We hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and safe. The Fire Department’s annual Open House during Fire Prevention Week has been canceled for this year. The Monster Bash will be held Friday October 29th, 6-8 p.m. at City Hall. The Holiday Decoration Contest will take place in December. Nominations will be accepted through Tuesday, December 14th. City Hall lobby is currently open to the public 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Masks are recommended when entering the building. A drop box is located near the entrance to City Hall. To help limit contact with staff, residents are encouraged to use the drop box to make payments, drop off ballots, and for correspondence to City Council or staff. During this pandemic if using the drop box and you would like a receipt, please note on your payment remittance, and provide an email address and we will email you a receipt. For those without access to email, a hard copy of the receipt will be mailed.

**Millage Proposal**

On the November 2, 2021, ballot, there will be a proposal for 1.500 mills to be used for street repairs. The proposed millage request is for five years. The City has over 18 miles of streets and current funding is not adequate for the needed repairs.

In 2020 a Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating Study (PASER) was conducted on all City streets. This schedule rated 6.9 miles of streets as failed to poor. The Public Works Department has put together a list of 2.69 miles of streets to be repaired if the millage is approved by the voters over the five-year period.

**General Election: Tuesday, November 2**

The City General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 2 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. with voting taking place at Ferrysburg City Hall, 17520 Ridge Avenue. The terms of Mayor and three (3) City Council members expire in November. Council Member Scott Blease is running for Mayor and Regina Sjoberg is running for Mayor as a write-in candidate. There are three open seats for City Council. Incumbent Council Member Richard Carlson is seeking another 4-year term. Debbie Murdoch and William Cate are 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 22, 2021.

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.

**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 8, 15 and 22
All City Residents east of 168th Avenue and north of Spring Lake.

**Area 2:** Tuesday, November 9, 16 and 23
All City residents east of 174th Ave, north of Ridge Ave and west of 168th Avenue.

**Area 3:** Wednesday, November 10, 17 and 24
All City residents north of North Shore Road and West of 174th Avenue.

**Area 4:** Thursday, November 11, 18 and Wednesday 24
All City residents south of North Shore Road to the City limits, south of Ridge Avenue and west of Spring Lake.

**Leaves:** Ferrysburg residents may place leaves in paper bags on the west side of the Public Works Building located at 545 Maple. Please do not place material other than leaves in the bags.

**This fall, practice the 3 R’s of Fall Yard Care to help protect water quality in the Lower Grand River Watershed:**
Reduce pollution (Rake) - Raking leaves prevents pollution by keeping them out of storm drains. Storm drains can carry leaves directly to local lakes and rivers, and decomposing leaves contain excessive nutrients that can cause algae blooms and harm our water quality. Leaves can also clog storm drains and cause localized flooding.

Re-use nutrients (Mulch) - However, extra nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are great for lawn fertilizer! Mulch leaves into small pieces using a lawn mower and spread them across your yard.

Recycle yard waste (Compost) - Instead of bagging leaves, compost them to use later in your garden. Mix in grass clippings or other nitrogen rich organic material to balance compost.

If you cannot mulch or compost your leaves, make sure to dispose of them according to your community’s guidelines. Visit www.LGROW.org/disposal to find yard waste disposal information for communities across the Lower Grand River Watershed.
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!

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 and a drop box at City Hall. Payments can also be made online on our website. You may obtain our Automatic Payment form on our website at www.ferrysburg.org under Forms & Information or contact us at 616-842-5803 for further information.

Address Numbers: Time is of the essence when emergency personnel are responding to an incident. The Michigan Residential Building code requires address numbers to be visible from the street and not less than 4 inches in height. Numbers are not to be spelled out. Where the building address cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument or pole shall be used to identify the structure.

Winter: With the heating season coming upon us, now may be a good time to have your furnace or heating appliances checked as well as having fireplace chimneys cleaned and serviced.

Opportunities
There are openings on the City’s various Boards and Commissions. Positions are available on the Zoning Board of Appeals, 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, Jessie Wagenmaker at 842-5803.

Department of Public Works Position Opening:
Part-time, apply online at www.ferrysburg.org or applications are available at City Hall.

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”.

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.

Beautification Commission is inviting your feedback.
Residents can complete the survey online or print and return to City Hall. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5S3JR63F