for half-fare prices every Saturday in December. Rates are 60 cents for adults and 30 cents for senior citizens, youth and people with disabilities. You won't need to worry about parking, traffic or starting a cold car; our buses are always warm!



MATBUS wants you to enjoy the holiday season without any unnecessary stress. Give one of our Dispatch Team members a call at 701-232-7500, or check us out online at www.matbus.com, and we'll help plan your trip. Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays from MATBUS administration, operators and technicians!

MATBUS Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve - December 24: Last buses leave the Ground Transportation Center (GTC) at 4:45 p.m. All bus service ends by 5:15 p.m. No evening bus service offered.

Christmas Day - December 25: No Bus Service.

New Year's Eve - December 31: MATBUS routes in normal operation (including evening routes).

New Year's Day - January 1: No Bus Service.

MATBUS Lands \$1M Grant

Congratulations to the team at MATBUS for securing a \$1 million dollar Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant to purchase two new hybrid busses. MATBUS was one of 46 innovative transit projects chosen for its capacity to help cut the nation's dependence on oil and create a marketplace for 21st century 'green' jobs.

Bundle Up Before Heading Out

Winter weather preparedness

During the winter, remember to dress for cold temperatures and high winds. Also, be aware that MATBUS vehicles may operate behind schedule due to deteriorating road conditions. In the event of adverse weather and impassable road conditions, MATBUS may elect to implement its snow detours. Snow detours for each route can be found on www.matbus.com. During the winter, tune into to KFGO (790 AM), call 701-232-7500 or visit www.matbus.com for information on potential MATBUS service disruptions.

Don't Let GO2030 Pass You By

Get Involved online or at public events

Over the past few months, residents have been stepping forward to offer comments and suggestions about their vision for Fargo's future. These range from a need for permanent flood protection to a desire for more green space and trail connections to greater public support for the arts and culture. We now need your help prioritizing these suggestions and proposed key initiatives. Fargo's comprehensive plan is like a roadmap that provides clear direction to better manage change and create the best possible future. As the primary policy document used by city leaders, this plan will provide the framework to aid in the decision-making process from land use and transportation to flood protection and economic growth. While several steps of the update process have been completed, citizens are strongly encouraged to stay engaged.



Learn more at www.go2030.net

Help prioritize suggestions and key initiatives at www.go2030townhall.com.

Attend public meetings. Dates are available on the Go2030 website.

Submit comments or questions to Jim Hinderaker at jhinderaker@cityoffargo.com or by calling 701-241-1473

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Be Part of
“The Fargo Project”

www.thefargoproject.com

From November through February, the City of Fargo and The Fargo Project Team, including ecological artist Jackie Brookner, area artists, engineers, and residents, will be reaching out for community involvement and participation as we share ideas on how public stormwater pond spaces could be multi-use and more beautiful. We need your help! For project information, please visit www.thefargoproject.com, or visit the FaceBook community page “The Fargo Project” for updated events listings.”

