

Shorelines

City of Ferrysburg 17290 Roosevelt Rd. P.O. Box 38 Ferrysburg, MI 49409 Fall 2016

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention week is October 3 through October 7. The Ferrysburg Fire Department will have their annual open house on Monday, October 10 at the Fire Station from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. There will be games, handouts, and fire truck rides. Firefighters will be on hand to explain fire safety.

Monster Bash

The Beautification Commission is sponsoring a “Monster Ball” on Friday, October 28, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Ferrysburg City Hall, 17290 Roosevelt Road. Kids will have the opportunity to wear their Halloween costumes and learn how to dance to songs such as the “YMCA” and the “Hokey Pokey”. Apple cider and donuts will be provided. Admission is free and kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. All are encouraged to wear a costume.

Fall Residential Trash Pick Up is Saturday, September 24

This year’s City-wide one-day residential trash pickup for City residents will be on Saturday, September 24. This is a one-day, one pick up event. Pick up crews will not make return trips. Please place items for pick up at the curb or street edge by 7:00 a.m. on September 24.

Crews from Republic Services will pick up: trash in bags, boxes, or small containers; a maximum of two (2) appliances per residence; and limited building material boxed or bundled and no more than four (4) feet in length. Crews will not pick up: tires, leaves, brush, yard waste, tree stumps, loose building material, garbage, auto parts, concrete, blacktop, batteries, scrap iron or steel, hazardous wastes, and loose trash items. Property owners will be responsible for any items left at the curb or street edge after completion of the pick up on September 24.

Fall Street Edge Leaves Collection Coming!

The City’s street edge leaves collection program will begin soon. All City residents are encouraged to take advantage of the pickups that will be provided at no cost to our residents. While this program is intended to pick up loose leaves, crews will accept bagged leaves in paper bags only. Paper bags are available for purchase at City Hall for 5/\$2.00. All other types of bags will be left at the curbside and will be the responsibility of the property owner to dispose of in a method other than land filling or burning. Please rake leaves as close as possible to the street or curb.

Area 1: Monday, October 31, November 7 and 14

All City Residents east of 168th Avenue and north of Spring Lake.

Area 2: Tuesday, November 1, 8 and 15

All City residents east of 174th Ave, north of Ridge Ave and west of 168th Avenue.

Area 3: Wednesday, November 2, 9 and 16

All City residents north of North Shore Road and West of 174th Avenue.

Area 4: Thursday, November 3, 10 and 17

All City residents south of North Shore Road to the City limits, south of Ridge Avenue and west of Spring Lake.

November 8 Presidential Election

In 2015 the State of Michigan voted to eliminate the option to straight party vote during elections. In July 2016 a circuit court judge overruled the elimination of straight party voting. This means that for the November 8 Presidential Election you **will** have the straight party vote option. We are expecting long lines for this election as it will be a long ballot. This may/may not cause longer waiting lines for voting. You may obtain an absentee ballot application request form if you would like to vote that way. You may also obtain a sample of the ballot so you are prepared for election day. Sample ballots and absentee ballot applications may be obtained at City Hall, by calling City Hall, or on our website at www.ferrysburg.org starting September 19.

Smith’s Bridge

The City is required to have the City’s two bridges (Ridge Avenue and Smith’s Bridge) inspected every two years. Smith’s Bridge, constructed in 1972, is beginning to show its age and earlier this year, City Council approved submitting a grant application to replace the bridge. The earliest the City would get notice on the status of the grant application would be 2019.

Thank You NBCF!

Earlier this year, the City was awarded a \$750 grant from the North Bank Communities Fund to install fence capping at Coast Guard Park, Fire Barn Park and at City Hall on top of the fence surrounding the ball diamonds. This fence capping will help prevent injuries at the City's ball fields. Thank you North Bank Communities Fund.

Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve

On Sunday, September 18, the Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve Board will host visitors who wish to hike the trails from 2 – 4 p.m. Hikes will be led by trained docents who will point out various plants and animal species that can be observed at the Preserve. The Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve is owned by the City of Ferrysburg. The Preserve is approximately 112 acres, one-half of which was donated by the late Connie Lindquist, by Gerald Lindquist and Harold V. Hartger. The other half was purchased primarily with the financial assistance of the Nature Conservancy and a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant.

Community Garden

Over the seasons we have received good comments and helpful suggestion regarding the garden. To better plan for next year, if you are interested in a garden plot for 2017, applications are now being accepted. Plots will be assigned when an application is received by the City. For 2017, a resident can reserve two (2) plots. At the end of May, 2017, if additional plots are available, gardeners may request an additional plot.

Back to School Safety

As the summer comes to an end, we start to think about going back to school. The Ottawa County Sheriff's office wants to remind the citizens of Ferrysburg that getting to and from school safely is our goal. Children will be walking, riding bicycles, and taking the bus to school. Students walking and riding bicycles should always use bike paths and sidewalks where they are available. Where there are no sidewalks, students should walk along the side of the road facing traffic. Students should wear light colored clothing and avoid using electronics and headphones. If riding a bicycle, wear a helmet, ride with traffic, and always ride on the bike path where available. Students should seek crosswalks when crossing roadways.

Motorist should be aware of speed restrictions around schools and be alert for students walking and riding bicycles. Motorists are reminded that they must stop for any school bus that has its flashing red lights activated. Motorists should be aware that crossing guards are present at some intersections to assist children safely cross the roadways and must stop when indicated. Motorists should be aware that traffic will increase around schools prior to school and at dismissal time and may need to leave extra time to make their trip.

Power Line Safety

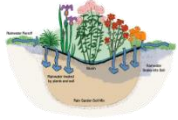
Storms can wreak havoc on local communities, often leaving behind property and utility damage that may be dangerous. The City of Ferrysburg and Grand Haven Board of Light & Power want you to know how to stay safe if you encounter downed power lines.

- Never touch a downed line or anything it has fallen over, like a fence or a tree limb. It could get you injured or killed. A downed power line does not have to be arcing or smoking to be deadly. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same. If you come across downed power lines, **call 911** or your electric utility immediately.
- If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and warn others to do the same. **Call 911** or your electric utility to report the downed power line.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line. Snagging a line could pull down a power pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line, **do NOT leave the car. Call 911** or your power company and wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.
- Lines that appear to be “dead” can become energized as crews work to restore power or from the improper use of emergency generators. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same.

Always assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, report it immediately by calling 911 or your electric utility. The City of Ferrysburg is served by the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power (616) 846-6250 and Consumers Energy (800) 477-5050.

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a special kind of garden. It is typically planted with native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs. It has a shallow dip at the center to collect, filter, and soak up rainwater running off the land, roof tops, and pavement. A rain garden will naturally trap nutrients, and other pollutants, and clean up dirty rainwater.



What are the Benefits?

- Native plants naturally need less water, fertilizers, and pesticides saving you time and money.
- Rain gardens attract birds and butterflies to your yard.
- Rain gardens keep dirty rainwater from entering the storm sewer system and the Grand River.

How do I Plant a Rain Garden?

1. Select a spot in your yard to capture rainwater.
2. Use a shovel to create a shallow dip.
3. Replace soil if needed. A good mix is 50-60% sand, 20-30% topsoil, and 20-30% compost.
4. Plant native plants (ex. butterfly weed, purple coneflower, prairie dropseed, multicolored iris).
5. Mulch with shredded hardwood and water.
6. Visit raingardens.org for more information.

Use Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer Protecting Water Quality

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring essential nutrient for plant and animal growth. It is also a primary water quality concern in Michigan. When excess phosphorus is applied on land, it may run into nearby lakes, rivers and streams. This runoff can lead to increased algae and aquatic plant growth which can have negative effects on water quality, fisheries, recreation, and property values. By restricting unnecessary phosphorus applications, the phosphorus law will help maintain and protect Michigan's vast water resources.



The Phosphorus Law

Michigan Fertilizer Law (1994 PA 451, Part 85, Fertilizers) restricts the use of phosphorus fertilizers on residential and commercial lawns, including athletic fields and golf courses statewide. Both homeowners and commercial applicators must follow the phosphorus application restrictions. However, there are a few exceptions. For exceptions visit www.michigan.gov/mda-fertilizer.

What Fertilizers do I Use?

Look for lawn fertilizers with zero phosphorus in them. On the bag or box of fertilizer is a row of three numbers. These numbers indicate the amount of total nitrogen (N), available phosphate (P2O5) and soluble potash (K2O) in the particular product. The middle number is available phosphate and should read "0."

Where can I find Phosphorus-free Fertilizers?

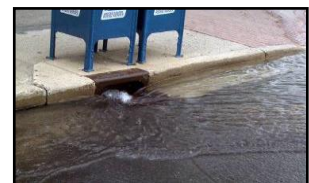
A majority of garden centers, hardware stores, and large chain stores carry phosphorus free lawn fertilizers.

How You Can Help Reduce Pollution Entering the Grand River

The City of Ferrysburg is working to better manage storm water runoff. As a resident of the City of Ferrysburg, you have the ability to help reduce the amount of pollution entering the storm sewer system and ultimately reaching the Grand River and Lake Michigan.

What is Storm Water Pollution?

When it rains, storm water flows over lawns, streets, and parking lots carrying with it road dirt, fertilizers, oil, and grease into storm drains, which are often located alongside streets and parking lots.



Where do Storm Drains Lead?

Storm drains lead directly to nearby streams and lakes without any type of treatment. Storm water entering storm drains or catch basins in the City of Ferrysburg ultimately reaches the Grand River and Lake Michigan.

How Can I Help Reduce Storm Water Pollution?

- Never dump grass clippings, vehicle fluids, or anything else down a storm drain/catch basin. Avoid fertilizing your lawn before it rains. Use non-phosphorus fertilizers.
- Dispose of pet waste in a trash can.
- Take used motor oil to a quick lube or auto shop.
- Dispose of unwanted paints, solvents, and cleaners at your county collection center.
- Report storm drain dumping to the City of Ferrysburg storm water coordinator at 616-842-5803 or info@ferrysburg.org.

Blue Piping

In the 1970's and 1980's, many homes were connected to the City water system with polybutylene piping (blue pipe). Over time, this type of pipe has been known to leak and give trouble. Property owners are responsible for water lines beginning at the street right-of-way. If you have this type of water pipe leading into your home or in your house, you may wish to consider replacing the polybutylene piping.

Openings: Ferrysburg Fire Department The City of Ferrysburg is looking for a few good men and women who are interested in a unique and rewarding opportunity to serve their community. The Ferrysburg Fire Department is a volunteer Fire Department, and is always accepting applications from individuals who are willing to become firefighters for the City of Ferrysburg. You must be at least 18 years old, a high school graduate, have a valid driver's license, and be able to respond to fires at any time of the day. Firefighting experience is a plus, but is not required.

Smoke Detector Safety

Have you recently checked the batteries in your smoke detector? Is your smoke detector working properly? If you have answered "NO" or if you are not sure how to answer, the Ferrysburg Fire Department can help! Call Ferrysburg City Hall at 842-5803, to schedule an appointment. A member of the Ferrysburg Fire Department will then contact you to set up an appointment to check your smoke detector "**free of charge**".

Meetings

City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Planning Commission meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Beautification Commission meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Recreation Commission meets 2nd Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Commission meets the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm.
Other Boards and Commission meet on an irregular schedule.
To confirm a scheduled meeting, contact City Hall at 842-5803.

Brush Chipping

With the upcoming arrival of winter, the City crew will discontinue chipping brush October 23. In April they will continue brush chipping. A reminder that there is **no** burning in the city limits of Ferrysburg.

City of Ferrysburg
17290 Roosevelt Road
P.O. Box 38
Ferrysburg, MI 49409-0038

Phone: (616) 842-5803
Fax: (616) 844-0200
E-mail: info@ferrysburg.org
Website: www.ferrysburg.org
Office hours: 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday
Police Dept. Admin. 8 am-5 pm, M-F (616) 842-1889
Police Services 1-800-249-0911

For a water, sewer, or street emergency after office hours, call 616-994-7850.

City Council

Term expires Nov. 2017:

Daniel Ruiter Mayor
Rebecca Hopp
Regina Sjoberg
Michael DeWitt

Term expires Nov. 2019:

Timothy O'Donnell
J. Patrick Twa
Kathleen Kennedy

City Staff

City Manager	Craig Bessinger
Clerk/Treasurer	Debbie Wierenga
Public Serv. Supt.	Matt Schindlbeck
Public Serv. Tech.	Len VanderJagt
Public Serv. Tech.	Tom Miller
Public Serv. Tech.	Karl Rowland
Fire Chief	Mike Olthof
Police Sergeant	Jason Kik
Building Insp.	George Dood
Zoning Adm.	Craig Bessinger
Assessor	Dennis Burns
Assessor	Heather Singleton
Admin Assistant	Diana Arens
Admin Assistant	Mary Jane Farnquist

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