



Fremont City Beat

Issue No. 12 - Summer 2003

FREMONT, MICHIGAN:

“Now and always – A fine city • A great community”

TREE CITY, USA

The City of Fremont has been recognized as a “Tree City, USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation since 1990. To achieve this designation, the City must have a comprehensive tree-care program, including a tree-care ordinance, and regular trimming, removal & replacement of dead or dying public trees.



In honor of Arbor Day, the City recently completed its annual private tree purchase program in conjunction with Mellema Nursery, Fairview Floral & the Gentlemen Farmer. For the past nine years, the City has offered discount coupons to residents for the purchase of any shade or ornamental tree from these local nurseries. Since the coupon was increased to a \$20 value six years ago, residents have redeemed 396 coupons.

Four years ago we began tracking the type of trees purchased under the program. Residents have planted the following species over that period:

Maple	62	Hawthorn	Crimson	4	Elm	1
Crab	37	Pear		3	Box Elder	1
Dogwood	25	Service Berry		3	Hydrangea	1
Cherry	20	Arborvitae		2	Willow	1
Spruce	17	Redbud		2	Gingko	1
Plum	15	Red Sunset		2	Mulberry	1
Pine/Fir	13	Dawn Redwood		2	Olive	1
Birch	7	Viburnum		1	Purple Smoke	
Magnolia	6	Holly		1	Tree	1
Ash	5	Halesia		1	Rose of	
Tulip	4	Apple		1	Sharon	1
Chestnut	4					

Most people value, respect and truly love the trees in our community. Please do your part to properly care for trees on your property. It is truly an investment in our children’s future and the future of our fair City.



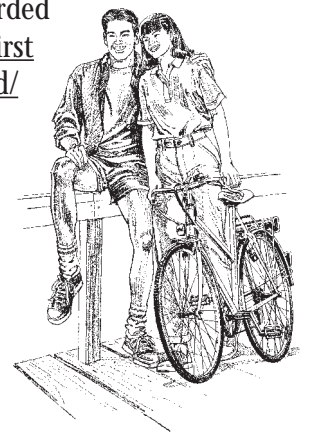
NEW RECREATION FACILITIES COMING

The City has contracted for the construction of the Skate Park this summer. Asphalt work is already underway. Funding has been secured from the Fremont Area Community Foundation and the City of Fremont. The Skate Park Subcommittee still

awaits word from two other grant requests and is currently coordinating a fund drive to raise funds for additional ramp equipment at the Park. The Park will accommodate skateboarding, rollerblading and trick biking. The site selected for this new park is a City-owned field along the west side of Lake Drive across from the School bus garage. Please call City Clerk Todd Blake at the Fremont City Offices (924-2101) if you would like to join the Skatepark Subcommittee or have questions regarding the upcoming park.

Funding has also been awarded for the construction of the first phase of the Non-Motorized/Recreational Nature Path.

Phase 1a has two sections: one connecting Branstrom Park with Daisybrook and Pathfinder Elementary Schools and the other connecting the new Skate Park with Fremont Lake Park. A Feasibility Analysis for the entire path network was completed last fall, detailing specific phases of the project totaling over 25 miles of path. A community phone survey was conducted this spring to determine Fremont area citizen support for the proposed path. Here are some of the Community Survey’s comparative results from Fremont City residents and the residents within the



(continued on page 2)

(New Recreation ... continued from front page)
entire Fremont area surveyed:

<u>City</u>	<u>Fremont Area</u>	
87%	85%	- Agree with the construction of the proposed 25-mile pathway
83%	79%	- Say they would personally use the path
64%	64%	- Of those asked, use walking as recreational activity, which is the #1 recreational activity of those surveyed; next was biking
53-54%	49-54%	- Were certain to vote for a 9/10 ^{ths} of a mill tax levy for the construction of Path
63%	58%	- Were certain to vote for a 1/4 of a mill for operation & maintenance
48%	40%	- Had only heard of the project prior to phone survey

Please feel free to attend a Fremont Area Park & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting if you have other recreation ideas, would like to propose a project or would like to show your support. Contact City Clerk Todd Blake for more information.

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The City sends out property tax bills semi-annually. Summer taxes are mailed July 1st and are due by August 11th. A 4% late penalty is added to any unpaid taxes on August 12th. Summer taxes include millages for the Fremont Public Schools (both operating & debt levies), State Education Tax (5 mills instead of 6 for this year only) and the City.

Winter taxes are mailed on December 1st 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, 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.

NOVEMBER 4TH GENERAL CITY ELECTION

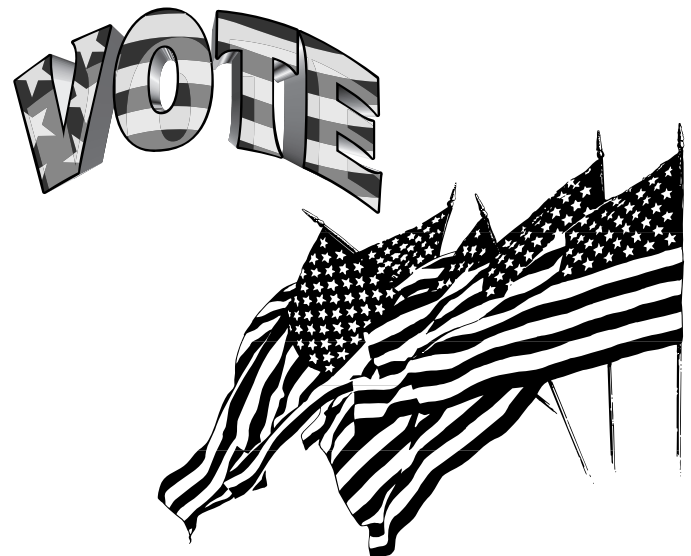
The City of Fremont will conduct its biannual General City Election on November 4, 2003. On the ballot this fall will be the position of **Mayor** (term ending November 2005), **two Councilmember positions** (terms ending November 2007) and **two Board of Review positions** (one term ending December 2009 and the other ending December 2005.) 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 11/4/02)
- ✓ Be a registered voter on the last day of filing for nominating petitions (8/5/03)
- ✓ 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:

- ✓ **August 5:** 4:00 PM: Filing deadline for Nominating Petitions for name placement on November election ballot
- ✓ **October 7:** Last day to register for voting eligibility for the November 4th General City Election
- ✓ **November 4:** 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.



POLICE DEPARTMENT REMINDERS

★ Citizens are reminded that disabled and/or unlicensed vehicles cannot be stored on private property within the City limits. If you are sent a warning letter and cannot have the vehicle removed within the specified time, call us at 924-2100 to make arrangements. We are happy to work with those making an honest effort.



The Public Works, Police and Fire Departments encourage residents to place their street address numbers on the front of their home where it is visible from the road. Three (3") inch letters are most often visible and will help save time for both the utility department's work and most importantly in a life-threatening situation for someone at your home.

Stray dogs that are picked up by the Police Dept. are now being boarded at the Bellwether Harbor, 7645 W. 48th St. before being transported to the County Animal Shelter. Owners are reminded that proof of valid license must be presented at City Hall before they can retrieve their pet. Also, a boarding fee of \$25 and ordinance fine of \$6 will apply. If your pet is missing, call the Police Dept. at 924-2100.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO TOP \$1.2 MILLION



The City will be spending over \$1.2 million on the replacing, enhancing and expanding our capital infrastructure.

Nearly two miles of streets will be re-constructed this summer.

Funding for the projects listed below comes primarily from the City's allocation of State Gas & Weight Tax (motor fuel) receipts

under the State's Act 51 distribution formula. No property taxes are used to improve the City's street network. Utility work, such as the replacement of water or sewer mains is funded by the City's utility funds. Property owners along Connie Ave. will also help finance a portion of the improvements through special assessments. Owners along State Street already paid assessments when the street was originally installed. **Projects planned for this summer/fall include:**

- Connie Avenue, from Main Street south to Lake Drive is an old township road that will be brought up to City street standards. It will be re-constructed with new curb, gutter & storm sewers and the re-building of the street & driveway entrances. Work is currently underway, with the installation of the storm sewers, sanitary laterals and removal of much of the deteriorated road surface already complete.



- State Street, between the Gerber Federal Credit Union and Stone Road will be re-constructed with new curb & gutter, the re-building of street & driveway entrances and the replacement of an older, smaller watermain. Work on State will begin within a couple weeks. Some curb replacement was already completed as a part of the Gerber Research wastewater separation project.
- Other miscellaneous street milling and resurfacing projects scheduled for this summer/fall:
 - Division Avenue - between Main and Cherry Streets
 - Merchant Avenue - between Elm and Cherry Streets
 - Lakeview Drive - from Reunion to the east City limits

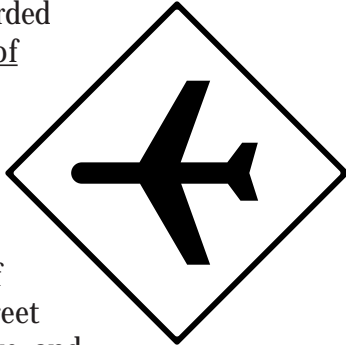
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(Construction Projects ... continued from page 3)

Southwoods Avenue - between Main and Pine Streets

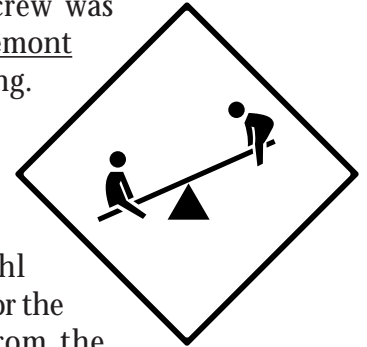
Apache Drive - from Stewart Avenue east past the bulk fuel terminal

- Parking areas at Branstrom Park Lodge and the Multi-Purpose Court will also be paved this month.
- Bids were recently awarded for the first phase of work at the Fremont Municipal Airport to extend the north-south runway. The County Road Commission approved of the closure of 60th Street between Comstock Ave. and the Airport driveway to make way for the longer runway. Starting after Labor Day, Omans Contracting will be removing the 60th St. pavement and installing a cul-de-sac at the Airport. They will also mill, re-shape and resurface 56th Street between Comstock and Green Avenues. The project includes the mitigation of a small wetland at a City-owned parcel on Green Ave. near Lorden Lake. Early next spring, contracts will be let for the actual extension of the runway, lights & taxiway and the relocation of electrical, gas and telephone utility lines.



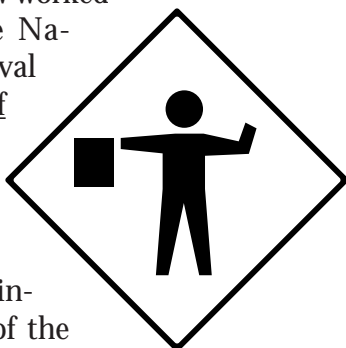
between MDOT and the City resulted in a much safer intersection, allowing for dedicated left-turn lanes in all four directions. Some additional landscaping will be completed this fall. Many thanks to the business and property owners along this stretch of M-82 who endured the construction and inconvenience. Special recognition also goes to the Hendon & Slate Companies' complex, where the owners installed a new parking lot and attractive landscaping at the corner of Linden and Main.

- The Public Works crew was also very busy at Fremont Lake Park this spring. New improvements to the park include a concrete beach retaining wall (installed by Paul Keehl Masonry), new sand for the beach, a sidewalk from the parking area to the beach and new sod between the beach and playground. Still to come this summer & fall will be a new roll-up ramp to allow for handicapped access across the beach sand directly into the water, an enclosure for the trash dumpster, a new bridge for the Darling Creek crossing, and an underground irrigation system for the area surrounding the playground, beach and Swirl Ice Cream Shop. The bathhouse at the Swirl will also receive some attention this fall, including new tile floors, refurbished restroom stalls, hand blow dryers and better insulation and ventilation of the attic and changing rooms.



Projects already completed this year include:

- The Public Works crew worked diligently before the National Baby Food Festival on the restoration of the grassed parkway along West Main Street (M-82) from Weaver to the west City limits. The work involved the stripping of the existing sod, lowering of the sprinkler heads and the installation of new sod. The grass is now at curb height, making the parkway much more appealing and easier to maintain.
- The widening and re-signalization of the intersection of Main Street and Stone Road was also completed in time for the Festival. The joint project



CITY ADOPTS FY 03/04 BUDGET

City Council recently adopted the City’s Operating & Capital Budget for FY 03/04, which began July 1st. Overall, the budget increased \$577,098, or 11.1% from last year. The General Fund grew by only 2.9%. It is noteworthy that the City Council was able to craft a balanced budget with so many negative impacts on City revenues from the sluggish economy and substantial cuts in State Revenue Sharing. Even with these challenges, the City budget contained no tax or fee increases or any cuts in service levels, while still being able to invest in equipment replacement and investing nearly \$1.2 million in capital improvement projects.

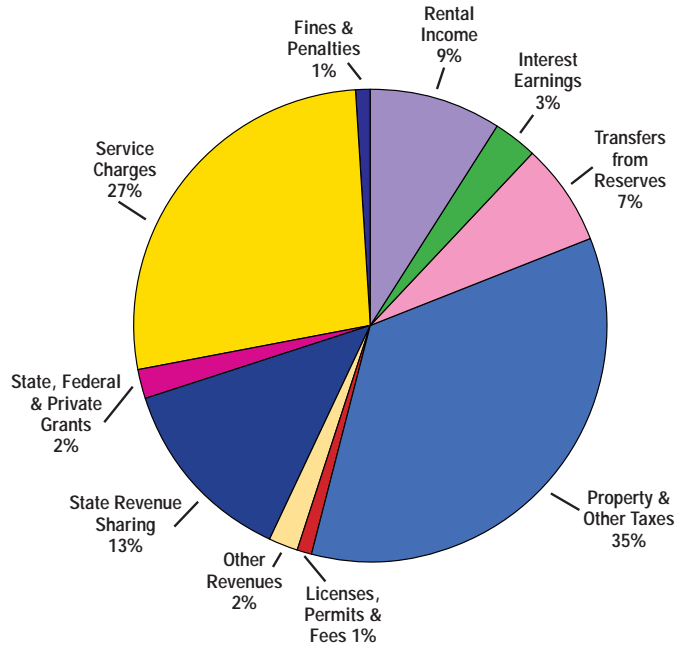
As noted, the Budget is based on maintaining our existing 14-mill property tax levy, which is the lowest in Newaygo County. The City Charter permits a maximum levy of 20 mills. For comparison, millages for the rest of Newaygo County’s communities are:

City of Newaygo	20.6574
City of White Cloud	18.2861
City of Grant	17.6477
Village of Hesperia	17.3648
City of Fremont	14.0000

The City’s millage represents only 22.9% of the overall non-homestead property tax levy of 61.1498 mills in this community. Education millages represent 63% of the total, while the County takes 11.7% and the District Library 2.4%.

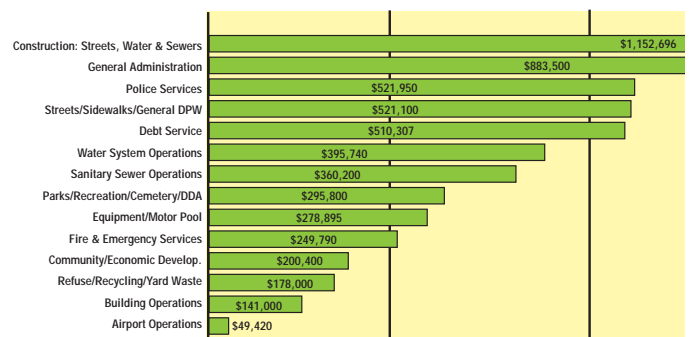
Following are two graphs that further depict proposed revenues & expenditures for this year’s budget. The pie chart shows projected revenues for FY 03/04 organized by ten general categories. The graph vividly depicts that revenues from property and other taxes represent the largest percentage of total revenues at 35%. Nearly three-quarters of the revenues are derived from only three sources: taxes, service charges and rental income.

PROJECTED FY 03/04 REVENUES BY SOURCE



The bar chart below shows proposed expenditures by program areas. Expenditures for Construction replaced General Administration as tops on the chart this year. Nearly \$1.2 million will be spent on replacing, enhancing and expanding our public infrastructure. (See the article in this Newsletter on “Construction Projects.”) While individually, Police & Fire services are not near the top, if they were added together as a “Public Safety” category, they would come in third on the chart representing expenditures of over \$771,740.

PROPOSED FY 03/04 EXPENDITURES BY PROPOSAL AREA



Copies of the Budget are available for review at City Hall and the Fremont Area District Library.

A Message from the City Manager: A TRAGIC WEEK REMEMBERED

The events that unfolded in this community in early July will long be remembered by most as a tragic week in our his-

tory. It was a terrible chain of events that lead to the death of State Police Trooper Kevin Marshall



and local resident Scott Woodring. Regardless of our opinions of those events, we must remember to keep the families of both Kevin and Scott in our thoughts and prayers.

Our community will go through the stages of grief and will be stronger for it. In her book *On Death and Dying*, Swiss-born psychiatrist Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross described the classic pattern of the coping strategies of patients who know their diagnosis is terminal. Below is an adaptation of Dr. Ross' stages, substituting our "community" for an "individual" experiencing loss:

Stage 1 - Denial: Upon hearing of the tragedy, the community reacts with a shocked, "No, not here!" According to Dr. Ross, this is a healthy stage, and permits the community to develop other defenses.

Stage 2- Anger or Resentment: "Why Fremont?" is the question asked now. "Why our town?" Blame, directed against the police, the suspect and God often is a part of this stage. This outcry should be accepted and un-judged.

Stage 3- Bargaining: "Yes, Fremont, but..." "If you'll just give us another chance, God, we'll try something different that wouldn't lead to two deaths and a town living in fear." This Dr. Kubler-Ross calls a period of temporary truce. The tragedies were the talk of the town, and many did a lot of criticizing and Monday morning armchair quarterbacking.

Stage 4 - Depression: Now the community says, "Yes, it happened to us here in Fremont." With the courage to admit that grief is happening, this acknowledgment brings depression. How many of us sort of stumbled through the last few days, not knowing why we were out-of-sync, and having troubles concentrating and sometimes having short tempers.

Stage 5 - Acceptance: A time of calmly facing the tragedy and the two lives taken from our midst. This is often a difficult time for the community, since its citizens tend to withdraw and be silent.

Please evaluate where you may be along the grief continuum. Recognize the stages and be forgiving of both yourself and others. Work toward positive healing and reach out if you need help. Your community, whether it be in the form of your church, family, social group, friends, counselors, etc. is there for you, but for the asking.

It will take time for Fremont to heal, but I am confident that we will. I have seen a community in a similar situation recover. My younger brother is a Public Safety Lieutenant in my hometown of Grand Haven and was witness to the shooting of Officer Scott Flahive in 1994. But for the grace of God, it was not my brother that was shot. Both he and the community went through the classic stages of grief and have survived. They have not forgotten, but simply accepted it and moved on with their lives.

I knew Officer Flahive, as I did here in Fremont with Trooper Marshall and Mr. Woodring. I was in Washington, D.C. recently and took the opportunity to visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and found Scott's name. The site is profoundly reverent and I found myself with a heavy heart and full of emotion. Tears were shed in his remembrance. Two of the inscriptions on the marble walls have stuck with me since that visit: "*In valor, there is hope*" and "*It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived.*" May God bless and watch over Fremont, its citizens and the Marshall and Woodring families.

The Fremont City Beat is a quarterly update of City activities and programs. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the publication, please contact the City Offices at 231-924-2101 or stop by to see us at 101 East Main Street, Fremont, MI 49412.

The Fremont Police Department
proudly presents
Community Appreciation Day 2003

To Benefit the Trooper Kevin Marshall Foundation



Featuring the #18 and #20 Joe Gibbs Racing
Chevy Monte Carlos sponsored by Freedom Chevy and FPD

Saturday, August 16th • 10 AM - 4 PM
Veterans Memorial Park

Come enjoy a family atmosphere with plenty of fun for all ages!
Kids games and amusements, food and drink, entertainment, booths,
prizes and more family fun activities



Come meet your local law enforcement officers, firefighters and EMT's,
and everyday neighbors and community members

Sponsored by your local retailers: (Check out the goodies and raffle items)

Michigan Produce Haulers
Gerber Products Company
Powers Motor Sports
Fremont Generator
Mancino's

Resurrection Life Church, Newaygo
Bill's Shop-N-Save
Valspar
Schwan's
Fremont Area Community Foundation

Freedom Chevrolet/Pontiac
The Times-Indicator
Wal-mart
Show and Tell
Gerber Memorial Hospital

Mark your calendar — You wouldn't want the family to miss this event!

*All proceeds and donations go to the Trooper Kevin Marshall Memorial Foundation Fund
in honor of our fallen hero and his family*

BRUSH PICKUP UPDATE

The City DPW crew began the curbside brush pickup program again this April. Brush will be removed without charge the first Monday of each month, April through October. Brush must be stacked with the cut-end curbside and limbs no more than 3" in diameter. **Residents must have their brush placed curbside by 7:00 AM of the first Monday each month. Brush is not to be placed at curbside any earlier than 5:00 PM the Friday before the first Monday. A \$5 per day fine may be levied against property owners not in compliance.** Brush along the road for more than a few days becomes a nuisance to your neighbors and is in violation of City Ordinances.

CITY OF FREMONT OFFICIALS

Mayor:	Raymond E. Rathbun
Mayor Pro Tem:	James Rynberg
Council Members:	Jane Drake
	James Breinling
	Rob Mani
City Manager:	Chris A. Yonker
Clerk/Finance Officer:	Todd M. Blake
Police Chief:	Phil Deur
Public Works Supt.:	Brian Hettinger
City Treasurer:	Gay Krouse
City Assessor:	Richard Passage
Fire Chief:	Rusty Boeskool
Zoning Administrator:	Richard Rought
City Attorney:	Keith Schuiteman