

CITY INSIGHTS

MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA



Published by the City of Moorhead

HOMESTEAD CREDIT REFUND: New and Improved

May provide property tax refunds for Moorhead residents

Changes to the Homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund in 2012 mean more people qualify and at greater amounts than years ago. If you've checked into this program in past years and didn't qualify, it may pay to review the application again. You will need information from your 2015 Clay County property tax statement (mailed in March/April 2015) and your 2014 federal income tax return.

Minnesota's two property tax refund programs for homeowners

Homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund: You must have owned and lived in your home on January 2, 2015. The refund amount is based on household income, tax filing status, and property taxes paid on principal residence.

Special Homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund: Based on the increase of your property tax over the previous year regardless of household income. You must have owned and lived in your home on both January 2, 2014 and January 2, 2015, and your property taxes on your home increased by more than 12% and at least \$100 from 2014 to 2015, not due to improvements you made to the property. The maximum refund is \$1,000.

Important Note for the Oakport Neighborhood:

Special Homeowner's Credit Refund may offset 2015 property tax increase resulting from annexation. Please apply for the Special Homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund at www.revenue.state.mn.us.

Timing: You must apply (Form M1PR) by August 15. Electronic submissions are free. Delinquent property taxes must be paid before you can apply for a refund.

Renters: Renters may also qualify for a Renter's Property Tax Refund. You will need your 2014 Certificate of Rent Paid.

Visit www.revenue.state.mn.us [Property Tax Refund] for more information.

CITY OFFICIALS

Del Rae Williams

Mayor
218.299.5307

FIRST WARD

Nancy Otto
218.233.2834

Mari Dailey
218.299.5549

SECOND WARD

Jim Haney
218.299.5547

Heidi Durand
218.299.5543

THIRD WARD

Brenda Elmer
218.299.5548

Mike Hulett
218.299.5544

FOURTH WARD

Steve Gehrtz
218.299.5542

Chuck Hendrickson
218.299.5545

MATBUS

MATBUS RIDERSHIP INCREASED BY 4% IN 2014

The F-M metro's public transit system, MATBUS, significantly reduces traffic congestion and alleviates parking demands. In 2014, the combined MATBUS fixed route system provided 2,223,701 rides. Moorhead and Dilworth MATBUS added two new routes in 2014 (Route 6 to Dilworth and Route 9 to southeast Moorhead), for a 7% increase in ridership for those cities. In addition, 53,893 rides were provided on the complementary Paratransit Service. Are you a MATBUS rider? If not, now is the time to hop on board and give MATBUS a try!



GET YOUR "CAN" ON DURING EARTH WEEK

Celebrate Earth Week by using public transit (April 20 - 25, 2015). For this week only, riding MATBUS fixed routes 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 per day, which preserves the air we breathe and conserves fossil fuels.

All proceeds from the collected cans will be donated to charity. Enter the drawing on the MATBUS vehicles or Ground Transportation Center (GTC) for prizes to be given away during Earth Week.

Reduce air pollution and conserve energy during Earth Week – get your "Can" on the bus. For earth-friendly events happening in the Fargo-Moorhead community, go to www.valleyearthresource.org.

SUMMER YOUTH PASSES ON SALE MAY 11

Start planning your summer activities! With MATBUS, you won't have to worry about getting the kids to the pool, movies, summer school, practice, or just about anywhere. Kids in kindergarten-12th grade can take the MATBUS all summer long for only \$26 with the Summer Youth Pass. Three months of transportation for the price of one! The Summer Youth Pass is good for unlimited rides on MATBUS vehicles June 1 through August 31, and is an excellent way to teach young adults independence.

Purchase passes at the Ground Transportation Center, 502 NP Ave., Fargo, beginning May 11.

VISIT THE LIBRARY

LIBRARY COLLECTION

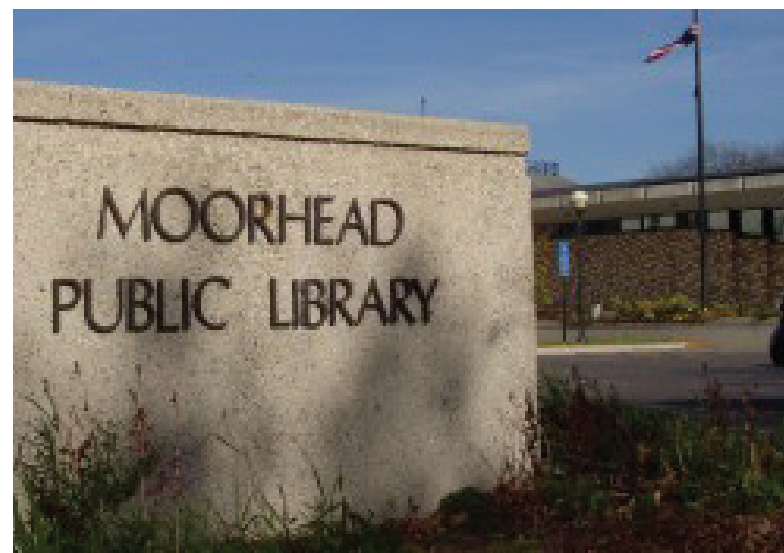
The Moorhead Public Library is a branch of Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL), a progressive regional library system that serves a seven county region of NW Minnesota. In addition to print books, DVDs, magazines and music CDs, LARL offers eBooks and eAudiobooks through a subscription service called OverDrive, or the "Lake Agassiz Digital Library." Looking for magazines? Try Zinio, a subscription service offering digital access to popular magazines covering pop culture, cooking, science, news topics, and much more. These resources are compatible with many mobile devices and are available anywhere with an internet connection. Set up an appointment with a librarian to get started.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Moorhead Library is celebrating new hours by providing even more activities for the community! Come read the morning paper, use a public computer, reserve a meeting room, or simply enjoy a free cup of coffee. Knowledgeable and friendly staff offer a myriad of free programs and events for all ages, including basic computer classes, craft skillshares, book clubs, storytimes, summer reading programs, concerts, and movie screenings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call the Library at [218.233.7594](tel:218.233.7594) or visit www.larl.org.
Moorhead Public Library Director:
Megan Krueger, kruegerm@larl.org.
Lake Agassiz Regional Library Director:
Liz Lynch, lynchl@larl.org.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Upcoming Events

Celtic Festival

March 14 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Hjemkomst Center | Free

Moorhead Ice Show

March 20 & 21 @ 7 p.m. | March 22 @ 1 p.m. | Moorhead Sports Center

Easter Egg Hunt

March 28 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Moorhead Center Mall | Free

One Enchanted Evening

April 18 | 6 - 9 p.m. | Hjemkomst Center



NEW PROGRAMS

New art programs have been added to our spring and summer offering! Kids can participate in a variety of classes for a wide range of ages. Even parents can get involved.

We've also added a youth flag football program for kids in kindergarten - third grade. This eight week program will introduce players to the basics of football. We are in need of volunteer coaches for this program. Contact Jordan Clementson at [218.299.5078](tel:218.299.5078).

A new adult kickball league will be starting this summer. Teams of seven players minimum are welcome to participate in this new, laid - back league.

A variety of programming is available to youth, adults, and seniors. Check out everything Moorhead Parks and Recreation has to offer!

REGISTER NOW

The 2015 Spring and Summer Program Guide is available and registration is open. All Moorhead residents receive a copy of the brochure in the mail. Additional copies are located at the Parks and Recreation office (inside Moorhead Sports Center) or at Moorhead Center Mall (racks to the right of the City Hall elevators).

Save the date.

Full details in the next issue!

RiverArts

June 9 & 23; July 7 & 21; August 4

Farmers Market

Tuesdays, July 7 – September 29

Movie Night

July 16 & August 13

Summer Splash

July 23

Doggy Dip

August 17

Greater Moorhead Days

September 10 - 18

For details, visit www.moorheadparks.com

CURBSIDE COLLECTION

Curbside branch collection service is conducted by the City Forestry Division and is designed to assist residents with the removal of small piles of brush from their property.

Weekly,

May 1 - September 30.

INCLUDED SERVICES

- One pile of brush per residence per week will be collected as part of your monthly Forestry charge on your Moorhead Public Service bill. Brush piles may include trees and woody shrubs. Pile size limits: 12 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 4 feet high. Maximum individual branch diameter is 8 inches or less.
- Dutch Elm Disease Program: requires elm wood be separate from other material to avoid fees.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES AVAILABLE (FEE BASIS)

- Branch piles will be collected with a base minimum \$60.00 fee; the fee increases to \$120 per hour as the pile size increases. A door hanger will be left at the residence if your pile exceeds the free dimensions.
- Woody material with dirt attached, such as root balls and stumps, is collected per the fee schedule. Size limit of 30 lbs. for an individual piece with soil attached. The property owner must dispose of this material at the County Demolition Landfill.
- Fee Schedule: \$20 minimum charge, or \$20 per cubic yard for large piles. Size limit of 30 lbs. for an individual piece with soil attached.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- Woody material originating within the City limits can be brought to the Moorhead Compost Site (1800 US Highway 75 North, Moorhead, MN).
- Stack brush at the curb on garbage day. Do not put in containers, garbage cans, wheelbarrows, or on trailers; do not tie together. Cutting branches in small pieces makes collection less efficient. Branches stacked facing one direction is helpful.
- Vines, garden refuse, potted plants, leaves, fruit, and other non-woody material are considered compost and should be disposed of in clear bags in yard waste cans. Lumber, building wood, and wood with metal imbedded is not collected.
- City Forestry will not collect branches that were cut by licensed tree contractors, landscape firms, lawn care companies, or other contractors. These businesses must haul away the material they generate.

Visit www.cityofmoorhead.com or call Moorhead Forestry at **218.299.5430** for more information.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Moorhead Home Improvement Loan: Owner-occupants of single family homes whose income falls below 80% of area median income are eligible to apply (e.g., 1-person household annual income below \$40,400; 2-person household below \$46,200).

- Borrow up to \$20,000, 0% interest
- Loan is secured by equity in the home
- Applications processed on first-come, first-served basis
- Loan is fully repayable upon sale, vacancy, or title transfer of the property
- Mobile homes ineligible

Wait time ranges from summer 2015 to summer 2016 depending on the number of applicants. Applications at www.cityofmoorhead.com [Residents/Housing] or call **218.299.5425**.



Property Tax Rebate: Make improvements that add at least \$25,000 of taxable value to your home, and apply for the Make Moorhead Home Remodeling Rebate. Property taxes attributable to the value increase are rebated to you for the first two years following project completion. For details, visit www.makemoorheadhome.com.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's Minnesota Fix Up Fund: Borrow up to \$50,000, 5.99% interest, and a 10 to 20 year term. Income limits apply; maximum household income limit is \$96,500. Northwestern Bank is currently a participating Moorhead lender. For more details, visit www.mnhousing.gov.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's Minnesota Fix Up Fund: Borrow up to \$50,000, 5.99% interest, and a 10 to 20 year term. Income limits apply; maximum household income limit is \$96,500. Northwestern Bank is a participating Moorhead lender. For details, visit www.mnhousing.gov.

City of Moorhead Neighborhood Impact Program (NIP): Borrow up to \$40,000, 4.9% interest, and 10 year term. Income limit at or below area median income (\$72,100); for owners of homes built prior to 1970 income restriction is waived. Code deficiencies and major improvements must be addressed for the property to qualify and borrowers must meet the credit criteria of Gate City Bank. Visit www.cityofmoorhead.com [Residents/Housing] or call **218.299.5434**.

Clay County Housing & Redevelopment Authority Rehabilitation Loans: Borrow up to \$27,000, no monthly payments, 0% interest, and forgivable after 15 years. Income limits apply (maximum income for two person household is \$19,800). Visit www.claycohra.com or call **218.233.8883**.

Accessibility Ramps: Free temporary and permanent ramps available to households with a member with mobility impairment. Income limits apply (2-person household income below \$46,200). Volunteer carpenters from the Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead Remodeler's Council, in partnership with Freedom Resource Center (FRC), and the City of Moorhead's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, will construct ramps. Temporary aluminum ramps available for use up to three months, while FRC works with eligible households on a permanent ramp. Property must be the primary residence of the applicant. Rental units can be improved with written consent from the property owner. Call **701.478.0459**.



FIRE DEPARTMENT HAZMAT

In response to the increased transportation of hazardous materials, particularly Bakken crude oil through the State of Minnesota, the Moorhead Fire Department has been recently designated by Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) as the state's second Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (ERT). Prior to this, St. Paul was the only ERT in the State of Minnesota. The funding for the team comes from the state's Railroad and Pipeline Safety account, which was established in 2014 by the Minnesota Legislature.

The Moorhead Fire Department has been a State Chemical Assessment Team (CAT) since 1995, and for the last 20 years has had a high commitment to Hazardous Materials response to the City and 13 counties in Northwest Minnesota. The newly established Moorhead ERT enhances the capabilities of the hazmat program, as either the St. Paul ERT or the Moorhead ERT will respond with other CATs throughout the state to Hazmat incidents, including those involving crude oil.



The mission for of the CAT/ERTs is to provide technical assistance to local fire departments, monitor for toxic or flammable vapors in air, generate realistic chemical plume modeling to assist in necessary community evacuations, and use numerous kits in attempt to stop leaking materials. The increased responsibility of being part of the State Hazmat response program requires Moorhead Fire Fighters to take part in several additional hours of training each year. The team's success is largely due to the dedication of the Fire Fighters.

The additional funding for the ERT has allowed the Fire Department to begin upgrading its leak control equipment and to purchase plume modeling software that will enhance decision making in the event of an a chemical or crude oil incident. The programs offer real-time, valuable information to help determine whether residents need to evacuate. The Fire Department also intends to use the additional funds to send members to various Hazmat training events and train with local and area fire departments in hazardous materials response.



FLOOD SAFETY

Knowing your flood risk and being prepared can help keep you and your family safe and reduce potential damages. Visit www.cityofmoorhead.com [Floodplain Information] to learn how to deal with a flood, before and after it happens.

Flood Safety

The following can help protect you from the dangers of flooding:

- Do not walk or drive through flowing water
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires
- Keep children away from floodwaters, ditches, culverts, and storm drains
- Do not use gas engines (such as generators) or charcoal fires indoors during power outages; carbon monoxide exhaust buildup kills

A car can easily be carried away by just two feet of floodwater.

Floodplain Website

The City's website covers topics such as floodplain information, maps, insurance, permits, and mitigation projects. Check out the GIS mapping tool and view your property. The interactive map helps residents determine if a property is located in the 100-year or 500-year floodplain.

Additional Information is available at:

- www.floodsmart.gov
- Moorhead Floodplain Information, 218.299.5387

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Moorhead Public Service has scholarships available for Moorhead's high school seniors and college students.

Essay Contest - earn up to \$3,000. Deadline March 31.

Video Contest - earn up to \$1,000. Deadline April 15.

Details and entry forms are available at www.MPSUtility.com, Moorhead City Hall (2nd floor), or from your school's guidance counselor.



CALENDAR

MARCH

8 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
17 - Saint Patrick's Day
20 - Spring Begins
29 - Palm Sunday

APRIL

3 - Good Friday
5 - Easter
15 - Tax Day

MAY

1 - May Day
5 - Cinco de Mayo
10 - Mother's Day
25 - Memorial Day
City Hall Closed

City of Moorhead
500 Center Ave.
P.O. Box 779
Moorhead, MN 56560

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 478
Moorhead, MN 56560

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

CODE RED™

CodeRED emergency/non-emergency calls to the residents of Cass and Clay Counties will now come from local phone numbers. To sign up for CodeRED go to www.cityofmoorhead.com or call Dorene at **218.299.5298** for assistance.

CodeRED emergency: **701.364.CODE (2633)**
CodeRED non-emergency: **701.364.1277**
CodeRED weather will remain the same: **800.566.9780**

Residents are encouraged to enter these phone numbers into mobile phones with easy to recognize IDs, such as "CodeRED emergency" and "CodeRED non-emergency," so they appear prominently when a call arrives.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY

WINTER MEMORIES: HAVING FUN AND KEEPING WARM

January 14 - March 9, 2015

For centuries, this region has embraced and even enjoyed the winter seasons, filling the cold days with a variety of fun activities. This Historical Society of North Dakota exhibit highlights all of the unique and fun that can be had in this cold-weather region.

A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON SQUARE

February 1 - March 29, 2015

A Woman's Perspective Multimedia Art Exhibitions and Events hosts emerging and established artists to present visual, literary, and performing art. This year's theme is Square, which was used as inspiration for the visual art, poetry, prose, music, dance and theatre.

SHERBANOO'S INDIAN CUISINE

Sunday, February 22, 2-4 PM

Sherbanoo Aziz wrote Sherbanoo's Indian Cuisine which is a delightful cookbook detailing many of the finer points of Indian cooking. She describes her personal relationship with cooking many of these dishes and offers practical knowledge in a user-friendly way.

COMING OF AGE: THE 1968 GENERATION

March 18 - June 21, 2015

Discover how Minnesota teens came of age in the 1960s, a decade when people fought for liberty, feminism rose, family television shows proliferated, the draft knocked, music "was huge," fashion showed its colors and assassinations betrayed something "very wrong in this country."

Winter Memories



photo courtesy of State Historical Society of North Dakota