

Shorelines

City of Ferrysburg 17290 Roosevelt Rd. P.O. Box 38 Ferrysburg, MI 49409 Fall 2013

General Election: Tuesday, November 5

The City Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Ferrysburg City Hall, 17290 Roosevelt Road. The terms of Mayor and three (3) City Council Members expire in November. Mayor Dan Ruiter is running unopposed for Mayor. Council Members Regina Sjoberg, Rebecca Hopp and Mike DeWitt are running unopposed for City Council. Persons interested in running may file a Declaration of Intent form by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25.

Voters may obtain absentee ballots by contacting City Clerk Debbie Wierenga. Absentee ballots may be obtained and voted at City Hall until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 4. The City Clerk's office will be open until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 2 for absentee ballots.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention week is October 6 through October 12. The Ferrysburg Fire Department will have their annual open house on Monday, October 14 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 25, 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.

Opening on Boards and Commissions

Many of the City's Boards and Commissions have openings. If you are interested in serving, please complete an application and return it to City Hall. For additional information on the various Boards and Commissions, contact City Hall at 842-5803.

Fall Residential Trash Pick Up is Saturday, September 21

This year's City-wide one-day residential trash pickup for City residents will be on Saturday, September 21. 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 21.

Crews from Allied Waste 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 21.

Non-Motorized Path Millage Proposal

On the 2013 November 5 ballot, the City of Ferrysburg is requesting one-half mill for a period of ten years in order to construct a non-motorized path along both North Shore Road and 168th Avenue. The non-motorized paths would be separated from the streets. If the millage is approved, the City will bond for the projects, which will allow for construction to begin as soon as design engineering is completed.

The proposed millage would cost a homeowner that has a Taxable Value of \$100,000, \$50.00 a year.

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.

Area 1: Monday, November 4, 11 and 18

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

Area 2: Tuesday, November 5, 12 and 19

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

Area 3: Wednesday, November 6, 13 and 20

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

Area 4: Thursday, November 7, 14 and 21

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

Friday, November 8, 15 and 22 will be utilized to collect leaves in any areas that need extra attention due to a large volume of leaves.

Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes 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. On Sunday, September 15, the Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve Board will host visitors from 2 – 4 p.m., as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of the City of Ferrysburg ownership of the Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve. Hikes will be led by trained docents, educational posters will be on display, and there will also be children's activities.

Youth Council

The Ferrysburg City Council has created a Youth Advisory Council to involve students in government while serving their communities. If you are a student in grades 9-12 and reside in the City of Ferrysburg, applications are now being accepted. Youth Advisory Council Members will also serve as non-voting members on the Recreation Commission, the Kitchel-Lindquist Hartger Dunes Preserve Board and the Beautification Commission. If you would like an information packet, or have additional questions, please contact City Clerk Debbie Wierenga at 842-5803.

Unused Medications

Don't flush unwanted meds, instead, safely dispose of your personal medications at the Spring Lake Village/Ferrysburg Police Department during regular business hours. Please remove pills from the pill bottles and place them in a plastic bag before dropping them off.

Community Garden

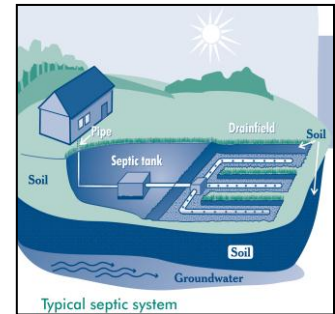
City Council has approved creating a Community Garden on the City Hall property. Residents will have an opportunity to reserve space in the garden to plant their favorite vegetables and fruits. Work will begin this fall to prepare the site for planting in spring 2014. Residents will be assigned an area approximately 4' x 8'. Applications from residents who wish to reserve space in the Community Garden are now being accepted. To reserve a plot, please contact City Hall at 842-5803. Applications will be accepted on a first come basis.

Maintaining Your Septic System

Does your septic tank need to be inspected or pumped out? If so, give a reputable septic tank pumping firm a call this spring. To prolong the life of your system, follow these tips from MSU Extension.

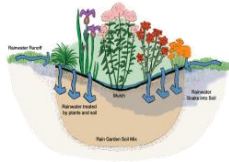
Pump your septic tank regularly, usually once every 3 to 5 years to avoid a costly septic system failure. Signs of failure include: odors, plumbing or septic tank backups, and gurgling sounds in the pumping system.

Stay away from additives. Their benefits have not been demonstrated, and some may actually harm your system and contaminate groundwater.



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.

Brush Chipping

With the upcoming arrival of winter, the City crew will discontinue chipping brush October 25. In April they will continue brush chipping. A reminder that there is **no** burning in the city limits of Ferrysburg.

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 7:30 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 as needed.
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.

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. 2013:

Daniel Ruiter Mayor
Rebecca Hopp
Regina Sjoberg
Michael DeWitt

Term expires Nov. 2015:

Chris Larson, Mayor Pro-tem
Scott Blease
Kathleen Kennedy

City Staff

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| City Manager | Craig Bessinger |
| Clerk/Treasurer | Debbie Wierenga |
| Public Serv. Supt. | George Dunning |
| Public Serv. Tech. | Bob Kerridge |
| Public Serv. Tech. | Tom Miller |
| Public Serv. Tech. | Matt Schindlbeck |
| Fire Chief | Mike Olthof |
| Police Chief | Roger DeYoung |
| Building Insp. | George Dood |
| Zoning Adm. | Craig Bessinger |
| Assessor | Jerry Groeneveld |
| Admin Assistant | Diana Arens |
| Admin Assistant | Mary Jane Farnquist |

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