



FREEPORT NEWS

Winter Edition 2021

City Hall: 125 E. Main St., PO Box 301

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 7am - 4:30 pm & Fridays 7 am - Noon

www.freeportmn.org

City Staff: City Clerk/Treasurer - Joan Wall, Public Works Director-Loren Goebel, Administrative Assistant - Lori Austing

Fire and Rescue Department: Fire Chief-Andy Grieve, Assistant Chief - Branden Roering, Assistant Chief - Jamie Engelmeyer, Secretary-Loren Goebel

City Council Members:

Mike Eveslage - Mayor, Nick Arnzen - City Council Member, Sarah Blake - City Council Member

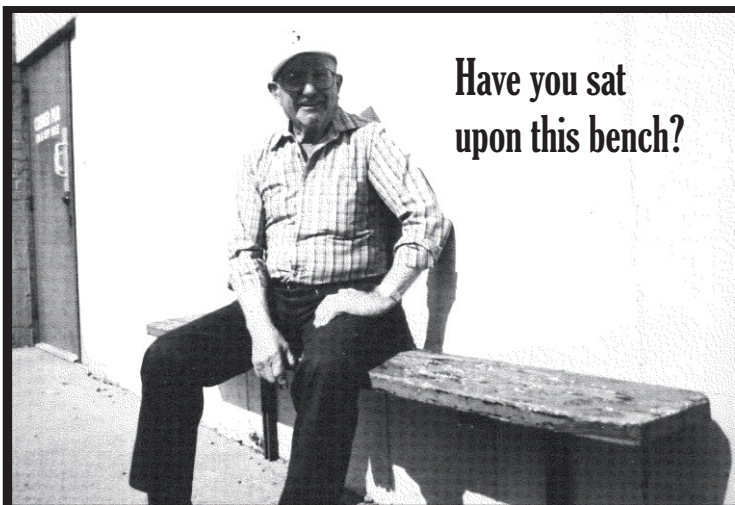
Tim Hennen - City Council Member & Jake Renneker - City Council Member

City council meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month in the city hall at 7pm.

We congratulate Mike Eveslage for his second term as Mayor along with Jake Renneker for his second term as City Council Member. We also welcome Nick Arnzen to the Freeport City Council and thank Ben Ettle for his time and dedication in the past 6 years as City Council Member.

Words from Mayor Mike:

Freeport is an incredible community! Looking at the picture below of Jack Rose sitting on the Corner Pub bench makes me realize I don't always sit down to enjoy what's around me sometimes. There is no where near enough space in this newsletter to properly say "Thank You" to everyone who worked hard and contributed to improve Freeport in their own way this past year. My short list of Thanks: 1) to Ben Ettle (council), Tim Hennen (EDA) and Scott Hoeschen (EDA) for serving the City for the past several years. It's never easy to contribute your time, but your time and contributions are sincerely appreciated. 2) Our City staff (Joan, Lori, and Loren) - there is alot that goes on behind the scenes that residents don't realize and you all make this City better. 3) Chief Andy Grieve and our Fire Department - It's reassuring to everyone when we have a full department with great camaraderie...hopefully, we don't ever need you. 4) The current Council members - It's nice to know we have a collective vision for Freeport. 5) All the residents and community members who supported our local businesses throughout 2020...Thank You! 2021 looks to be a busy year as well and for the better. We have necessary sewer/street improvements in the works for the Spring/Summer. Please be patient and watch out for equipment when that time comes. Our Council meetings will now be live-streamed to help keep everyone informed without having to come to City Hall - Look for the link on the City's website 30 minutes prior on meeting nights. As always, if you have questions, I can be reached at mike.freeportcitycouncil@gmail.com



**Have you sat
upon this bench?**

Past Council Member Ben:

"Hello Residents, I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and trust in me as a council member over the last 6 years I've held the position. It is with great pride that I have served the City of Freeport and I will continue to care about what is happening in our community as a resident. I appreciate the trust instilled in me as a representative and the many conversations I have had with all of you. I have learned a lot about what it means to "serve" ones community and the effort and diligence that is needed. I know that 2020 was a huge struggle for many of us in this community, and that includes myself. Cheers to a happy and prosperous 2021 and I hope with it, some normalcy. Thank you, Ben B. Ettle"

The bench in front of Pooch's Corner Pub is a 100-year-old landmark.

Benches like this we placed in front of businesses years ago.

Jack Rose (1911-2018) pictured in this photo had mentioned this bench as a boyhood memory of the 1920's.

Upcoming Street Projects

The City has been planning for a large street and utility project for many years. The streets included in the project are in the northwest part of Freeport near the fire hall and between the trail and I-94 east of County Road 11. Sewer work in some alleys in NE Freeport is also included. Residents immediately impacted by the project were invited to a public hearing where our Engineer gave a detailed project overview back in October.

The water main and sanitary sewer in this area are original to the city and parts are in excess of 100 years old! We will be replacing the sanitary sewer, water main, and adding storm sewer to help improve the reliability of our system and to preserve our streets. The project is expected to be bid in the spring with construction starting in late spring or early summer depending on the contractor's schedule. Construction will take about 5 months to complete and will be complete before next winter. The project will be funded by the US Department of Agriculture with a low interest loan.

Winter Parking Rules

To facilitate snow removal, it shall be unlawful for any vehicle, trailer, or other object to park or remain parked on a public street, alley, or way, or in a municipal parking lot from and including November 1, to and including March 31, between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during or after any snow fall which accumulates over one-tenth (1/10) of an inch until such time as the snow removal crews have cleared the public street, alley, or way, or municipal parking lot.

Building Permits

Subd.9 Building Permits

As required, no person shall erect, alter, or move any building or part thereof without first securing a building permit from the city. If you are uncertain if your project falls under this ordinance please call city hall.

Spring Cleaning

As the snow begins to melt and we are left with many gifts upon our yards we ask that the residents work on cleaning up yards and remove the debris that has accumulated during the winter months.

Looking Ahead

The warming of the upcoming months have us retrieving the fun things we put away for the winter including campers and boats we are reminded of our outdoor storage ordinance:

Any combination of five (5) or fewer licensed and operable recreational vehicles (RV's, boats, snowmobiles on a trailer, etc.) and/or seasonal automobiles may be parked or stored on property outside a home, provided: a. They are not stored within the front yard, except if parked on an approved driveway.

b. If stored within the side or rear yard, they are at least five feet from the property line, placed on an improved surface (e.g. crushed rock, gravel, asphalt, concrete, etc. Areas in which grass or weeds grow through the surface shall not meet said 'improved surface' requirement.

Grease

We are still experiencing a lot of grease in our sanitary sewer line. This is extremely problematic and we need residents to refrain from dumping grease down the drains. Again, doing this could result in your personal lines getting backed and causing backups along the city sewer lines.

Utility Billing

You may now pay your utility bill on-line at www.freeportmn.org under the utility bills pay online tab.

You can also sign up for an automatic payment using the direct payment form under the forms tab also on our website or continue to use our drop box or drop off at city hall.

Dates to Remember

We look forward to the days of parades, festivals and fun times....check our website often for updates on community events for 2021!
