Activity 4   Is Parking Really Free in Fargo?

Directions. Read the *Handy Dandy Guide* and the mystery. Read the clues assigned to your group. Be careful. While all the clues are correct, only some are *useful* in solving the mystery. Decide which clues are most relevant to solving the mystery. Use the clues and one or more of the ideas from the *Handy Dandy Guide* to figure out a solution to the mystery. Write your solution.

Handy Dandy Guide
1. People *choose*.
2. People's choices involve *costs*.
3. People respond to *incentives* in predictable ways.
4. People create *economic systems* that influence individual choices and incentives.
5. People gain when they *trade* voluntarily.
6. People's choices have consequences that lie in the *future*.

The Mystery
In a gesture aimed at banishing an annoyance familiar to people who live in big cities, North Dakota legislators voted in 1999 to retain the state's ban on parking meters. One state senator said that local government shouldn't be able to collect money for parking on public streets. Like driving on public roads, parking on public streets should be free. This sounds too good to be true. Why don't cities and states everywhere guarantee free parking?

Maybe it is too good to be true. Is parking really free in Fargo?

The Clues
1. On the Fourth of July, many small towns prohibit curbside parking on Main Street in order to free up space for the Fourth of July parade.
2. North Dakota is the 17th largest state in the United States.
3. Fargo is the largest city in North Dakota, with a population of 77,052 people.
4. The Western Meadowlark is North Dakota's state bird.
5. Milk is North Dakota's state beverage.
6. North Dakota has more road area per acre of land than any other state.
7. North Dakota has more registered vehicles than it has residents.
8. Land area used for outdoor cafes can't be used (at the same time, at least) for roadway expansion.
9. North Dakota has three Congressional seats—two senators and one representative.

Record your solution and explain it briefly here:

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