

City of Fremont Update

Date: January 3, 2020

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

New Year's Resolution

Some 4,000 years ago, Babylonians rang in their new year with an 11-day festival in March. By 46 B.C., Roman Emperor Julius Caesar had moved the first day of the year to January 1 in honor of the Roman god of beginnings, Janus. Then in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII made January 1st part of the Gregorian calendar – a tradition that persists today.

The origin of making New Year's resolutions started with the Babylonians, who reportedly made promises to the gods in hopes they would earn favor in the coming year. Many of us are still making a New Year's resolution today, although most do not stick with it. One way to stick with your resolution is to share it with others. Here are the five most popular New Year's resolutions:

1. Lose weight
2. Improve
3. Exercise
4. Get a new job
5. Eat healthier

What is your New Year's resolution and what will you do to see that you stick with it?

Tree Chipper/ Grinder in Blair

The tree chipper/grinder made its annual pilgrimage to Blair recently to take care of a rather large pile of tree debris that



had accumulated over the past year. Like Fremont, Blair maintains a common depository for City residents to put tree debris throughout the year.

Fremont and Blair were awarded a grant in 2017 for the purchase of the chipper/grinder. The machine is shared between the two Cities and is transported between Fremont and Blair when requested.

Fremont's wood chips are used for landscaping mulch as well as to aid in our process of turning sludge into compost at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The compost is sold to area farmers to be applied to cropland as soil amendment and organic fertilizer.





FAA Seeking Public Comments on New Tower

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is seeking public comments on a proposed new communications tower approximately 7.34 miles northwest of the Fremont Municipal Airport. The tower was submitted by Dodge County for a radio tower and is proposed to be 338-feet tall. Although the FAA’s study finds the tower exceeds several of the obstruction requirements at the Scribner State Airport, it will not have an adverse effect on arrivals, departures, and en route aircraft flying in, out, or above the Fremont or Scribner Airports.

Public comments will be received until January 17, 2020 at this email address: vee.stewart@faa.gov. Please refer to aeronautical study number: 2019-ACE-7398-OE if you submit a comment.

Annual Occupation Tax Report

Under LB445, enacted by the legislature during the last session and passed into law by Governor Ricketts, municipalities are required to file an annual report on occupational taxes. The report must include the amount of funds collected, how the funds were used, which fund the money is deposited in, and the termination date of the occupation tax, if any. The chart below is a copy of the information included in Fremont’s report.

Fremont Occupation Taxes for Fiscal Year Ending September 2019				
Type of tax	Amount Collected	Deposit Fund	Purpose	Termination Date
Telecommunications	\$235,581.97	General	City operations	None
Garbage/Refuse	\$625,986.96	General	Solid waste operations	None
Hotel	\$269,119.87	General	City operations/tourism	None
Food/beverage	\$648,859.05	General	City operations	None
Liquor	\$44,200.00	General	City operations	None
Cable franchise	\$290,312.35	General	City operations	10/16/2027

The occupation tax report can be found on the City’s website at <https://fremontne.gov/511/Occupation-Taxes>.

Lessons on Rebuilding Low-Cost Rental Units after a Disaster

In a report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, after Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey, it was found that federal aid programs aimed at rebuilding affordable housing stock were often underutilized and were unable to prevent the loss of low-cost rental housing. The results from the report said many property owners struggled to afford the cost of recovery, with some choosing or being forced to sell their properties. The report continued saying that small-scale landlords of older housing often lacked the reserves or access to capital to rebuild.

In addition, the report found that renters did get some immediate assistance, but long-term programs to rebuild houses were not as successful. Long-term programs did not offer enough assistance, were difficult for small property owners to access, and took years to materialize.

I hope that we will not experience the same issues and difficulties as we work to get federal aid for property owners hit by the March flood.

There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!