



# Moorhead Minnesota CITY INSIGHTS

WWW.CITYOFMOORHEAD.COM

SUMMER 2013

## EXTENDED BUSINESS HOURS FOR PEAK CONSTRUCTION SEASON

During peak construction season, May 6 through October 31, the City of Moorhead will provide expanded hours for development services for the convenience of those in the construction industry. Employees will stagger work schedules—no overtime or additional staff will be needed to accommodate this change.

### HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday - Thursday: 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Friday: 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- Obtaining permits and scheduling inspections for building, plumbing, mechanical, excavation, sidewalks, approaches and lawn grades
- Submitting plans for new construction projects
- Reporting property and traffic concerns

For further information, please contact **Michael J. Redlinger**, City Manager at **218.299.5305**.

### OTHER REFERENCES:

Moorhead City Hall 4th Floor, 500 Center Avenue

- Building Codes **218.299.5424**
- Engineering **218.299.5390**
- Community Development/Neighborhood Services **218.299.5434**

For more information on housing opportunities in Moorhead, go to [www.makeMoorheadhome.com](http://www.makeMoorheadhome.com).

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## CITY OFFICIALS

**Mark Voxland, MAYOR**  
218.299.5307

### FIRST WARD

**Nancy Otto**  
218.233.2834

**Luther Stueland**  
218.287.5250

### SECOND WARD

**Mark Altenburg**  
218.299.5547

**Heidi Durand**  
218.443.5742

### THIRD WARD

**Brenda Elmer**  
218.299.5548

**Mike Hulett**  
218.299.5544

### FOURTH WARD

**Mark Hintermeyer**  
218.236.6292

**Steve Gehrtz**  
218.299.5542

## CONSERVATION WATER RATES IMPLEMENTED IN 2013

The Moorhead Public Service Commission implemented a Residential Conservation Rate to encourage customers to conserve and protect Moorhead's water resources as required by Minnesota Statutes, § 103G.291, Subd. 4, Demand Reduction Measures. It is consistent with the values and the culture of Moorhead Public Service (MPS). A cost-of-service study was performed with this in mind and outlines a multi-year plan for implementation of conservation rates into MPS' water rates and will be reviewed annually.

The volume charge for water in 2013 is shown in the table below. In comparison, the year-round volume charge for water in 2012 was \$3.02.

Volume Charge	November - April	May - October
Residential Rate	\$2.94	\$3.10
Residential Conservation Rate	--	\$3.60

Volume charge for all water per 100 cubic feet (c.f.) (1 c.f. = 7.48 gallons, 100 c.f. = 748 gallons).

The above rates are for inside city limits. Rates outside city limits are 1.5x the rates shown.

### HOW DOES THE RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION RATE APPLY TO MY WATER USAGE?

The Residential Conservation Rate applies to monthly water usage for May through October that exceeds 150% of your average monthly usage for November through April.

For example, John Doe used an average of 400 c.f. per month from November through April, so 150% of his November through April average usage equals 600 c.f. Therefore, for May through October, his volume charge will be \$3.10 per 100 c.f. for monthly usage up to 600 c.f. and \$3.60 per 100 c.f. for monthly usage over 600 c.f.

### HOW DOES THE RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION RATE CHANGE MY WATER BILL?

The conservation rate encourages wise use of water during the summer months when water utilities experience the highest water usage. With this rate, MPS customers will pay more per gallon for water used in the summer.

### HOW CAN I CONSERVE WATER WHILE MAINTAINING A NICE LAWN?

- Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on the grass: If it springs back up when you move, it does not need water. If it stays flat, it's due for a drink.
- Water lawns early in the morning so the blades dry quickly. Evening watering can result in fungal growth and lawn disease. Sprinkling in mid-day wastes water because it evaporates quickly.
- Utilize rain barrels for gardens and plants.

### HOW CAN I CONSERVE WATER IN THE BATHROOM?

- Watch for leaks and repair them immediately. Leaky faucet = wasting between \$32 to \$43 dollars annually. Leaky toilet = wasting around \$20 dollars a week, totaling \$1,000 annually.
- Check toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If the color appears in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak and repairs are necessary.
- As much as 7 gallons of water goes straight down the drain when a faucet is left running while brushing teeth, washing face and hands, or shaving. This could waste 2,555 gallons of water, as well as \$11 per person, annually.

### HOW CAN I CONSERVE WATER IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY ROOM?

- When washing dishes by hand, never run water continuously. Fill a basin or use a stopper in the sink for rinse water. This will save 35% of the water used, which equals saving 3 gallons of water per minute.
- Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded. Utilize the shortest cycle possible and minimize the use of detergent. This could save you 20-30 gallons of water per load of laundry, ultimately saving you several hundreds of dollars per year.

### WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON CONSERVING WATER?

[www.cityofmoorhead.com/city\\_services/storm\\_water\\_pdf/How\\_to\\_Make\\_a\\_Rain\\_Barrel.pdf](http://www.cityofmoorhead.com/city_services/storm_water_pdf/How_to_Make_a_Rain_Barrel.pdf)

[www.mpsutility.com/index.php/water-conservation](http://www.mpsutility.com/index.php/water-conservation)

[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

[www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org](http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org)



## NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION INCENTIVE FOR FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS

The City of Moorhead has approved a CITYWIDE new construction housing program. To make homeownership and special assessments more affordable, \$500,000 is available and will be divided between program participants.

### PROGRAM TERMS:

- New construction (first occupant)
- First-time buyers (no income or purchase limits)
- \$5,000 deferred 0% loan (no monthly payments)
- Funds applied to special assessments (i.e. curb, gutter, paving, sewer, and water services)
- Approximate monthly savings \$46/annual savings \$550
- Loan repayable when owner sells or moves from the home

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact **Lisa Vatnsdal**, Community Development Division Manager at [lisa.vatnsdal@cityofmoorhead.com](mailto:lisa.vatnsdal@cityofmoorhead.com) or **218.299.5372**.

## SOON TIME TO MOW!

### Moorhead's Grass & Weed Control Policy

The Moorhead City Code requires grass control and weed removal to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, reduce mosquito breeding grounds, and maintain an attractive community. Property owners are responsible for insuring that grass does not exceed 8 inches in length and that noxious weeds are cut or destroyed.

If the property is not in compliance with the Code, inspectors will provide a notice to the property owner's home or business by mail. The property owner will have 5 days to cut the weeds or grass, or the City will hire the mowing and/or weed eradication and bill the property owner for the cost of the service plus \$100 administrative penalty in accordance with the City Code.

Multiple offenses within a 12-month period may incur fees without a grace period.

Thanks for helping to keep our community looking great and controlling mosquitoes!



## WHERE CAN I PUT MY CAMPER?

The summer months have arrived! Here are some reminders about storage of equipment and vehicles in residential zones.

**Cars, vans and pickups:** Must be parked on a paved surface.

**Junk vehicles (partially dismantled, non-operating, or wrecked vehicles):** If currently licensed, may be on driveway or lot for up to 96 hours, otherwise in an enclosed building.

**Recreational vehicles (motor homes, converted buses, or converted vans):** One licensed recreational vehicle may be stored on a residential lot without being moved for a period of 8 months or less, and must be parked on a paved surface of either asphalt or concrete.

**Recreational equipment, utility trailers/equipment, or off-road vehicles:** If located in a front yard or street side yard, these items must be parked on a paved surface. No more than two vehicles of this category may be stored on a property unless located in an enclosed building.

**Commercial vehicles:** May be in active use for construction activity at a residential property. Small commercial vehicles may be parked in an enclosed garage, and large commercial vehicles may not be parked at residential properties unless involved in a project at the property.

No parking is allowed on the boulevard.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

Enforcement is conducted on a complaint basis; if you have a concern, you may contact Neighborhood Services at **218.299.5434**.

For more details, see **Moorhead City Code 9-8-3**.

# GARAGE SALE

Having a garage sale this summer? it's a great way to recycle things you no longer need or use and convert them into cash.

Garage sales don't require a city permit, but please note that sales can be conducted not more than 4 days out of a 180-day period.

Signs can be placed in your yard (or in a neighbor's yard with permission) but they can't be placed in the public right-of-way or on utility poles.

Good luck with your spring and summer cleaning!

# FLOOD INFORMATION

## FLOODPLAIN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

### *Living in the Special Flood Hazard Area*

All development within the Special Flood Hazard Area (100-year floodplain) requires a City of Moorhead Floodplain Development Permit. Permits must be issued prior to performing any work. Please contact the City's Floodplain Manager at **218.299.5387** or visit our website at <http://www.cityofmoorhead.com> – and click on the Floodplain Info tab.

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS

If the proposed improvements equal or exceed 50% of the building's market value before the start of construction in a 365-day period, the existing building and any proposed addition must comply with current floodplain management standards. Building improvements may include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, addition, repairs and reconstruction.

If the proposed improvements are the result of damage, and the cost of these improvements or repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the market value (excluding land value), the building must comply with current floodplain management standards. This includes damages from any origin and from multiple events. There is no time limitation for substantial damage, so the cumulative cost accrues indefinitely. Building improvements or repairs must include all costs, including but not limited to costs for construction materials and labor.

## FLOODPLAIN WEBSITE

The City's website is a valuable resource for floodplain information, floodplain maps, flood insurance information, floodplain permits and flood mitigation project information. To read FEMA's fact sheet on the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, visit the City's website and click on the flood insurance tab.

Lenders, insurance agents, realtors, and citizens can call **218.299.5387** and speak with the Floodplain Manager to determine if a property is within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The Engineering Department maintains on file Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), elevation certificates for many properties, Letters of Map Amendment, and other flood related information.



## NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Floodplains provide natural and beneficial functions to the area in and around the City. A floodplain that is relatively undisturbed provides a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. In addition to aesthetic value, floodplains provide active processes such as filtering nutrients. The floodplain provides natural erosion control and open space so further flood damage does not occur. Native plants are best suited for floodplains, they have deep root systems that resist erosion and stabilize the shoreline where turf grass has a shallow root system and commonly erodes.

## DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

As simple as it may sound, keeping the storm sewer free of debris can dramatically improve run-off capacity, as well as greatly reduce the possibility of blockage that contributes to flooding.

Rainwater or snowmelt flows through the storm sewer system and discharges to the Red River. To help protect the storm sewer system, the City of Moorhead has a stormwater management ordinance (Title 3, Chapter 8 of City Code). Under the ordinance, dumping debris or other materials such as grass clippings, vegetative materials, tree branches, earth fill, rocks, concrete chunks, metal, and chemicals that would degrade the quality of waters within the system is prohibited. If you see someone in the act of dumping prohibited materials into the storm sewer system contact the City of Moorhead 24-hour stormwater hotline at **218.299.5386**.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

More detailed information regarding flood related issues is available at

- [www.cityofmoorhead.com/the\\_city.floodplain.asp](http://www.cityofmoorhead.com/the_city.floodplain.asp)
- **Wastewater Department: 2121 28th St N**
- **Moorhead Floodplain Information: 218.299.5387**
- **Moorhead Public Library: 218.233.7594**
- [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

## TREE DAMAGE

When the heat of summer arrives, the threat of severe weather comes along with it. Thunderstorms, straight-line winds and tornados are all possible and they all leave tree damage in their path.

After extreme wind events, there is usually going to be a wide range of tree damage. Common tree damage seen after a severe storm includes broken branches, hanging branches, double leader splits or cracks, trunk breaks and wind throw or uprooting.

After storm events, the City Forestry will first work at cleaning debris off the main emergency routes and then move into the residential areas to clear streets. The next priority will be getting brush off of houses, clearing driveways, and removing branches out of front yards. The final area to be cleaned up will be in the parks.

The public is asked to have patience, since cleaning up after a storm event may take weeks. There are two bucket truck crews in the Forestry Department and one branch chipping crew who will respond to all the damage. Other City departments will be called in to assist if the conditions warrant it.

## RESPONSE PLAN

- A tree contractor must be licensed with the City of Moorhead to legally work in the City. The lure of tree work will often draw tree contractors from outside the area or be an incentive to enterprising amateurs to earn some money doing storm clean up.
- Aerial tree work is dangerous on a good day, and the risk of getting injured increases when dealing with storm damaged trees.
- A licensed tree contractor will have to present a proof of liability insurance and will be bonded in order to acquire the license through the City.
- Reports of unlicensed tree contractors will be investigated as time allows by City staff and they will not be allowed to dump brush at the City Compost site.
- After severe storms, there may be a specific time period declared where brush from private yards that homeowners have cut will be picked up by the City and the normal collection fees will be suspended during that time period.
- If an official declaration has not been issued by the City, normal branch collection fees apply for oversize branch piles.
- The City does not pick up brush cut by tree contractors; they have to haul their own brush.
- Landscape companies that also do tree work activities like pruning, trimming and removals, must also get a tree contractor license and haul the brush they generate.

## REMEMBER TO BE SAFE AFTER A STORM!

- Don't let adults or kids climb into damaged or partially downed trees.
- Don't go near downed overhead wires.
- To make an insurance claim concerning a boulevard tree, contact the Accounting Department at **218.299.5320**.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact:

**Moorhead Forestry Department**

**Phone: 218-299-5430**

**Email: [rod.eggiman@ci.moorhead.mn.us](mailto:rod.eggiman@ci.moorhead.mn.us)**

## LAWN AND GARDEN CARE

You can help keep stormwater clean by applying the following tips.

- Do not blow or rake grass clippings, leaves or other yard waste into the street or gutter.
- Do not dump yard waste along the river or ditches.
- Dispose of yard waste at one of the City's drop off stations or recycle yard waste by starting your own composite site.
- Don't over irrigate. Water early in the morning.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides that are phosphorus free. Consider using organic fertilizers, which are slower at releasing nutrients.
- Use pesticides only when absolutely necessary. Use the least toxic product and always read the label.
- Dispose of unwanted pesticide and fertilizer at the Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility, 2729 Hwy 10 E.

The City of Moorhead is committed to improving water quality and reducing the amount of pollutants entering waterways. To report prohibited discharges, contact the 24-hour stormwater hotline at **218.299.5386**.

***Be part of the solution and not the pollution—  
only rain in the storm drain .***

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MOORHEAD POLICE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Moorhead Police Summer Youth Program is a FREE 8-week program for 8 – 12 year olds offering youth a healthy and educational summer alternative where curriculum is mixed with fun and recreational activities.

Kids will meet Wednesday afternoons from June 19 through August 7 and be treated to lunch, learn about a relevant safety topic and then enjoy a different recreational activity each week.

### REGISTRATION:

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 12, 2013

**TIME:** 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Moorhead National Guard Armory

**\*\*Note:** limited to the first 200 kids and a parent/guardian must accompany their child at registration.

## 36TH SCANDINAVIAN HJEMKOMST AND ANNUAL MIDWEST VIKING FESTIVALS

**WHEN:** June 28 – June 29

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival celebrates Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish and Danish cultures with food, dancing and shopping.

The Midwest Viking Festival is a gathering of Viking Age craftsmen, musicians and living history enthusiasts from all over. **Kids** also get to experience Viking life by felting wool, coin striking and rune writing.

For more information, contact the Historical and Cultural Society at **218-299-5511** or **www.hcscconline.org**.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### GET OUT AND GOLF!

Beginning June 3, golf at The Meadows or Village Green before 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday and play 18-holes with a cart for just \$30!

Check out either course for a great golf experience right here in Moorhead!

Golfers say they choose our courses because staff and professionals are welcoming, knowledgeable, and courteous, the prices are competitive, the courses are well-kept, and they are a good fit for golfers of all abilities.

Season passes will save you money and are still available! Visit the clubhouse to get all the details on season passes, league play, tournaments, lessons, and much more.

To schedule your tee-time or get more information, visit [moorheadgolf.com](http://moorheadgolf.com) or call **299.PUTT**.

## PARK SHELTERS

Moorhead Parks and Recreation has a variety of park shelter options available throughout the year. Gooseberry Park offers both a large and small open-air shelter. The large shelter holds up to 250 people and rents for \$150 per day. The small shelter holds up to 60 people and rents for \$50 per day.

At MB Johnson Park, a single building offers both indoor and outdoor seating. Inside, the building will hold about 30 people and outside, the covered area holds about 50 people. Rental is \$120 per day.

Memorial Park has a gazebo that holds about 20 people and rents for \$36 per day.

Neighborhood Recreation Centers are available in Alm, Hansmann, Lamb, Morningside, Northeast, Ridgewood, Riverview Estates, Romkey, South, and Village Green parks. These buildings hold up to 40 people and rent for \$30 per hour with a maximum fee of \$120 per day.

All park facilities are available for rent from 10:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Reservations must be made at least 72 hours in advance through the Parks and Recreation Office. Call **299.5340** for more information on the facilities or to make your reservation.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SUMMER

### FREE ADMISSION OPEN HOUSE

**WHEN:** June 2

**WHERE:** Comstock House (506 8th St S)

**TIME:** 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

### RIVERARTS

**WHEN:** June 11, June 25, July 9, July 9, and August 13

**WHERE:** Memorial Park (210 8th St N)

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### SUMMER SPLASH

**WHEN:** June 20

**WHERE:** Municipal Pool (800 19th St S)

**TIME:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

### WATERMELON FESTIVAL

**WHEN:** July 18

**WHERE:** Gooseberry Park Large Shelter (100 22nd Ave S)

**TIME:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**\*\*Note:** Date listed in the City Calendar is incorrect

### DOG SWIM

**WHEN:** August 19

**WHERE:** South Park Wading Pool (2102 14th St S) & Northeast Park Wading Pool (1817 8th Ave N)

**TIME:** 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

### GREATER MOORHEAD DAYS

**WHEN:** Sept. 5 – 13

**WHERE:** TBA

**TIME:** TBA

## matbus

### FREE RIDES TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**August 31 – June 1, 2013**

MATBUS provides free rides for youth K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade to and from the Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo public libraries. Simply show the driver your library card for a free ride!

### MATBUS SUMMER YOUTH PASSES

Kids in K -12<sup>th</sup> grade can take the MATBUS all summer long for only \$26 with the Summer Youth Pass and is good for unlimited rides on Moorhead and Fargo MATBUS vehicles from June 1 – August 31.

Passes are sold at the Ground Transportation Center, 502 N.P. Avenue in Fargo beginning May 13, 2013

### BIKE & BUS

Is the nearest MATBUS route beyond walking distance? Bike there! Each bus carries up to 2 bikes. Instructions are printed on the bus rack, or a MATBUS team member can show you how the rack works. If you have questions, please call the GTC Helpline at (701) 232-7500.

### MATBUS PARK-AND-RIDE TO DOWNTOWN STREET FAIR

During the 2013 Downtown Street Fair held July 18-20, you may park your car at one of the designated Park-and-Ride lots for free and ride in an air-conditioned bus to the fair for a discounted rate. There are frequent routes and buses run from 6:15 a.m. – 11:15 p.m.

For route information and further questions, please call the MATBUS Helpline at **701.232.7500** or go online at **www.matbus.com**.



### ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED

The City of Moorhead is looking for election judges on November 5, 2013 to assist citizens during elections at the polling sites.

#### Qualifications

- You must be eligible to vote in MN and be able to read, write, and speak English
- You cannot be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving or a candidate on the ballot in the same precinct at the same time
- College students at least 18 years old may serve as election judges

#### How to Apply!

Complete and mail the **Election Judge Application** on page 8 to:  
 City of Moorhead  
 Attn: City Clerk  
 500 Center Avenue, Box 779  
 Moorhead, MN 56561

Or email a scanned application to:

cityclerk@cityofmoorhead.com

\* If you are a college student, please provide your address at school and phone number

# CALENDAR

## JUNE

- 14 ..... Flag Day
- 16 ..... Father's Day
- 21 ..... Summer Begins

## JULY

- 4 ..... Independence Day - **City Hall Closed**
- 9 ..... Ramadan

## AUGUST

- 6 ..... Night to Unite
- 8 ..... Eid Al-Fitr

## SEPTEMBER

- 2 ..... Labor Day - **City Hall Closed**
- 3 ..... MATBus Commuter Challenge Begins
- 5 ..... Rosh Hashanah
- 14 ..... Yom Kippur
- 22 ..... Autumn Begins
- 28 ..... City Auction - **218.299.5422**

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

PRSRT STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 478  
 MOORHEAD, MN 56560

ECRWSS  
 RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

## MINNESOTA'S "NIGHT TO UNITE"

**WHEN: TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013**

Mark your calendars for this important and fun-filled night to celebrate your commitment to a safe community. Close-knit neighborhoods are safe neighborhoods. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with your neighbors!

The Moorhead Police Department will promote and be actively involved in this event. Please look for more information about Minnesota's Night to Unite on the police department website at [www.moorheadpolice.com](http://www.moorheadpolice.com) in the near future. Let's join together as neighbors to fight crime and violence in our community!



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### ELECTION JUDGE APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Party Affiliation:

- Democrat Party
- Independence Party
- Republican Party
- No Party
- Other

For more information about polling sites, please visit:

[http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/city\\_hall/elections.asp](http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/city_hall/elections.asp)  
 or call City Clerk at **218.299.5352**

#### Please list top 3 polling sites:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_