

# City Snapshot



Fall 2011

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Get Fargo road construction updates at [www.twitter.com/fargostreets](http://www.twitter.com/fargostreets).

## New Bicycle Friendly Features on Roads

### Bike lanes & shared lanes on Fargo streets

Biking is a healthy, earth friendly and affordable way to travel and it's becoming more popular among Fargo residents.

Over the summer, the City of Fargo striped dozens of roads to include bike lanes or shared

lanes which are designed to help drivers and bikers share the road safely. Whether you're a driver or bicyclist, it's important to understand and follow safety guidelines so that everyone can use the road safely.

- Motorists should not park in bicycle lanes.
- Motorists may make turns across a bicycle lane to enter a parking space or to enter a drive way, etc. as long as they signal their intention and yield to bicyclists.
- When parked next to a bicycle lane, motorists should always look for bicyclists before opening their car door. Bicyclists should always watch for motorists opening a door by looking ahead into a car's rear window.
- Bicyclists are not mandated to use bicycle lanes.

- Bicyclists may exit a bicycle lane at any time as long as they look for traffic behind them before leaving the bicycle lane, yield to motorists and use appropriate hand signals.



Bike lanes are marked with a stripe & bike symbol.

- Most bicycle lane lines become dashed just before an intersection. The dashed lines notify bicyclists and motorists that this is an area where they will be mixing on a regular basis.

- A shared lane marking is a stencil applied

to roadway lanes when there is not enough space for a bicyclist to safely share a lane with a motorist due to the width of the roadway lane. The shared lane marking shows bicyclists the most appropriate place to travel in the roadway lane so as not to encourage motorists to "squeeze by" when a travel lane is narrow. Sometimes shared lane markings will guide a bicyclist to the center of a travel lane such as on Broadway between NP Avenue and 6th Avenue North.

**Flood insurance special, p. 2**

# Fargo Flood Risk

## Insuring Your Future

*FEMA is currently revising the 100 year floodplain map for Fargo. The map will become effective approximately 12-18 months after its completion. Because of this revision, many properties will be added to the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), also known as the 100-year floodplain, high risk area, regulated floodplain or Zone A. Homeowners who are newly mapped into this zone and who have a federally backed mortgage will be required to purchase flood insurance.*

### Revised floodplain map – know your risk

FEMA has sole authority to place or remove property from the SFHA. Congress requires FEMA to remap floodplains periodically to reflect population growth. Fargo is scheduled for a map revision in 2011. Residents can view a preliminary version of the map on the Fargo website at [www.fargofloodinsurance.com](http://www.fargofloodinsurance.com). Be sure to read the map legend carefully before studying the map.

### How the map will affect you

In the revised map, a larger portion of Fargo is included in the SFHA. Many properties will change categories from a low risk (Zone X, 500-year) into the high risk SFHA (Zone A). Property owners newly mapped into the SFHA may be required to purchase flood insurance. If you have a federally backed (insured) mortgage your lender will require you to carry flood insurance.

### Purchasing flood insurance

Your insurance agent is the best source of flood insurance information. You can learn more about this important topic at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). Understand that homeowners' insurance does not cover flooding. Because of this, your lender is required to determine if you need to buy a separate flood policy.

A mortgage lender has the authority to select flood insurance on behalf of the borrower and add the cost to their monthly payment. However, borrowers typically have the option to purchase flood insurance on their own.

### Selling your home

Purchasing flood insurance early can be a benefit if you are mapped into a SFHA and are considering selling your home. Any advantage a homeowner secures by purchasing flood insurance early can be carried over to the new owner of the home. Talk to your insurance agent for details.

Visit

**[fargofloodinsurance.com](http://fargofloodinsurance.com)**

for flood insurance fact sheets, maps & guidelines useful for property owners, insurance agents & real estate agents.

### Should I buy flood insurance before the map change?

Insurance agents agree that having a flood insurance policy in place before the map changes is better than not having one. Why? Once policyholders are insured with the National Flood Insurance Program they are considered "loyal customers" and can benefit from reduced paperwork and a better rate if they are newly mapped into the Special Flood Hazard Area. For as little as \$10.75 per month (\$129 annually) you can own a flood insurance policy. Call your agent today!

# Keeping Children & Their "Stuff" Safe

## Back to school

Practicing back to school safety isn't just for kids, it's important for adults to be cautious, too. Many children will be out in the mornings and after school as they walk or bike to class or home. The Fargo Police Department is asking everyone to be cautious this school year, and stay safe.



### Drivers

- Please remember while driving to obey all speed limits, especially in school zones. Everyone is getting used to new schedules and routines.
- Allow yourself extra time while driving to and from your destination. School buses and children walking or riding bike can set you back a few minutes. Plan for the delay.
- While on the road don't allow yourself to be distracted. If you need to use a cell phone, other electronic devices or you are eating, pull over.

### Bikers

#### Follow the Rules of the Road

- Ride with traffic and obey the same laws as motorists.
- Use the right-most lane that heads in your direction.
- Obey all traffic control devices.
- Always look back and use hand and arm signals to indicate your intention to stop, merge or turn.

#### Be Visible

- Ride where drivers can see you.
- Wear brightly colored clothing at all times.
- At night, use a white front light and red rear light or reflector.

#### Be Predictable

- Ride in a straight line and don't swerve between parked cars.
- Make eye contact with motorists to let them know you are there.

#### Anticipate Conflicts

- Be aware of traffic around you and be prepared to take quick action.
- Learn braking and turning techniques to avoid crashes.
- Be extra alert at intersections.

#### Wear a Helmet

- Make sure that the helmet fits on top of your head and is not tipped back or forward.
- After a crash or any impact that affects your helmet, visible or not, replace it immediately.

## Protecting Valuables at School

Theft at school can be an issue with any age group. Being a victim of a theft can be very upsetting to a child and investigating the crime can be time consuming for school staff and the investigating officer. Most property crimes are crimes of opportunity; they take only seconds to commit and are very hard to solve.

- Don't let your child bring valuables to school.
- Explain to your child the importance of securing their property by always locking their locker.
- If your child rides a bicycle to school, make sure they have a bicycle lock and use it!
- Sign up for the MyStuff Program, a web-based program that lets students register any item with a serial number through their school. Students can register their items online at [www.fargo.K12.nd.us/mystuff/](http://www.fargo.K12.nd.us/mystuff/). They can log into the site using their student ID number and password.

## Let's Eat Local!

Upcoming event September 28



Next time you plan a meal or pick up groceries, think "Let's Eat Local!" This new campaign is part of the Cass Clay Food Systems Initiative

(CCFSI), which was started with the purpose to impact all levels of our community food system to assure that residents have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable foods. We aim to improve the production, distribution, sales, and consumption of healthy, locally grown foods within our region. Strengthening the local food system will benefit the health, food security, economy, and environment of our two-state community. Residents are encouraged to get involved with Let's Eat Local and help improve our local food system.

### Upcoming Community Event

Join our community event on September 28 at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. Registration is free. Learn more at [www.letseatlocal.org](http://www.letseatlocal.org).

## October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Financial assistance for mammograms available

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. According to the Centers for Disease Control in 2007:

- 202,964 women in the United States were diagnosed with breast cancer.
- 40,598 women in the United States died from breast cancer.

Women's Way, the North Dakota Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, helps women between the ages of 40-64 who do not have health insurance, who have health insurance but are unable to pay insurance deductibles and/or copayments, or who do not have breast cancer screening coverage through their insurance plan. The program helps women, who qualify, to pay for mammograms from the doctor or clinic they select. For more information, contact Kristi at 1-800-44 WOMEN, (1-800-449-6636) or 298-6918. Women's Way is located at Fargo Cass Public Health, 401 3rd Avenue North in Fargo.

## Free DNA Life Print Event

September 24



The Fargo Police Department and Nodak Mutual Insurance will be hosting the DNA Life Print Child Safety Event at the West Acres Mall on Saturday, September

24, 2011. The event will tentatively run from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. This event is FREE, while supplies last. The services provided include:

**Free:** FBI Certified Biometric Fingerprint Profile.

**Free:** High resolution full color Digital Photograph of your child.

**Free:** Child Safety Journal which will provide law enforcement officials with all the necessary, vital information about your child and other important facts they will need immediately after a child is reported missing.

**Free:** Home DNA Identification Kit that is easy to use and lasts through generations.

## Streets Alive

September 18

Streets Alive returns to Fargo Moorhead from 12-5 p.m. on Sunday, September 18. Three miles of streets connecting downtown Fargo Moorhead and Oak Grove, Great Northern and Davy Memorial Parks will be closed to automobiles and opened to walkers, bikers, skaters, runners, dancers – any form of human-powered movement. This year's events will again include lots of opportunities for fun physical activity and healthy foods, plus a 1 mile race/run and a Bicycle rodeo. For more information go to [www.fmstreetsalive.org](http://www.fmstreetsalive.org) or find us on Facebook.

## Fargo Awarded "Our Town Grant"

National Endowment for the Arts

The City of Fargo is the proud recipient of a \$100,000 Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), one of only 51 grants awarded nationwide. The grant will be used to transform a storm water retention area into a community art project. This grant is being matched by the City for a total project budget of \$260,000.

# From the Firehouse

With Fire Marshal Norm Scott

## Plan your escape

What's the best way to protect your family from fire? Be ahead of the game, of course. When it comes to fire, your best defense is a good offense. Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15, 2011. The theme this year is "It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect Your Family from Fire!" Although preparing for the unexpected is difficult, reviewing the information below and taking action based on it to plan for a fire could save lives.

- Make a home escape plan.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible.
- If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in a fire.
- Have an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox).
- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day, twice a year.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

## If the alarm sounds:

- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to find your way out.
- Call 911 from outside your home.

**Norm Scott**  
Fire Marshal



## Learn Essential Skills for Home Buying

Homebuyer education class

If your dream is to own a home, The Village Family Service Center offers a free Homebuyer Education Program that can help you achieve that dream. In addition to teaching you how to manage money wisely and to educate you about the home buying process, The Village's Homebuyer Education Program may qualify attendees for down payment and closing cost assistance from the City of Fargo. Call The Village Family Service Center at 701-235-3328 for more information or to register. Session dates are September 12 - 13 & 26 - 27 from 5:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

## Understanding Weather Notifications

Fargo & Cass County

The primary notification systems for severe weather in our area are outdoor warning sirens and CodeRED Weather Notifications. These systems are designed to alert you that dangerous conditions are near and encourage you to take shelter indoors.

### Why do only some people get CodeRED calls?

CodeRED notifications and outdoor sirens have the same purpose, to alert residents to severe conditions, but they are designed to work in different ways. Sirens generally go off throughout the entire city during an emergency, however, CodeRED may only be used to call subscribers in immediate danger. For example, during a tornado warning, sirens may be going off in the entire city of Fargo, while the warning area may only include a specific portion of the city. Only CodeRED subscribers living within the warning area would get a CodeRED phone call. If you would like to sign up for CodeRED Weather Notifications, go to [www.cityoffargo.com/emergencies](http://www.cityoffargo.com/emergencies) or call 701-476-4068.

## Get Road Construction Updates on Twitter

[www.twitter.com/fargostreets](http://www.twitter.com/fargostreets)

Don't let a road closure catch you by surprise – find out ahead of time by visiting [www.fargostreets.com](http://www.fargostreets.com) or by following us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/fargostreets](http://www.twitter.com/fargostreets). Fargostreets.com is your one stop shop for timely and accurate information regarding road closures, detours and future projects in the City of Fargo. You can also find regular updates about ongoing road projects and NDDOT projects.

## Benefits of Landlord Training

Offered by the Fargo Police Department

Landlords interested in being notified if police are called to their rental property, or who want to obtain free local criminal background checks on prospective tenants, are encouraged to attend the Landlord Training Program offered by the Fargo Police Department. The class is offered to managers or Fargo rental property owners on September 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other classes are scheduled for October 11 and November 15. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call Deb at the Fargo Police Department at 701-298-6968.

## Free Online Tutoring

At [www.fargolibrary.org](http://www.fargolibrary.org)



Need a little help with your homework? If you are struggling with a school subject, need some help with a question on your homework, or are trying to brush up on college chemistry after a few years,

TutorND can connect you with trained tutors to assist you. The North Dakota State Library has partnered with Tutor.com™ to offer free online tutoring and academic resources to all North Dakota residents with a library card. You can get live help from a tutor in all major subject areas such as math, science, social studies, and English. This resource also offers tutoring at all academic levels from elementary all the way up to college level. This free service is available Sundays through Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Additional web resources for homework help or test preparation are also available online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can reach TutorND by accessing the online resources on Fargo Public Library's website at [www.fargolibrary.org](http://www.fargolibrary.org). All that is required is a valid Fargo Public Library card.

## Author Roxana Saberi to Visit Library November 13 at 2 p.m.

The Fargo Public Library is pleased to welcome journalist and author Roxana Saberi to the downtown Main Library for a presentation and book signing on Sunday, November 13 starting at 2 p.m. Saberi will discuss her book *BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: My Life and Captivity in Iran*. Falsely accused of espionage and jailed for 100 days in Iran's Evin Prison, Saberi was released on May 11, 2009. Her book chronicles these events and provides insight into Iranian society, the Islamic regime, and U.S.-Iran relations, shedding light on developments taking place today in Iran. All ages are welcome; books will be available for purchase. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Librarian Greg Gilstrap at 241-1492. Additional information about Saberi can be found at [www.roxanasaberi.com](http://www.roxanasaberi.com).

## Take Part in the Strategic Planning Survey Your Voice, Your Future @ Your Fargo Public Library

Tell us what you think; we want to know. Starting September 19, the library is launching a six-week survey campaign, *Your Voice, Your Future @ Your Fargo Public Library*, to gather input on what Fargo residents want over the next five years in regards to future library services and resources. In order to ensure that the library is meeting the needs and expectations of the community, the library is asking for residents' input via phone, web and in-house surveys. The survey process will begin September 19 with phone surveys to residents. Beginning September 26 and continuing through the end of October, online surveys will be available on the library's website at [www.fargolibrary.org](http://www.fargolibrary.org) along with paper surveys which will be available at all three library locations. Please visit us online at [www.fargolibrary.org](http://www.fargolibrary.org) and share *Your Voice, Your Future @ Your Fargo Public Library*.

## Prepared Caregiving for the Elderly Series in November



Are you a caregiver to a senior citizen or just realizing you soon will be taking on that role? Do you feel stretched, balancing your role as a caregiver

with work and/or parenting and unsure about what resources might be available to help? The Fargo Public Library is offering a series of programs to provide information about how to be prepared caregivers for aging adults. The sessions will be held at the Dr. James Carlson Library. Topics include:

- **Family Caregiver Support Program:** Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Elder Law:** Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Online Resources for Caregivers:** Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome to these free sessions. Due to limited seating, registration is required for the Nov. 15 online resources session. Register online at [www.fargolibrary.org](http://www.fargolibrary.org) or contact the Library at 476-5980.



## Take the Commuter Challenge!

September through October

Don't just think about taking a more eco-friendly form of transportation, do it! From September 6 through November 1, MATBUS is inviting everyone to take the Commuter Challenge. All you have to do is "give your car a rest on Tuesdays," (or at least once a week) and take a more eco-friendly mode of transportation for eight weeks – carpool, bus, walk, bike, skate, even roller blade. The first 125 people to sign up will get a free

**Give your car a rest on Tuesdays**



MATBUS water bottle and other prizes will be given away to those who meet their weekly goal. To sign up, go online to [www.matbus.com](http://www.matbus.com). We'll even help you stay on course by e-mailing encouraging weekly messages. Save money, save time, reduce traffic, save the environment and receive

prizes! Be sure to watch for billboards located in Fargo and Moorhead promoting this earth friendly event.

## Have you Tried Transit?

Get On Board!

Nearly 2.1 million rides were given on MATBUS in Fargo and Moorhead in 2010. We invite you to ride transit, too, during Try Transit Week, October 24-29. During this week, riding MATBUS will be half-price per trip all week (only 60 cents for adults and 30 cents for senior citizens, youth and people with disabilities)!

Our event schedule includes:

- Half-fare rides on MATBUS all week.
- Enter a drawing to win prizes.
- Free "Squiggly" pen to each rider on Tuesday (while supplies last).
- Free popcorn and refreshments at the Ground Transportation Center, 502 NP Avenue in Fargo, on Tuesday.
- Senior citizens ride free on Thursday.
- Ride the evening bus routes and receive a blinking safety light on Friday.
- Youth in K-12th grade ride free on Saturday.

## 2010 MATBUS Annual Report

Online at [www.matbus.com](http://www.matbus.com)

2010 was a banner year for MATBUS, highlighted by the introduction of a new name and logo, the purchase of six buses, surpassing 2 million riders, the expansion of service to southwest Fargo, technology upgrades and the installation of over a dozen passenger waiting shelters. Be sure to view the MATBUS 2010 Annual Report at [www.matbus.com](http://www.matbus.com).

## Fall Garbage Collection Schedule

September - November

- **Labor Day, September 5** – Week of September 5: Monday garbage and recycling collections will be on Tuesday; the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Labor Day.
- **Veteran's Day, November 11** – Week of November 7: Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Veteran's Day.
- **Thanksgiving Day, November 24** – Week of November 21: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday collections one day early and Friday garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

## Yard Waste/Brush Collection

Begins in October

City crews will begin collecting yard waste beginning October 10 and continue collecting through cleanup week in May. Yard waste must be placed in disposable containers weighing less than 50 pounds. Please do not rake or blow leaves into city streets.

Brush collection will end for the season on October 31. For more information call the Forestry Department at 241-1465.

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## Welcome Back College Students!

Join the Herd. Be MATBUS Strong.

Through the U-Pass Agreement with area colleges and universities, students enrolled at North Dakota State University (NDSU), Minnesota State University-Moorhead (MSUM), Concordia College and Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M State) can ride all MATBUS fixed route vehicles free! Faculty and staff at NDSU, MSUM and Concordia also ride free. Just show the driver your university ID card when boarding the bus and ride MATBUS in Fargo, West Fargo, Moorhead and Dilworth. MATBUS is proud to transport over 1 million college students, faculty and staff each year! Visit MATBUS on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and AreaVoices.

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