

NEW DOG PARK FOR FREMONT

The Fremont City Council recently authorized development of a new Dog Park in Fremont. The citizen "Fremont Dog Park Committee", chaired by Fremont resident, Caitlin Zinnecker, recommended the City consider establishing a dog park in Fremont. Residents could walk or drive their dogs to the park and unleash them in a fenced in area to run and exercise. Committee members conveyed the importance of owners and their pets benefiting from both exercise and socialization, noting this would be another great amenity to the Fremont park system.

Last year Council authorized the committee to seek the necessary funding for construction of a dog park and accepted a \$5,000 matching grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation to help fund the project. The City agreed to match the \$5,000 grant if the committee could raise the remaining funds needed to complete the park. Estimated costs for two

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Economic Development Efforts in Downtown Fremont:

A Collaboration of the City of Fremont, Fremont Downtown Development Authority, Newaygo County, NC Brownfield Authority, State of Michigan and Fremont Downtown Property Owners

As part of Fremont's goal to create safe, affordable rental housing downtown and stimulate economic activity in the community, the City and DDA established the Fremont Rental Rehabilitation Housing Program. To support this effort, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has awarded the City of Fremont a \$436,600 grant for the Fremont Rental Rehabilitation Program.

Of that amount \$370,000 will be used to fund the rehabilitation of up to ten (10) vacant rental units with a majority of the units remaining "affordable" for at least five (5) years. A maximum of \$40,000 per unit is available as long as the owner agrees to rent 51% of the units

in the building to households whose incomes must not exceed 80% of the area median income (AMI) adjusted by family size for a period of at least five (5) years. The remaining units can be "market-rate." Only existing structures with upper levels located in the downtown commercial core have been eligible for assistance and an owner must leverage at least 25% of the total project cost. City staff and Lindsay Hager, of Hager Consulting,

coordinate the grant projects, of which will be starting renovations this summer.

In addition to MSHDA Rental Rehab grants, Newaygo County and the NC Brownfield Authority joined with the City and DDA to establish brownfield plans that take part in the restoration and safety updates needed in the four downtown buildings identified in the rental rehab program. The Brownfield Authority confirmed the building's upstairs "obsolescence" and authorized the building owner's ability to capture most of the abatement and demolition costs related to the planned rental renovation projects, by way of Tax Increment Financing (TIF.) TIF's permit capture of taxes levied from increased values following a development project, so participating property owners will capture all increased taxes until fully refunded the approved amount. The State MEDC had to approve the TIF plan as well. County Administrator Tobi Lake and Housing Director Amanda Auw were instrumental in the brownfield approval process.

Regional collaboration efforts like this are what it takes these days to really make an effect in small downtowns, and we can be thankful for the participating entities and their representatives that took part in this process.



New Dog Park continued from front page ...

separate fenced in areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs, is \$15,000. Adding amenities like benches and dog-related obstacles would also be dependent on fundraising efforts. To date the committee has raised \$4,200 and their goal is to have the Park open this summer.

Donations are being accepted at the Fremont City Offices and checks should be made out to "City of Fremont" with "Fremont Dog Park" in the memo line. Questions regarding the Fremont Dog Park may also be directed to the City Offices at 231-924-2101.

FREMONT GEARING UP FOR COMMUNITY JOINT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission (FCJPC) will be holding public hearings this summer, with hopes of receiving public input from residents of the Fremont community regarding future planning efforts to come and preparation and regulation thereof.

The FCJPC represents the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township and Dayton Township in a joint effort to provide planning and zoning regulation services for the community. Please watch for upcoming public hearing dates and participate in the process! Meetings are typically conducted in the Fremont Municipal Building.

Welcome New Fremont City Community Development & Planning/ Zoning Officer!

The City of Fremont would like to introduce the City's newest Community Development Planning/Zoning Officer, Andy Harrington. He began employment with the City on April 6th. Andy grew up in Fremont and graduated with BA and MA degrees from Central Michigan University.

Andy is married to Katie Brookhouse and enjoys fishing and playing disc golf. Andy looks forward to being able to assist residents with their Community Development and Planning and Zoning needs.



Welcome Colin Blamer – New City Account Clerk

Colin joined the City of Fremont Offices staff as an Account Clerk on April 6th. Prior to working at the City, he worked at the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce for over 2 years as their Membership Director.

Colin grew up in Fremont and enjoys golfing and time with family and friends. What Colin likes most about working at the City of Fremont is the interaction with the public.



Yard of the Month Program

The Fremont Yard of the Month award recognizes the hard work and pride exhibited by Fremont residents to beautify their yards. We encourage community members to either nominate your own yard or someone else's yard for the "Yard of the Month" by filling out a Yard of the Month Award application. The form can be found on the City's website at www.cityoffremont.net, or it may be picked up at the Fremont Municipal Building located at 101 E. Main Street, Fremont, MI. Awards are given out for recognition during the following months:

- August - For Yard Beauty (Nominations must be submitted by July 14.)
- September – For Yard Beauty (Nominations must be submitted by August 18)

Anyone may nominate a yard, whether they live in the City or outside the City, but the yard must be located within the City limits. You may direct questions to Andy Harrington, the City's Development & Planning/Zoning Officer at aharrington@cityoffremont.net or at 924-2101.

GARAGE SALES:

A Fun and Thrifty Summer Pastime

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.

The City understands that garage sales are important to many people; so as a result, the City organizes community garage sales in May and August. To participate, see below. The

more people who participate in the community garage sale, the more energy the event will create. This translates into more people attending the various garage sales, which includes having visitors from outside the community take part; visitors who are good for local businesses. The community garage sales could have a positive economic impact not only for the individual home owner but for the community at-large.



Fremont's Annual Community Yard Sale

It's time to get ready for Fremont's Annual Community Yard Sale. Our Spring-May Sale was a great success with over 65 participants. The late Summer date is scheduled for:

August 13th – 15th, 2015

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 Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 924-2101.

Recycling - Single Stream

Curbside recycling is a single-stream process, whereas all recyclables can be co-mingled in the blue recycling container. Make sure you place paper products at the bottom of the bin to prevent them from blowing out.

Curbside Recycling will remain at \$7.65/month. Residents on refuse bag service who receive a quarterly bill for only recycling services are welcome to pay for their recycling services in advance on an annual basis to avoid having to write a check for such a small amount each quarter. Because rate adjustments are done in April, paying ahead could affect your first billing; after the credits have been used, you may receive a bill for the small difference. Paying ahead can also save on the City's printing and mailing costs, thus allowing us to maintain our current low rates.

*Please place your recycling bin away from your 65 or 95 gallon cart as the garbage truck uses an arm to pick up these carts and if your bin is to close it could be broken from the weight of those arms.



Curbside Refuse Service

Each residential dwelling may choose to use a 65- or 95-gallon rollout cart (garbage container with wheels) or buy special bags with the Allied Waste logos. For residents that choose bag service, this is a reminder that any item that does not fit into the mix-refuse bag will require a bulky item sticker if it is placed curbside on pick-up day. The cost for bulk item tags is \$3.00 per tag. Cart lids must be within 15" of being closed, otherwise no overloaded carts will be emptied. Any additional garbage that will not fit into the 65/95-gallon cart must be placed in the specially purchased Mixed-Refuse Bags and placed beside the cart. Empty carts and recycling bins must be removed from the curbside and placed in garages or side yards by 12:00 PM (noon) of the day after the scheduled pickup.

Effective April 1, 2015, the rate for the 65-gallon rollout cart has remained unchanged at \$10.15/month and the 95-gallon rollout cart is \$11.88/month. The mixed refuse bags have also remained at \$2.00 per bag, or \$24.00 for a box of 12.

Other than new residents, the City only permits residents to stop and start their refuse/recycling services during the first two weeks of January and July each year. The property owner of the collection address may elect to change service from a roll-out cart to mixed-refuse bags or vice-versa by notifying the City Offices. **Changes are only allowed during these two-week periods.** Reminder: Any large items require a bulky sticker or appliance sticker which can be purchased at City Hall or Bill Shop-N-Save.

BURNING ORDINANCE WITHIN CITY LIMITS

Section 9.11 (C) (4) (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 Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 924-2101.



2015 Fremont Farmers' Market Schedule



Dates and Times

Starting: June 27, 2015

Tuesdays: 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Ending: October 10, 2015

Location: The Fremont Farmers' Market is located downtown Fremont in the northeast public parking lot north of Main Street between Merchant Avenue and Division.

Community Information Booth:

At the Farmers' Market in the middle of the pavilion, there will be an information center/promotion area for businesses located in the City. A different retail establishment each market day will promote its business at the booth by displaying its goods. Any Fremont retail establishment will be able to display promotional information at this booth throughout the season. Tote bags with the Fremont Farmers' Market logo will be available for purchase at the Community Information Booth for \$2.50. Bridge Cards will be accepted this year – double up food bucks program.

For more information on the Fremont Farmers' Market, please contact the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce at 924-0770.



Subject: Official Notifications by E-mail and Text Message

Dear Resident,

Fremont PD will begin utilizing a new service to access important, valuable community information when you need it, using the latest technology.

Our agency will create and publish messages through Nixle. Nixle will then deliver this information to you instantly through text, email and web message. Notifications can also be accessed online at Nixle's website at www.nixle.com

Examples of messages may include missing children and safety warnings, as well as other relevant safety and community information.

The service is secure, reliable and easy for our group to use. You decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, email or simply over the web.

Please take a moment to register. As a resident, there are several simple ways to register:

1. Text your ZIPCODE to 888777 from your mobile phone
2. Go to www.nixle.com and sign up

We ask you to forward this to 5 of your neighbors or friends in the community, encouraging them to register.

We believe this service will allow us to keep you informed in the most convenient, reliable way possible.

If you have any questions regarding this please contact the Fremont Police Department at 231-924-2101.

Community Tree Planting Near the Hillcrest Water Tower

This spring, the City received a request from Muskegon River Watershed Assembly representative Dixie Ward for the City to partner with them and Fremont Public Schools (FPS) on a



“tree planting” project involving students with nature and the community. FPS Middle School Teacher Terry Grabill and the high school conservation club coordinated a tree planting project on the City of Fremont’s open field park property along the west side of Hillcrest Avenue, across from Fremont Christian Middle School. They planted over 60 trees of a variety of species that were purchased with a grant from the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly.

This was a great collaborative effort between Dixie Ward, MRWA Project Manager, Conservation Region Forester, Raymond Gurley, FPS Teacher, Terry Grabill, Fremont Public Schools student Conservation Club and City of Fremont DPW Superintendent, Brian Hettinger.

Property Tax Payment Schedule

The City sends out property tax bills semi-annually. Summer taxes are mailed July 1st and are due by August 10th. A 4% late penalty is added to any unpaid taxes on August 11th. Summer taxes include millages for the Fremont Public Schools (both operating & debt levies), State Education Tax, the City tax and the County Operating tax.

Winter taxes are mailed on December 1st and are due by February 16th. A 4% late penalty is added to any unpaid taxes on February 17th. Winter taxes include millages for Newaygo County, 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 north-west exit of the City Hall parking lot at any time. Payments can also be made by credit card or E-Check from our web-site at www.cityoffremont.net. The City accepts tax payments until February 29th. As of March 1st all payments must be made at the County Treasurer’s Office, P.O. Box 885, White Cloud, MI 49349.

EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

In honor of Earth Day on April 22nd, Fremont Girl Scout Troup visited the City of Fremont’s Branstrom Park to conduct a “clean-up” of refuse and debris throughout the Park. The picture below depicts all the bags of debris picked up, so as you can see they had a successful clean-up event!

The City thanks the Girl Scouts for their efforts and endeavors to keeping Fremont a clean and pleasant community!



"FRIEND" US ON

facebook

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

REMAIN SECURITY CONSCIOUS

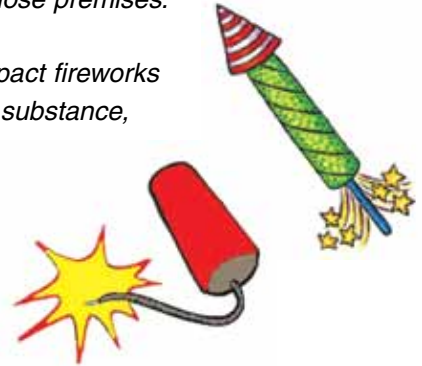
In these economic times, it is important to remain security conscious and to be aware of your surroundings. Keep your homes and garages locked when you are away, and be sure to remove your keys from the ignition and lock your vehicles whether your car is in your driveway at home, in store parking lots, or at school. Leave only those items in your yard that you can afford to lose, especially overnight. Finally, be respectful of your neighbors, watch out for each other and each other's property. If you have elderly neighbors, please check on them occasionally. Working together will keep the City of Fremont a great place to live, work and play.

NEW 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 like bottle rockets and roman candles. Prior to 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:

- (1) *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's or person's express permission to use those fireworks on those premises.*
- (2) *Consumer fireworks shall not be sold to a minor.*
- (3) *An individual shall not use consumer fireworks or low-impact fireworks while under the influence of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or a combination of alcoholic liquor and a controlled substance*
- (4) *Local Ordinance does not allow for disturbing the peace. No person shall disturb the public peace and quiet by loud, boisterous or vulgar conduct or by making such excessive, unnecessary, or unusually loud noise, whether on public or private property, nor allow others under his control or direction to make such noise, which disturbs the peace, good order, health and safety of other persons, a neighborhood or the community in general.*



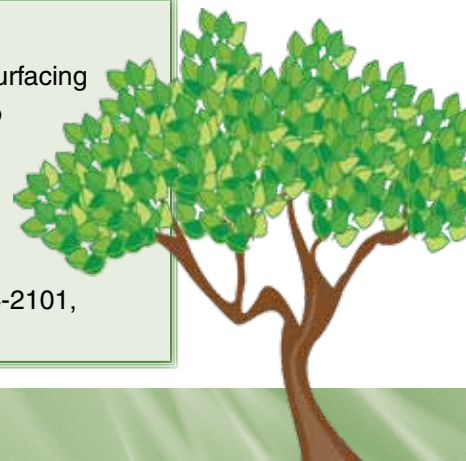
REMEMBER THESE FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

- Always have adult supervision
- Buy from reliable sources
- Use outdoors only
- Always have water (a hose and a bucket) nearby
- Never re-light a dud (wait 15-20 minutes and put it in the bucket)
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people
- Make sure the area is clear of combustibles
- Don't mix alcohol and fireworks
- Dispose of fireworks, especially sparklers, by soaking in water before placing them in a trash can
- Light one firework at a time.



M-82 Construction: Remilling

The State of Michigan DOT has scheduled the milling/resurfacing of M-82 from M-37, north of the Muskegon River bridge to Main Street in the City of Fremont. They are starting with the section from Main Street south to 56th Street, with hopes of finishing up before NBFF and then addressing the remaining portion one lane at a time until finished. If you have any questions concerning this please call the City Offices @ 924-2101, Monday-Friday, between 8 AM & 5 PM.



GENERAL CITY ELECTION: November 3, 2015

The City of Fremont will conduct its biannual General City Election on November 3, 2015. On the ballot this fall will be the position of Mayor (term ending November 2017), two Councilmember positions (terms ending November 2019.) To hold one of the above City Offices, you must:

- ✓ Have been a resident of the City of Fremont for one year before the election date (since 11/3/14)
- ✓ Be a registered voter on the last day of filing for nominating petitions (7/21/15)
- ✓ Not be in default of outstanding bills or taxes to the City

Please be aware of the following key deadlines for this year's election process:

- ✓ **July 21:** 4:00 PM: Filing deadline for Nominating Petitions for name placement on November election ballot
- ✓ **October 5:** Last day to register for voting eligibility for the November 3rd General City Election
- ✓ **November 3:** General City Election, 101 E. Main Street, Fremont. The polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.

If you or your spouse would like to be added to the City's permanent absentee voter (AV) list, please notify the City Offices @ 924-2101. You will be mailed an AV application before each election and given the option to vote absentee or in person.

Any persons interested in working future City Elections please contact the City Clerk at 231-924-2101. Applications may also be obtained on the City's website at www.cityoffremont.net.



Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine sophisticated technology with age-old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. They add new twists to old schemes and pressure people to make important decisions on the spot. One thing that never changes: they follow the headlines- and the money.

Here are 10 Tips to help you stay secure

1. Keep your personal information secure. Don't overshare on social media
2. Never wire money to a stranger in the U.S. or anywhere else
3. Avoid high pressure sales pitches that require you to buy now
4. Ask for and keep receipts
5. Read your bank, credit, and account statements regularly
6. Protect your identity
7. Research, negotiate, and review contracts
8. Be wary of unsolicited contacts
9. Never provide bank or credit card numbers to any caller for any reason
10. Place your phone number on the do not call list www.donotcall.gov



WEED CONTROL NOTICE TO FREMONT CITY RESIDENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Weed Control Map for the City of Fremont for the 2015 season has been filed with the City Clerk. The growth of grass and weeds, as defined by Section 5-16 of the Fremont City Code may not exceed nine (9) inches in height. It is the intention of the officers and employees of the City of Fremont to enforce this Ordinance in the areas indicated on the Weed Control Map. Copies of the Map and the Ordinance are available at the Fremont City Offices.

Vicci L. TerVeer, City Clerk

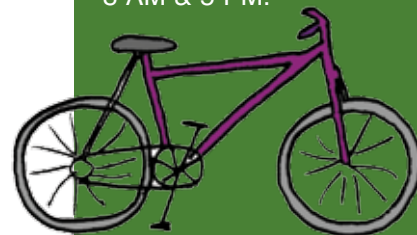
BRUSH PICKUP

City crews resumed the monthly curbside brush pickup on April 1. The program will run on the 1st Monday of each month, April - October. Brush is not to be placed at the curbside any earlier than the Friday before the 1st Monday of the month. If you have questions regarding the brush pickup program, please call the City Offices @ 924-2101, Monday-Friday, between 8 AM & 5 PM.



REMINDER OF REGULATION OF SKATE BOARDS AND BIKES....

As a reminder, the City of Fremont does not allow skateboards or bicycles on sidewalks in the downtown district. If you have any questions concerning this please call the City Offices @ 924-2101, Monday-Friday, between 8 AM & 5 PM.



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



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 St., 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	(231) 924-3300
Fremont Public Schools	(231) 924-2350
Dogwood Center for Performing Arts	(231) 924-8883
Newaygo County Sheriff Department	(231) 689-7303
Fremont Community Recreational Center	(231) 924-3750

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 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

