

# Shorelines

City of Ferrysburg 408 Fifth Street P.O. Box 38 Ferrysburg, MI 49409 Spring 2009

## **Trash to Treasure Day:** (Saturday May 2, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

The city will sponsor a garage sale which will be promoted as “Trash to Treasure Day”. This voluntary, free event is open to all Ferrysburg residents. Participants can display their items for sale on front lawns and driveways from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All residents participating in this event may register their house with the City. A map with house locations will be available on the city’s website or at City Hall. Residents may register their home by contacting City Hall at 842-5803. The deadline for registration is Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Spring Residential Trash Pick Up is Saturday, May 16**

This year’s City-wide one-day residential trash pick up for City residents will be on Saturday, May 16. 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 **May 16**.

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 May 16.

## **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 Service Technician can enter the premises to inspect the meters and make necessary repairs. Residents are also asked to keep bushes trimmed near their outside water meter remote. This will allow the Public Service Technician to read the outside water meter remote quicker and more efficiently.

## **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**

Your 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee is working hard to make this year’s parade the best and most patriotic yet. We would love to have residents join us dressed as patriots, presidents, or other historic American figures to help recognize this day.

The Parade will begin lining up in the parking lot at the former Ferrysburg Elementary School and will travel down Ridge Avenue to Pine Street to Wm. Ferry Park. Following the parade there will be festivities and games at the park, after the flag raising ceremony.

The Parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 4. If interested in participating please contact City Hall so you can be placed in the parade lineup. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 842-5803.

## **Boards & Commissions**

There are vacancies in our various Boards and Commissions. If you are interested in serving on one of these Boards or Commissions, contact City Clerk Debbie Wierenga at 842-5803.

### **2009 Street Project**

On March 2, the City Council received a presentation on the 2009 street program. The total project is expected to cost \$450,000. Streets in the Repair Program include:

Hiawatha Drive from Mohawk to Navaho  
Thornapple Lane from West Spring Lake Road to end  
Fifth Street from 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Maple Street  
Beech Street from Fifth Street to Third Street  
Maple Street from City Hall to Third Street  
Peppermill Court from cul-de-sac to cul-de-sac  
Hazel Street from Ridge Avenue to the north end of Lavinia Street  
Maryland Court  
Malta Court

Since 1995 the City has allocated a portion of City property tax revenue to repair City streets. In 2010, Parkwood Drive from North Shore Road to Mohawk will be repaired. The City will receive a Federal grant of \$328,000 to help fund this repair project.

### **Code Enforcement**

The City has ordinances to keep blight from entering neighborhoods. Blight can lower property values, and make the community less desirable for those who live and work in the City. These ordinances cover items such as weeds or grass, trash containers, inoperable vehicles, and the storage of junk or debris on property. Code enforcement is a proactive way to produce favorable results on behalf of the community. Ordinance requirements can be found on our web site or by contacting City Hall.

### **Summer Concert Series**

The City Council has approved sponsoring two concerts in Coast Guard Park this summer. The dates are Wednesday, June 24 and Wednesday, August 5, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The City of Ferrysburg is working with the Grand Haven Area Arts Council to provide these concerts at no charge. Bring a chair and listen to the bands as they perform near the pavilion at Coast Guard Park.

### **Reminders**

- The burning of leaves, yard waste, trash, brush and building materials in Ferrysburg is prohibited.
- If you are having a garage sale or a yard sale, please remember that these signs are permitted on the premise on which such sale is being conducted and one (1) sign is permitted off premises on a private parcel on the nearest cross street. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall.
- Picnic shelters at William Ferry Park and Coast Guard Park are available to Ferrysburg residents and the public on a first come, first served basis. The City does not take reservations for these facilities.
- Compost material for your lawn or garden is available to residents for pick up at the Public Services Garage.

### **Police Department**

In 2008, overall crime decreased by 13 percent and is at a five year low. The solution rate for solving crime was 87%. The highest accident location in the City of Ferrysburg was US-31 and VanWagoner Road. The Spring Lake/Ferrysburg Police Department conducts residential property checks for residents who are out of town. If you would like the Police Department to check your property when on vacation, please call 842-1889.

### **Marathon**

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, runners will compete in a 26-mile marathon. The course will begin near Old Boys Brewhouse and will continue through the City of Ferrysburg to the north pier. The course then travels back through the South Holiday Hills area, Wildwood Springs, south on 174<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Ridge Avenue to the West Spring Lake Road bike path. The marathon race course will travel through the City of Ferrysburg, Village of Spring Lake, Spring Lake Township, Fruitport Township and the Village of Fruitport. Residents are encouraged to watch and cheer the runners on!

### **City Hall hours**

City Hall hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. City Hall staff wants to be available for residents so we are reviewing the possibility of expanding the hours that we are open. If longer operating hours would benefit you, please email us at [info@ferrysburg.org](mailto:info@ferrysburg.org) with what hours of operation would be most beneficial to you.

### **West Spring Lake Road**

From the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the City of Ferrysburg will receive \$200,000 from the stimulus package for infrastructure improvements. City Council has approved using these funds to improve the third and final phase of West Spring Lake Road from Smith's Bridge to Bayberry Drive. The project will include removing the existing asphalt, new curb and gutter, and new pavement. The project will include new street lights as part of the project. The project is expected to begin in early fall.

### **Blue Piping**

In the 70's and early 80's, many homes were connected to the City water system with polybutylene piping (blue pipe). Over time, this pipe has been known to leak and give trouble. Property owners are responsible for water lines beginning at the street right-of-way. Homeowners may wish to have their plumbing inspected to determine if you have polybutylene piping installed in your home.

### **Parking of vehicles, recreational vehicles, boats and trailers**

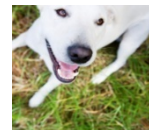
Residents are reminded that the Zoning Ordinance restricts parking of vehicles to the driveway, carport or garage. Also, parking in any right of way is prohibited. The placement of recreational vehicles, boats and trailers are regulated to a side yard (a minimum of ten (10) feet from the side property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

### **2009 Coast Guard Birthday Picnic**

The Ferrysburg City Council will host the 2009 Coast Guard Birthday Picnic on Saturday, July 18 at Coast Guard Park. Food, fun and a birthday cake will be part of this community picnic. Please join us as we celebrate and say "Thank You" to the United States Coast Guard. For more information, please call City Hall at 842-5803.

### **Why We Put Dog Poo in Plastic Baggies!**

Did you know that pet waste has bacteria that can make our streams and lakes unsafe for swimming? Pet waste left on sidewalks, streets, or yards can be washed into storm drains, which flow directly to our streams and lakes. Water with high concentrations of bacteria can cause human illness.



**Prompt and Proper Disposal:** Dispose of your pet's waste by double wrapping it in a plastic bag and throwing it in the garbage.

**Avoid Feeding Waterfowl:** Watch and enjoy the ducks and geese but avoid feeding them. Feeding these waterfowl is bad for them and can cause unnaturally high populations, which creates more animal waste. Like pet waste, waterfowl waste contributes pollutants to our streams and lakes.

## **Ottawa County Breathes Life into Broadband Dead Zones**

A high-speed, fully-mobile wireless broadband network is now available in Ottawa County. The countywide network is the result of a public-private partnership between Ottawa County and iPCS Wireless Inc. The completed wireless network provides fully-mobile broadband Internet access to more than 95% of the County's population. Although the wireless signal cannot reach every household in the County, it does provide a broadband option to many residents of Ottawa County who previously had no broadband access.

The deployment of the broadband network was funded entirely by iPCS Wireless Inc., a Midwest-based communications company offering Sprint products and services. The company used an Evolution Data Optimized (EVDO) wireless broadband technology that has the capability to provide continuous high-speed wireless Internet access, even when traveling at freeway speeds. Subscribers to the network can access high-speed Internet from any place in the nation where Sprint provides wireless EVDO coverage, including Hawaii.

If you are one of those residents of Ottawa County who does not have broadband access, or if you are interested in experiencing the capabilities of EVDO, please stop by the Ferrysburg City Offices between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 22, 2009** for an EVDO Open House. Attendees will be able to test the EVDO wireless broadband technology using desktop and laptop computers and try-out optional broadband equipment such as booster antennas that can increase signal strength and WiFi "hot spot" routers. Attendees can also sign-up for the EVDO service and have 30 days to test the broadband network at their home or business. If a subscriber is not satisfied with the broadband service within 30-days after activation, they will receive a 100% refund of any activation, equipment, and service fees.

The cost for the broadband service is \$59.99 (per month) for an unlimited use plan. All residents and business owners of Ottawa County that subscribe to the service will receive a maximum instant rebate of \$200 on the cost to purchase a data access card (i.e. 'Aircard') that is plugged into a laptop or desktop computer. Ottawa County residents will also receive an additional 20% instant discount on optional broadband equipment (e.g. booster antennas and WiFi routers).

Please contact City Hall (616-842-5803) or the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department (616-738-4852) if you should have any questions about the EVDO Open House or the EVDO network in general.

## **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, hydraulic fluids, and radiator fluid. Even small quantities can contaminate water supplies and harm fish and wildlife.

### **Motor Oil Disposal**

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



### **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.

## Healthy Lawns and Gardens

Healthy lawn and garden practices can save homeowners time and money and promote a beautiful landscape. You can help prevent pollution of nearby streams and lakes by following these healthy lawn and garden tips.

1. Select native plants suited for the site and climate conditions.
2. Mow your grass at a high setting and leave the grass clippings on the lawn.
3. Mix grass clippings with leaves and soil to make a backyard compost pile.
4. Use mulch (shredded leaves, grass clippings, or compost) to control weeds, retain moisture, and build fertile soils.
5. Reduce the use of insecticides, herbicides, and other chemicals on your lawn or garden.
6. Select a no-phosphorus or low-phosphorus fertilizer.



## Do you have a Septic System?



A typical septic system has four main components: a pipe from the home, a septic tank, a drainfield, and the soil. The tank holds wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle out. The remaining liquid exits the tank into the drainfield. Microbes in the soil will digest or remove most contaminants from the wastewater before it eventually reaches groundwater.

If properly maintained, your septic system can provide long-term, effective treatment of household wastewater. If your septic system isn't maintained, you might need to replace it, costing you thousands of dollars.

To prevent septic system failures, hire a professional to pump out your septic system **every three to five years**. Local professionals and licensed contractors can be found in the Yellow Pages under the heading "Septic Tank & Systems-Cleaning."

**Brush Chipping**

In April the City Public Services Crew will start chipping brush once a month on the **second full week**, streets west of US-31; on the **third full week**, streets east of US-31. Brush must be stacked all in the same direction. There is a 30 minute time limit at each stop. Generally, crews can chip in 30 minutes what you can stack in 30 minutes.

**Leave Pick-Up**

The City of Ferrysburg does not have a Spring street edge leaves pick up. Residents with leaves in **paper bags only** may drop them off at the West side of the Public Services Garage behind City Hall. Paper bags are available at City Hall for \$.40 a piece. Thank you for you cooperation.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:30 p.m.  
Planning Commission meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Zoning Board of Appeals meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Beautification Commission meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m.  
Recreation Commission meets as needed.  
Kitchel-Lindquist Commission meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

City of Ferrysburg  
408 Fifth Street  
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Fax: (616) 844-0200  
E-mail: [info@ferrysburg.org](mailto:info@ferrysburg.org)  
Website: [www.ferrysburg.org](http://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 Ruiten	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

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