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 address with the City allowing it to be placed on a map which will be available on the City’s website or for pickup at City Hall. The City will also publish the event in area newspapers. Residents may register their home by contacting City Hall at 842-5803. The deadline to register your address with the City is Monday, April 27.

Spring Residential Trash Pick Up is Saturday, May 16
This year’s City-wide one-day residential trash pickup for City residents will be on Saturday, May 16. This is a one-day, one pickup event. Pickup 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 RMS Disposal will pick up: trash in bags, boxes, or small containers; a maximum of two (2) appliances per residence. Appliances containing Freon must have a sticker certifying the coolant was evacuated by a certified technician. 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.

Parking of vehicles and recreational vehicles
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 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.

4th of July Parade
The 4th of July Parade is a great way to celebrate our nation’s independence. Begin the day with “Breakfast with the Mayor” at City Hall from 8:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. The parade will begin at Ferrysburg City Hall at 10:30 a.m. and will end at Wm. Ferry Park where there will be a flag raising ceremony, music, games and food. If you would like to participate in the parade or would like to volunteer to help with the parade or events at Wm. Ferry Park, please contact City Hall at 616-842-5803.

Coast Guard Festival Community Picnic
The City of Ferrysburg will host the Coast Guard Festival Community Picnic on Sunday, July 26, from 1PM to 4PM. The event is open to all citizens and is a time to thank those that serve in the United States Coast Guard. There will be food available for purchase, games and music.

Baby Wipes
Companies advertise baby wipes and other similar products as bio-degradable, however, this does not happen instantly. When flushed into the sanitary sewer system these products get caught in the pumps operating the sewer system which cause them to plug and stop working. If the pumps fail, this may cause the sewer system to backup. We are asking your assistance and not flush baby wipes or other similar products into the sanitary sewer system.

Community Garden
2014 was the inaugural year for the Ferrysburg Community Garden and those using the garden had a successful growing season. The garden is located on the Ferrysburg City Hall property, dirt and water is provided. Those using the garden are responsible for bringing their own gardening tools. If interested in reserving a plot, please contact City Hall.

FEMA
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is preparing the Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study and is in the process of incorporating the results into the National Flood Insurance program. The draft study shows in some areas of the City, the flood zone extending further inland. Questions regarding this study may be directed to Ken Hinterlong, FEMA Region V Senior Engineer at ken.hinterlong@fema.dhs.gov.

Bill Pay Options
The City offers auto-pay for taxes and water/sewer bills. To sign up for auto-pay, contact City Hall at 842-5803.
**Dog Park**

In 2014, a section of the dog park was fenced for small dogs. When at the Dog Park, please limit the area for small dogs to those dogs less than 25 pounds in weight.

**North Shore Road**

In 2014, the reconstruction of the west end of North Shore Road began in late fall. Unfortunately, the weather forced the project to close down before the project was completed. The contractor will return this spring to install the final layer of pavement and to finish work on the non-motorized path.

In late spring, the east end of North Shore Road is scheduled to be reconstructed. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), on the City’s behalf, will award the construction contract for the North Shore Road Project, east end, in early spring. Construction will begin in late April or early May and it is expected to take eight (8) weeks to complete the street project.

The project limits are from Coast Guard Park to 174th Avenue. The project will include removal of the existing asphalt street, rebuilding the street subbase and base, installation of concrete curb and gutter, and new asphalt pavement and storm drain work. In addition a non-motorized path will be constructed on the north side of the street.

Moore and Bruggink engineers are providing construction oversight and inspection services for these projects. The estimated cost of these projects is $1.1 million. The street project is being funded with a $400,000 MDOT grant. The non-motorized path is being funded from the Non-motorized millage.

**Beautification Commission**

The Commission oversees the 4th of July Parade, Monster Bash, Carol Sing, banners, and flower plantings with the City. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the 4th of July Parade, or interested in joining this committee, please contact City Hall at 842-5803.

**Trash Containers**

As a reminder, please do not place garbage, trash, and/or recyclable material bags, containers, bins or boxes to remain in any front yard or in the non-traveled portion of any street right of way prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day before the schedule collection day or leave these items in any front yard or in the non-traveled portion of any street right-of-way after 7:00 p.m. on the scheduled collection day established by the collector.

**Fire Department**

Firefighters wanted: Did you know firefighters get paid? Have you wondered what is involved to become a firefighter, or how much time is required? On Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., the Department will have an informational question and answer meeting for residents to answer these questions and any other questions you may have. Personnel from the Fire Department will give a brief overview of the fire department, its operations and the training requirements. A station and equipment tour will also be included. The meeting will be at the Fire Station located at North Shore Road & 174th Avenue and is expected to last one hour and no reservation is required.

**Reminders**

- If you are having a garage sale or a yard sale, please remember a sign is permitted on the premise of which the 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 serve basis. The City does not take reservations for these facilities.

**Congratulations**

Public Services Supervisor George Dunning celebrated his 40th anniversary with the City this year. The City of Ferrysburg has benefited from the work and dedication Mr. Dunning has provided to the City. THANK YOU Mr. Dunning for all you have done and still do for this City.

**Exciting News For Harbor Transit Riders**

- Would you like to know 10 minutes before the bus comes to pick you up?
- Would it be nice to know the bus number that you will be riding on?
- Would you appreciate knowing the approximate amount of time it will take before the bus arrives?

If you answered yes, yes, and yes, then you will be pleased to learn that our new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System will do just that, once it is up and running. Our new automated system will allow us to call you just minutes before the bus arrives, meaning you will no longer have to keep looking out the window watching for the bus. You will know the bus number picking you up which will help avoid any mix-up or confusion. We will be able to tell you with greater accuracy how long it will take between the time you call for a ride and when the bus arrives to pick you up.

Better service, quicker response, and greater accountability - because our riders are the primary reason Harbor Transit is here.

In order to take full advantage of our new CAD system we need riders to fill out a Rider Profile Form and return it to Harbor Transit as soon as possible. Your confidential information will allow us to better serve your transportation needs and help to improve our overall performance. If you already filled one out “Thank You” - if not a driver may be asking you to do so the next time you are on board. We look forward to having the new system go live around the first of May.
The Pollution of Stormwater Runoff: Some Causes and Responses (Courtesy of SDA News Letter)

What is NPS Pollution?
Nonpoint source water pollution (“NPS”) – polluted runoff – results when precipitation interacts with pollutants to carry them over the surface of the ground or leach them into the ground water. Because storm drains are not connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants, debris and pollutants are carried directly into rivers, lakes and streams.

NPS pollution can have a variety of impacts on the services provided by special districts, including increased water treatment costs, harm to recreational activities such as swimming and fishing and increased costs to maintain storm drainage systems clogged by debris and sedimentation.

NPS pollution cannot easily be “turned off” by technology. Rather, people must change their habits and practices that affect the quality of our water. The key to controlling NPS pollution is prevention.

Causes of NPS Pollution
NPS pollution comes from sources both large and small: agricultural operations (livestock and crop farming), resource extraction, highway/road runoff, and construction runoff (debris and erosion/sedimentation), as well as common residential sources such as pet wastes, lawn care and car washing.

A 2005 report by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation found that 78% of the American public does not understand that runoff from agricultural lands, roads, and lawns is now the most common source of water pollution; nearly half of Americans (47%) believes that industry still accounts for most water pollution.

Non man-made factors also contribute to the problem. For example, Colorado’s devastating 2002 wildfire season resulted in massive amounts of fire debris and soil from the subsequent erosion entering the water supply system for the Denver-metro area. All this is exacerbated by the recent drought which reduces dilutional flows thereby increases the concentration of harmful chemicals.

Residential Level Issues
Sources of residential NPS pollution include: Lawn and Garden Care
Pet Waste Management Motor Vehicle Care
Household Chemical and Waste Disposal Septic System Care

The top three items in the list have the most significant impact in urban and suburban areas.

Lawn Care
Lawn care and landscaping occur in all parts of the country, in all types of climates, and in every type of community. Homeowners tend an estimated 40 million acres of turf. If classified as a crop, lawns would rank as the fifth largest in the country on the basis of area after corn, soybeans, wheat and hay.

Lawns produce significant amounts of nutrient-rich runoff which research shows can potentially cause eutrophication in streams, lakes, and estuaries, and pesticide runoff can contaminate drinking water supplies with chemicals toxic to both humans and aquatic organisms. Despite this, few residents consider lawn fertilizer, pesticides and yard clippings and leaves as causes of water quality problems.

In 2004, American’s homeowners spent $36.8 billion on lawn and garden maintenance. The public’s desire for a green lawn is probably the biggest impediment to limiting pollution from this source.

Pet Wastes
When pet waste is improperly disposed of, it can be picked up by Stormwater runoff and washed into storm drains and nearby waterbodies. Decaying pet wastes can alter water chemistry resulting in damage to the health of fish and other aquatic life, plus it may carry bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can make swimming and other recreation unhealthy.

Pet waste should either be sealed securely in a plastic bag before placing it out for your trash collection or flushed down the toilet where it can be treated before being released in discharge water. Since there are pet owners in all communities, public education on proper pet waste disposal can be very successful. Many communities implement programs by posting signs and plastic bag dispensers in pet-frequented areas to encourage owners to pick-up after their pets.

On a related topic, thirty-three percent of Colorado households are on a septic system. Leaks or overflow from these systems can leach pollutants into groundwater and are also a source of NPS water pollution.

Residential Car Washing and Maintenance
Car washing is a common routine for residents and a popular way for scout troops, schools and sports teams to raise funds. Outdoor car washing uses detergent-rich water that flows down the street and into the storm drain. According to surveys, 55-70% of households wash their own cars, with the remainder going to commercial car washes. Sixty percent of residents could be classified as “chronic car washers” who wash their cars at least once a month. Residents are typically not aware of the water quality consequences of car washing and do not understand the chemical content of the soaps and detergents they use.

Car washing is a difficult behavior to change since it is often hard to define a better alternative. Some best management practices in this area include using a commercial car wash, washing cars on permeable surfaces, using hoses with automatic shut-off nozzles and using biodegradable soaps. Similarly, disposing of used motor oil, antifreeze and other automotive by-products down storm drains contributes to water pollution.
**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. Paper bags are available at City Hall for $.40 each. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Fireworks**
In 2013, City Council adopted an ordinance which prohibits the use of fireworks in the City except as permitted by State law. Fireworks would be allowed on the day before, the day of, and the day after any of the ten (10) holidays listed in the ordinance, and also on the first Saturday in August each year (Coast Guard Festival). The ordinance prohibits the use of fireworks on the days listed above between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. If you have questions regarding the ordinance, please contact City Hall.

**Lubbers Cup**
On Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12 the 19th Annual Lubbers Cup Regatta will take place on Spring Lake, beginning at the Spring Lake Yacht Club in the City of Ferrysburg. Grand Valley State University is the host University. Men’s competitors will include rowers from Grand Valley State University, Northwestern University, Robert Morris University, Illinois, Michigan, Michigan State, Purdue, Cincinnati and Notre Dame. Women’s competitors will include rowers from Grand Valley State University, Drake, Illinois, Eastern Michigan, Purdue, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. The public is invited to watch the Regatta from the Spring Lake Yacht Club or other locations around Spring Lake. Smith’s Bridge will be closed to fisherman during this event.

**Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve**
On Saturday, April 25, the Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve Board has scheduled a cleanup day at the Dunes Preserve beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Dunes Preserve Board asks volunteers to gather at the preserve’s main parking lot on Berwyck Street just east of North Shore Drive. Volunteers are asked to wear gloves and appropriate clothing for weather conditions. The day’s work will focus on the cleanup of the Connie Lindquist Trail, Harold Hartger Trail, and Marjorie Hendricks Trail. The board will provide trash bags for volunteers, who will be divided into crews to work in different sections of the preserve. Coffee and donuts will be available at 9 a.m.

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