

NO BIKE? NO PROBLEM!

There will soon be a new way to get around downtown Fargo and the North Dakota State University campuses. “Great Rides Bike Share” is a transportation program that gives users the ability to pick up a bicycle at any self serve bike station and return it to any other bike station located within the system’s service area. “NDSU student leaders and community sponsors have been working on this program for more than 3 years. It will provide a healthy transportation alternative for residents and visitors. We’re proud to see it becoming a reality,” says Fargo City Commissioner Mike Williams. The system is owned and operated by the newly formed non-profit Great Rides Bike Share, which is based out of the Great Northern Bicycle Shop.

The bike docking stations are strategically located at eleven high demand destinations throughout downtown and NDSU campuses. Most stations are just a few blocks apart and all are located well within a leisurely 30 minute ride from one end of the system to the other.

Great Rides will work to keep the number of bikes at the stations balanced and each bike is regularly maintained by a team of mechanics, so you always get the best ride. There will be a total of 101 green bikes available for riders.

Bison green was chosen as the color for the bikes by the North Dakota State University student government. “It’s worth your while to visit the downtown area and try out the bike share. By hopping on a bike you will be able to get around in no time and enjoy all the area has to offer,” says Williams.



101 Bison green bicycles will be available through the bike share.

You can find bike stations at the following locations:

- U.S. Bank Plaza
- Ground Transportation Center (MATBUS)
- Fercho YMCA
- University Village
- NDSU High Rises
- NDSU Wallman Wellness Center
- NDSU Memorial Union
- Sanford Health Broadway Medical Center
- Great Northern Bicycle Company
- NDSU Barry Hall
- NDSU Renaissance Hall

To learn more or become a member visit www.GreatRidesBikeShare.com or purchase a one-day pass right at the docking station. You can also follow Great Rides Bike Share on Facebook. The green bikes will be appearing soon. Great Rides Bike Share will launch spring of 2015!



Scan this code with your smart phone to visit the City of Fargo website!

WWW.CITYOFFARGO.COM



Special Election 4/28



Voting centers will be used this election allowing residents to cast their ballots at any voting location.

The City of Fargo will hold a special election on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. Residents will have the opportunity to vote on the open Mayor's seat, an open Commission seat and a Home Rule Charter question asking if sitting commissioners should have to resign their seat in order to run for Mayor. The Mayoral seat was vacated with the passing of three-term Mayor Dennis Walaker.

Mayor

- Tim Mahoney
- Brad Wimmer

Commissioner

- Cole Carley
- Tony Gehrig
- Mara Brust
- Bradford Schaffer
- John Strand
- Scott Wagner

Early voting

Early voting will be held April 20 - 22 at the Baymont Inn from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Anyone who is over 18, a US citizen and has been a resident of the City of Fargo for 30 days is eligible to vote.

Voting Centers

Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on April 28. One important change residents will need to know about this election is that, for the first time, voting centers will be used. This means voters can vote at any precinct in Fargo instead of at their home precinct.

Voting center locations:

- FargoDome: 1800 N. Univ. Dr.
- El Zagal Shrine: 1429 3rd St. N.
- Fargo Public Library: 102 3rd St. N.
- Atonement Lutheran: 4601 S. Univ. Dr.
- Calvary United Methodist: 4575 45th St. S.
- Baymont Inn (formerly Doublewood): 3333 13th Ave. S.

Spring road construction



Follow @FargoStreets on Twitter for road closure announcements.

Drivers will start seeing the familiar look of streets lined with orange cones in the next month or two. This year there will be a number of high profile projects, however, only a few will impact arterial roadways. Here is a glance at some of the most notable projects:

• **32nd Avenue South:** 32nd Avenue South between 45th Street and Veterans Boulevard will be completed with the addition of three more lanes and a center turn lane. The project will span May through October. West Fargo will be reconstructing 32nd from Veteran's Boulevard to Sheyenne Street.

• **25th Street:** Finishing work will take place on 25th Street South near the I-94 overpass this spring. Crews will be touching up curbs and gutters, and striping the roadway.

• **NP Avenue:** NP Avenue between 10th Street and University Drive will be reconstructed from May - October. The project will require a complete closure of NP.

• **40th Avenue South:** A new traffic signal will be installed at 40th Avenue South and 36th Street with work starting in June. The addition will improve operations and overall safety of the intersection.

• **13th Avenue South:** Temporary closures are expected on 13th Avenue South and 4th Street when expansion of the Water Treatment Plant begins this spring.

• **2nd Street North:** The realignment of 2nd Street North near City Hall is still on track to begin later this summer. Watch for more information in the June edition of the iFargo.

• **I-29:** Pavement will be repaired on I-29 from Main Avenue to the Wild Rice River. This project, which will be overseen by the NDDOT, is expected to last throughout the summer.

Visit www.FargoStreets.com or follow @FargoStreets on Twitter for regular updates on road projects and closures.

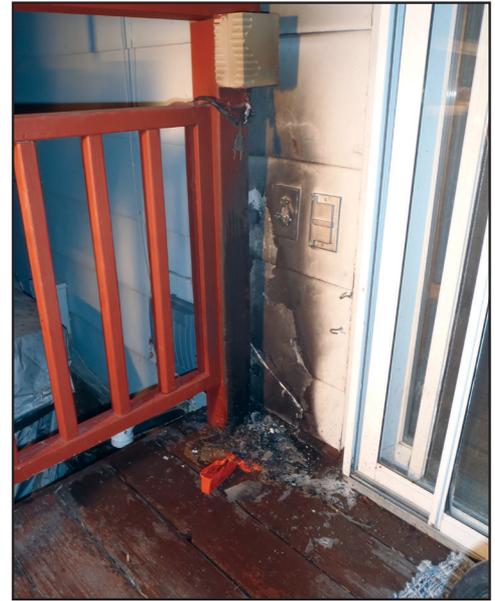


FROM THE FIREHOUSE

I would like to talk with you about a reoccurring problem in Fargo; improperly disposed of smoking materials. In 2014, cigarettes and smoking materials caused 30 fires in the City of Fargo. In March of 2014, the FFD responded to four smoking related fires in just seven days; Two fires were on the same day! Every one of the fires was preventable. The measures are quite simple. Dispose of the cigarettes properly. Here are some tips to remember:

- Use a sturdy ashtray or a metal can filled with sand to collect ashes.
 - Ashtrays should have a wide, stable base. If it wobbles, it won't work.
 - Put it out. All the way. Every time. Stub out your cigarette completely.
 - Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.
 - Don't put ashtrays on sofas and chairs. They catch on fire fast and burn fast.
 - NEVER smoke while using oxygen or anywhere near an oxygen source, even if it is turned off. Oxygen makes any fire burn hotter and faster.
- You have the ability to prevent a fire when disposing of cigarettes. Please remember "your safety is your responsibility."

Respectfully,
Fire Marshal Ryan Erickson



This was the result of a fire caused by an improperly disposed of cigarette.

Street sweeping begins

As spring arrives the Fargo Public Works Department will start sweeping streets and cleaning concrete medians. One unique tool used in the sweeping effort is the Automatic Vehicle Locating system (AVL). AVL keeps track of where the sweepers are currently working and where they have been, making the effort more efficient.

Initial spring sweeping focuses on cleaning the entire city of sand and debris that builds up during the winter on roads and concrete center medians. After the initial sweeping, crews will sweep the arterial and collector streets once a week and residential streets once every three weeks. Sweepers are unable to operate in temperatures below freezing because they use water to reduce dust. On the other hand, rain events provide too much water making the sweepers ineffective.

TAKE THE PLEDGE

April is Distracted Driving Awareness month. Thousands have died needlessly because people continue to use their cell phones while driving. Join the Fargo Police Department and the Eyes Forward campaign to urge those you care about to stop using cell phones while driving, recognize that hands-free devices are no safer and understand the distraction to the brain from a cell phone conversation. Follow Eyes Forward on Facebook for more information and fun contests and prizes.

COFFEE WITH A COP

The Fargo Police Department invites you to join us on the last Wednesday of every month for Coffee with a Cop at McDonalds, 905 Main Avenue, from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Your first cup of coffee will be provided courtesy of McDonalds. Coffee with a Cop offers a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Fargo's neighborhoods. It is also a time for the department and community members to come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships and drink coffee.

For more information, please visit
www.FargoPolice.com.

**City of Fargo Employment
Find job openings at:**

www.cityoffargo.com/employment
or on Twitter @CityofFargoHR

CLEANUP WEEK BEGINS MAY 4

Spring cleanup week is just around the corner! This is your chance to dispose of large items such as couches and appliances for no extra charge. Cleanup week will be held the week of May 4. Items must be on the boulevard by 7 a.m.

- Items will be collected on your normal garbage pick-up day. Do not set items out more than one day early.
- Place garbage in disposable containers, except for oversized items.
- Separate items such as furniture, household garbage and brush. Many of these items are collected with separate trucks.
- No building material 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 or take them to the Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, May 2.



Do

Please separate items into piles & place items in boxes, bags or bins.

Do Not

Do not throw items onto the ground in a large pile.

- Household hazardous waste products such as paint, varnish and other chemicals will **not** be collected during cleanup week. Please take these items to the Household Hazardous Waste facility.

For a complete list of items that are collected during Cleanup Week, visit www.CleanupWeek.com.

Electronics Recycling Event

The annual Electronics Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, May 2, at the Solid Waste Facility, 2301 8th Ave. N., Fargo, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. You may bring computers, televisions, monitors and other residential electronics and recycle them for free. Only two items per resident will be accepted. Proof of residency is required.

Recycle electronics year-round

Fargo residents can bring household hazardous waste (HHW) to the HHW facility, 606 - 43 1/2 St. N., year-round at no charge during regular business hours. Household hazardous waste includes items labeled danger, toxic, poisonous, corrosive or flammable such as paints, thinners, stains, varnish, drain and oven cleaners, poisons, automotive fluids, weed and insect killer, fluorescent light bulbs, ballasts and more.

The HHW facility also accepts one computer set as well as one television per resident per month. Electronics and HHW will not be collected during Cleanup Week.

HHW facility hours

- Second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Holiday garbage collection

Good Friday April 3 - Week of March 30: Garbage and recycling collections on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be open on Good Friday, April 3.

Memorial Day May 25 - Week of May 25: Monday garbage and recycling collection on Tuesday; the remainder of the week on schedule. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, May 25.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Yard waste collection will end for the season on May 11. All yard waste such as grass, leaves, garden trimmings and excess fruits and vegetables must be hauled to a recycling center or composted in your backyard. At the recycling centers, large green containers are available for the yard waste and small containers are available for bags and boxes that are used to haul the waste. Find a list of recycling drop off centers at www.FargoRecycles.com. Questions? Call 241-1449.

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

Summer watering restrictions

Fargo residents are reminded to follow watering restrictions when watering their lawns. From Memorial Day May 25 through Labor Day Sept. 7, residents should use their street address as a guide to when they can water. Residents whose addresses end in an odd number can water on odd-numbered days (1st, 3rd, 5th days of the month, etc.). Residents whose addresses end in an even number can water on even numbered days.

The only exception to this policy is for watering gardens, flowers and newly planted trees and shrubs. Residents with new seed or sod on their lawns may water it for 15 consecutive days. Please call the Water Filtration Plant with questions at 701-241-1469.

SWITCH YOUR SUMP PUMP 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. Make sure your discharge line is properly connected and free of ice. Run the pump if possible to verify that it is working. According to Section 17-0211 of the City of Fargo Sump Pump Program: Homes and businesses with by-pass waivers must discharge the sump pump outside from March 31 to Oct. 1. Please call our office at 701-461-7867 if you have any questions pertaining to sump pump systems.

FREE COMPOST/WOODCHIPS

Compost and woodchips will be given away to residents at the compost facility located at 606 43 1/2 St. N. The giveaway will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays from May 13 to June 4 from 3:30 - 5 p.m. and **on one** Saturday, May 9 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 will qualify.
- The compost and wood chips are located west of the Household Hazardous Waste facility.

For more information, visit www.FargoRecycles.com.

Ash tree replacement



A Prairie Spire Ash located on a boulevard in south Fargo.

The Fargo Forestry Department is continuing the slow removal and replacement of Ash boulevard trees and would like to know if you'd like yours replaced. The purpose of the boulevard Ash removal program is to help protect our urban forest from the spread of emerald ash borer (EAB). This insect attacks ash trees and

can lead to the decline or removal of the entire population of the ash species. Unfortunately, Ash was heavily planted in Fargo during the 1980's and 1990's as a suitable replacement for American elm.

Over the last 5 years the Forestry Department has been actively removing ash trees when practical. Examples of removals include: ash planted under power lines, thinned canopy, heavy seed producers, and those showing structural issues. We have reduced the percentage of ash on the boulevards from 42.5% in 2010 to 31% in 2015. The goal is 20% by 2020.

On a volunteer basis, if you'd rather see the large ash on the boulevard removed and replaced with something different, we'd love to hear from you. Removals are typically completed during the summer and fall, the stump is ground out in the fall and early winter, and the tree is planted the following spring.

Please call 701-241-1465 for more information and visit us online at www.cityoffargo.com/forestry.

TREE CARE WORKSHOP

The City of Fargo will be hosting a tree care workshop on March 28 from 9 - 11:30 a.m. The workshop will be held in the Bunk House at Rheault Farm, 2902 25th St. S. This workshop is sponsored by the Fargo Park District, NDSU Extension, and the Fargo Forestry Department. Attendance is free of charge and open to the public.

The sessions will cover a wide array of topics, such as tree health, selection, proper planting tips, maintenance and pruning techniques. These classes are designed to provide the property owner with basic tree knowledge that can be applied for their boulevard and private property trees. Call 461-8496 for more information.

STD AWARENESS MONTH: APRIL



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

April is National STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) Awareness Month. The CDC estimates there are over 20 million cases of reportable STDs every year, over half in the 15 – 24 year old age group. The CDC, Fargo Cass Public Health and community partners will be kicking off a national initiative to confront and prevent STDs through widespread public awareness in an effort to decrease the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Fargo Cass Public Health is encouraging people to get tested at area clinics where STD testing is available. FCPH also offers STD informational presentations for large or small groups. For more information on local STD testing facilities or to schedule a presentation, go to www.FargoCassPublicHealth.com or call at 241-1367.

Women's Way: Expanded coverage

Women's Way, the North Dakota Department of Health's breast and cervical cancer screening program, has expanded the age range for women who may need assistance to help pay for life saving breast and cervical cancer screenings. The range is now for women ages 21-64, who are not enrolled in Medicaid, Medicaid Expansion or Medicare Part B. To learn more about Women's Way or to see if you are eligible call 298-6918, or visit www.NDHealth.gov/WomensWay.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Do you want to be in the know? Do you want to stay connected with the Fargo Public Schools? You can! Fargo Public Schools has many communications channels available for you to know what is happening in our District and in our schools.

- Subscribe to the SchoolTalk newsletter, published each Thursday school is in session. Go to: www.fargo.k12.nd.us/ newsletter and click Subscribe.
 - Want to know more about the District's operating budget and tax information? See this information and more on our web site: www.fargo.k12.nd.us/financialdocuments.
 - The 2015-16 school year calendar is available online at: www.fargo.k12.nd.us/calendars.
 - Learn about the Fargo School Board members, when they meet and how to contact them at: www.fargo.k12.nd.us/boardmembers
- For more information, visit the District website at www.Fargo.k12.nd.us or call 701-446-1000.

Fargo Fact:

**The number of fulltime
City of Fargo employees
grew from 462 in 1989
to 887 in 2014.**

HONEYBEES & HIVES



Interested in becoming a backyard beekeeper, or curious about those who keep bees? The Library will be buzzing with an engaging program about honeybees and beekeeping in March. Join us for an informational session about backyard beekeeping set for Tuesday, March 24, starting at 7 p.m. at the Main Library. Local bee

expert Dana Evans will offer instruction on bees and the basics of setting up your own backyard beehive. No registration required. Call Drea at (701) 241-1472 for details or visit the library's website.

BABY FAIR

Parents of infants and toddlers, and expectant parents, are invited to the Main Library on Saturday, March 21 between 10 a.m. and noon for a Baby Fair. Attendees will receive a free book and learn practical tips on how to introduce babies to language and reading. We'll have demonstrations, crafts and other activities, and refreshments will be served! No registration is required for this event. For more information, contact the Children's Librarian at (701) 241-1495 or visit the library's website.

Design a bookmark contest



Calling all young artists! March is Youth Art Month and to celebrate the Fargo Public Library is holding its annual bookmark design contest. The top three winning designs will be on permanent display at the downtown Main Library and 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 website, www.FargoLibrary.org, or call the Children's Librarian at (701) 241-1495.

Fargo Public Library

DARE TO PREPARE

Are you a teen driver or the parent of a teen driver? If so, you will want to attend the Dare to Prepare event set for Monday, April 20, starting at 7 p.m. at the downtown Main Library. "Dare to Prepare" is a 60-minute presentation for teen drivers and parents of teen drivers presented by the Fargo Police Department. The session will focus on promoting safe teen driver habits by increasing young drivers' exposure to traffic safety rules and issues. This session also aims to expand parental involvement in the process as teens learn to drive. This event will also draw attention to some of the risks for teen drivers and the state laws that apply to teen drivers. No registration is required. This event is free and open to the public; all materials will be provided. Contact Lori at (701) 476-5978 or visit the library's website for details.

Gardening series

Get your green thumb ready for spring and summer with a 4-part series of informational and hands-on gardening sessions at the library. These 60-minute workshops will be held at the downtown Main Library starting Tuesday, May 5. Other dates in the series are May 12, 19 and 26; all sessions start at 7 p.m. Topics for the gardening sessions will be announced. One thing to note is the ever-popular "Blossom Barter" session is set for Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. The Blossom Barter session is an opportunity to share your love of gardening with your neighbors! Participants are asked to bring healthy, leftover, divided, or sprouted bedding plants to exchange with others. Attend any or all of the sessions. For details on these workshops, contact Drea at (701) 241-1472.

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Join "Walk This Way!"

Are you feeling stir-crazy from the long, cold winter? Do you want a reason to get out and get moving? Join us for spring walks! Walk This Way is a free community walking program for area citizens of all walking speeds to discover different trails and places to walk throughout Fargo/Moorhead. The first walk will be lead by Mayor Mahoney on Tuesday, March 24, starting at the Commission Room at Fargo City Hall and continuing through the downtown skyway. The last walk will be on May 19.

To participate in Walk This Way register at www.FMWalkThisWay.com or sign up at the first walk you attend. Registered participants receive a "passport"

that will be stamped at each walk. If you participate in at least five Walk This Way events, you will be eligible for the grand prize drawing. After that, your name will be entered again for every walk you complete. The more walking you do, the better chance you have at winning one of our grand prizes! All Walk This Way participants can take advantage of free bus rides on MATBUS the week of April 20 - 25 by showing their Walk This Way passport.

Walkers are encouraged to bring along a water bottle and pedometer. Walks will only be canceled in the event of dangerous weather. Get news and updates on the Walk This Way Facebook page!

Follow the City of Fargo:

