

City of Fremont Update

Date: February 28, 2020

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

Saying Thanks!

The City held its annual employee appreciation luncheon on Wednesday, February 19, at Christensen Fieldhouse. More than 200 employees enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Huey's Smokehouse BBQ. The picture on the right shows some of the employees attending the luncheon.



Each year the City hosts a luncheon to show our appreciation to the employees for their dedication and commitment to Fremont. Mayor Scott Getzschman said, "We are so fortunate to have such a group of outstanding city employees. Every day we see the results of their hard work and commitment to deliver services to the residents and businesses in Fremont. I cannot thank our city staff enough for what they do each and every day."

LB876 Placed on General File

After the public hearing on Legislative Bill (LB) 876 was held on February 18, 2020, the Urban Affairs Committee unanimously voted to advance the bill to general file. Fremont Senator Lynne Walz introduced LB876 at the request of the City, to amend provisions in the Community Development Law relating to limitations on blighted area. Specifically, the bill would exempt "extremely blighted" areas from counting towards the City's maximum limit of 35%.

While this is good news, the bill has a long ways to go before it reaches the Governor's desk. I am hoping that a senator will attach it to a priority bill, so it has a better chance of success in this short session.

Clinical Trial Underway for Coronavirus Treatment

The trial, underway at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, is the first in the United States to evaluate a potential treatment for the COVID-19 virus, a respiratory disease first detected in December in Wuhan, China. Infection can cause mild to severe illness accompanied by fever, cough and shortness of breath. The virus is a new strain of an existing type of respiratory ailment and has no known treatment. The medication being tested in the trial, remdesivir, is an antiviral drug that has "shown promise in animal models for treating Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which are caused by other coronaviruses," according to the National Institutes of Health, the federal agency overseeing the trial. The trial is expected to begin in late April and will test the vaccine on around 25 participants, with results available this summer.

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

Census 2020 Invitations to Start in March

Between March 12 and March 20, invitations to participate in the 2020 Census will start arriving in households across the country. Here is the timeline for the census surveys:

- **March 12-20:** Initial invitations to respond online and by phone will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with the invitation to respond online or over the phone.
- **March 16-24:** Reminder letters will be delivered.
- **March 26-April 3:** Reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not responded.
- **March 30 - April 1:** The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.
- **April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide.** By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.
- **April:** Census takers will begin visiting **college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people.** Census takers also begin conducting quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.
- **April 8-16:** Reminder letters and paper questionnaires will be delivered to remaining households that have not responded.
- **April 20-27:** Final reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not yet responded before census takers follow up in person.
- **May 13-July 31:** If a household does not respond to any of the invitations, a census taker will follow up in person.

New City Utility Terrain Vehicle

The City recently purchased a new utility terrain vehicle (UTV) for crews to use on job sites. A UTV is similar to an all-terrain vehicle (an ATV or what most call a 4-wheeler), but has several distinct advantages over an ATV. First, a UTV is safer for the operator because of the roll cage. Second, UTVs can haul material and supplies ATVs cannot. And, third, a UTV can be outfitted to accessories to meet specific needs like a snow plow, trailer hitch, and a dump bed. Using a UTV on many job sites will save a crew time and money, which translates into lower rates for city customers.



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