During this time of need; we are here for you. Know that our city has been working especially hard to help make sure that the residents have what they need right now. In addition to putting together coronavirus resources, the City has been working on a variety of projects lately, including budgeting for the upcoming fiscal year, the reopening of Smith’s Bridge and the applications for grants to help repair the structure. We also have recently completed our recreation plan for the next five years which is available on the website. This plan outlines all of the steps that we will be working towards to improve our parks in the upcoming years. There are some exciting projects in there, especially focusing on increasing accessibility and equity for the park system and increasing the opportunities available on our public waterways.

One of our biggest projects lately has been the development of a strategic plan that will help to guide the city for the upcoming year. This plan includes goals such as improving the fiscal health of the city, finding new opportunities for economic development, improving city facilities and public spaces, increasing community engagement, and succession planning. We have also worked with council to identify mission, vision, and values statements to guide our work. The plan is still in draft stages, but is available on the website if you’d like to see it.

Speaking of succession planning, there are some changes coming to city staff in the future. Mary Jane retired back in November, and we welcomed Jessie to the City. She will be working in utility billing, and if you come in to City Hall, you will likely meet her in reception! In this issue of our spring newsletter, there are coronavirus resources listed, upcoming community events, tips for spring cleaning, reminders of ordinances, and information about how you can help make your voice heard in the community. At least until the end of April, all community meetings are cancelled, however you may still contact staff or council with any urgent matters! Interested in hearing more from us? We are also including a way to sign up for future newsletters.
“STAY HOME, STAY SAFE” EXECUTIVE ORDER IS EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL 30TH.

The Stay Home Stay Safe Executive Order has recently been lifted for many organizations and gatherings are now allowed for groups of up to 100 people. However, certain businesses are still closed, such as gyms, salons, theatres, and other close-contact places. Have questions? Please see the Frequently Asked Questions or read the text of the bill at Michigan.gov’s website. You can also call the Coronavirus hotline with questions.

The Governor’s Executive Order is being enforced statewide by local law enforcement. To report violations, send an email to StayHomeStaySafeComplaints@miottawa.org. Include the date/time, business name, address, and description of the violation you believe is occurring. Emails submitted will be reviewed by an officer and evaluated to determine appropriate action. Remember: 911 is for emergency calls ONLY.
Upcoming Community Events

AN EVENT UPDATE
Dear Residents,
Like many of you, we too hope that an end to the coronavirus crisis is coming soon, and a return to our normal spring and summer events. At this time, however, many of these dates are up in the air and unsure. All dates and events are subject to changes at this time. While we certainly hope to continue to hold these events, outside circumstances may make it impossible to do so. Please check our website, ferrysburg.org, as well as our Facebook page, City of Ferrysburg, MI Government) or call City Hall for the most up to date information. As of right now, all of our normal spring and summer events have been cancelled except for the spring trash pick up, but be on the lookout for ways to participate virtually!

Spring

SPRING RESIDENTIAL TRASH PICK UP
Saturday June 20th, 7 AM
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 Republic Services 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 pickup on May 16.
**LEAF PICK-UP**

The City of Ferrysburg does not have a Spring street edge leaf 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 $0.40 each. Thank you for your cooperation.

**BRUSH CHIPPING**

Brush chipping will take place in the months of April, June, August, and October. During these months, brush chipping will take place 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 chip in 30 minutes what you can stack in 30 minutes. DPW crews will pick up brush after storms.

**GREENING YOUR SPRING CLEANING**

As you’re cleaning up your home and yard this spring, take special care to dispose of household hazardous wastes appropriately so that you protect people’s health and the environment. Products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides can contain hazardous ingredients and require special care when you dispose of them.

What is a household hazardous waste? A product is considered hazardous if it has one or more of the following properties:

- Toxic - poisonous or lethal when ingested, touched or inhaled
- Flammable - ignitable and burns easily
- Corrosive - eats through materials & living tissue
- Reactive - can possibly explode or react with other chemicals

Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases putting them out with the regular trash. The dangers of such disposal methods might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health. Certain types of household hazardous waste have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers or to contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets. They can also present hazards to children and pets if left around the house. Storm sewers lead directly to surface waters without being treated, so dumping waste in storm drains polutes nearby creeks, rivers and lakes.

As you’re cleaning up this spring, make sure any household hazardous wastes are safely disposed of according to your community’s guidelines. To find out how and where to dispose of household hazardous waste, visit [www.LGROW.org/disposal](http://www.LGROW.org/disposal). Better yet, swap out chemicals when possible for all-natural cleaning supplies. To find products that are safer for people and the environment, check out [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice). By safely disposing of household hazardous waste, you are doing your part to “Keep your Lakes Great and your River Grand”!

**BLUE WATER PIPING**

In the 1970s and 1980s, many homes were connected to the City water system with polybutylene piping (blue pipe). Over time, this type of pipe has been known to leak and give trouble. Property owners are responsible for water lines beginning at the street right-of-way. If you have this type of water pipe leading into your home or in your house, you may wish to consider replacing this polybutylene piping.

**REMINDERS**

Avoid placing grass clippings on the street. This keeps grass clippings out of the City’s storm sewer system. The burning of leaves, yard waste, trash, brush, and building materials in Ferrysburg is prohibited.
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 from our website at www.ferrysburg.org or contact us at 616-842-5803.

BILL PAY OPTIONS
The City offers auto-pay for taxes and water/sewer bills. To sign up for autopay, contact City Hall at 616-842-5803. The option to make payments or pay ahead is also available for water/sewer bills.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES
The City of Ferrysburg has partnered with the City of Grand Haven in the Neighborhood Housing Services Collaboration. Ferrysburg residents have available to them educational services, which are foreclosure prevention, homebuyer education, pre-purchase counseling and one on one financial education. Ferrysburg residents also have access to the Neighborhood Impact Program which allows income eligible homeowners to receive up to $7,500 in eligible home repairs. To access these services, please contact Neighborhood Housing Services at 616-935-3270.

INSURANCE
Recently the Insurance Services Office (ISO) conducted a Public Protection Classification survey on how fire protection is provided to the City. After their review, ISO concluded that the City’s Fire Protection rating improved to a Class 04. Previously the City was rated a Class 05. This information plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. This new rating will be effective June 1, 2020. Congratulations to the Fire Department for their work to improve the City’s Public Protection Classification.

PARKING OF 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.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND TRAILERS
The placement of recreational vehicles and trailers is regulated to a side yard (a minimum of ten (10) feet from the side property line) and the rear yard. Parking in the front yard or driveway is prohibited.

TRASH CONTAINERS
Trash containers and recycling containers placed by the street prior to 6:00 p.m. the day before scheduled pick-up and empty containers left by the street after 7:00 p.m. the day of collection are violations of the City Code.

PICNIC SHELTERS
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.
Your Voice Matters…

REGULAR MEETINGS
CITY COUNCIL
1st and 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM
PLANNING COMMISSION
1st Thursday at 7:00 PM
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM
BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION
2nd Monday at 7:00 PM
RECREATION COMMISSION
3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM
KITCHEL-LINDQUIST HARTGER BOARD
3rd Tuesday at 6:30 PM
OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEET ON AN IRREGULAR SCHEDULE.
TO CONFIRM A SCHEDULED MEETING, CONTACT CITY HALL AT 842-5803.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
Term Expires Nov. 2021:
Rebecca Hopp, Mayor
rhopp@ferrysburg.org
Michael DeWitt
miketricities@gmail.com
Richard Carlson
rcarlson@ferrysburg.org
Scott Blease
sblease@ferrysburg.org

Term Expires Nov. 2023:
Timothy O’Donnell
todonnell@ferrysburg.org
William Montgomery
wmontgomery@ferrysburg.org
Jerry Sias
jsias@ferrysburg.org

CONTACT INFORMATION
PHYSICAL ADDRESS
17290 Roosevelt Rd.
MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 38
Ferrysburg, MI 49409
PHONE
(616) 842-5803
FAX
(616) 844-0200
WEBSITE
www.ferrysburg.org
EMAIL
info@ferrysburg.org
OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 8 AM - 5 PM
POLICE SERVICES (NON-EMERGENCY)
1-800-249-0911
POLICE DEPT. ADMINISTRATION
(616) 215-1595
WATER, SEWER, OR STREET EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS
(800) 249-0911

EMAIL NEWSLETTER
Would you like to receive more regular emails from the City of Ferrysburg? Please fill out this form with your email information, and we will place you on our mailing list. Form is here. You can also scan this QR code to respond:

OPENINGS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
Interested in serving your community on a more permanent basis? Check back in July for new openings on boards and commissions, or contact City Hall to find out what is available now!

CENSUS 2020
Be Counted! The 2020 Census is a simple, 9 question survey for each household to fill out every 10 years. This is a constitutionally required survey, and the information used about the number of people living in your home will be used to determine future number of representatives on a state and federal level, as well as funding for a variety of programs. Take the 10 minutes now for the next 10 years. Go to 2020census.gov to fill yours out today! Have questions? Call the Census Hotline 844-330-2020 for more information!

COUNTY PARK SYSTEM SURVEY
We need your input! The Ottawa County Park System is putting together their five-year recreation plan, and they need your input on the park system. The survey is located at bit.ly/2020-parks-survey or on the Ottawa County Parks Department website. Please fill it out by June 1st!