



This Issue

- New City Council Member **P.1**
- New Police Chief **P.1**
- Property Tax Payment Schedule **P.2**
- 2012 Upcoming Elections **P.3**
- Construction Projects **P.4**
- Garage Sales & Regulations **P.5**
- Tree Coupons to be Available **P.6**
- New Fireworks Laws **P.7**



Welcome New Fremont City Council Member



The Fremont City Council would like to introduce the City's newest Council Member, Don Henry. He was appointed in April 2012, to fill a vacancy on the Council.

Don grew up in West Michigan and graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Don moved to Fremont in 1989 to work for Gerber Products Company as an Internal Audit Manager and retired in 2006 as Director of Finance. His wife, Mary, works with Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial, and daughters, Michelle and Annette, both graduated from

FPS and live in Germany and Grand Haven.

Since retired, Don has served on many boards such as Gerber Memorial Health System Board, Spectrum Health Hospital Group Board, Newaygo County Council for the Arts Board, West Michigan Symphony Board, Muskegon/White River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board, Fremont Lions Club Board, Gerber Retirees' Association Board ... just to name a few. Don has also served the city well on the Planning Commission. We look forward to his insight and guidance on the City Council in the future!



Fremont Appoints NEW POLICE CHIEF – *Randy Wright*

Chief Randy Wright was recently appointed as the City of Fremont's Chief of Police, replacing Phil Deur who retired after 30 years of service. Chief Wright has worked for the Fremont Police for nearly 19 years, after serving in the cities of Hesperia, White Cloud, Newaygo and the Newaygo County Sheriff's Departments.

As a member of the Newaygo County Emergency Response Team

since 1995 and a successful run on the City's award-winning pistol and rifle competition teams, Chief Wright brings a significant level of experience and training to his new appointment.

Chief Wright has been married to wife, Rhonda, for 17 years and has two teenage children. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, coaching little league baseball and following the Detroit Tigers.

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 14th. A 4% late penalty is added to any unpaid taxes on February 15th. Winter taxes include millages for Newaygo County, the Intermediate School District and the Fremont Area District Library.

For the convenience of our taxpayers, payments by check (no cash please) may be placed in the drop box at the northwest exit from the City Hall parking lot. The City accepts tax payments until February 28th; thereafter, all payments must be made at the County Treasurer's Office in White Cloud.

Kenny Deur Wins

“Rookie Water Operator of the Year” Award

From Michigan Rural Water Association ~ CONGRATULATIONS KENNY!

Kenny Deur was awarded “Rookie Water Operator of the Year” by the Michigan Rural Water Association for 2011. The honor annually recognizes public water system operators who exceed performance expectations in their first year of service. “Kenny really stepped up to the plate last year when he was asked to learn some new things,” said Brian Hettinger, Public Works Director. “Dealing with water main breaks and construction can be tough and Kenny adapted very well.” Kenny began working for the City on August 19, 2009.



Garbage Service

Each residential dwelling may choose to use a 65- or 95-gallon rollout cart (garbage container with wheels- see picture) or buy special bags with the Allied Waste logos. All cart lids must be fully closed. No overloaded carts with lids open more than 15” 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.

Garbage billings will be based on a Readiness-to-Serve Charge. Effective April 1, 2012 the rate for the 65-gallon rollout cart is \$9.75/month and the 95-gallon rollout cart is \$11.45/month. The mixed refuse bags have remained at \$2.00 per bag, or \$24.00 for a box of 12.

The City does not permit residents to stop and start their refuse/recycling services on a temporary basis. During the first two weeks of January 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 this two-week period.**



Recycling Billing Option

Residents on refuse bag service who receive a quarterly bill of \$7.50 for only recycling services are welcome to pay for their recycling bill services in advance on an annual basis to avoid having to write a check for such a small amount each quarter. This will also save on the City's printing and mailing costs, thus allowing us to maintain our current low rates.

2012 Upcoming Elections

Fremont Public Schools has requested a special election to request renewal of the Sinking Fund Millage on May 8th, 2012. The Sinking Fund helps pay for essential repairs and renovations to buildings in the school district.

The August Primary Election is also around the corner and you will start seeing evidence of it with candidate signs throughout the community. Voters will decide which candidates will represent them in the following local, state & federal offices:

- Representatives in the U.S. Senate and Congress
- State Governor and Representatives in the State Legislature
- County Commissioner, Prosecutor, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Drain Commissioner & Surveyor

City residents are reminded that election signs are not to be placed in the City rights-of-way or to exceed 6 sq. ft. in face size, per the City Zoning Code. The City will remove and dispose of signs that are in violation.

The Newaygo County Clerk's Office continues to provide its Internet site at www.electionmagic.com that posts current election results as they are reported to the County on election nights.

Year 2012 Election Dates to remember include:

- May 8th:** Special School Election for Sinking Fund Renewal
- July 9th:** Last day to register for voting eligibility for the August 7th Primary Election
- August 7th:** Primary Election, Fremont Municipal Bldg. (polls open at 7am and close at 8pm)
- October 9th:** Last day to register for voting eligibility for the November 6th General Election
- November 6th:** General Election, Fremont Municipal Bldg. (polls open at 7am and close at 8pm)

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. You will be mailed an AV application before each election and given the option to vote absentee or in person. Please exercise your right to vote in all elections. We should all live by the adage that "If you don't vote, you don't have the right to complain!" ★



Fremont City Beat

2012 Current Construction Projects

Every year, the City works to maintain and improve its roads and utilities. Drivers may experience inconvenient detours, but we can rest assure that the final product will be worth it.

The following projects are expected to be completed during the 2012 construction season:

- Cedar Street – Extend new construction of street from Division to Gerber Avenue
- Sullivan Ave – Extend new construction of street from Cedar Street south to new High School
- Fremont Lake Park Campground – Expand Campground with 35+ additional camp sites, for both fully equipped and rustic tent camping
- Sidewalks “Safe Routes Grant Project” – Construct new sidewalks along:
 - * Mechanic Ave from Maple to Pine Street
 - * Pine Street from Lake Dr. to Mechanic Ave
 - * Cherry St. from Merchant to Darling Ave and from Division to Stewart Ave
 - * Middle School entrance from Lake Dr. to Sullivan Ave
- T&C Path – Install new section on W. Lake Dr. from 2nd Street to S. Lake Dr.
- T&C Path – Install new section along Oak St. from Connie Ave. to Lake Dr.

2012 Fremont Farmers’ Market Schedule

Dates and Times:

Tuesdays: 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Starting: June 30, 2012

Ending: October 13, 2012

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



FARMERS’ MARKET 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.



For more information on the Fremont Farmer’s Market, please contact the
**Fremont Area Chamber
of Commerce at
(231) 924-0770.**

GARAGE SALES: *A Fun and Thrifty Summer Pastime*

The City has been enforcing its regulations on garage sales this past 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 have 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. As a result, the City organizes a community garage sale twice a year, one in May and one in August. To participate, come into the City office, give us your name, address and phone number and a nominal charge of \$3.00. This fee is used to pay for the advertisement in the paper, which includes the property address of each participant and

its location on a community map. The more people that 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 Zoning Ordinance – Regulations Regarding Garage Sales

The Code allows garage and estate sale signs announcing the sale of household goods, provided there is only one (1) sign per premise; that the sign is placed on premise only, entirely on private property; that it does not exceed six (6) square feet in area; and it is erected no more than five (5) business days before and is removed within one (1) business day after the announced sale.

In residential districts, garage and yard sales shall be limited to no more than three (3) events per

calendar year. No garage or yard sale event shall last more than three (3) consecutive days.

Contact Michele Ribant, Fremont's Zoning Administrator, at 231-924-2101 or mrribant@cityof-fremont.net if you have questions.



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 them occasionally. Working together we will keep the City of Fremont a great place to live, work and play.

Tree Coupons To Be Available

"A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit."

Elton Trueblood (1900-1994)



On April 10, 1872, it was estimated that more than 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day. In celebration of **National Arbor Day** on Friday, April 27, the City will again offer tree-purchase coupons. The City coupons will remain at \$30 this year and they will go to the first 50 City residents that request them in person at the City Offices. Coupons will be available till gone and must be redeemed by May 31, 2012.

During the City's coupon program over the last fourteen years, residents have planted over 650 trees in the community. During the same time, the City planted an additional 400 trees throughout our parks, along our streets and in our cemeteries.

A large portion of the trees planted under the coupon program have been Maples. Based



on "best forestry management practices," it is advisable to diversify our urban forests, which helps ensure not only a variety of tree species, but also lessens the negative effects or spread of diseases, such as happened with Dutch Elm Disease and may happen with the Emerald Ash Borer. Therefore, for another year, the Tree Coupon may not be used to purchase any species of Maple or any Conifer tree under 6 foot.

The coupon program and other various City tree plantings and maintenance efforts have contributed to the City's 19-year designation as a "Tree City, USA." Consider creating a tree legacy for the next generation, so that they may discover the meaning of human life when they sit under our trees. "HE WHO PLANTS A TREE, PLANTS HOPE!" - Lucy Larcon. ★

Tree Coupon Program Rules

- City residents only.
- One coupon per household.
- Only the manager (not a tenant) of a rental property may request one coupon per building/yard.
- Condo complexes are limited to one coupon.
- Only trees, not shrubs or bushes, may be purchased.
- For another year, No Maple Trees may be purchased.
- Coupons must be redeemed at Mellema Nursery by 5/31/12.
- Trees must be planted on the property designated on the coupon at the time of pick-up. During June, the City will inventory all trees planted under the program.

BRUSH PICKUP

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 please call the City Offices @ 924-2101, Monday-Friday, between 8 AM & 5 PM.

Fremont Lake Park and Campground Improvements

Construction is well underway at the Fremont Lake Park and Campground. In March, City contractors completed concrete walkways to improve pedestrian safety along the street and installed sewer lines in the new part of the Campground.

"If the weather continues to improve, we should be able to install water and electricity to the new campsites," said Bryan Gruesbeck, City Manager. "Ideally, we would like to move campers into the additional lots by mid-summer."

The improvements appear to be an important part of the City's strategy to highlight the area's natural features as a key asset.

"Fremont Lake continues to be something that attracts people to the Fremont area," added Mayor James Rynberg. "Many of my friends who live elsewhere return every year to Fremont because we have this beautiful lakeside park and amazing campground. We want to keep improving it as a way to welcome people to our City."

In 2011, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources awarded a \$180,000 grant to the City to help expand the Fremont Lake Park Campground, add trails and walkways to the picnic and beach area, improve barrier-free access for swimmers as well as improve accessibility in the campground bathhouse.

The campground expansion includes the addition of approximately 32 lots north of the existing campground area and upgrades to the restroom facility. Additionally, the Town & Country path will be extended along the west side of Daisy Creek to the lake as well as along the north side of Park Drive to the Swirl concession area. A path will also be extended south from the Swirl along the east side of the beach area, leading to a barrier-free "swimming ramp" for wheelchairs.



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.



"FRIEND" US ON

facebook

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

REMEMBER THESE 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.



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

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

