

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce

### Summer Concert Series

Free Concerts in Veterans Memorial Park

Thursday evenings @ 7pm,  
July 24

Food sold by local non-profits

Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce

### National Baby Food Festival Arts & Craft Show

July 12 – Veterans Memorial Park

Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce

### National Baby Food Festival

July 16 – July 19

### Newaygo County Agricultural Fair

August 2 – August 9



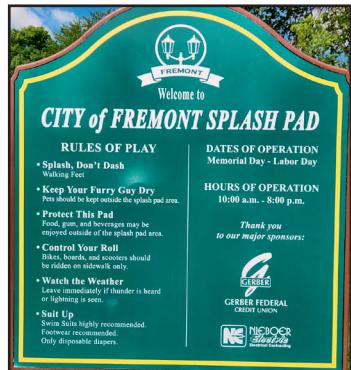
## THIS ISSUE

Welcome New City Council Member	P.2
Fireworks Laws	P.3
Jason Best Promoted to Fire Chief	P.4
Firefighter Captain Retires	P.4
Chicken Regulations	P.5
34th Annual Baby Food Festival	P.6
Fremont's Annual Community Yard Sales	P.7
Important Numbers	P.8



I'm sure most of you have noticed, but there is a splashpad right in Fremont's Downtown Veterans Memorial Park by the playground! As reported in previous editions of the City Beat, local donors and grant funds paid for its construction, and since opening before Memorial Weekend, it has had non-stop action!

The splashpad water jets only turn on between 10am and 8pm, and public restrooms in the park are open during that time, with access off the backside of the amphitheater/bandshell along Weaver Avenue. Please familiarize yourself with the splashpad rules for everyone's safety and enjoyment.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Social media has been one of the fastest growing industries in the world and doesn't seem to be slowing down. It has become a primary source of interaction between individuals and facilitation of group conversations and content sharing. And while it certainly has had a positive impact on information sharing, personal expression and community building, it has its shortfalls as well.

While it's great to share information with a large group in quick fashion, sometimes the person and/or organization that should be seeing or receiving it ... isn't. For example, the City does not have the resources to observe everyone's social media pages or group platforms to gain awareness of city-related issues residents may be experiencing or receive notice of repairs that are needed at city facilities like parks, streets and sidewalks.

The City does have a Facebook page. It posts current news and information regarding city-related issues and/or topics, so tagging the City's FB page would certainly help staff address and/or resolve issues in a much quicker fashion. Or by calling the administrative offices (924-2101) or police department (924-2100 for non-emergencies), it will give us an opportunity to respond even quicker.

The fact that everyone is sharing information about our community shows they care, and we have a great community, so help us keep it that way.

## CITY DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT – POLICE DEPARTMENT

As the Chief of Police, I appreciate the opportunity to write to the community and give an update on the police department. Most of the time, my staff meets the community at times of struggle, disaster, mistakes, or emergencies. We will not limit our agency to only protecting and serving our community. We do so much more. My goal as a chief is to help Fremont thrive as one of the best communities in our area and to support the success of those living and spending time in Fremont.



Every day, the Fremont Police Department strives to provide and restore dignity to everyone in Fremont. We give dignity to people at every opportunity and try to restore dignity to those who become victims of crime or are impacted by mental illness, substance use disorder, crime, traffic crashes, or require assistance. Guiding our work are the constitutional principles we as a community cherish, Federal and State law, as well as the moral compass each staff member uses to guide our service to Fremont. Using the metaphor of the compass is appropriate because it guides our decision-making, leadership, ethics, and the personal growth of members.

Sharing our philosophy with Fremont is intended to give a "behind the curtain" view of our operations in the community we serve. While we prioritize privacy, confidentiality, and protecting the rights of crime victims, we often do not share the challenges we face as a police department. We hope everyone understands and does not discount what we are trying to contribute to our community. However, in 2025, we published our second annual report, detailing our crime statistics, programs, and a 21st Century Policing Report, which further details our operations and shows transparency. I encourage all to read these reports on our website for a better understanding of our operations.

Fremont is still a safe and vibrant place to live, work, worship, and spend time with your family. Like any city, the issue is those experiencing an increase in crime, disorder, and various community problems like untreated mental illness and substance use disorder. As our community ages, my staff often interacts with our older population experiencing mobility issues, cognitive decline, chronic disease, and social isolation. Frankly, the list of challenges seems endless on some days, as I call each of my officers and support staff to stay connected to the privilege and responsibility of helping those in need.

The Fremont Police Department is a community policing agency that aims to address each of these community issues individually or through collaborative efforts with local service providers. Policing and serving are not isolated entities in Fremont. We are part of the community, with a vested interest in everyone's success. As an agency and as your Chief, I look forward to working with you well into the future.

Chief Tim Rodwell

## WELCOME NEW FREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BRENT DEUR

I have been a proud resident of Fremont for 50 of my 52 years and have always appreciated the unique sense of community that defines this city. Fremont has been not only my home, but also the place where I've had the privilege to live, work, and form meaningful connections with my neighbors.

For the past 20 years, I have been employed with Gerber Federal Credit Union, where I have served as both a Branch Manager and currently as the Assistant Vice President of Consumer Lending. One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is the opportunity to assist members of our community in navigating their financial journeys. I strive to bring integrity, thoughtful guidance, and a calm, solutions-based approach to what can often be a stressful area of life. Helping individuals and families feel confident in their financial decisions is something I find deeply fulfilling.



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My decision to pursue a position on the Fremont City Council was driven by a strong desire to contribute to the continued success and growth of our city. I am committed to preserving Fremont's reputation as a welcoming, vibrant place to live and work, while also supporting initiatives that enable both small and large businesses to flourish. I believe in thoughtful progress and in creating an environment where future generations can succeed.

Civic engagement and community service have always been important to me. Over the years, I have volunteered with a wide range of local organizations, including the Little League, church groups, school committees, the Fremont Area Foundation, and others. I believe that giving back is a key component of leadership and a meaningful way to stay connected to the community.

In my spare time, I enjoy traveling and am a passionate sports enthusiast. I spent many years umpiring baseball and softball games, which gave me the chance to meet and work with many members of the community. Although my children are now grown and no longer involved in local athletics, I still enjoy attending high school sporting events and can often be found at Branstrom Park in the summer, cheering on the next generation of athletes.

I am honored to serve on the Fremont City Council and am committed to working collaboratively to make thoughtful, forward-looking decisions on behalf of our residents. I look forward to contributing to the continued well-being and growth of the City of Fremont.

## FIREWORKS LAWS

Fireworks sold within the state are now allowed to be much louder and can leave the ground. Public Act 256 of 2011 legalizes consumer fireworks, such as bottle rockets and Roman candles. Before the rule changes, Michigan's firework laws were relatively restrictive. The only fireworks allowed for legal use were novelty fireworks that did not leave the ground or explode, such as sparklers or smoke bombs.

### Consumer Fireworks are regulated as follows per MCL 28.462:

- A person shall not ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks on public property, school property, church property, or the property of another person without that organization or person's express permission to use those fireworks on those premises. This includes roads and sidewalks.
- Consumer fireworks shall not be sold to a minor.
- An individual shall not use consumer fireworks or low-impact fireworks while under the influence of alcoholic liquor or controlled substances.

### When fireworks can be used is regulated per MCL 28.457:

A local unit of government may enact an ordinance regulating the ignition, discharge, and use of consumer fireworks, including, but not limited to, an ordinance prescribing the hours of the day or night during which a person may ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks. Suppose a local unit of government enacts an ordinance under this subsection. In that case, the ordinance shall not regulate the ignition, discharge, or use of consumer fireworks on the following days after 11 a.m.:

- December 31 until 1 a.m. on January 1.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.

The City of Fremont's local ordinance prohibits disturbing the peace. No one shall disturb public peace through loud, boisterous, or vulgar behavior, or by producing excessive, unnecessary, or unusually loud noise, whether on public or private property. They also cannot allow others under their control or direction to do so if it disrupts the peace, order, health, or safety of others, a neighborhood, or the community as a whole. We encourage residents to enjoy themselves responsibly and be considerate of their neighbors.

Additionally, the State of Michigan warns that when fire-related incidents involving consumer, low-impact, or illegal fireworks cause property damage, injury, or death, individuals may face misdemeanor or felony charges, with penalties of up to five years in prison and fines of up to \$10,000, or both.

## BURNING ORDINANCE WITHIN CITY LIMITS

Section 4.1 (D): Public or private bonfires in which material would exceed three (3) feet in diameter require a permit issued by the City Clerk and are subject to prior approval of the City Fire Department. Such approval may be granted at the sole discretion of the Clerk and Fire Department based upon:

- i. The proximity of the proposed bonfire to dwellings, trees and other structures.
- ii. Facilities available for fire management.
- iii. Atmospheric conditions.
- iv. Type of material to be burned.
- v. Any other consideration judged by the Clerk or Fire Department to be required to ensure safe burning.

The City offices are open Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 924-2101.



## JASON BEST PROMOTED TO FIRE CHIEF

On May 1st, Jason Best was promoted to Fire Chief. Jason grew up in Grand Haven and moved up to Fremont in 2000. Jason and his wife said, "they could not think of a better place to raise our family." He has 3 children Colton (22), Rylee (20) and Morgan(19) that he is very proud of. In his spare time, he enjoys working on their horse farm, hunting, spending time in the mountains, horseback riding and camping.

Jason started his Firefighting career in Grand Haven with Grand Haven Township Fire Dept. When he moved up to Fremont for work, he joined Fremont Fire in 2001. Jason is a full-time Paramedic/Supervisor for Life EMS here in Fremont. Jason had held the rank of Captain here at Fremont since 2005 in charge of Medical and Rescue. He is currently certified and licensed as a Paramedic, Paramedic Instructor Coordinator, Fire Instructor, Company Officer 1&2, along with many smaller certificates.



Jason said this about his promotion to Chief, "I am excited about my new role as Chief to see where I can bring the department. Being a part-time paid dept (meaning all our firefighters have full-time jobs) brings unique challenges as our training requirements are the same as a full-time department. We need to keep things fun while trying to maintaining a safe amount of personnel that are committed to the time it takes to obtain and remain a firefighter. We will remain one of the best fire departments in the area."



## FIREFIGHTER CAPTAIN RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS OF SERVICE

On June 30, Captain Ed Cook hung up his helmet and gear for the last time after 33 years. Ed began his firefighting career in 1992 where he quickly rose in the ranks to Lieutenant in 1996 and then to Captain and Training Officer in 1997. Over the years, Ed received the Michigan State Police Distinguished Citizen Award, multiple CPR and Hurst Life Saving Awards, and was named Firefighter of the Year in 2012.

Ed had this to say while reflecting on his time with the department, "This has been a life-changing career that I will never forget. I have met so many people who share the same passion for service, and I am grateful for every one of them. The fire service is a world of constant change and challenge — and I've found that being a lifelong learner is not just a philosophy, it's a necessity. My advice to those who remain is simple: always be a student of the craft. Pass on what you know. Leave the job better than you found it."

As I retire, what I'm most proud of is the opportunity I had to share my experiences and knowledge with others. Watching former cadets grow into firefighters, officers, and even chiefs — that's the legacy I leave behind. Thank you for the honor of serving this department and this community.

And of course, I can't forget the unique perspective that comes from spending so many years looking at life through a fire engine windshield. There's nothing quite like the mix of adrenaline, focus, and occasional windshield wiper malfunction as you're racing to help someone in need. You see the world differently from that seat — a little louder, a little faster, and a whole lot more meaningful."

***Thank you, Ed, for your dedicated service to the Fremont community!***

## DALLAS ENGLISH JOINS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works is pleased to announce the hiring of Dallas English to fill a vacant position within the department. Dallas moved to the area just over five years ago and was previously employed by American Classic. Outside of work, Dallas enjoys spending time with his fiancé and their 6-month-old baby, as well as pursuing his passions for hunting and fishing. Dallas had this to say about the position, "I love coming to work each day, working with the equipment and learning more about Fremont."



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## 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**



## FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT IS HIRING! FIRE FIGHTERS AND MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS



The Fremont Fire Department is accepting applications for paid on-call firefighters and medical first responders. The Department has well trained firemen who provide training. You don't have to be both; you can be a fire fighter or a medical first responder!

Applicants must be 18, have a valid driver's license, and live within 5-miles of the City limits. Applications for either position can be picked up at city hall. If you have any questions, please call the Fremont Fire Department at **231-924-2103**.

## CHICKEN REGULATIONS IN THE CITY

The City of Fremont has had an Ordinance prohibiting chickens in town since 1972 and recently amended the ordinance last summer to permit chickens under certain conditions. Since chickens are considered a "barnyard" animal, the conditions/regulations will help maintain a buffer between someone's chicken coop and the neighboring residential dwellings. New regulating language in the City Ordinance Chapter 3 "Animals and Fowl" is as follows:

"An owner or occupant of a parcel of property  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre or greater may keep a maximum combination of four (4) hen chickens and/or rabbits within a fenced enclosure in the rear yard no closer than 125 feet from any adjacent dwelling place structure and comply with zoning regulations. Roosters are prohibited."

The Zoning Ordinance considers chicken coops an "accessory structure" and regulates size and location within a resident's backyard. Questions regarding coops can be addressed by City Zoning Officer Andy Harrington.



The City has been receiving complaints of chickens being raised and housed in various neighborhoods, so please make sure you are in compliance to avoid a \$90 civil infraction.



## PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The City sends out property tax bills semi-annually. Summer taxes were mailed June 30th and are due by August 10th. A 4% late penalty will be added to any unpaid taxes on August 11th. Summer taxes include millages for the Fremont Public Schools (both operating & debt levies), State Education, City, County-Operating and the Fremont Community Recreation Authority.

Winter taxes are mailed on November 26th and due by February 14th. A 4% late penalty is added to any unpaid taxes on February 15th. Winter taxes include millages for Newaygo County specials, the Intermediated School District and the Fremont Area District Library.

For the convenience of our taxpayers, payments (check only, no cash please) may be placed in the drop box at the northwest exit of the City Hall parking lot at any time. Payments can also be made by credit card or E-Check from our website at [www.fremontmi.gov](http://www.fremontmi.gov). The City accepts tax payments until February 28th. Thereafter, all payments must be made at the County Treasurer's Office, P.O. Box 885, White Cloud, MI 49349.



## PARKING RV'S & TRAILERS IN THE STREETS

The City ordinance regulates 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.

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.

## COME JOIN US FOR THE 34th ANNUAL NATIONAL BABY FOOD FESTIVAL!

The National Baby Food Festival Committee and Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy family fun in Fremont, home of Gerber Baby Food for the 34th Annual National Baby Food Festival July 16-19, 2025. TJ Schmidt and Company amusements will be joining us with their midway and carnival rides! There are many activities planned for all ages, from the young to the young at heart:

- Food Trucks: Open at 11am Wednesday through Saturday
- Arts & Craft Show: - July 12 from 10-4 pm the Arts and Craft Show will be held in Veterans Memorial Park.
- Marketplace Days: July 17-18 from 9 am – 4 pm east end of Main Street
- Baby Photo Contest: Bring in or mail a current photo of your pride and joy – newborn to 2 years (no larger than 5x7), NBFF – Baby Photo Contest, 7 E Main, Fremont, MI 49412. For more information contact the chamber at (231)924-0770
- Queen's Court Crowning: July 18 at 6:45 at Veteran's Memorial Park Stage
- FREE Entertainment on Main Stage in Veterans Memorial Park:
  - o July 16 – 7 pm John Berry
  - o July 17 – 7 pm-9 pm Big Cadillac
  - o July 18 – 7 pm Dueling Pianos
  - o July 29 – 7 pm Kanin Wren
- Grand Parade: July 19 at 10:30 am, Gerber Products Company and Gerber Life Insurance Grand Parade begins at the corner of Pine Street and Gerber Ave. by Fremont Middle School, then heads north on Gerber Avenue to Sheridan Street, and continues east on Sheridan Street to Division, then heads south on Division, ending at Cedar Street.
- Car Show: July 19 from 11:00-3:00, cars will be on display at the east end of Main Street!
- Worship in the Park: Sunday, 7:00 pm, join us at Veterans Memorial Park as communities come together in worship.

For more information visit our website, [www.fremontcommerce.com](http://www.fremontcommerce.com) or call the Fremont Chamber at **(231)924-0770**. Information is also posted on our Facebook pages, so be sure to like us on Facebook!

### 2025 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

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. We thank residents for their patience!

#### Projects expected to be completed during the 2025 construction season:

##### Street Milling & Resurfacing:

- M-82 (Stewart/Main Street): MDOT to finish re-milling of entire M-82 highway between 56th Street and Green Avenue in town
- Connie Avenue: between Main Street & Lake Drive
- Weaver Avenue: between Hemlock & 44th Street
- Hemlock Street: between Stone & Weaver Avenue
- Gerber Avenue: between Main & Cedar Streets
- Oak Street: between Gerber & Reunion Avenue
- Sullivan Avenue: between Maple & Sheridan Streets
- Elm Street: between Darling & Decker Avenues
- Dayton Street: Weaver Avenue to Gerber Entrance
- Maple Street: between Weaver & Sullivan Avenues
- Southwoods: between Main & Oak Streets
- Gibson: between State & Main Streets
- Mechanic Avenue: between Woodrow & Apple Streets

##### New Construction:

- Branstrom Warming Lodge: construct new warming lodge center in Branstrom Park by ice rink/sledding hill
- Michigan Street Extension: finish construction of the extension of Michigan Street between Weaver & Division Avenues and the new Orchard Avenue to support the new 15-unit housing development



## FREMONT'S LATE SUMMER ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE



The late summer date is scheduled for August 7th – 9th, 2025, and the deadline to sign up for being on the list is July 30th.

To participate, all you have to do is call or come into the Fremont City Office, give us your name, address and phone number, and you're on the list! You can sign up for all 3 days, or just 1 day. City Offices are open Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 924-2101.

Except for the City's coordinated community yard sales, the City will be enforcing its' regulations on garage sale signs this summer. While many are thankful the City is doing so; others do not appreciate the effort. The regulations are being enforced because 1) the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) does not allow signs in their right-of-way, and many of the signs are placed along Main Street and Stewart Avenue in the MDOT right-of-way; 2) for safety reasons, signs should not be attached to utility poles; and 3) the signs are unattractive and often the signs are not taken down after the sale. Everyone has worked hard to keep Fremont looking neat, clean and beautiful for all to enjoy, so ridding the City of unnecessary signs is part of that effort.

## CITY COUNCIL WELCOMED THE CITY OF WHITEHALL

Representatives from the City of Fremont have participated in an annual Mayors Association of Michigan event, now referred to as "Community Exchange". This opportunity allows two communities to visit each other's city/village, visit with local municipal officials, and spend the day touring the respective community. The City of Fremont has participated in this event since the late 1980s, most recently, May of 2025, with a return visit to the City of Whitehall, originally visited almost 20 years ago.

In addition to sharing the attributes of each community, this occurrence offers each community not only an opportunity to observe each other's success stories but also allows the hosting community to review its asset base and share its story(ies) for a familiar audience. During this year, eleven officials from Whitehall spent the day in Fremont and six from Fremont returned to Whitehall for a visit.



Scheduling the 'must-see' parts of Fremont is always a bit of a dilemma, choosing pieces that best represent the 'whole' of the Fremont community, allowing for some 'downtime' is required. We have the Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts to provide that time for our annual guests. This year, again, in addition to touring the Dogwood, we had local pianist Bernadine Johnson play the Steinway piano for our guests; this has become an annual event, and we are so pleased to have Bernadine and the Dogwood as part of our day-long touring schedule.

Another positive aspect of this year's tour was visiting the Fremont Area Community Foundation and remaining there for a delicious lunch. Guests and local representatives were welcomed by CEO Shelly Kasprzycki and staff members while hearing about the impact of the Foundation's community investments. In addition to the Foundation, the rest of the day was spent touring City Hall, the Fremont Area District Library, Fremont Arts Place, Chamber of Commerce, Trillium Springs, Stone Lodge and Tamarac. A driving tour of greater Fremont included visits to several of the City's parks, the airport, and the wastewater plant. Touring ended at Branstrom Park, site of the soon-to-be constructed warming lodge, adjacent to the existing Branstrom lodge building. Dinner was held at the Lakes restaurant; following an excellent meal, we returned to City Hall and said farewell to our guests.

Fremont representatives returned to Whitehall a couple of weeks later and were shown around their wonderful lakeside community, also enjoying an outstanding lunch at the Whitehall Playhouse, a vintage theater renovated over the last several years. Touring the Whitehall community was a pleasure; the City had arranged for a 'trolley car' to move us from site to site!

Over the years, the City of Fremont has been able to share its unique stories of development with like-minded communities, benefiting from observing positive success stories of our friends around Michigan. The City of Fremont has been able to share, over the last several years, its story with the following communities: the Cities/Villages of Holland, Zeeland, Norton Shores, Manistee, Hastings, Pentwater, St. Louis, and Greenville. We look forward to having this great community-based program continue for years to come.

## 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
Corewell Health Gerber Memorial Hospital	(231) 924-3300
Fremont Public Schools	(231) 924-2350
Dogwood Center for Performing Arts	(231) 924-8885
Newaygo County Sheriff Department	(231) 689-7303
Fremont Community Recreation Center	(231) 924-3750

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



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

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

**Brush Pick-up** – Place curbside by 7:30 AM on the 1st Monday of each month, April - October

**Watermain Flushing** – April and October

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

NEW OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
FRIDAY: 8:00 am to 12 noon

Friend us on



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

