City Snapshot

Spring 2012

Fargo Police Zero in on Business Robberies

Law enforcement strategize to solve and prevent crime

Over the past several months, a number of commercial business robberies have taken place in our community which is something we don't experience very often. Residents, business owners, and the Fargo Police are concerned and that's why it's important for you to know what we are doing to solve these crimes and prevent more in the future.

Fargo Police Sgt. Bill Ahlfeldt evaluates security cameras at a local convenience store.

Solving Recent Robberies

Since January 2011, there have been 21 commercial business robberies in Fargo. Of those, 11 have been solved by the Fargo Police Department. Suspects have either been arrested or formal charges have been filed against them. Specialists from our department continue to diligently investigate the 10 incidents remaining to be solved. To do this, investigators are networking with residents and business owners, studying surveillance video and working closely with other area law enforcement, and in some cases the FBI. The Fargo Police Department has a proven record of successfully solving robberies at a rate 20% higher than the national average, and we are confident in our ability to solve recent local robberies. Read more about crime statistics on page 4.

Preventing Crime

Simply resolving these crimes is not our only mission. It is important for us to find ways to prevent robberies from happening in the first place. That's why we're currently working with the owners and employees of convenience stores, hotels, and other businesses that may be susceptible, to help make their businesses undesirable targets. Uniformed patrol officers are conducting security assessments at these businesses and providing owners with prevention information and other tools designed to keep their business, and more importantly, their employees safe. Simple prevention techniques such as bright outdoor lights, high-quality security cameras, large see through store fronts, multiple employees on duty, and limited cash on hand can be powerful deterrents. Officers have also greatly increased their presence in and around these businesses to prevent robberies. In addition, the Fargo Police Department is analyzing data and compiling other information designed to help us deploy police officers and resources to areas of the city most vulnerable to crimes such as robbery.

> ***"bright outdoor lights, high-quality security cameras, large see through store fronts, multiple employees on duty and limited cash can be powerful deterrents"***

Committed to a safe community

Rest assured, the Fargo Police Department is committed to working closely with business owners to combat this recent spate of robberies. We'll continue to do whatever we can to keep Fargo free from this and other types of crime, and retain the level of safety we're accustomed to. Working together gives us the best opportunity to keep Fargo the great community in which we live.

Chief Keith Ternes
Fargo Police Department

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

Be the first to know about Fargo road construction projects, follow FargoStreets.com on Twitter at:
twitter.com/fargostreets

Little Snow = Big Savings

With the lack of snow and unseasonably warm temperatures this winter, you may be wondering how much the city is saving by not having to plow snow or manage icy roads. Much of the savings won't be reaped until next winter, but so far the numbers are looking good. To prepare for the 2011-2012 snow season, approximately 8,000 tons of sand/salt was purchased, mixed and stored away. We typically use a total of 13,000 tons per winter, but so far this winter we have only used 2,000 tons. We will store the extra and use it next season. Public Works has also experienced considerable cost savings in the areas of staff overtime, seasonal employment and fuel usage.

January	This year	Average year
Staff overtime costs	$14,378	$88,129
Part-time staff costs	$3,424	$8,970
Fuel costs	$34,190	$99,430

The numbers in the table above represent a cost savings of almost $145,000, in January alone. However, winter isn't over yet and we could see a burst of snow that could extend winter into March and even April. With city budgets operating on a calendar year, Public Works is not heading to the bank quite yet. If we experience an early winter in the fall of 2012, all of our encumbered savings associated with this mild January could easily be spent battling the next snow season.

Ins and Outs of Garbage Collection

Collecting garbage is a big job but following a few guidelines can help the Solid Waste crew collect your garbage fast, efficiently and mess free. On your garbage collection day, please remember this:

- All garbage must be placed in your City of Fargo supplied garbage cart.
- For cart exchanges or to add a cart, call 241-1449.
- Place containers out for collection no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before to your collection day and no later than 8 a.m. the morning of collection.
- Garbage carts must be removed from the boulevard by
- 6 p.m. the day of collection.
- Bags and large items will be collected on a call-in basis. There is a fee that will be added to your utility bill.
- Large items may be hauled to the Sanitary Landfill. There will be a disposal fee.
- Be sure to place your blue recycling bin a distance of 5 feet or more from the garbage cart.
- Recycling is collected every other week. For recycling questions call 298-6944 or 241-1449.

How to Recycle Your Yard Waste

Starting May 14, the Department of Solid Waste will stop collecting yard waste from your curb. All yard waste, including grass, leaves, garden trimmings, and excess fruits and vegetables must be hauled to a recycling center or composted in your back yard. At recycling centers, large green containers are available for the yard waste and small white containers are available for bags and boxes that are used to haul the waste. If you have any questions, call 241-1449 or visit www.fargogarbage.com.

Brush Collection

Brush is collected by the Forestry Department from May 1 through October 31. For information, call 241-1465.

Save $$$ on Compost and Woodchips

Don't spend an arm and a leg on fertilizer and woodchips for your garden or landscaping. Instead, pick up a free supply at the Fargo compost facility.

What you need to know

Location: Compost facility, 7th Ave. N., east of 45th Street
When: Every Wednesday and Thursday May 16 to June 7 from 3:30 - 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 12 from 7:15 a.m. – noon.

- Residents with bags & cans must load their own.
- City crews will help load pickups and trailers.
- One-yard maximum.
- If available, additional yards of compost may be purchased for $10/yard and woodchips $8/yard.
- Proof of residency is required. A utility bill or drivers license are acceptable.

Compost pile at the HHW facility.

*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.

City of Fargo Employment

If you're interested in a career with the City of Fargo, be sure to visit our online employment webpage at www.cityoffargo.com/employment. You can view current openings, apply for jobs or sign-up for e-mail updates which will notify you of positions as soon as they become available.

View job openings at:
www.cityoffargo.com/employment

Spring Cleanup Week May 7 - 11, 2012

It's about that time of year when unwanted "stuff" around the house and garage starts to make your surroundings feel a little crowded. The good news is, it's also that time of year when the City will collect extra garbage and appliances for free! Spring Cleanup Week is May 7 - 11, 2012. Keep the following guidelines in mind when placing your items on the curb for pickup:

- 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 and brush. These items are collected with a separate truck.
- No building materials or concrete.
- Limit of two (2) appliances per household.
- Electronics such as TVs and computers will not be collected. Please take them to the Household Hazardous Waste facility.

Crews collect large appliances during Cleanup Week.

For more information about Cleanup Week, visit www.cleanupweek.com.

Make the "Spring Switch" with your Discharge Line

Spring rains bring welcome moisture for our plants and flowers. The moisture will also find its way to our drain tile and sump pump systems. Check your sump pump system before the spring rains begin. Learn more about the City of Fargo's Sump Pump and Foundation Drain Enforcement Program at www.cityoffargo.com/sumppumpprogram or call 461-SUMP (701-461-7867).

Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule 2012

Good Friday Week of April 2: Collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Friday, April 6.

Memorial Day week of May 28: Monday collection on Tuesday; the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, May 28.

Independence Day Week of July 2: Tuesday collected on Monday, Wednesday collected on Tuesday, the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Wednesday, July 4.

Labor Day Week of September 3: Monday collection on Tuesday; the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, September 3.

Veteran's Day Week of November 12: Collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Monday, November 12.

Thanksgiving Day Week of November 19: Monday and Friday collections on schedule; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday collections one day early. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 22.

Christmas Day Week of December 24: Tuesday collection on Wednesday, the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Tuesday, December 25.

Visit www.fargogarbage.com

Clip this schedule and save it!

Electronics Recycling Event

The annual Electronics Recycling Event is scheduled for Saturday, May 5. It will be held 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!!

Did You Know?

You don't have to wait until spring cleanup week to get rid of your old electronics. You can recycle them year round at the HHW facility.

Hours
Monday 9 -5
Tuesday 9 - 5
Wednesday 9 - 6
Thursday 9 - 5
Friday 9 - 5
2nd Saturday of each month from 8 - noon

Location
606 43 ½ St. N., Fargo

Contact
701-281-8915
www.fargogarbage.com

FARGO RECYCLES

From the Firehouse

With Fire Marshal Norm Scott

No Smoke Detector - No Protection

Smoke detectors just sit there, looking down from the ceiling, waiting to warn you if there is a sign of smoke or fire. There have been times that the detectors were noticed because of their loud alert sound. But that was from burning the toast again, so we disconnect the detector. We don't want that happening again!

Will smoke wake you up?

Now the detector just sits there, unable to sound the alarm if something were to happen. We forgot that we took the battery out of the detector and now we are unprotected from what may occur when we least expect it. Some people have said, "If I smell smoke, I will wake up" or "My pet will wake me up". Only they may never wake up because one of the first things lost when going to sleep is the sense of smell.

> ***"functioning smoke detectors can cut the risk in half of someone dying in a home fire"***

Smoke detectors are cheap insurance

Smoke detectors are about the cheapest insurance you can buy, usually $20 or less. Some detectors even have a built-in carbon monoxide detector. The life expectancy of a smoke detector is about ten years. To increase your life expectancy, have them replaced. Did you know protecting yourself with functioning smoke detectors can cut the risk in half of someone dying in a home fire? So, get out there and buy one. No, wait - buy several. Put one in every bedroom and outside every sleeping area. Now that you have the detectors installed and working, let's keep them working. Test them on a monthly basis and change the battery on an annual basis even if you think the battery is still good.

Getting out alive

Okay, so now you are safe, right? Not so fast, if the alarm goes off how are you going to get out of the house? Make sure you have two ways out. One way can be a window. Hot air and smoke rise toward the ceiling, so crawl if you have to. The best air is next to the floor. Once out, never go back in for anything. You are now safe at your meeting place. Call 9-1-1 and report your emergency. If you do not have a cell phone with you, try calling from a neighbor's house.

As you are waiting for the emergency vehicles to get to your house you can think to yourself, "Those detectors did a good job. Maybe I will give them each a fresh battery."

Norm Scott
Fire Marshal

Domestic Violence... It's Everyone's Business

Fargo Police are out to spread the word: "Domestic Violence... It's Everyone's Business". Fargo Police, Prairie St. John's and the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center are teaming up in an important campaign calling attention to domestic violence as an issue that is not to be considered "someone else's business". This public awareness campaign, which you will see on TV, in print, and hear on the radio, encourages all members of ourcommunity to acknowledge the problem and participate in a solution. The ads feature residents of Fargo, including a teacher, pastor, child, police officers and a senior citizen, representing the many walks of life which can be affected by domestic violence. You can view the ads on the Fargo Police website www.fargopolice.com.

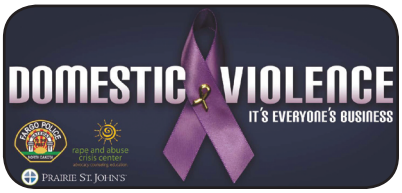
Domestic violence detective

In 2011, Fargo Police Detective Chris Nichtern was assigned as the new Domestic Violence Detective. His responsibilities include reviewing and investigating domestic violence cases, serving as a liaison to agencies such as YWCA and Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, and identifying habitual victims and victimizers in an effort to find long term solutions.

Training

The Fargo Police Department recently hosted a two-day course "Domestic Violence Intervention and Investigation" which featured Mark Wynn. Wynn is a national trainer for law enforcement, those in the judicial system and victim advocates.

The Fargo community can make this vision a reality, but only if we all work together, do not keep domestic violence "behind closed doors" and remember, "Domestic Violence...It's Everyone's Business".



Snapshot of 2011 Crime Statistics

In 2011, the City of Fargo experienced a 6% drop in crime thanks to the dedication of police officers and residents. Below is a breakdown of the most recognizable crimes:

Offense	2010	2011	Change
Homicide	0	1	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	52	31	-21
Robbery	39	47	8
Aggravated Assault	159	182	23
Arson	15	9	-5
Burglary	389	383	-6
Theft from Vehicle	435	338	-97
Shoplifting	697	652	-45
Vehicle Theft	125	87	-38
All other Theft	983	966	-17

National Public Health Week April 2 - 6

During National Public Health Week, April 2-6, five very important aspects of health will be highlighted; Eating and living well, avoiding drugs and tobacco, preventing communicable diseases, reproductive and sexual health, and mental and emotional well being. On a local level, Fargo Cass Public Health (FCPH) actively promotes these lifestyle choices by providing a wide variety of programs and services available to residents.

Active Living and Healthy Eating

FCPH promotes Walk This Way, Let's Eat Local, Metro in Motion, the Cass-Clay Healthy People Initiative, and Streets Alive; all of which encourage ways to incorporate exercise and healthy eating into the community. The Women, Infants and Children Program provides services to encourage healthy eating for women and children from pregnancy up to five years of age.

Living Tobacco and Drug-Free, and Preventing Alcohol Abuse

FCPH offers tobacco education, tobacco cessation services; and promotes North Dakota Tobacco QuitNet and Quitline.

Preventing Communicable Diseases

The Environmental Health Division of FCPH conducts routine health inspections to help prevent communicable diseases. FCPH immunization programs include: childhood, influenza, international travel, human papillomavirus, and hepatitis A and B.

Reproductive and Sexual Health

The Family Planning Clinic at FCPH offers screenings and educates clients on reproductive health, birth control options, and the risk of sexually transmitted diseases. Confidential STD/HIV testing and treatment is available.

Mental and Emotional Well Being

FCPH nurses conduct a variety of vital services throughout our community including: school health screenings, public health nursing home visits for adult clients, assisting and educating new parents through maternal child health home visits, immunizations, and mental health assessments for the Cass County Jail.

For more information on these services, call 241-1360 or visit www.cityoffargo.com/health.

Prescription Drugs: Lock Them Up!

Prescription drugs stored in a medicine drawer or cabinet are safe, right? Not necessarily. It might surprise you to know that many prescription drugs enter the illegal drug market by way of theft from a lawful patient. The person stealing the drugs is often a friend or relative of the person who was prescribed the medication. It's easy for theft to go unnoticed because the suspect may only take a few pills from the bottle, leaving the remainder in place. The abuse of prescription drugs is extremely dangerous and can lead to addictions that cause the user to seek out other street drugs once pills are not available. Opiate pill addicts, for example, have been known to turn to heroin which has a high danger of overdose and death.

What can you do?

Keep your prescriptions locked up and accounted for. If you are no longer using a prescription, there is a prescription disposal drop box in the lobby of the Fargo Police Department at 222 4th St. N., Fargo. You can bring your prescriptions in Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. To provide a tip regarding illegal drug use contact the Fargo Police Narcotics Unit at 701-241-1415.

Free Community Walking Program

If you're ready for spring and itching to start feeling good about your health, join Walk This Way. The community walking program will help you get out and get walking, and expose you to the various trails and places to walk throughout the Fargo-Moorhead area. 15 different walks are scheduled this spring from March 20 through May 15.

According to the Centers 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 of the week. Walking is a great way to be physically active and helps reduce the risk of 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; watch for more specific prize information to come!

For more information and to register please go to www.fmwalkthisway.com or call Kim Lipetzky at 701-241-8195.

Job Seekers Workshops: Navigating the Job Application Process

Workshops for Adults

The Fargo Public Library, in partnership with several local agencies, is offering a three-part series focused on job search basics in order to help you successfully navigate today's job application process. Applying for a job has changed dramatically in the past few years. So, too, has the process of looking for a job, writing cover letters and creating a resume, along with the interviewing process. This series is designed for individuals who are reentering the job market, have completed additional skill training, or are New Americans to our community. Sessions will be held at the downtown Main Library. Topics include:

- Job Seekers 101: Thursday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- Resumes and Cover Letters: Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- Online Job Searches and Online Job Applications: Thursday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Prerequisites are an active e-mail account and basic knowledge of using computers and using e-mail. 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.

Summer Job Workshops for Teens

Are you a teen in search of a summer job? Need help figuring out how to fill out a job application or writing a resume? Area teens in need of a little assistance in searching and applying for summer jobs can check out the library for some tips. The library is offering two Summer Job Workshops for teens. These hour-long seminars will cover topics such as how and where to search for jobs, how to fill out job applications, and how to put together a basic resume, as well as interview tips. Sessions will also introduce teens to library resources they can use to make their job search easier and more productive. Sessions are scheduled for:

- Thursday, April 12 at 4 p.m. at the Main Library.
- Tuesday, April 17 at 4 p.m. at the Dr. James Carlson Library.

No registration is required for these workshops; all materials will be provided. Contact Teen Librarian Bree Schmidt at teens@cityoffargo.com for details.

"First Chapter Book Collection" for 2nd & 3rd graders

The Fargo Public Library Children's Department is pleased to announce the addition of a new collection of books aimed at 2nd and 3rd grade students. The First Chapter Book Collection will help make the transition from Easy Readers to longer chapter books an easier and more rewarding process for children and parents alike. The Collection is intended as recreational reading for children to practice newly acquired skills and find a wide range of reading material that interests them.

Unique features

Featuring books with less than 125 pages, larger font size, and illustrations, these books help children gain confidence and discover the pleasure of independent reading. The books are specifically designed to look like longer chapter books but without the intimidating small print and unfamiliar vocabulary. Books in the First Chapter Book Collection can be found at any Fargo Public Library location and are designated by a yellow star on the spine of the book.

Tasty and Creative Cake Pop Workshops

Cake pops are one of the newest trends in desserts. In March, the library is holding a couple of hands-on workshops to show you how easy it is to make these artful- looking and tasty treats.

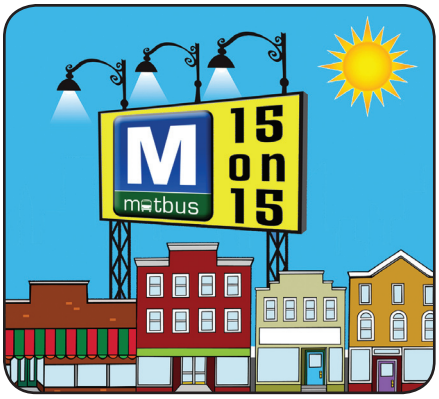
- Thursday, March 29 at 6 p.m. at the Main Library.
- Saturday, March 31 at 1 p.m. at the Dr. James Carlson Library.

All materials provided. Space is limited; pre-registration is required. Register online at www.fargolibrary.org or contact Jenilee at 241-8123 for more information.

Arbor Day Tree Planting Event

The library is celebrating Arbor Day this year with a tree planting program. Join us for a brief session on the proper way to plant and care for your trees from City Forester Scott Liudahl. In addition, all ages are invited to help plant two or three decorative flowering trees on the City's green space on the north side of the Main Library. This green thumb event is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. All materials will be provided at this free event. Come prepared to get dirty! Refreshments will be served.

MATBUS Goes "15 on 15"



In order to meet growing demand, MATBUS has added two additional buses to its popular Route 15, which runs from downtown Fargo to the 13th Avenue corridor, including service to West Acres, Target and Walmart. The additional vehicles allow MATBUS to increase daytime service from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes. Visit www. matbus.com or call 701-232-7500 for trip planning assistance. Try "15 on 15" today & "Go Green and Ride with Us" at MATBUS!

Earth Week April 23 - 28

From April 23 - 28, 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 MATBUS! Proceeds from the collected cans will be donated to charity. Enter the prize drawings on MATBUS vehicles, or at the Ground Transportation Center (GTC) at 502 NP Ave., during Earth Week. This promotional fare only applies to fixed route service.

Ridership Up 100,000!

During 2011, MATBUS fixed routes and MAT Paratransit services gave a combined 2,156,747 rides to passengers in the F-M community, that's a total increase of more than 100,000 over the year before. Route modifications, increasing gas prices, expanded and targeted marketing efforts and continued outreach activities are all factors in this achievement. MATBUS is seeing many "choice riders" on-board its vehicles, to. "Choice riders" are those passengers who have their own vehicles, but choose to ride MATBUS instead.

Homebuyer Education Saves You Money

If you are thinking about buying a home, consider attending The Village Family Service Center's free Homebuyer Education Program. In addition to teaching you how to manage money wisely and the steps of the homebuyer process, The Village's Homebuyer Education Program can help you qualify for down-payment and closing cost assistance. The Homebuyer Education Program includes an eight-hour class and an individual financial assessment. Participants need to complete both the classroom session(s) and the individual financial assessment to receive a certificate of completion. For more information on The Village's Free homebuyer class, call 800-450-4019 or go to www.HelpWithMoney.org/workshops.

Low-Interest Home Improvement Loans

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 9 years – 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 into 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.

Historic Home Exposition March 17

Attention, owners and lovers of old houses! The Fargo Historic Preservation Commission is sponsoring Fargo's first-ever Historic Home Expo on Saturday, March 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Centennial Hall in the Fargo Civic Center. You will find lots of information and practical advice on how to care for and maintain old houses.

- Steve Thomas, former host of "This Old House" speaks at 10 a.m.
- Local experts will present short workshops on weatherization, heating and air conditioning, restoration and repair of windows, and other topics relevant to old houses.
- Remodeling contractors will have booths at the show.

The Historic Home Expo is free and open to the public.

Architectural Salvage Sale

There will also be an Architectural Salvage Sale at the Historic Home Expo. This may be your opportunity to replace that special doorknob or missing piece of trim.

If you have architectural items to sell, tables can be rented for $5. For more information, contact Dawn Mayo, Fargo Planning and Development, at 476-4137.

Visit the City of Fargo online at www.cityoffargo.com.

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

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STANDARD
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PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT NO. 3

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Fargo Flood Insurance .com

Choosing wether or not to get flood insurance is a big decision, and you need to be informed before you make it. www.fargofloodinsurance.com can help. The website contains tips, fact sheets, advice on when to get flood insurance, online training, questions and answers, the latest version of the new flood map and more. FEMA is planning on releasing the revised floodplain map in 2012 and the change could affect you.

Insurance Facts

- Most Homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
- Flood Insurance has a 30-day waiting period before it becomes effective.

Visit www.fargofloodinsurance.com to see if flood insurance is right for you. Deciding early, could save you money in the long run.