

# Fremont City Beat

FREMONT, MICHIGAN

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Held @ the Newaygo County  
Road Commission  
October 31, 2020

### **CANCELLED!!**

For more details call the  
Newaygo County Board of  
Public Works at 689-7213

### HAY ART VOTING

Chamber of Commerce  
September 28 – October 9

### CROP HUNGER WALK

Veteran's Memorial Park  
1:00 p.m.  
Sunday, October 4, 2020



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## Honoring Community Service 75 Years Later...

"In 1943 there was a labor shortage in the United States, including Fremont, which threatened agricultural productions, food processing, the war effort, and post-war prosperity. In March 1944 with approval from Gerber Products Company's President Frank Gerber, the Gerber employees' labor unions, the Fremont City Commission, and Chamber of Commerce endorsed a plan to bring German prisoners to Fremont to supplement the critical local labor shortage.

In May 1944 the first of 295 prisoners arrived to establish a camp on Gerber's property and begin work in the Gerber plant and on farms in the area. Gerber and other employers paid the US Army for the prisoners' work, and prisoners received script that they could use to buy personal items.

By October 1944 a large cement-block building was built by prisoners to replace the tents and become one of only four winter housing units for 6,000 prisoners in Michigan.

The Fremont camp closed in October 1945. With the aid of prisoners, agricultural activities were accomplished, Gerber production remained high, and post-war jobs were preserved for Fremont area residents."

Local Gerber Products Retirees Jim Merkel and Jack Butterick recently identified this story attending a Fremont Area District Library lecture from Author Dr. Gregory Sumner and desired to share it with the community. Dr. Sumner described the history of this project in his book Michigan POW Camps in World War II published in 2018 and described the existence of more than 30 similar camps throughout Michigan during this time.

Jim and Jack requested the City of Fremont to partner with them to have this event recognized and consider placement of a monument in a prominent place near the Gerber facility. Planning efforts led to Jim and Jack raising funds for creation of the bronze plaque you now see in front of the manufacturing plant along Main Street and the City Department of Public Works located the rock, prepared and mounted the plaque accordingly. The monument is viewable from the sidewalk as you pass by the plant on Main Street.

A brief ceremony was coordinated on Thursday, September 17th with members from the community, Dr. Gregory Sumner, Gerber Products and the City of Fremont in attendance. Members of the community shared memories of the event that took place during 1944-1945.



## PARKING RV'S & TRAILERS IN THE STREETS

The City is working on some changes to the ordinances that regulate the parking of recreational vehicles and trailers in the street public right of ways (ROW.) Most street public ROW's include 100% of the street and area between the sidewalks and curbing on each side of the street. If a sidewalk is not present, then the ROW area typically extends 15' from the curb into the yard.

As proposed, campers and trailers not connected to a vehicle cannot be parked in the street or the parkway between the curb and sidewalk. While disconnected they are not only a safety hazard, but unappealing to the neighborhood. Residents should be aware that parking of "unlicensed" vehicles, recreational vehicles and trailers is also not permitted in public right of ways or front yards.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER DIVISION RESIDENTIAL CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

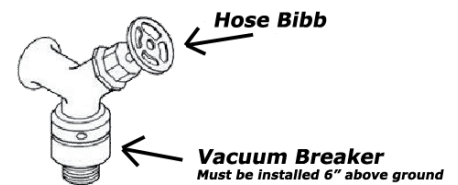
The City of Fremont would like to remind residents to be aware of possible cross connections to the city water system. Residents share in the responsibility for protecting the water supply by properly maintaining their plumbing systems in a safe condition.

### What is a Cross Connection?

A Cross Connection is any arrangement of piping on a building's plumbing system that could result in backflow of contaminants into the public drinking water supply system. A common example is a garden hose attached to an outdoor hose faucet with the end of the hose lying in a mud puddle, bucket, utility sink or your swimming pool; this can act as a siphon hose. Other examples are hoses attached to a laundry tub with the end of the hose submerged in a tub full of detergent, supply lines connected to bottom-fed tanks, and supply lines connected to boilers.

### What is backflow?

In Cross Connection terms, a backflow refers to a reversal of flow from a building's plumbing system back into the public drinking water supply system. A backflow may occur when there is a pressure drop in the public drinking water supply system from a water main break or other failure. A backflow may also occur when a plumbing fixture such as a boiler or a pump generates more pressure than the public supply system and pushes water back into the public drinking water supply system.



### Hose Connection Vacuum Breaker

Hose connection vacuum breakers are specifically made for portable hoses attached to hose thread faucets. Their purpose is to prevent the flow of contaminated water back into the drinking water. These devices screw directly to the faucet outlet. They can be used on a wide variety of installations, such as service sinks, hose faucets near a pool, laundry tub faucets, etc.

Some units are designed for manual draining for freezing conditions. Some are furnished with breakaway set screws as a tamper proof feature. All hand-held shower heads shall be hung up properly to prevent possible cross connections. These devices are not intended for operation under continuous pressure.

This backflow prevention device "vacuum breaker" is (see right) common to most hose bib (spigot) systems and is an effective way of preventing contaminants from back flowing through a garden hose and into the public water supply system.



If your outside faucet looks like the picture below, no corrections are necessary.





## 2020 CONSTRUCTION SEASON NEARS END

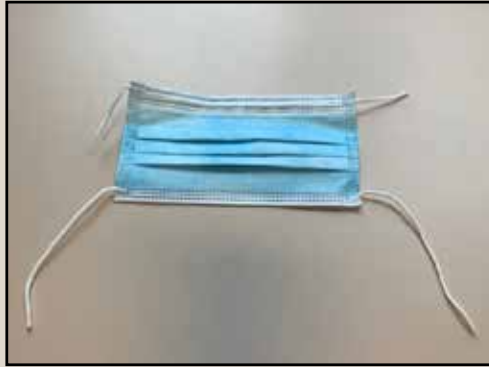
Every year, the City strives to maintain and improve its streets and water/sewer utility systems. During that time, residents and drivers experience inconvenient detours and construction noise, but the results of every project are always worthwhile, so we appreciate Fremont residents patience!

Projects that will still be completed this fall include:

- **State Street Extension** – Extend State Street westward to Market Avenue. Once complete, this project will provide a more direct access to Market Avenue for residents traveling westward. This project will also include an extension of the Town & Country Path from Market Avenue eastward along the north side of the new State Street to the Locust Hill Apartment complex entrance.

## IF YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR MASK DON'T FORGET TO CUT THE STRINGS

Wearing a mask is a responsible thing to do right now. However, one unfortunate side effect of the masks as well as gloves and other PPE, is that they are ending up as litter in our streets, beaches and lakes. When you do properly dispose of your mask, make sure you snip the straps as animals are getting tangled in the straps. This is a simple and quick act that will potentially save a seagull's life, or fish, or whichever unfortunate creature finds themselves tangled in one.



## SIDEWALK SAFETY AND TAKING PRIDE IN YOUR CURBSIDE!

The City sweeps the streets every spring and fall, but weeds begin to creep up in the cracks by mid-summer. The City does not spray for weeds along the curbs in late summer, so residents are asked to help maintain areas where curbsides and sidewalks become overgrown.

If you have a sidewalk on your property, please be mindful of keeping it clean from debris and grass in the cracks to help prevent pedestrians from a potential trip hazard and keep the sidewalks safe for walkers/bikers. Clearing the grass from cracks helps maintain the life of your sidewalk. Also, please keep tree branches and bushes from crowding the sidewalks.

Weeds are commonly removed by weed-killer products, pulled while the soil is damp or by a weed-whip. Residents and their lawn-care providers should blow cut grass back onto the lawn while mowing or with a blower to avoid grass and weed seedlings from filling the seams in the curbing, streets and sidewalks.

A lot of time and energy is spent by residents keeping their yard and surrounding area tidy and pleasant, so we encourage everyone to join them in their efforts and take pride.



## SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY AND BE AN ELECTION INSPECTOR!!!

The City of Fremont is looking for Election Inspectors. You must be a resident of Newaygo County and obtain certification through the Newaygo County Clerk's Office, coordinated State-Certification, that entails a ½ day training session. Following completion, you will receive an Election Inspector Certificate that will allow you to work any and all elections within Newaygo County within a two-year period. Inspector certifications must be renewed every two years, due to changing election laws. On Election Day breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided. This is a paid position at \$12.00/hour. If you are interested, please contact City Clerk Vicci TerVeer at the Fremont Municipal Offices 231-924-2101.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the Fremont City Beat, please contact the City Offices at 231-924-2101 or stop by to see us at 101 East Main Street, Fremont, MI 49412.

## Winter Parking Restrictions

The City reminds motorists that there is no parking of any motor vehicle upon any public street or alley within the City limits between the hours of 2 AM and 6 AM at any time from December 1st thru April 1st. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.



## Flushing of Fire Hydrants

The City Water Department will be conducting the semi-annual **Watermain Flushing Program** on Friday evening, **September 25th**. Flushing will continue throughout the evening until finished. Some discoloration of water may occur throughout Saturday, so let your water run for a short period of time until clear. While the water will continue to be safe to drink, residents are urged not to do light colored laundry during this time.



## HAY ART STILL ON / HARVEST FESTIVAL PARADE CANCELLED

Due to the pandemic, the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce Board cancelled the Harvest Festival Parade that was scheduled for Thursday, October 1st. Based on prior year parade turnouts, they anticipate too many people coming to town to participate as well as watch the parade, which would normally be considered a good thing, but were not sure how we would ever be able to get everyone to follow social distancing requirements.

The Chamber still plans to coordinate Hay Art Competition, a Fall window decorating contest for the merchants, a fall porch decorating contest for the residents, moonlight/harvest hustle sales for the merchants, apple recipe contest, Fall photo contest, and a car/truck/tractor show in the Downtown area!

The Harvest Committee also still plans to decorate the downtown streets for Fall, the week of September 21st, which will be the same week that hay art goes up in the park.



## FREMONT ROTARY TO REVIVE THE DOWNTOWN DEADHEAD COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

During past flower seasons, you may have noticed people dead-heading flowers, pulling weeds, and picking up litter in downtown Fremont. Members of the Dead Head Committee provided this service because they cared about their community. All they asked in return was for the cooperation of the community to pick up litter when you see it. The City provides trash bins and cigarette butt dispensers throughout Downtown, so please take pride in your community and properly dispose of them.



Fremont Rotary Club members are willing to take on the task, but more Dead Heads members are needed; we would encourage students to consider joining the Dead Head Committee. Volunteer hours are determined based on your availability, but there will be some regular times scheduled for group participation throughout the week. Please contact the

City Office at 231-924-2101 if you have the time and motivation to serve as a Dead Head and join in with Fremont Rotary members.

## CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED

The City of Fremont will be taking applications for School Crossing Guards. The Crossing Guards are responsible for the safety of school children going to and returning from school at an assigned location. This is a part-time position and requires a commitment to be there each day. Applications will be received until the positions are filled.

*Please submit Applications/Resumes to:*

Fremont Police Department  
101 E Main Street  
Fremont, MI 49412

For additional information, please call (231) 924-2100





## SAFETY REMINDERS

With the new school year upon us, and the school buses no longer running city routes, our Police Dept and Crossing Guards would like to remind parents of the following dangerous situations that they have noticed during drop-off & pickup times at the area's schools, intersections and side streets:

- Failing to Stop completely at signed intersections.
- Not securing children in seatbelts or safety seats.
- Speeding through School Crossing zones and side streets.
- Distracted drivers using cell phones, grooming, etc.

Your Police Dept will take a zero tolerance approach toward those violators who put others at risk. We recognize that many parents must drive their children to/from school, and we only ask that you please allow yourself extra time to make the trip safely and stress-free.



## VOTER ID REMINDER

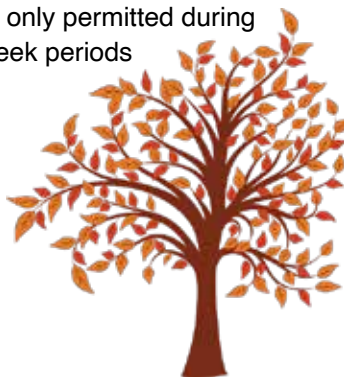
Voters will be asked to provide identification when they visit the polls on Election Day. They will be asked to present a valid government "PHOTO" ID, such as a Michigan driver's license, federal/state employee card, passport, military identification card, student ID card or tribal identification card.

Anyone who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID or failed to bring it with them to the polls may still be able to vote, but they will be required to sign a brief affidavit stating they're not currently in possession of a photo ID. Their ballots will be included with all others and counted on Election Day.



## REFUSE CHANGES

During the first two weeks of January and July each year, property owners may elect to change refuse pickup service from a roll-out cart to mixed-refuse bags or vice-versa by notifying the City Offices. Please note that changes are only permitted during these two-week periods of the year.



## PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG COLLECTION DROP-BOX



The Fremont Police Department has installed a secure pharmaceutical drug collection drop-box. Community members are welcome to come to the front lobby of the Police Department where unwanted medications may be turned in anonymously.

Medications in standard containers may be deposited in those containers. Loose medication can be put into plastic bags and then deposited. Please ensure any liquid medication is enclosed in secure containers and placed in a plastic bag before depositing. Syringes are NOT accepted.

Once collected, staff will ensure the medication

is disposed of according to State and Federal laws.

## Summer 2020 Property Tax Payment Schedule Reminder

Summer 2020 taxes were mailed on June 30th and are due by November 10th. A 4% late penalty will be added to any unpaid taxes on November 11th.

## Winter 2020 Property Tax Payment Schedule

Winter taxes will be mailed on Monday, November 30, 2020 and due by Tuesday, February 16, 2021. A 4% penalty will be added to any unpaid taxes on February 17, 2021. Winter taxes include millage rates for Newaygo County, Intermediate School District, Fremont Area District Library and on occasion, a County Drain assessment.

Taxes can be paid online by credit card or e-check at [www.cityoffremont.net](http://www.cityoffremont.net) and the City can accept partial payments.

For the convenience of our taxpayers, payments (by check only) may be placed in the drop box at the northwest exit of the City Hall parking lot. The City accepts tax payments until Monday, March 1, 2021; on March 2, 2021 all payments must be paid to the Newaygo County Treasurer's Office at PO Box 885, White Cloud, MI 49349.



## Halloween Trick-Or-Treating

Halloween falls on **Saturday, October 31, 2020** this year and the City encourages trick-or-treating activities to take place from **6:00-8:00 p.m.** In lieu of the traditional door-to-door activities, the City continues to encourage private parties, which lessen any potential problems with tainted treats and accidents involving costumed children and vehicles during the twilight hours. If participating in the door-to-door candy rush, parents should observe the following safety tips for their children:

- Chaperone your children and restrict activities to your own neighborhood
- Limit the age groups to pre-teen or younger
- Eye holes in masks should be large enough to easily see through them
- Protective breathing masks are encouraged to limit spread of coronavirus
- Wear reflective bright colors and use a flashlight so drivers can see you after dark
- Walk on sidewalks where available, or as near the curb as possible where no sidewalks are present
- Inspect all treats before allowing children to eat them

## INFORMATION FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES ...

One of the most common calls to our dispatch center involves a report of a person needing medical attention. Some examples include citizens falling in their homes, experiencing chest pain, or feeling very ill and unable to walk. Fremont first responders, law enforcement, and emergency medical services continue to assist those in need after a report to our 911 center. A quick and proper response by first responders to give medical aid when needed greatly improves the chances of a successful outcome.



Sometimes first responders have trouble accessing a person in need if a door is locked. We prefer not having to cause further problems by damaging doors or windows to get access during your time of need.

If you are enduring a medical condition which causes you to anticipate the need for emergency medical help, please contact the police department. We can forward door access codes, alternate key locations, key holders, or emergency contact information to our dispatch center. This information may facilitate a better response to your home.



### FREMONT POLICE

Have you ever wondered what is all the stuff police officers now carry on their belts? Of the many items they carry, the Fremont Police Department Officers are carrying tourniquets as part of their daily uniform. The City of Fremont believes it is a vital part of their uniform as it can be used to save themselves, their partners, and the lives of civilians in our area. Officers are trained how and when to use tourniquets to effectively stop traumatic bleeding. If the injury is severe enough, Fremont Police Officers will have the ability to stop traumatic bleeding from a limb. This will dramatically improve a patient's chance for success during their recovery. Common items on our belts...

- Handcuffs
- Firearms
- Extra Ammunition
- Taser

### SHAGGY BEARDS

If you've noticed that many of our local police officers are looking a little scruffy these days, it's because they are donating and participating in a fundraiser to raise money for the "Shop with a Cop" Program.



### FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED



The Fremont Fire Department is accepting applications for paid on-call firefighters, with no experience necessary. The Department has well trained firemen who provide training. Applicants must be 18, have a valid driver's license, and live within a 5 mile radius of the city. Applications can be picked up at city hall. If you have any questions please call the Fremont Fire Department at 231-924-2103.

## CITY OF FREMONT Fall Leaf Collection



Monday	N. Division Ave.	Tuesday
W. Main St.		E. Main St.
Wednesday	S. Division Ave.	Thursday

Weather permitting, the City's Curbside Bulk Leaf Collection Program will begin on October 19 and continue for four (4) weeks. Residents should rake their leaves to the edge of the curb line but not place them into the street until the night before their scheduled pickup day, as noted on the collection map on the left of this page.

If you are interested in the full listing of the program guidelines, please come to the City Offices Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm to pick up a copy of the rules.

**\*\*The City does not allow the burning of leaves within the City limits.**

## NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

On Tuesday, November 3rd, the Presidential Election will take place and voters decide who will lead our country for the next four years. Voters will select candidates for the following offices on the upcoming ballot:

President / Vice President	Judge of Appeals Court
U.S. Representative	Judge of Circuit Court
State Representative	Judge of Probate Court
U of M Regent	Judge of District Court
WSU Governor	Members of State Board of Education
MSU Trustee	



City residents are reminded that, per City Code, election signs are not to be placed in the City street rights-of-way. They may not be placed, nailed or affixed to any tree, utility pole, light, sign or lamp post or other object within the area between the curb & sidewalk along all City streets. Non-conforming signs will be removed without notice or compensation.

The Newaygo County Clerk's Office will again provide election results through the Internet site at [www.electionreporting.com](http://www.electionreporting.com). Current election results as they are reported to the County Clerk's Office will be posted on election night. Upcoming 2020 election dates to remember:

- ☑ **October 19:** Last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the November 3rd Presidential Election (Otherwise, in-person registration is permitted up thru Election)
- ☑ **October 30:** Last day to request mailing of AV ballots by 1st class mail
- ☑ **November 3:** Presidential Election, 101 E. Main Street, Fremont. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

As a convenience to our City voters, if you or your spouse would like to be added to the City's permanent absentee voter (AV) list, please notify the City Offices at 924-2101. Those on the list are mailed an AV application before each election as a reminder and given the option to vote absentee or in person. Please exercise your right to vote at all elections. We should all live by the adage that "If you don't vote, you don't have the right to complain!" ☆

## FREMONT COMMUNITY JOINT ZONING ORDINANCE – DID YOU KNOW?

In a residential district, no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the front yard may be used for parking, including driveways. Vehicles may not be parked or stored upon any lawn or landscaped area within the front yard. Regulations such as this help keep neighborhoods looking attractive and maintained.

## BRUSH CHIPPING IS COMING TO AN END

The City continues to remove brush without charge, the first Monday of each month April through October. The last week of brush pick up for the 2020 season will begin the first Monday in October (10/5). Brush must be stacked with the cut end at curbside with limbs no more than three inches (3") in diameter. The City will not remove remaining tree-top brush from a tree removed by either the owner or a private tree removal company, whereas the program is intended for routine tree/ bush trimming and fallen branches. Residents throughout the City must have their brush placed curbside by 7:30 a.m. of each first Monday morning. Brush is not to be placed at curbside any earlier than the Friday before the first Monday. The City will also continue to provide curbside chipping of Christmas trees the first two weeks of January.





## Fremont City Beat

101 E. Main Street  
Fremont, MI 49412

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE **PAID**  
FREMONT, MI  
Permit No. 12

RESIDENT  
FREMONT, MI 49412

## Important Numbers

City of Fremont – Administration	(231) 924-2101
– Police Department	(231) 924-2100
– Fire Department	(231) 924-2103
– Cemetery	(231) 924-2330
– Municipal Airport	(231) 924-7080
Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce	(231) 924-0770
Fremont Area District Library	(231) 924-3480
Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital	(231) 924-3300
Fremont Public Schools	(231) 924-2350
Fremont Community Recreation Center	(231) 924-3750
Dogwood Center for Performing Arts	(231) 924-8883
Newaygo County Sheriff Department	(231) 689-7303

Emergency – Fire – Police – Ambulance Call **911**

**Refuse & Recycling Pick-up** – Place curbside every Tuesday by 7:00 AM

**Leaf Pick-up** – Begins 3rd Monday in October; continuous for four weeks, weather permitting

**Brush Drop Off** – Drop off site is at the DPW Yard Waste site April 1st - November 30th

**Watermain Flushing** – April and October

**Winter Street Parking Ban (2:00 AM to 6:00 AM)** – From December 1st - April 1st



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Google or search for “City of Fremont, Michigan” and you can keep up on City events and other announcements.

