

City of Fremont

May 2018 Bond Issue

Fremont voters will have the opportunity to consider three City bond issues on the May 2018 ballot. The bonds will fund improvements to the City Auditorium, Keene Memorial Library, and Splash Station. All three issues have received the support from the Parks & Recreation Board, Library Board, and City Council.

<p>The three bond issues:</p> <p>City Auditorium remodel - \$2.0 million City Library expansion - \$2.0 million Splash Station lazy river - \$2.0 million</p>	<p>Estimated cost to tax payer: Estimate based on \$2 million bond at 2% interest for 20 years.</p> <p>\$100,000 home = \$8.52 annually/\$0.71 monthly \$150,000 home = \$12.78 annually/\$1.07 monthly \$200,000 home = \$17.04 annually/\$1.42 monthly</p>
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City Auditorium: The City auditorium was built in 1937 and has been a symbol of the community ever since. The auditorium is an affordable venue for many events throughout the year, in fact over 170 events are held annually in the auditorium. Before the City Council approved moving the project forward, a Needs Assessment and Renovation Study was conducted in October 2015. The study found that the structure is in excellent condition, but that improvements could be made to better meet today's needs of the public.

Improvements include remodeling the kitchen, adding new main floor restrooms, and adding additional meeting room spaces. The cost of these improvements has been estimated at \$3.5 million. To fund the improvements a combination of funding sources will be used including a \$750,000 grant from the state, \$750,000 from City reserves and \$2 million from voter approved bonds.



A public meeting was held at the City auditorium in July 2017 to review some conceptual designs for improvements. Comments received focused on having handicap accessible restrooms, a modern kitchen, more meeting rooms, and electronic capabilities. The public certainly supported keeping the City auditorium.



Keene Memorial Library: The Keene Memorial Library was built almost 50 years ago and, like the City auditorium, needs improvements to better meet the needs of Fremont's citizens.

A 2016 Needs Assessment concluded that the library needs an additional 15,000 sq. ft. to provide modern services to Fremont's growing population. In 2017, the library held

681 programs with nearly 10,000 people attending. In addition, over 300 community meetings were held at the library. The attendance at the library averages 300 individuals each day and continues to grow each and every year.

The Library's expansion will include dedicated space for children, family-friendly meeting rooms, quiet areas for adults, and a computer lab. Other improvements include new handicap accessible restrooms and more parking spaces. The architect, in conjunction with the Friends of Keene Memorial Library, will hold community meetings this spring to receive community input as designs are considered.

The expansion is projected to cost \$8-10 million, with a majority of the funds raised by the Friends of Keene Memorial Library. The bond issue will provide \$2 million to the project. The expansion will be built on adjoining property given specifically to the Library with a stipulation that construction begins by 2020.

Splash Station: Splash Station celebrated its opening day on July 2, 2007. Current features consist of two water slides, a water walk, wave pool, zero depth entry, splash pad, and an interactive train slide. Each year more than 30,000 patrons come to Splash Station and many are out-of-town guests. With visibility from Hwy 275, Splash Station is an enticing draw for families and a great symbol of Fremont's progressiveness.



New features to add to Splash Station are a lazy river and an additional raft slide. The features will cost \$2.6 million. A portion of the funds will come from the \$2 million bond issue and the remaining will come from City reserves. Patrons will be able to access the lazy river from the raft slide or from a separate step-in entry. Spray features along the river will help rafters stay cool as they relax and enjoy the lazy river ride.