

City of Fremont Update

Date: October 9, 2020

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

Piles of Wood Chips

The picture on the right shows the current piles of chips at the City's tree dump on South Broad Street. Last year we gave most of the chips away to a company for landscaping mulch. They reground the chips into a smaller size and added color to them to make the mulch. This year, other than the quantity we use at the Wastewater



Treatment Plant for composting, the company has not used our chips, because they found another source. While we look for another avenue of disposal, the piles continue to grow.

Cities Consider Prohibiting Use of Natural Gas

In an attempt to reduce emissions from natural gas, cities across the U.S. are adopting ordinances to prohibit the installation of natural gas in new residential and commercial buildings. Natural gas consumption in the U.S. represents close to 80 percent of direct fossil fuel CO₂ emissions from the residential and commercial sectors. Residential and commercial use of natural gas totaled 23.3 Bcf/d last year, or 27 percent of gas used in the U.S.

More than 50 cities in California, Massachusetts, and other states in the Northeast and West are considering such a ban. Builders, who must instead turn to electric methods for space heating and cooling, water heating, and cooking, are turning to electric appliances such as heat pumps and electric / induction stoves.

The oil and gas industry, utilities, builders, and affordable housing advocates have lined up in opposition to gas bans. In many states, electric heat can be a costlier option for consumers, and many builders are not familiar with heat pumps. On a straight energy equivalency basis, natural gas at the residential level cost the equivalent of about 3.5 cents/kWh last year, while electricity was about 12 cents/kWh, using Energy Information Administration data.

While time will tell whether gas bans are adopted by other cities, it seems likely that states will increasingly entice home and business owners to electrify more of their appliances and heating/cooling equipment in an effort to reach ambitious state-level climate change goals.

2020 Census: 98.7% of Households Counted!

As of September 29th, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that 98.7% of housing units nationally have been counted in the 2020 Census, and 32 states plus the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are over 99 percent enumerated.



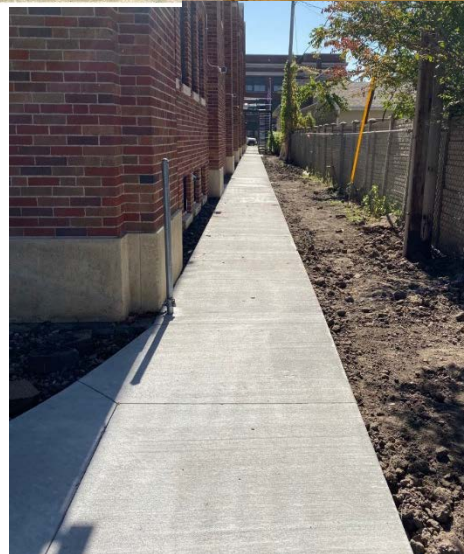
United States[™]
Census
Bureau

Final Touches being Done at the Auditorium

After waiting weeks for the replacement windows to arrive for the auditorium, they have arrived and Cheever is busy installing them. The pictures on the top right are the before and after photos of what the old windows looked like before being removed and what the new windows look like after being installed. The old windows were wood-framed and single-pane glass, while the new windows are aluminum-framed and double-pane energy efficient glass. Cheever hopes to have all of the 65+ windows replaced in the next couple of weeks.



The lower picture is the sidewalk that Cheever replaced on the west side of the auditorium. Since there are exits on the west side of the building, the sidewalk was required. The old sidewalk was cracked and uneven, so it was replaced.



Once the windows are replaced, the remodeling project will be complete, other than a couple of punch list items. An Open House is being planned during the first part of November.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

What started in 2004, as an effort to raise awareness in the U.S. around the importance of cybersecurity, has become a month-long event. Founded by the National Cyber Security Division within the Department of Homeland Security and the nonprofit National Cyber Security Alliance, National Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to ensure all Americans have knowledge of the resources and tools they need to be safer and more secure online.

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

STOP. THINK. CONNECT.

Throughout the month, the alliance will be focusing on four themes. The first week, the theme is “If You Connect It, Protect It.” Here, the effort is to emphasize that all personal devices connected to the internet are potentially vulnerable to attacks. As the popularity of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and the

Internet of Things (IoT) continues to grow, it is important that businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations have programs in place that keeps their devices from being compromised as well as programs that educates their employees about the threats that cybersecurity policies and programs aim to counter.

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



Proposed Dodge County & City of Fremont Joint Law Enforcement Center

Corner of 29th Street & Lincoln Avenue

This is part five of an eight-part series to provide information in regards to the proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center. The entire series can be found on the City of Fremont's website: <http://www.fremontne.gov/826/Joint-Law-Enforcement-Center>

WHAT WILL THE JOINT LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER COST?

The Dodge County Supervisors unanimously approved spending no more than \$7.783 million for their portion of the new building. Likewise, the Fremont Mayor and City Council voted unanimously to spend up to \$10.317 million for the City's portion. The 911 Communications Center is a joint expense shared by the Sheriff and Police Departments, so its cost is included in these numbers.

WHAT WILL THE JOINT CENTER COST TAXPAYERS?

PROPERTY OWNERS INSIDE FREMONT: If you own property inside the City of Fremont, you pay City and County property taxes. The taxes for the average property owner inside Fremont would be \$79 per year (\$60 in City tax and \$19 in County tax) or \$6.58 per month. This is based on an average property valuation of \$150,000 and the bonds for the center being spread across 15 years at a 2% interest rate.

PROPERTY OWNERS OUTSIDE FREMONT: If you own property outside of Fremont, you pay County property taxes. The taxes for the same property valued at \$150,000 would be \$19 per year or \$1.58 per month. Again, this is based on the bonds for the center being spread across 15 years at a 2% interest rate.

If the bonds are spread across 20 years (at a 2% interest rate), instead of 15 years, the cost to property owners inside Fremont would be \$62 per year and \$15 per year for property owners outside Fremont. The decision of whether to issue 15- or 20-year bonds will be made separately by the County Supervisors and City Mayor and City Council.

WOULD REMODELING THE CURRENT BUILDINGS COST LESS?

No, remodeling the existing buildings would cost the County and the City more money, plus the proposed joint law enforcement center has over 10,000 square feet of shared space. So, rather than 53,316 square feet, split between two separate facilities, the proposed facility is only 42,980 square feet. This reduction in square footage translates to an estimated savings of approximately \$3.5 million.

A joint law enforcement center also offers significant savings in sharing the heating and cooling system, a security system, parking lot, K-9 kennels, training and locker rooms, and phone system. These savings translate into savings in both upfront construction costs and long-term maintenance costs.

Questions? Email us: publiccomments@fremontne.gov

Call us: Lt. Shane Wimer 402-727-2630, Deputy Brie Frank 402-727-2700

*Disclaimer: This is not an endorsement nor a solicitation for a Joint Law Enforcement Center. This is being provided for educational purposes only.

WILL IT COST LESS TO BUILD NOW OR LATER?

Initially, it was proposed to build a joint law enforcement center in phases with the Fremont Police Department and 911 Communications Center being built first and then the Sheriff's Department several years later. However, when Dodge County looked at today's construction costs versus tomorrow's costs, the Supervisors decided it would be less costly to construct a joint building today. Thus, it is proposed to construct a joint law enforcement center for the Sheriff and Police Departments, as well as the 911 Communication Center at the same time if the bond issues are approved.

In addition, construction costs typically increase by 3% to 5% per year, so waiting will only increase the cost of building in the future. Again, the County Supervisors and Fremont Mayor and City Council decided the need for a new facility will not go away, so they voted unanimously to ask voters to approve bond language to build a new Joint Law Enforcement Center.



The proposed new facility will house the Dodge County Sheriff's Department, Fremont Police Department, and the 911 Communications Center.

Talk Shop with a Cop: Every week in October from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at:

Tuesdays at Hy-Vee
Wednesdays at Menards
Thursdays at Hy-Vee

Other Public Events:

October 11, 2020, 8 a.m.-12:00 noon
Fremont Rural Fire Dept. Pancake Feed
110 Boulevard Street, Fremont
October 15, 2020, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
North Bend Fire Hall
140 W. 7th Street, North Bend

October 22, 2020, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Fremont City Auditorium
Community Room
925 N. Broad Street, Fremont

Questions and Answers:

Q: Why must Fremont voters consider two ballot questions?

A: Fremont voters will vote on a County and a City ballot question because they live both in the County and in the City. Voters outside Fremont will only vote on the County ballot question.

Q: If the City and the County would consider bond issues to remodel or build separate law enforcement buildings, would Fremont voters still be asked to vote on two ballot questions?

A: Yes, constructing two separate facilities doesn't change the fact that Fremont voters live in both the County and the City, so they would be required to vote on bond issues for a new County building and a new City building.

Q: Why build a new facility? Can the existing Police Department building be renovated?

A: The Fremont Police Department is housed in a 60-year-old building that was originally designed as offices for the Department of Utilities. The major components of the building are failing: roof, windows, HVAC system, electrical and plumbing. These items are replaceable but replacing these components still does not meet the needs of the Department and the building remains land-locked, leaving no room for future growth.

Q: What current City bond debt affects my property taxes?

A: Total City bond debt is \$1.88 million for the Splash Station. Bonds that have been approved but not issued are \$2 million for the City Auditorium.

Q: How much general obligation bond debt do other similarly-sized cities in Nebraska have?

A: Here are the populations and bond debt from other Nebraska cities: Columbus – 23,468 - \$18,655,000; North Platte – 23,659 - \$19,870,000; Norfolk – 24,449 - \$14,168,543; Hastings – 24,692 - \$3,845,000; Fremont – 26,383 - \$1,880,000; and Kearney – 33,867 - \$31,085,000.

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