



Fremont City Beat

Issue No. 13 - Fall 2003

FREMONT, MICHIGAN:

“NOW AND ALWAYS – A Fine City • A Great Community”

IT'S SKATE TIME!

The new ramp equipment is now in place at our new Skate/Bike Park along Lake Drive across from the School Bus Garage. There is a 1/2 pipe, 1/4 pipes 3' & 4' high, wedges 3' & 5' high, a 3' spine, fun box with grind bench on top and grind boxes. The park is open to skateboarding, rollerblading and non-motorized scooters & bikes. Because this is a potentially high-risk sport activity, safety equipment, such as helmets and knee/elbow pads is strongly recommended.

Planning, coordination and design are credited to the members of the Skate/Bike Park Committee, which is comprised of Fremont area students and parents, and to the Fremont Area Park & Recreation Advisory Committee. The Fremont Area Community Foundation, the City of Fremont and the Skate/Bike Park Committee made financing for the new Park available.

A NOTE TO PARENTS: Before you permit your children to experience the new facility, please visit the Park **WITH** your children and review the rules and safety recommendations as listed on the Park entrance sign. Enjoy the new Park, but remember, “Safety First.” ★

HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREATING

The City Council has set the “official” date for trick-or-treating for **Friday, October 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 PM**. In lieu of the traditional door-to-door activities, the City continues to encourage private parties, which lessen any potential problems with tainted treats & accidents involving costumed children and vehicles during the twilight hours. If participating in the door-to-door candy rush, parents should observe the following safety tips for their children:

- ◆ Chaperone your children & restrict activities to your own neighborhood
- ◆ Limit the age groups to pre-teen or younger



- ◆ Mask eye holes should be large enough to easily see through them
- ◆ Wear reflective bright colors and use a flashlight so drivers can see you after dark
- ◆ Walk on sidewalks where available, or as near to the curb as possible where no walks are present
- ◆ Inspect all treats before allowing children to eat them.

The Fremont Police and Fire Departments will hold a **Safety Kickoff to Trick-or-Treat night at the Fremont Fire Department**. Bring the kids to safely start the night off with candy, doughnuts, cider and apples. Enter the costume contest by having their picture taken (judging will be done at a later time) and get their costume safety-inspected for a night of fun and candy gathering. Come enjoy the community atmosphere and let the kids start this Halloween off with our own local heroes: our Police Officers and Firefighters. Festivities begin at 5:00 PM and run until 8:00 PM. ★

CONSTRUCTION SEASON NEARS END

Phew! The dust is finally settling on a very busy 2003 construction season. When all the paving machines finally leave town, residents, business owners, shoppers and visitors will have a much smoother ride during their travels. The City Council budgeted for a very aggressive street rebuilding program this summer, **resulting in over 19 blocks of new road surfaces and other improvements**. The City sincerely appreciates your patience during this construction season. Two major reconstruction projects included:

- Connie Avenue (from Main Street south to Lake Drive) This old township road has been totally rebuilt to City street standards. It has new curb & gutter, asphalt paving, storm sewers & driveway entrances. To improve safety, the main entrance to the Dura

(continued on page 2)

(Construction Season ... continued from front page)

Automotive facility was relocated south away from the intersection of Connie and Oak Street. The City was able to coordinate the project with the reconstruction of the rail crossing by CSX Transportation. What a dramatic improvement this project has made on the neighborhood (see picture below). Now you can cruise down to Fremont Lake Park and catch a fabulous fall sunset without dodging puddles & potholes!



- State Street (between the Gerber Federal Credit Union and Stone Road) For those of us old enough to remember, State Street used to run from Main Street all the way through to Stone Road and served as the major entrance & exit corridor to and from the west end of town. While the City vacated the southern portion of the street to allow for the expansion of the Gerber Products Co. production facility, the remainder of the street has served as the main entrance for visitors to Gerber's Corporate Offices and Research facility and to the Credit Union. State has been reconstructed with some new curb & gutter, asphalt paving, the rebuilding of driveway entrances to Gerber and the replacement of an older, smaller watermain.

The City also contracted for the milling, reshaping and resurfacing of several other streets, most serving as cross streets in the north half of Downtown. These projects included:

- Mechanic Avenue - between Main and Elm Streets
- Division Avenue - between Main and Dayton Streets
- Merchant Avenue - between Main and Cherry Streets
- Lakeview Drive - from Reunion to the east City limits
- Apache Drive - from Stewart Avenue east past the bulk fuel terminal. ★

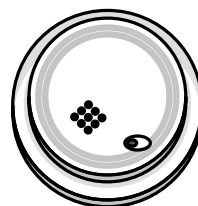
WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS



The City reminds motorists that there is no parking of any motor vehicle upon any public street or alley within the City limits between the hours of 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM at any time from December 1st thru next April 1st. This enables the City to more completely remove snow from the streets during the winter months. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated. Did someone say "snow"? ★

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Each year, approximately 5,000 people die and 28,000 people are seriously injured in fires across this country. In Michigan alone, there were **166 deaths last year and 66 so far this year through August**. The truly tragic part of these deaths is that **53% of the residences with fatal fires had no working smoke alarms**. There has also been an alarming rise in the number of fires started by candles. Over the last decade, the numbers have tripled nationally.



A working smoke alarm is the easiest and most effective thing you can do to help your family survive a fire. Because most fatal fires occur during the night while people are asleep, there should be a minimum of one alarm outside each bedroom door. If possible, you should also have one on every level of your home. These should be checked at least once a month for proper operation by pushing the test buttons. Batteries should be changed twice a year. A good time to remember to replace your batteries is when you adjust your clocks for daylight savings time in the spring and fall. Never reuse the batteries for anything else such as games or toys. Batteries may be recycled by bringing them to the Annual Newaygo County Household Hazardous Waste Collection day.



Signs displaying the use of oxygen for medical reasons are also very important. With such signs in place, firefighters know what to expect in a fire emergency. They also alert anyone else who visits the home to not smoke inside.

Your entire family should help develop and practice a home escape plan. This should include two exits from each room and a safe meeting place once everyone is outside. **Once you are out, STAY OUT!** Go to a neighbor's home to use the phone to contact 9-1-1. **ESCAPE FIRST, THEN CALL!** For more information on fire safety contact the Fremont Fire Department at 924-2103. ★

NOVEMBER 4th GENERAL ELECTION

The City will conduct its biannual City General Election on Tuesday, November 4th. The following offices, candidates and proposal will be on the ballot:

Office:	Candidates:
Mayor (2-year term ending 2005)	Raymond Rathbun
Two Council Members: (4-year terms ending 2007)	Rob Mani Jane Drake
Board of Review (6-year term ending 2009)	None
Board of Review (Partial 6-year term ending 2005)	Bob Johnson

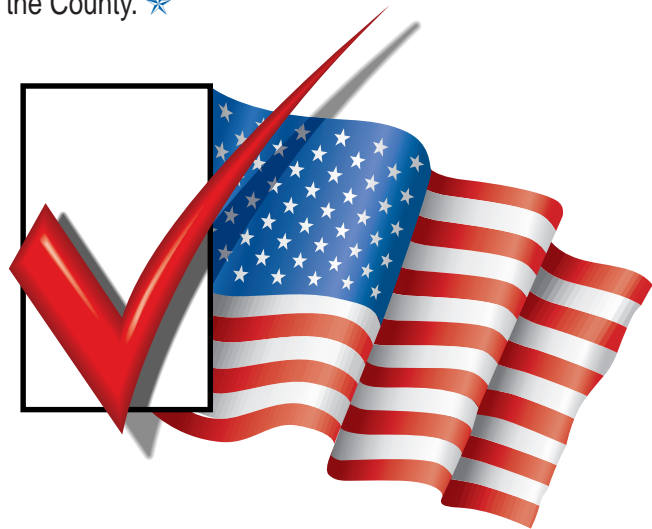
Proposal:

9-1-1 Operational Surcharge (Renewal): State Law requires that the 9-1-1 surcharge be renewed every five (5) years. The people of Newaygo County are being asked to vote on the 9-1-1 Surcharge Renewal. The renewal would allow the service we currently have to continue without increasing the costs to the taxpayers of Newaygo County.

If you would like to be added to the City's permanent absentee voter (AV) list, please contact the City Offices (924-2101) to determine your eligibility. If qualified, you will be given or mailed an AV application before each election and given the option to vote absentee or in person. Many voters have been added to this list, making

it more convenient for them to vote and helping to reduce lines at the polls on busy election days.

As a reminder, the Newaygo County Clerk's Office has a website at www.electionmagic.com that will provide current election results as they are reported to the County. ★



SEWER FEE OPTIONS

The City offers a unique option to homeowners to base their quarterly sanitary sewer fee on water used during the first three months of each calendar year. This is typically the quarter with the lowest water usage, with no need for irrigating lawns or washing vehicles, which do not add to the wastewater volume. Under this option, the bill you receive in October will show the updated sewer fee to reflect the 1st quarter water usage and will remain the same for one year.

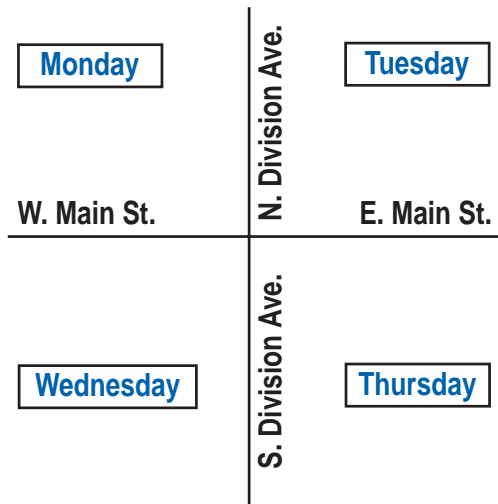
Residents also have the option of having their sewer bill based on the "actual" amount of water used each quarter. An authorization form must be signed at the City Offices requesting this option, which will be for the next three quarters or indefinitely, if requested. When a resident chooses actual-usage billing, it will begin with the next bill following the selected date.

Current homeowners may switch between the two options at the beginning of a quarter. New residents are automatically placed on actual usage until a 1st quarter water usage can be established. ★

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the Fremont City Beat please call the City Offices at 231-924-2101, email the City Clerk at tblake@cityoffremont.net or stop by to see us at 101 East Main St., Fremont, MI 49412. Suggestions for future articles, features or informational pieces are always welcome.

CITY OF FREMONT

Fall Leaf Collection Program



The City's Curbside Bulk Leaf Collection Program begins on Monday, October 20th and continues for four (4) weeks, weather permitting.

The City's Public Works, Police and Fire Departments present the following information to assist residents with cleanup and disposal of leaves this fall.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

1. On streets with curbs, residents should rake their leaves to the edge of the curbline, but **not** place them into the street until the night before their scheduled pickup day, as noted on the above collection map. Once placed in the street, the leaves should be kept in a long narrow row approximately one foot out from the curb. This will allow the City's equipment to make a more complete and clean pickup.
2. On all other streets, residents should rake their leaves to the gravel or paved edge of the road, but **no sooner** than the day before their scheduled pickup day. Once placed in the street, the leaves should be kept in a long narrow row and not in one large pile. Leaves should not be placed in front or behind mailboxes, in ditches or behind trees.
3. Persons raking leaves in areas **not** scheduled for pickup that day are asked to leave the leaf piles in the tree lawn area (*that portion between the sidewalk and the curb*) or just off the pavement until the scheduled pickup day, when they may be pushed onto the street.

4. City Ordinance **prohibits** the placement of tree limbs, brush and other yardwaste in the streets with the leaves. Limbs and brush should be disposed of through a private firm, or placed in rear yards until the City's curbside brush pickup program resumes on the 1st Monday of April. Other yardwaste may be disposed of at the City's disposal site at the Public Works yard until the curbside program resumes in April.



5. State law **prohibits** the disposal of leaves or yardwaste in refuse carts or bags. City Ordinance also **prohibits** the burning of any yardwaste, including leaves.
6. Public Works Department crews will attempt to pickup leaves in each quadrant of town according to the above map. *Inclement weather and excessive leaf fall at times may cause delays in the scheduled pickup.* Due to these delays, residents who feel their street may have been missed are urged to wait a day or two before contacting City Hall.
7. Persons living in or visiting the pickup areas should park their cars off the street during the scheduled pickup days to facilitate the use of equipment in the pickup operation.
8. **CAUTION! Parking on leaf piles may cause fires, especially by cars with catalytic converters.**
9. Police Chief Phil Deur cautions parents that children should not be allowed to play in leaf piles once they are off their own property and, particularly, when they are in the street. Motorists may not see the child in the leaf piles, resulting in possible tragedy.

Please help improve the environment by participating in the fall leaf pickup program. All leaves are composted at the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility, with the compost being used as a soil conditioner for City landscaping projects. For further info, contact City Hall at 924-2101 between 8 and 5.★



WINTER ADDRESS CHANGES

If you plan on leaving the area for the winter or any portion thereof, we suggest paying ahead on your City utility bill before you leave. We will not change a mailing address for a property if the owner is absent for less than a year.

As a reminder, City utility bills (water, sewer, garbage & recycling) are billed to the property owner. If you are a landlord, the bill will remain in your name. Unpaid utility bills are added to property taxes and are the responsibility of the property owner to be aware if they are or are not being paid. If you wish your tenant to pay, you may turn the bill over to them but that arrangement is between you and the tenant.

HISTORIC PICTURE SEARCH

With the City's Sesquicentennial coming in 2004, we are requesting your help locating old/historic pictures (pre-1930?) of Fremont. If you have or know of someone who has an old photograph of a scene in Fremont that you are willing to loan to the City, please contact Gay Krouse @ 924-2101.

The picture must be an actual photograph; copies or postcards will not work. We wish to enlarge them for prints to be placed along the hallway of City Hall. Several of the original pictures are becoming discolored and need to be replaced.

All pictures should have your name, address & phone number on the back so we can return them to you. If possible, include a brief description of the scene in the photo & the approximate date the photo was taken.

REFUSE CART / BAG SERVICE CHANGES

The City is pleased to offer our residents a choice in how you prepare your refuse for pick-up: rollout refuse carts OR bag service. Many residents find that they only generate one or two bags of garbage per week. This is especially true of our seniors, empty nesters and single households. The relatively high participation rates in our curbside recycling program further reduces the amount of refuse that heads to the landfill. That said, the City still prefers the use of the rollout carts because they have a neater appearance at the curb & they prevent most animals from scavenging for your tasty garbage morsels!

Changing your service from one method to the other can only be done once a year and you must request the change by January 15th. The change would be effective for the remainder of the year, or indefinitely if you do not request any change thereafter.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Have you ever wondered how the people who serve on local boards and commissions were appointed? They are your friends and neighbors and were considered for appointment because they expressed an interest in serving. The City is always in need of new citizens willing to be part of the community's governing process. If community service interests you, please take a couple minutes and make yourself known by contacting the City in one of several ways:

- ◆ Stop by or call City Hall and request the application form
- ◆ Visit the City website at www.cityoffremont.net. Click on the "Meeting, Minutes & Agendas" page and print out the .pdf form of the application
- ◆ Email the City Clerk at tblake@cityoffremont.net who can then email you either a .pdf or Word '97 .doc version for you to print out, complete and return.

The people who serve on local boards and commissions are involved with planning, zoning, hospital, library, downtown development and other areas. Vacancies currently exist on several of the above boards. Please accept my invitation and call or stop by and make yourself known for this important work. The work is challenging but your reward is in doing a great service to our community.

Sincerely,
Raymond E. Rathbun, Mayor

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

WINTER TAX NOTICE

Winter tax payments must be in the City offices before 5:00 PM on Monday, February 16, 2004 to avoid a 4% penalty. Summer tax payments must have been in the office by August 10th. Any payment received after the due dates, whether in person, by mail or in the City Drop Box will be penalized.

The Winter Tax bills will be mailed the first of December. If you have not received yours by the middle of the month, please call the City Offices at 924-2101 for an amount or stop in for a copy.

SAFETY REMINDERS

The new school year has only just begun, but our Police Dept. & Crossing Guards have already noticed the following dangerous situations during drop-off & pickup times at the area's schools:

- ◆ Running or cruising through Stop signs at key intersections
- ◆ Not securing children in seatbelts or safety seats
- ◆ Speeding through School Crossing zones

If you must drive your kids to/from school without taking advantage of the District's busing program, then please leave for school 5 minutes earlier. We'll all be safer and the drive-time stress for both you and your kids will be reduced.

BEWARE OF LOTTERY SCAMS

Police Chief Phil Deur warns residents to be aware of a recent rash of "Canada Lottery" scams. This fraud ring has been calling residents informing them they have won a large sum of money and that it will be mailed to them once the "Canadian taxes" are collected on the winnings. Targeted victims are instructed to wire money, usually in the thousands of dollars. If you receive such a call, DO NOT give any personal information. If you have been a victim or know someone who has, call us at 924-2100 to report this or any other suspicious activity.