Fire Prevention Week
Fire Prevention week is October 7 through October 11. 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.

Fire Barn Park
With the generous donations of many residents and businesses, funds were raised to install new playground equipment at Fire Barn Park. The installation will be a Community Build, whereas volunteers from the community will install and put together the equipment. The Community Build will take place on Wednesday, October 2 and continue through Saturday, October 5, from 8AM to 4PM. All volunteers are welcome, if interested contact City Hall at 842-5803 of just show up ready to work.

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, November 11, 18 and 25
All City Residents east of 168th Avenue and north of Spring Lake.

Area 2: Tuesday, November 12, 19 and 26
All City residents east of 174th Ave, north of Ridge Ave and west of 168th Avenue.

Area 3: Wednesday, November 13, 20 and 27
All City residents north of North Shore Road and West of 174th Avenue.

Area 4: Thursday, November 14, 21 and 27
All City residents south of North Shore Road to the City limits, south of Ridge Avenue and west of Spring Lake.

Fire Hydrants
If you live near a fire hydrant, we ask that you "adopt a fire hydrant" and keep snow shoveled away from it during the winter season. Doing so will save valuable time when the use of the hydrant is needed.

General Election: Tuesday, November 5
The City General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. with voting taking place at Ferrysburg City Hall, 17290 Roosevelt Road. The terms of Mayor and three (3) City Council members expire in November. Mayor Rebecca Hopp is running unopposed for Mayor. There are three open seats for City Council and Incumbent Council Member Tim O’Donnell is seeking another term and William Montgomery is running for an open seat on City Council. A resident can run as a write-in candidate by Filing a Declaration of Intent with the City Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on October 25, 2019. As a reminder, with the passage of the statewide ballot proposal 18-3, all eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason. Your request for an absent voter ballot must be in writing and can be submitted to the City Clerk.

Charter Amendment
On the November 5, 2019 ballot, there will be a proposal to amend the City Charter to increase the compensation of the Mayor and City Council Members. The proposal would increase the compensation of the Mayor to $1,250 per year, up from the current annual amount of $1,000. The compensation of City Council Members would increase to $1,000 per year, up from the current annual amount of $750. The last time the compensation was increased for Mayor and City Council Members was in 2001.
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.

Motorists 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.

Recreational Fires
For a complete list of all regulations regarding recreational fires contact Ferrysburg City Hall or visit our website at www.ferrysburg.org City Code Chapter 92.

Opportunities
There are openings on the City’s various Boards and Commissions. Positions are available on the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Commission, the Kitchel-Lindquist-Hargter Dunes Preserve Board, the Recreation Commission, the Beautification Commission, the Construction Board of Appeals, and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. If you would like more information or would be interested in applying, contact City Clerk Debbie Wierenga at 842-5803.

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.

Carol Sing
The annual Carol Sing is scheduled on Saturday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m., at Wm. Ferry Park. The Ferrysburg Fire Department will deliver Santa Claus to the park where he will give out candy canes. The Fire Department will start a bonfire and Christmas carols will be sung. Pine Street Café will provide hot chocolate and Leppink’s will provide donut holes.

Prescription Drug Disposal
The Ottawa County Sheriff’s Department aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse and medications. There is a drug collection box at the Spring Lake Township Fire Station/Ottawa County Sheriff’s Branch Office located at 106 North Fruitport Road. Any liquids or sharp items are not permitted. Those living in Ferrysburg are urged to use the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Spring Lake Branch drop off.

Bathroom Exhaust Fans
The fans are great at preventing steamed up mirrors, damp walls and fogged windows. The fans are also used to remove odors. However, they are also a fire hazard. Exhaust fans over time, build up lint that insulates the motor, exacerbating the heat build-up; the lint provides an easy-to-ignite fuel source which in turn ignites nearby combustible building materials. The buildup of lint within these fans, and on the fan motor, can create a potential fire hazard. It is recommended that all bathroom exhaust fans be inspected and cleaned regularly. Fans are not easily accessible for regular cleaning, appear to have heat damage or do not turn freely should be replaced with thermally protected units. Avoid prolong use and ensure the fan is turned off prior to leaving home.
Smith’s Bridge
Smith’s Bridge was constructed in 1972 by the Ottawa County Road Commission and is 447 feet in length. In 1985, the City took ownership of the bridge. In 1989, the bridge was rehabilitated with new joint seals, new waterproof membrane and new asphalt. In 2008, the bridge was rehabilitated with new joint seals, new waterproof membrane and new asphalt. Routine maintenance was done on the bridge between those dates and continued after 2008.

The City is required to have an underwater inspection done on the bridge every five (5) years and a site inspection every two (2) years. In 2016, the inspection report recommended the City begin planning to replace the bridge. Since that time, the bridge has deteriorated faster than anticipated and in June 2019, the bridge was closed due to safety concerns. A number of residents raised $1,200 to have another engineering firm inspect the bridge. This report was discussed at a Public Forum on September 10.

Payments
The City of Ferrysburg will only accept the U.S. Postal Service postmark when determining if a payment is received on time. Postage meter, pre-stamped envelopes, and those without a postmark will be considered late payments when received after the due date. The City offers an automatic payment program, a drop box at City Hall, and payments can be made at Fifth/Third Bank in Ferrysburg. You may obtain our Automatic Payment form on our website at www.ferrysburg.org or contact us at 616-842-5803 for further information.

Ridge Avenue Bridge
This bridge is owned by the City and by MDOT. The City is responsible for the section of bridge that crosses the Mid-Michigan Railroad, while MDOT is responsible for the section that crosses US-31. The bridge was constructed in 1987 and both sections of this bridge were last rehabilitated in 2013.

Stormwater
Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snowmelt that flows over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved roads, parking lots or building rooftops, that does not soak into the ground. Stormwater flows into drains that take it directly to nearby lakes, rivers and streams. Stormwater is NOT treated before it reaches our waterways. Therefore, managing stormwater on your property can help prevent pollution from reaching our drinking water supplies, and keep your foundation and basement dry.

Ways you can Manage Stormwater at Home
Do not put anything in a storm drain. Wash your car at the commercial car wash or on the grass. (NOT on the driveway where water flows into a storm drain!) Keep storm drains clear of debris and trash. Use phosphorus free fertilizer. (or don't use any) Shovel snow first & salt second (or not at all). Pick up and dispose of pet waste. Use practices that capture, slow, and absorb runoff such as Rain Barrels, Native Plants, Rain, Gardens, and Trees.

What can we do?
We can protect our drinking water supply by mimicking nature, and allowing stormwater to infiltrate or sink slowly into the soil rather than running into catch basins or storm sewers. Native plants have long root systems that help soak up runoff, and look great in your yard!

Be a Good Steward!
Dispose of waste properly. Use chemicals, pesticides, and always use phosphorus free fertilizers sparingly and according to the directions on the package. Never dump anything into catch basins. They connect directly to lakes and rivers!

Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve
The City of Ferrysburg owns the 115-acre Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve located at 20001 Berwyck Street. For the fourth consecutive year, the Board has hired an intern to oversee trail maintenance, hosting invasive species pulls and many other tasks.

At the Kitchel-Lindquist-Hartger Dunes Preserve, Eagle Scout Candidate Lance Mabrito has completed his Eagle Scout project which was replacing the boardwalk from the Mary S. Kitchel Outdoor Classroom to the trail head of the Connie Lindquist Trail. Lance’s brother Eagle Scout Candidate Arnold Mabrito will begin his Eagle Scout project next month. For Arnold’s project he will repair sections of ceiling in the Mary S. Kitchel Outdoor Classroom Building. The City is grateful for Lance and Arnold selecting the Kitchel-Lindquist Hartger Dunes Preserve for their Eagle Scout Projects.
North Shore Drive Project
The contract to repave North Shore Drive and Piney Point has been awarded to Milbocker & Sons. The contractor’s schedule will include retaining wall work this fall with street construction beginning in early spring. The project is expected to be completed by mid-July.

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 and carbon monoxide detector? Is your smoke detector and carbon monoxide 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.

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.

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) 215-1595
Police Services 1-800-249-0911 (non-emergency)

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

City Council
Term expires Nov. 2019:    Term expires Nov. 2021:
Rebecca Hopp, Mayor       Michael DeWitt
Timothy O’Donnell                Scott Blease
J. Patrick Twa       Richard Carlson
Kathleen Kennedy

City Staff
City Manager   Craig Bessinger
Clerk/Treasurer    Debbie Wierenga
Public Serv. Supt. Matt Schindlbeck
Public Serv. Tech. Tom Miller
Public Serv. Tech. Len VanderJagt
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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