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Safe Routes to School: Funding in the Amount of \$338,754 Granted

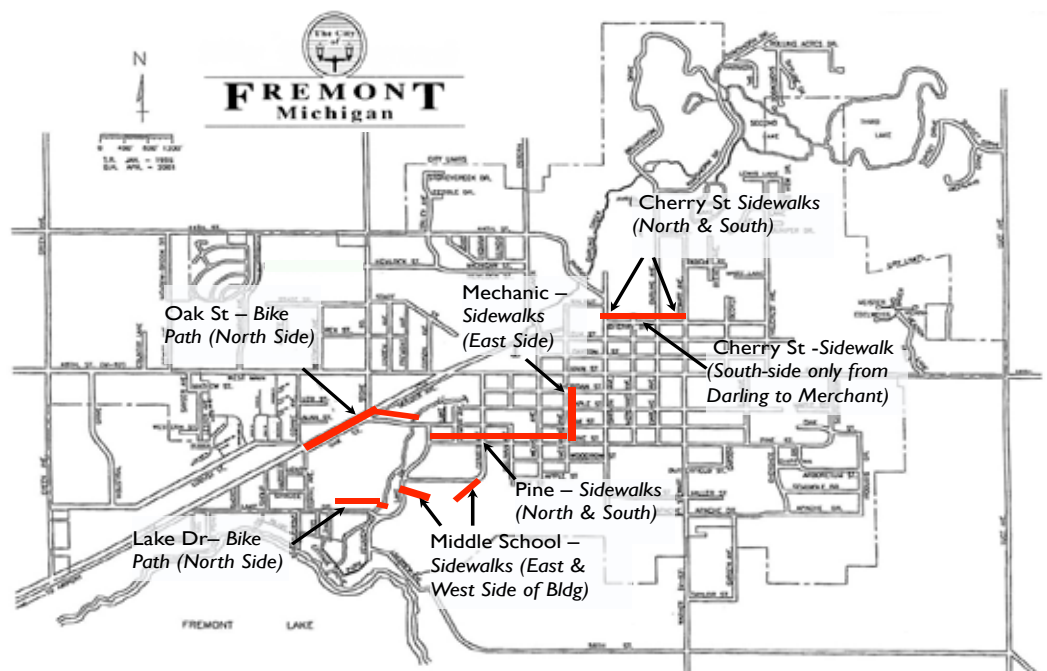
Safe Routes to School is a Michigan (and federal) program to encourage and enable students to bicycle or walk to school on routes that are safe. The City of Fremont and the Fremont Public Schools partnered to create a Safe Route to School Program for the Fremont Community. It is a great opportunity for us to encourage healthy lifestyles for our youth.

Our community was awarded \$338,754

through the Michigan Safe Routes to School program spearheaded by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Michigan Fitness Association to fund sidewalks, segments of a multi-use path and the installation of a bike lane. Our community was also awarded bike trees, one for the Fremont Middle School and one for Pathfinder Elementary and a bike rack for Daisy Brook Elementary. Crossing guard equipment and radar speed display

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Safe Routes to Schools – Sidewalks and Bike Lanes





(Safe Routes to School Funding continued from front page ...)

equipment was also funded as part of the grant.

The specific sidewalks, multi-use paths and bike lanes that are funded are outlined on page one map. The work for the projects should commence in early summer 2012 and should be completed by the beginning of the 2012 school year.

Education on healthy lifestyles and safety associated with walking and biking to school is a big part of the Fremont Safe Routes to School Program. The Fremont School District is committed to providing this education for students. The City is committed to managing the implementation of the infrastructure projects that are associated with our Safe Routes to School Program.

The City strives to take advantage of as many grant opportunities as possible that will benefit our community. This allows us to provide amenities (e.g., Town & Country Path improvements) within the community that would not be possible otherwise. With the Safe Routes to School grant there was no match, so other than having to provide for the engineering plans, the new infrastructure was completely paid for through the grant.

With this particular grant, collaboration between the City and the Fremont School District was absolutely necessary. It was a very positive experience and the benefits are many. While the benefits of the grant are targeted to the children of Fremont, the entire community will enjoy having a safer place to walk and bike!

Grants Have Been a Blessing for Fremont

I'm sure it's of no surprise to hear that revenue sources have been declining for everyone over the last few years. State Revenue Sharing, interest rates and property valuations are just a few to mention for the City of Fremont. Grants are one of the few remaining income sources available to local governments enabling them to complete municipal-related improvements in their street right-of-ways, parks, downtowns and public ways.

Rest assured, the City of Fremont has always aggressively sought after grant funds averaging 15% of the General Fund revenues over the last 10 years and will continue to do so as long as grant funds are available. **The City has received approximately \$7.8 million in grant funding over the last 10 years.** That's right - almost \$8 million in grant funding has been awarded to the Fremont community in the last 10 years, instead of going to some other community in the State. Of that total, the City has even been able to capture \$683,900 in

federal/state grant funding for private businesses to address much needed repairs and promote economic development in the Downtown.

Below is a summarized list of grant funding the City has obtained in the last ten years:

Airport Develop/Improvements	\$3,388,580
Streets & Sidewalks	1,554,350
Economic Development (Public)	878,150
Recreation & Paved Pathways	711,000
Economic Development (Private)	683,900
Sidewalks-Safe Routes to Schools	338,754
Police & Fire – Public Safety	222,711
Public Art & Streetscapes	83,165

Although grant funding may be dwindling, the City is blessed to have been the recipient of so much grant funding from state/federal grant sources and the local community foundations like the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission

New Joint Zoning Ordinance - *Expected in Summer 2012*

It looks like the Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission's work will finally pay off after many years of very hard work. In 2007, the City of Fremont, Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township established the Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission (FCJPC) as allowed under the Michigan Joint Municipal Planning Act. Once the FCJPC was established, the Commission needed to create a Joint Comprehensive Plan and a Joint Zoning Ordinance before it could work autonomously and have binding authority over planning and zoning issues within the Fremont Community. The Commission is not there yet, but they are in the last 6 month stretch. Only the proposed joint zoning ordinance needs to be finalized.

In 2009 the FCJPC adopted a new Fremont Community Joint Comprehensive and Growth Management Plan, which is the policy guide for the community in terms of housing, land use, transportation, etc. The Commission adopted the Smart Growth Principles as the goals within the Comprehensive Plan that should be realized, and these goals are what the Community's joint zoning ordinance is based on.

The Commission has worked since the fall of 2008 to create a joint zoning ordinance that will govern all three municipalities. There are members of Dayton Township, Sheridan Charter Township and the City of Fremont on the Commission and together they have meshed and fine-tuned many different regulations from signs to landscape and lighting regulations and many more. The zoning district map, for the most part, will remain the same with a few small exceptions such as slight changes to the commercial district boundaries. The names of the districts have changed in some districts to more accurately reflect the uses of the parcels within the district. There will be a public meeting in early to mid 2012 on the proposed joint zoning ordinance, and the community will be invited to attend and learn more about it and to provide input before the boards/council in each jurisdiction vote to adopt

the Fremont Community Joint Zoning Ordinance. Look to the Times Indicator for this notice.

The three municipalities' planning commissions and zoning boards of appeals must disband before the joint zoning ordinance can be adopted. An agreement that will accomplish this must be approved by all three jurisdictions.

The three governmental units have collaborated on this joint effort because it is in the best interest of the Fremont Community to have one Commission working together to make land use decisions. It became apparent as the Commission worked on this project that we want the same thing for the Fremont community. FCJPC Chair Breinling states, "You learn when you sit side by side with members from different governmental units that you want the same things and that these people are decent, reasonable people. We want to promote infill development in the city and to preserve farmland and open space in the townships." The huge benefit for this joint venture is clearly the positive impact making joint decisions on land use will have, but other benefits include the savings in administrative costs, the savings due to staff consolidation (e.g., only one recording secretary rather than three), and the sharing of consultant fees, to name a few.

The end result of all this hard work is that we will be the first City and two townships in the state to develop a Joint Planning Commission that is operational. This is a huge step and it is what the state is promoting – collaboration. The Fremont Community should be eligible for many more grant opportunities due to this collaboration; this will help us satisfy the goals for the community as outlined in our Comprehensive Plan.

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Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission: l-r: Jack Taylor, Peg May, Shirley Hooker, Jim Breinling, Marcia Eib, Kent Folkema, Don Potter, Jeff Wharton, Chuck Whitman. Missing: Tom Karnemaat and Lon Vredeveld.



FCJPC Meeting: l-r: Don Potter, Chuck Whitman, Jack Taylor and Jim Breinling.

(New Joint Zoning Ordinance continued from page 3 ...)

The transition should prove to be seamless for the community in that anyone who needs to have some type of approval will be able to go to their township or city office and receive the assistance that they are accustomed to receiving.

The Commission has developed the proposed joint zoning ordinance and is in the midst of fine-tuning it. The goal is to have it completed and hopefully adopted in early summer 2012 so that the Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission can be operational in mid-summer 2012.

If you see any of the members on the Fremont Joint Planning Commission as identified in the picture (located on previous page), please thank them for their many hours of dedicated work. Because of their hard work, the future development of Fremont will result in a high quality of life for the residents of Fremont. Green Committee should consider promoting or if you would like to join the Committee, please contact Lon Vredevelde, the chair, at 924-3920 or Michele Ribant, City staff, at 924-2101. No idea is too small or too big!

Construction Projects: 2011/2012

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

The following projects were completed during the 2011 construction season:

- Oak Street – Reconstruction of street & water main from Mechanic to Stewart Avenue
- Darling Ave – Resurface from Main to Elm Street
- Hillcrest – Resurface from Main to Cherry Street
- Iroquois – Resurface from Oak to Apache
- Garden & Butterfield – Reconstruction of street and water main
- Pine – Reconstruction of street and water main from Lake Dr. to Gerber Ave.



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.



City Snow Plowing Policy

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will quickly address specific road hazards like icy intersections or drifted sections of road. Around 1" accumulation of snow, the salt crew will begin salting operations, whereas, the crew will salt the main roads (Main, Stewart & Stone), all intersections, roads with curves and steep slopes. To completely salt every street would be prohibitively expensive and would result in more damage that is corrosive to streets, light poles, lawns and trees. It would also greatly increase the salinity of our area's lakes and streams, causing stress on our fish and wildlife populations. Following an accumulation of 2", the crews begin plowing operations of the entire street system.

Crews are called in during the early morning (approximately 4:00 AM) to begin opening up the major routes for business & school bus usage. We also have to clear the parking lots downtown before the breakfast crowd hits the restaurants. Typically, DPW uses the sidewalk brush or blower downtown to move the snow onto Main Street where it is plowed toward the center of the street and removed later in the day, most of the time by early afternoon. The sidewalk plow



(pictured above) will begin clearing residential sidewalks once the streets are clear.

When snow continues all day, it is difficult to completely remove the City's snow - especially downtown. Cars parked along the streets and in the downtown parking lots prevent the DPW from making a clean sweep of these areas during the day. It is very important for residents to comply with the "no parking" on City streets between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM in order to allow snowplows proper access.

Above all, please stay safe and warm during the winter season.



Fremont Lake Park and Campground Improvements/Updates

Campground and Beach Improvements On the Way!

The City looks forward to starting construction on improvements to the Fremont Lake Campground, Park and Beach. Recently, the City Council awarded the construction of the improvements to McCormick Sand and Gravel - a firm based in Sand Lake, Michigan. Other local subcontractors may be used for this project, as well.

"The City was very fortunate to receive half of the funding for this project from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources," said Mayor James Rynberg. "The Campground, Park and Beach area has been a great past time for local residents for years and we get lots of visitors from





(Park Improvements/Updates continued from page 5 ...)

outside of Fremont who come to enjoy the Lake, as well."

Construction will add approximately 30 additional fully-served lots to the campground, trail extensions to the park as well as improvements to increase handicapped access to the campground restrooms and the beach. Work is expected to begin during the winter of 2012 and be completed in the middle of the summer of 2012.



Fremont City Council Appoints Good Citizen Award

7-yr old Justin Syrek holds the "Good Citizen Award" he received at the Oct 17th City council meeting. Justin was recognized for generously donating his hard-earned life savings (\$40) to a family who had lost all their possessions in a fire. Justin posed with his parents, Jason & Shannan Romine, sister Sophia, Mayor Jim Rynberg and Chief Phil Deur.

Yahaba

In October, Yahaba host students arrived in Fremont and visited Fremont City Hall. Pictured are students and teachers from Yahaba and Bryan Gruesbeck (City Manager).



Cub Scouts - Troop #4139

Fred Orcutt and his Troop attended a Fremont City Council meeting to learn about the functions performed by the Mayor and City Council.

Welcome New Fremont City Council Member



The Fremont City Council would like to introduce the City's newest Councilmember Merle Ross. He was appointed in 2010 and recently re-elected in November 2011 for a four year term.

Merle grew up in West Michigan, graduated from Ferris State with an accounting degree and moved to Fremont in 1986. His wife Diane works with Fremont Public Schools and daughters

Amanda and Emily, both graduated from FPS and still live in west Michigan. He currently owns his own CPA business downtown and serves in other civic capacities. He is an avid bow hunter and outdoorsman.

Merle has served the City well and we look forward to his insight and guidance in the future!

The City wants to hear from you. The City Deer Management

Task Force recently conducted a deer population survey.

The survey results were very helpful, but the survey did not reach the entire population so we are trying again. Please take a moment to take this brief survey to assist the Deer Management Task Force.

Find the survey at: www.cityoffremont.net – IN FOCUS

Direct Link: http://www.surveymbuilder.com/s/JqaEjtJSgAA?source_id=3&source_type=web

Facebook: City of Fremont, Michigan



Winter Taxes

Winter tax bills were mailed on 12/1/11 and are due and payable on or before 2/14/12 without penalty. Effective 2/15/12, a one-time 4% penalty is applied and is payable to the City of Fremont through 2/29/12. Postmarked mail is not accepted for waiver of penalty. On 3/1/12 taxes are turned over to the Newaygo County Treasurer office, White Cloud, MI 49349, and will incur additional penalties, so call in advance, Newaygo County Treasurer, (689-7230) before mailing.

Brush Pickup

As a reminder, City crews will resume the monthly curbside brush pickup on April 4th. 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's Annual Community Yard Sale

It's time to get ready for Fremont's 2nd Annual Community Yard Sale. The dates for this event are:

May 17th – 19th, 2012 and August 16th – 18th, 2012

The fee this year will be \$3.00. Come in to the City Offices, pay your fee and get your name on the list. You can sign up for all 3 days, or just 1 day. The 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.

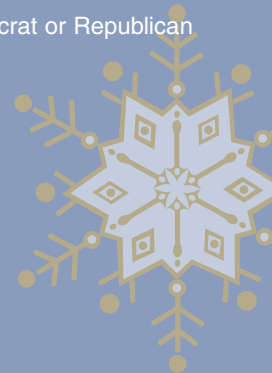
Sanitary Sewer Back-ups

Property owners that experience a sewer backup or overflow and believe that the "substantial proximate cause" and liability rests with the City must meet the following notification requirements to be eligible to receive any reimbursement for damages and other resulting expenses:

- The Claimant must immediately notify the City of a backup event and request a "Notice of Claim" packet.
- If between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, contact City Hall at 924-2101.
- If after the above regular business hours, or on holidays or weekends, call the Fremont Police Department at 924-2100. If no answer, the voicemail system will direct the claimant on how to connect with the Newaygo county Central Dispatch Center, which will contact the appropriate persons for the claimant.

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION FEB. 28, 2012

The State of Michigan Republican Party has elected to conduct a state-wide closed primary election for selection of Michigan's Republican Candidate for the upcoming November Election. The Presidential Primary will be conducted on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. City residents can vote at the Fremont Municipal Building, 101 E. Main Street, Fremont on Election Day or by absentee ballot if they are unable to vote at the precinct on Election Day. Voters will have to request a Democrat or Republican ballot.



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

Fremont City Beat

101 E. Main Street
Fremont, MI 49412

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Parking-Ban on Streets During Winter

Per City Ordinances, every winter season beginning December 1st, residents are not to park in the streets between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. The Public Works Department cannot effectively plow the streets with vehicles parked along the curb. Effective April 1st, the winter on-street parking ban will be lifted, and residents may again park overnight on City streets.

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.

