

Shorelines

City of Ferrysburg 408 Fifth Street P.O. Box 38 Ferrysburg, MI 49409 Fall 2008

City of Ferrysburg Ballot Proposals

The Ferrysburg City Council has approved placing three (3) ballot proposals on the November 4 General Election Ballot.

Proposal A - Charter Amendment

Currently, the City Charter requires the Planning Commission to consist of nine (9) members. Due to the difficulty in attracting residents to serve on the Planning Commission, the City is proposing to reduce the number of members required to serve on this Commission.

The ballot proposal will allow City Council to set by ordinance the number that is required to serve on the Planning Commission. If the ballot proposal is successful, the City Council has discussed setting the number of members required on the Planning Commission at seven (7) members.

Proposal B - Motorized Equipment Millage Proposition:

In 1989, voters approved a millage request to levy 1.75 mills for motorized equipment for ten (10) years. In 1998, voters renewed the millage for ten years at 1.25 mills. In 2008, the proposal is to renew the millage for ten (10) years at 1 mill.

The proposal is to renew the motorized equipment millage up to 1 mill for ten years. The cost to a homeowner with a property that has a taxable value of \$75,000 would be \$75.00.

The motorized equipment millage will be used for the replacement of Police, Fire, and Public Services Department vehicles and motorized equipment for 2009 through 2018. This millage will allow these departments to purchase the needed equipment to provide services to residents and the need to maintain safe, reliable equipment.

Proposal C - Headlee Override Proposal:

The City Charter authorizes the City to levy 11 mills for property tax. The Headlee Amendment and Proposal A require governmental units to reduce their millage if property assessments rise faster than the rate of inflation, and due to these two (2) factors the City authorized millage rate has been reduced to 8.4123 mills. In 2008, for the fourth (4th) consecutive year, the City levied 8.3576 mills. Eventually, the City authorized millage will be reduced below what is needed to operate the City, which will require the City to cut or reduce some City services.

The City Council has been working on this issue, and to be proactive, placed a ballot proposal on the 2005 and 2007 ballots requesting residents to approve a millage rollback. However, both proposals were defeated.

The City Council is concerned that if the authorized millage is reduced below a level that is currently needed to operate the City, services that would be reduced or eliminated would affect the quality of life for Ferrysburg residents. As one of their top goals, City Council has identified placing the Headlee Override Proposal on the November 2008 Election ballot.

On the November 4 General Election ballot, will be a proposal to override the Headlee Amendment and raise the authorized millage to 8.5000 mills. The City Council does not expect to levy the full 8.5000 mills in 2009. If the City were to levy the full 8.5000 mills in 2009, the increase to a homeowner with a property that has a taxable value of \$75,000 would be \$10.68.

The proposal will allow the City to continue to provide the current services without reducing the General Fund reserves. The Ferrysburg City Council is committed to keep the millage rate in Ferrysburg one of the lowest in Ottawa County. Even though approval of this proposal gives us the ability to increase the millage levied, at this time there is not a need. With the quality of life that attracts citizens to Ferrysburg resulting in continued development, the continued increase value in property, and the City Council being prudent with your tax dollars, we anticipate being able to provide the same level of services that our citizens expect without raising taxes.

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 3. The City Clerk's office will be open until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 1 for absentee ballots.

Required when Voting in Person

The State of Michigan requires all registered voters to provide a photo ID when voting in person. Acceptable photo ID that can be used for voting purposes are driver's license/personal identification card, US passport, military identification card, student identification, or a tribal identification card. If a voter does not have acceptable photo ID, an affidavit will be required to be completed and signed by the voter. Even though the election inspector may know you, the law requires the inspector to request to see a photo ID. A ballot will not be issued to a voter without proper photo ID.

🍁🍁🍁 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 3,10 and 24

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

Area 2: Tuesday, November 4,11 and 25

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

Area 3: Wednesday, November 5,12, and 26

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

Area 4: Thursday, November 6,13 and Wednesday, November 26

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

Friday, November 7 and 14 will be utilized to collect leaves in any areas that need extra attention due to a large volume of leaves.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses will be available at the City Hall beginning December 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009 for purchase. You may also purchase your dog licenses on-line from Ottawa County at <http://miottawa.org>. If your pet has been spayed/neutered the fee will be \$6.00. If your pet has not been spayed/neutered the fee will be \$15.00. Puppies age 4 to 7 months are \$6.00. All fees double on March 1, 2009.

Automatic Bill Payment

The City of Ferrysburg now accepts voluntary Automatic Bill Payments for utility and/or property tax bills. Once you enroll in the program, your bills will be paid directly from your checking account. To enroll in the Automatic Bill Payment program you will need to fill out an authorization form that is available at City Hall or at www.ferrysburg.org. Once you fill out the form and return it to City Hall the automatic bill payment will begin with the printing of your next utility and/or property tax bill.

4th of July Parade

The 4th of July Parade was a great success this year with more entries and a larger crowd than in the past. If you would like to have an entry in the 4th of July Parade or would like to volunteer to help put this Parade on, please contact City Hall.

Outside Water Meter remotes

Residents are encouraged to verify that their outside water meter remote has the same reading as their inside water meter. If a discrepancy is noted, please contact City Hall at 842-5803 to set-up a time when a Public Services Technician can enter the premises to inspect the meters and make necessary repairs.

Calling all Ghosts & Goblins!



Join us for the Monsters' Ball at Ferrysburg Elementary School on Ridge Ave. Friday, October 24 from 6-8 p.m. We'll be doing the Monster Mash, YMCA, Chicken Dance, Macarena and more! Costumes Required, Cider & Donuts, Prizes and loads of fun! Volunteers accepted! If you would like to help with this project, please contact Janet Joiner 842-7919 or Ferrysburg City Hall 842-5803. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Parking of vehicles and recreational vehicles

Residents are reminded that parking in any right of way is prohibited, and that the Zoning Ordinance restricts parking of vehicles to the driveway, carport or garage. The placement of recreational vehicles is regulated to a side yard (a minimum of ten (10) feet from the side property line) and the rear yard. For more information regarding the parking of vehicles and recreational vehicles, please contact City Hall.

Caring For Your Car and the Environment

Car care and maintenance are important when trying to protect the environment. Many vehicle fluids can be hazardous, including engine oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, brake fluid, radiator fluid. Even small quantities can contaminate water supplies and harm fish



hydraulic fluids, and and wildlife.

Motor Oil Disposal

Since more than 25% of all car owners change their own oil, knowing how to important. Any motor oil dumped into a storm drain will eventually end up in a If you change your oil, put the used oil in a sturdy container, label it, and take it to location.

dispose of it properly is nearby stream or lake. a local oil recycling

Clean up of Spills

Use kitty litter or sawdust to absorb spills of any of these types of materials. Sweep up the absorbent after a few hours. For small spills, place the used absorbent in a strong plastic bag and place it in the trash. For large spills, (over 1 gallon of absorbent), take the material to a household hazardous waste disposal center.



Is Your Home Hazardous? Many of the products we use in our homes every day are hazardous. If they are disposed of improperly, these products can end up in nearby streams and lakes and harm fish and wildlife.

A product is considered hazardous if it is toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive. Always check the label to see if a product is hazardous. The label may have a picture of a skull and cross bones or contain the words WARNING, CAUTION, DANGER, or POISON.

To protect our environment, follow these tips:

- Use products in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.
- Follow the proper disposal measures.
- Do not dump products into the storm drain, which may flow to a nearby stream or lake.
- Take any unused portions to your county's hazardous waste collection site.
- Use nontoxic alternatives when possible.

A Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal service center is provided by the Ottawa County Health Department. The site will accept: Used motor oil/filters, anti-freeze, old gasoline, computers, car batteries, aerosols, oil based paint, pesticides, garden chemicals, household cleaners, mercury, acids, drain cleaners, solvents, paint thinner, paint stripper, pool & spa chemicals. Appliances, latex paint, and tires are not accepted. The service center is located at 16850 Comstock, Grand Haven. Hours of operation are Monday & Wednesday 8 am-1 pm, 2 pm-5 pm and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 8 am-12 pm. For further information you may call 616-393-5645 or at the Ottawa County website at www.co.ottawa.mi.us.

Trash Containers

Filled trash containers and filled recycling containers placed by the street prior to 6 p.m. the day before scheduled pick up, and emptied containers left by the street after 7 p.m. the day they were emptied, are violations of the City Code.

Congratulations

Public Services Technician Bob Kerridge celebrated his 30th anniversary with the City in September. The City is fortunate to have Mr. Kerridge on our team with his dedication and knowledge. Congratulations and thank you to Mr. Kerridge.

Ferrysburg Elementary School

The City Council has been working with Suzanne Rudnitzki, onemarket Development, LLC, to develop the former Ferrysburg Elementary School site and has decided to move City Hall to the site. City Council continues to work on whether the City Hall will be a new building or part of the remodeled school. While those discussions are taking place, the gymnasium and classroom space is available at the former Ferrysburg Elementary School site for \$75 for a two (2) hour period. If you would like to rent space or would like additional information, please contact City Clerk Debbie Wierenga at 842-5803.

Volunteers Needed

The City currently has several boards and commissions with vacancies. The City depends upon citizen volunteers to staff a number of City boards and commissions. Applicants need to be registered City voters, and be willing to devote up to one regular meeting a month. Terms usually run three years. Contact City Hall at 842-5803 for an application and information.

Brush Chipping

With the upcoming arrival of winter, the City crew will discontinue chipping brush October 24. In April they will continue brush chipping. A reminder that there is **no** burning in the City limits of Ferrysburg.

Ferrysburg Fire Department

In 2008 our volunteer fire department has been working with local businesses to promote fire safety in our city. On the first Tuesday of each month from June through October we will be at Ferrysburg Pizza Hut for kid's night from 5-7 pm. During these hours a fire truck will be on display and firefighters will be available to explain the types of equipment on the truck. During September we participated in several 9/11 memorial services. We will also be going to Walden Green Montessori and West Michigan Academy of Arts & Academics to talk to the kids about fire safety during October. October 2nd we will be participating in Fire Prevention events at the Lakes Mall. The Ferrysburg Fire Station open house will be on Monday, October 6th from 6-8 pm. at the Ferrysburg Fire Station at 17411 North Shore Road. There will be Fire Truck Rides, Games, Pictures, Smoke Room, Displays, Popcorn, Pizza from Pizza Hut, Coffee and Apple Cider from Leppinks and a Raffle.

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. Residence within the City limits is highly desirable. Applications are available at City Hall or by calling 842-5803.

City of Ferrysburg
408 Fifth Street 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

For a water, sewer, or street emergency after office hours, call 842-1640.

City Council

<u>Term expires Nov. 2009:</u>	<u>Term expires Nov. 2011:</u>
Jeffrey Stille, Mayor	Chris Larson
Tim Scarpino, Mayor Pro Tem	Thomas Spoelman
Daniel Ruiter	John Stafford
Regina Sjoberg	

City Staff

City Manager	Craig Bessinger
Clerk/Treasurer	Debbie Wierenga
Public Serv. Supt.	George Dunning
Public Serv. Tech.	Bob Kerridge
Public Serv. Tech.	Jim Dyke
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
Adm. Asst.	MaryJane Farnquist
Adm. Asst.	Diana Schell

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 Commission meets the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 pm.
Other Boards and Commission meet on an irregular schedule.
To confirm a scheduled meeting, contact City Hall at 842-5803.

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