

Building an efficient & innovative City Hall for Fargo's future

Members of the Fargo City Commission, staff representing the North Dakota Congressional delegation, members of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce and Fargo city employees broke ground on a new City Hall on August 22, 2016.

After being discussed and planned for several years, the 150,000 square foot structure is scheduled to be complete in Fall 2018. The current City Hall structure will then be demolished.

When the current City Hall was completed in 1958, the population of Fargo was 47,000. Today, there are more than 120,000 living in the city, representing an increase of 155%.

Fargo has clearly grown and, to provide quality services, so has the number of employees. It takes people to provide excellence. This new structure has been designed to house Fargo's municipal operations into the next century and will be a welcome addition to the downtown skyline, as well as to the greater community's character.

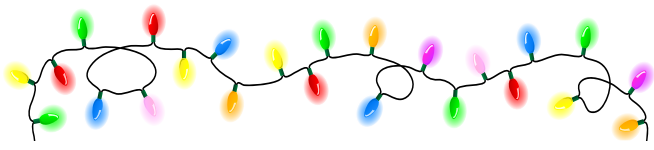
The project's architect is T.L. Stroh Architects, general contractor is Olaf Anderson, mechanical contractor is Robert Gibb & Sons and electrical contractor is Sun Electric.



The following is just a sampling of the new structure's features:

- ◆ Secure, main entry points make it more convenient for the public.
- ◆ Main floor access to the Auditor's Office for those paying invoices and seeking permits.
- ◆ Expanded commission chambers will provide ample public seating.
- ◆ Each department has its own conference room for meetings with members of the public.
- ◆ An information desk in the main lobby will help in wayfinding.
- ◆ Occupancy sensors will turn off the lights in unoccupied rooms.
- ◆ All lighting fixtures will utilize light-emitting diode technology.
- ◆ Natural light will be prevalent throughout the building.
- ◆ The building can accommodate an additional expansion floor.

A continuous live stream of the new City Hall construction project is available at www.FargoND.gov.



LIGHT UP RECYCLING!

What Recycle your LED & screw-in bulb style string lights. *Rope lights are not accepted.*

When November 1, 2016 - January 31, 2017

Where Drop lights off for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 606 43 1/2 St. N. in Fargo. Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Questions? Call (701) 298-6944



RECYCLING YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES FOLLOWING THE HOLIDAYS

The City of Fargo's Department of Solid Waste will begin collecting Christmas trees during the week of Jan. 9. Workers will strive to collect the tree on your normal garbage collection day or shortly thereafter. Please refrain from placing the trees on top of snowbanks. Be sure to remove all lights, plastic bags, wood and metal stands from the tree before you place it on the curb. The tree should be approximately 5 feet from your garbage cart.

HELP US COLLECT YOUR TRASH AND RECYCLING

Garbage and recycling collection begins at 8 a.m. Collection times may vary, so we encourage you to always have your cart and recycling bin outside and ready for collection by 8 a.m. on your garbage day. **Residents are reminded to place garbage carts and recycling bins on the ground surface and not on snowbanks.**

HOLIDAY GARBAGE SCHEDULES

Christmas Day - Week of Dec. 26: Garbage and recycling collection on schedule except Monday, Dec. 26, which will be collected on Tuesday, Dec. 27. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26.

New Years Day - Week of Jan. 2: Garbage and recycling collection on schedule except Monday, Jan. 2, which will be collected on Tuesday, Jan. 3. The Sanitary Landfill will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2.

Winter Landfill hours:

Saturdays (began Nov. 5) are 7:15 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday through Friday hours are 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS' 2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

As evidence of Fargo Public Schools' commitment to our community patrons, a new online document is available that showcases the qualities and results of our school district. FPS Annual Report 2015-16 is a publication that provides a wide array of information to familiarize families and the community with Fargo Public Schools. The report details include enrollment, staffing and district budget numbers.

In addition, it offers an overview of student services and student assessment data. Access the full document at

www.fargo.k12.nd.us/AnnualReport.



New parking area and relocation of the City Payment Center drop box

To ensure sufficient patron parking is available for City Hall visitors and Fargo Public Library patrons during the construction of the new Fargo City Hall, parking has been added to the Civic Center quad area. This area is west of the current City Hall and south of the Civic Center. Also, the "City Payment Center" drop box, formerly located along 3rd Street North, has been moved to just north of this new parking area.



Would you like to join the City of Fargo organization?

**Find current job openings at www.FargoND.gov
or via Twitter @ CityofFargoHR**

Getting to know your Fargo City Commissioners



DR. TIM MAHONEY
Mayor

Elected: 2005, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2015

Term Expires: June 2018

Department Liaison: Police, Operations, City Commission, Finance and Human Resources

Committee Liaison: Greater F-M Economic Development Corporation, Position Evaluation, Vector Control, Ambulance Committee, Community Development, Tax Exempt Review, Lake Agassiz Water Authority, Diversion Authority and Cass County Planning



DAVE PIEPKORN
Deputy Mayor & Commissioner

Elected: 2008, 2014

Term Expires: June 2018

Department Liaison: Engineering

Committee Liaison: Metropolitan Council of Governments, Greater F-M Economic Development Corporation, Liquor Control, Position Evaluation, Renaissance Zone, Tax Exempt Review, Fargodome Finance Committee, Diversion Authority, Alternate to the Lake Agassiz Water Authority, Finance Committee and Traffic Technical Advisory Committee

Board Liaison: Fargo Dome Authority, Special Assessment, Auditorium, Parking, Red River Basin Board and Downtown Community Partnership



TONY GEHRIG
Commissioner

Elected: 2015

Term Expires: June 2018

Department Liaison: Enterprise/Utilities, Fire and Transit

Committee Liaison: Metropolitan Council of Governments, Metro Area Transit Coordinating Board, Liquor Control, Alternate to Diversion Authority and Utility Committee

Board Liaison: Airport Authority, Civil Service and Red River Basin Board



TONY GRINDBERG
Commissioner

Elected: 2016

Term Expires: June 2020

Department Liaison: Planning and Transit

Committee Liaison: Metropolitan Council of Governments, Renaissance Zone, Diversion Authority and Metro Area Transit Coordinating Board

Board Liaison: Board of Appeals, Board of Adjustment and Housing Authority



JOHN STRAND
Commissioner

Elected: 2016

Term Expires: June 2020

Department Liaison: Health and Information Services

Committee Liaison: Metropolitan Council of Governments, Community Development, Alternate to Diversion Authority and Food Systems Advisory Committee

Board Liaison: Board of Health, Library, Historic Preservation, Human Relations, Native American Commission, Fargo Youth Initiative and Arts & Culture



FROM THE POLICE STATION



DON'T BE A VICTIM OF THEFT

The winter months inevitably bring chilly weather with brisk winds and a great deal of snow. Many vehicle thefts are thefts of opportunity and often the most difficult to solve. You may be tempted to leave your vehicle running for a moment or two while you dash into a store or warm your vehicle outside of your home, but this is all the time a thief needs to drive away in your vehicle. Remember to always remove your keys from your ignition and lock your doors when you are away from your vehicle. Help us protect you from becoming a victim this winter.

Snowbirds reminded to protect homes while away

The Fargo Police Department in the past has seen numerous burglaries to homes and garages during the winter months to those who leave town for longer periods of time. The following is a sampling of crime prevention tips:

- Make your home look occupied.
- Connect lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Arrange for snow removal for your driveway and sidewalks.

NEXTDOOR HELPS TO BUILD STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS

In 2015, the Fargo Police Department partnered with Nextdoor to provide our community a platform where they can be updated on crime and suspicious activity happening in their neighborhood. Nextdoor is a free and private social network for neighborhoods whose mission is to “use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods.” According to a 2012 Harris Interactive Survey, 67% of homeowners feel safer in their home or neighborhood because they know their neighbors and 93% say it is important for neighbors to look out for one another. Nextdoor is an easy way for you to do that. The Police Department knows how important it is for you to know what’s happening in your neighborhood and how you can help us solve or prevent such crimes. We will also share information about events we are hosting in the City and updates on Level II Sex Offender notifications.

For more information on this resource, and to register in your neighborhood, visit www.fargopolice.com.



- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers to build up. Notify the post office of your absence, cancel or suspend any paper subscriptions, and ask a neighbor to regularly check your door and mailbox for flyers.
- Don't announce your absence on your answering machine and turn your telephone ringers off.
- Register your valuable property's serial number and descriptions, such as jewelry and electronics, for free on the City's My Property program online at the following site - <https://myproperty.cityoffargo.com/>.
- Notify a trusted neighbor of your absence so they can keep an extra eye on your property.
- Join your neighbors on Nextdoor to help foster neighborhood relationships that help keep you safe.



FROM THE FIREHOUSE



When clearing snow, the Fargo Fire Department asks residents to also shovel their nearest fire hydrant. Doing so will save the Fire Department valuable time in the event of a fire in your neighborhood.

In early November, the Fire Department hosted an open house at the newly remodeled Fire Station 1 at 637 N.P. Ave. in downtown Fargo. Station 1 was built in 1961 and is located on the corner of N.P. Avenue and Roberts Street North. A fire station has been located on this corner for as long as the Fargo Fire Department has existed. The remodel consisted of interior renovations, along with the replacement of windows and doors.

The almost 14-month remodeling project included making the fire station handicap accessible, removing asbestos and renovations to the mechanical and electrical systems. The work also included the addition of a museum and education center. The newly remodeled building will be more energy efficient and will continue to serve as the busiest station in Fargo.



THE FUTURE OF ASH TREES?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native invasive pest that has killed millions of trees in more than 27 states and Canada. Ash trees are very common in Fargo due to their ability to adapt to a variety of sites and growing conditions. Ash was a common replacement for diseased American elm trees. In Fargo, more than 16,000 of our street trees are ash and the cost of replacing these trees could be in the millions of dollars.



The Forestry Department is working on financially responsible plans to aggressively diversify Fargo with other street tree varieties and help prepare for the future impacts of this pest. Those plans include replacement of declining condition ash, working with local utility companies to replace ash under power lines, identifying neighborhoods with predominantly ash trees and pursuing replacements.

We also ask residents to leave firewood at home and, instead, purchase it when arriving at your campsite. Many state parks and recreation areas no longer allow firewood to be brought into the area. EAB can be easily spread to new areas simply by transporting firewood.

If you have an ash street tree (preferably two or more) adjacent to your property, please consider contacting the City's Forestry Department at (701) 241-1465 for possible replacement. This work is free of charge and associated costs will be paid by the Forestry Department.

HOME REMODELING FINANCING AVAILABLE

If you have been considering improvements to your home, now is a good time to make those dreams a reality with the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) home improvement loan program.

The NRI program has helped to rehabilitate hundreds of Fargo homes and has just received a new \$2,000,000 loan pool from Gate City Bank. The NRI program offers a 2.25% (2.59% APR) interest rate for a 10-year second mortgage. Loan amounts can range from \$10,000 to \$75,000.

The deadline to apply is June 1, 2017. For more information, contact the City of Fargo at (701) 241-1474 or visit www.cityoffargo.com/nri. To be eligible for the NRI program, the home must be at least 40 years old, have an assessed value of \$250,000 or less and be located within Fargo city limits. Almost any type of interior and/or exterior substantial improvements can qualify for the NRI program.



SEASONAL SAVINGS WITH LED LIGHT BULBS

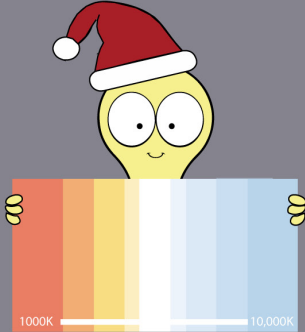


LED



INCANDESCENT

THE COST OF OPERATING LIGHTS FOR
10 HOLIDAY SEASONS



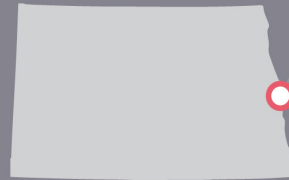
LEDs COME IN
WARM TO COOL
TONES TO MATCH
YOUR
LIGHTING NEEDS

IF THE ENTIRE CITY OF
FARGO SWITCHED TO
LEDs IT WOULD SAVE
**1.1 LARGE ENERGY
PLANTS OF ENERGY
(110 MEGAWATTS)**



50,000
HOUSEHOLDS

45 BULBS
PER HOUSE



LED EXTERIOR LIGHTS
CAN LAST GREATER
THAN **25,000 HOURS**
VERSUS
TRADITIONAL EXTERIOR
LIGHTS WHICH LAST
1,000 HOURS



25000



1000



OPERATE YOUR
EXTERIOR LED
HOLIDAY LIGHTS FOR
\$0 WITH A
SOLAR-POWERED
STRING OF LED
LIGHTS, LET THE SUN
WORK FOR YOU THIS
WINTER!

THE COST OF
ELECTRICITY TO
LIGHT A
6 FT TREE FOR
12 HRS FOR
40 DAYS



MORE INFORMATION
AT ENERGY.GOV



Encouraging infant friendly worksites

Fargo Cass Public Health recently embarked on an initiative to provide assistance and education to local businesses on how to best support their breastfeeding employees. Supporting breastfeeding employees doesn't just make smart business sense, but is required by the Fair Labor Standards Act. The law mandates that employers provide reasonable breaks for employees and a private, intrusion-free space (that is not a restroom) for employees to express breast milk at work.



Supporting breastfeeding employees has numerous business benefits including lower absenteeism and healthcare costs, improved employee retention, recruitment incentive, as well as increased productivity and employee morale.

Fargo Cass Public Health encourages all businesses to support their breastfeeding employees and become recognized as a designated Infant Friendly worksite through the North Dakota Department of Health. They can help achieve desired employee support outcomes, as well as assist businesses in becoming a designated Infant Friendly worksite. For more information, contact Michelle Draxten with Fargo Cass Public Health at (701) 476-6677 or mdraxten@cityoffargo.com.

INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA VACCINES

The 2016-2017 flu season is here and it's never too soon to receive a flu vaccination. FluMist is no longer available.

Regular flu shots for community members six months to 64 years, and high-dose flu vaccine for individuals 65 years plus, are available at Fargo Cass Public Health.

The Prevnar 13 pneumococcal vaccine is now recommended for all individuals 65 years and older. It should be administered prior to the traditional pneumonia shot, Pneumovax. Prevnar 13 should be administered first, then one year later the Pneumovax should be administered. If an individual has already received Pneumovax, then Prevnar 13 should be administered at least one year after the Pneumovax. Medicare Part B now pays for both Pneumovax and Prevnar 13. Fargo Cass Public Health offers both Prevnar 13 and Pneumovax.

Please call (701) 241-1383 for an immunization appointment or for more information.

Fargo Public Library

HOLIDAY EVENTS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

When school is out and all presents have been opened, then what? The Fargo Public Library has something for everyone. Library programs are free and open to the public. For information, visit www.fargolibrary.org. The schedule of programs during the holiday break include:

- Hot Lava at the Library
- Christmas Vacation Drive-In Movie Night
- LEGO Design Contest
- Countdown to Noon Year's Eve

STORYTIME & RHYME TIME

The Library's Children's Services Department hosts several free storytimes for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers at the three library locations so kids can hear lots of engaging stories. Weekly Storytime and Baby Rhyme Time are very popular. For details, call Children's Services at (701) 241-1495 or visit the library's website.

Launchpad learning tablets for kids available

The Fargo Public Library has launched Playaway Launchpad, a new item available to borrow with 25 tablets available to the public to check out. The Launchpads are secure, pre-loaded learning tablets designed specifically for children. Each tablet comes with ad-free learning apps grouped by subject area, theme and age level. The library has tablets geared to kids ages 3 to 10 years old. An important feature of these devices is they do not require an internet connection to operate. A Fargo Public Library card is required to check out the tablets. The tablets are available at all three library locations. Library patrons can place holds on the devices via the library's catalog, and the Playaway Launchpads can be sent to the selected branch library for pick-up.



**Offices of the Fargo City Commission
200 North 3rd Street
Fargo, ND 58102**

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

**ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER**

New transit app and expanded technology services

Technology plays an ever-increasing role in Transit operations and promotions. MATBUS has released a new mobile application, currently available for download on Google Play and the Apple Store. The application provides passengers with access to many features that make using the MATBUS system easier than ever. Some of these features include live bus tracking, real-time detour information, digital brochures, how to ride information and fixed route trip planning with Google Maps integration.

In addition, MATBUS is able to quickly notify passengers of essential system announcements such as weather-related service delays or cancellations, emergency situations and security concerns via push notifications.

MATBUS also redesigned www.matbusmobile.com and implemented new display kiosks giving passengers transit-related information at their fingertips. MATBUS has focused its efforts on customer-facing technologies to increase public awareness of our robust transit system and what MATBUS can offer every individual in the F-M metro. The public is kept informed through improved communication via push notifications, MATBUS rider alerts, Facebook, Twitter and www.matbus.com.

MATBUS staff members are excited to offer this new technology to their passengers for a safer, more convenient and reliable MATBUS experience.



**Right @ Your
Fingertips**

Get the new MATBUS app!

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play