



# News from Freeport City Hall

## Winter's coming! Where can you park?

Last winter, the City of Freeport passed a winter parking ordinance. Here are the basics:

During the winter months, which are December, January, February and March, cars may be parked on City streets as follows:

1. In the City's downtown business district, there is no parking from 2:00 am to 5:00 am.
2. On all other City streets, you may park on the even side of the street on even numbered days and on the odd side of the street on odd numbered days.

For the purposes of winter parking, even number days

are considered as beginning at the hour of 8:00 am.

For example, if your car is parked on the odd side of the street on December 1st, you'll need to move it to the even side of the street before 8:00 am on December 2nd.

On streets that already have restricted or prohibited parking, those rules will still stand. And on streets that have parking on only one side of the street for the entire block, the odd-even winter parking regulations do not apply.

In addition to odd-even parking rules this winter, please keep the following in mind:

1. No one may pile snow on streets, alleys or sidewalks in the City.
2. No one may pile snow in a way that obstructs vision at any intersection of any street or alley in the City.

There are penalties for those not following the winter parking regulations. A citation, carrying a fine of \$20 to \$200 (if the fine is paid within five days) or \$40 to \$400 (if the fine is paid after five days) may be issued, and a vehicle may be towed as well, in some circumstances.



## Fall leaf pickup is underway

The annual leaf pickup has begun and will end when the first snowfall hits. You may rake your leaves to the curb, where the Street Department will pick them up periodically.

Please help us prevent storm water flooding by

keeping leaves clear of storm sewer inlets.

Remember that tree limbs, sticks, brush, vines and other debris are destructive to the leaf vacuum equipment. If these kinds of items are mixed into your leaves, the Street Department

will not pick up the pile. If the pile remains in the street, you could be cited for a violation of the City litter ordinance.

For more information, please contact the Street Department at (815) 235-8210.

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# Bulky waste pickup scheduled for week of November 16

Each year, the City of Freeport, working with Moring Disposal and Gill's Freeport Disposal, offers Freeport residents the opportunity to dispose of large, bulky waste items through a convenient curbside program.

**PROGRAM TIME FRAME.** This year, the program will run the week of November 16th. All bulky waste will be picked up that week. There is no connection between your regular garbage collection day and this program, so your bulky waste must be at the curb by 5:00 am, Monday, November 16. *Any bulky waste put out after the hauler has picked up the area will not be picked up and you could be in violation of City ordinances regarding garbage and litter.*

**COST.** There will be a \$47.00 charge per residence to help the City offset the

cost of the program. This charge will be assessed on your Water and Sewer bill.

**WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?** Any residential customer who has garbage billed on their Freeport Water & Sewer bill may participate in this program.

**HOW TO SIGN UP.** To sign up, you should contact your regular trash hauler, either Gill's Freeport Disposal (815-233-5644) or Moring Disposal (815-233-9216). When you call, you will need to provide your water and sewer account number, name, address and phone number. The cost will be charged directly to your Water and Sewer bill.

**LIMIT.** Each participating home may place four (4) bulky furniture items along with one (1) cubic yard of miscellaneous bulky waste at the curb. (1 cubic yard is considered the equivalent of

six 30-gallon containers.)

**UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS.** No food waste will be accepted. Regular household waste should be placed out separately from your bulky waste in the normal manner. (See list of acceptable and unacceptable items below.)

**DEADLINE.** All residences participating in the bulky waste pick-up must be signed up with their hauler no later than **Friday, November 13, 2009.**

### OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER

- All miscellaneous bulky waste must be contained either in a box or barrel.
- Any material or waste not prepared as stated above will not be picked up.
- The responsible party may be subject to City ordinance violations for failing to follow the guidelines of the program.



| BULKY WASTE          |                   |   |                                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ACCEPTABLE ITEMS     |                   | UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS                          |                                   |
| Couches              | Sleeper sofas     | Major appliances                            | Air conditioners                  |
| Sectionals (limit 1) | Rockers/recliners | Dehumidifiers                               | Tires                             |
| Coffee/end tables    | Kitchen tables    | Plate glass                                 | Windows                           |
| Mattress/box springs | Bed frames        | Water heater/softeners                      | Mirrors                           |
| Baby beds (cribs)    | Dressers          | Cement, rock, brick                         | Riding mowers                     |
| Console TVs          | Bicycles          | Demolition debris (lumber, roofing, siding) | Swing sets (wood, metal, plastic) |

| MISCELLANEOUS BULKY WASTE                  |  |                     |                   |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| ACCEPTABLES                                |  |                     | UNACCEPTABLE      |
| Pillows                                    | Picture frames                             | Foot stools         | Liquid Waste      |
| Baby swings                                | Grills                                     | Lamps               | Hazardous waste   |
| Child car seats                            | Clothing                                   | Fans                | Auto batteries    |
| Dishes                                     | Shovels/rakes                              | Open dry paint cans | Car parts         |
| Small area rugs                            | Carpeting (1' diameter x 4' long) = 1 item |                     | Closed paint cans |
| Boxes of small items                       | Push mowers (drain fuel)                   | Bicycles/tricycles  |                   |
| Swing sets (disassembled into 4' sections) |  |                     |                   |

## City seeks grant funds—requests resident help with survey

The City of Freeport plans to apply for grant funding to perform housing rehabilitation work. This work would bring homes up to code standard for low to moderate income individuals and families in our community. One requirement of the application process is a City-wide housing survey.

Please take a few moments to complete this survey enclosed with this newsletter. The results of this survey will help us present a strong grant application, which will help us bring this much-needed grant

funding to our community. Once completed, you may mail or bring the survey to City of Freeport, 230 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, Attn: Housing



Survey. You may also fax your completed survey to (815) 599-5819 or follow the link on the City's website (<http://www.cityoffreeport.org>) to take the survey online.

Thank you for your assistance with this important survey. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact the City's Community Development Department at (815) 235-8202.

## Do I need a building permit?

Sometimes residents are unsure about when a building permit is a necessary part of a home improvement project.

Basically, a permit is required any time any construction, installation (furnace, water heater, fixtures, and more), repair, renovation, rehabilitation, or maintenance is undertaken.

The only exception is that for minor jobs costing less than \$100 that **do not** include any plumbing, electrical work, or mechanical work (heating, air conditioning, ductwork), a permit is not required.

Permits are issued by the City's Community Development Department, which is on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, at the corner of Stephenson Street and Walnut Avenue in downtown Freeport.

### Can I do the work myself or do I need to hire a licensed contractor?

A licensed contractor is required for most jobs. The only exception is when the work is performed by the property owner or the owner's immediate family members (defined below) **and** the work is on a single family residential property **and** the property is the owner's primary residence **and** all of the materials are purchased and installed by the owner or the owner's immediate family members.

For the purpose of building permits, immediate family members include the owner's spouse, children, grandchildren,

parents, step-parents, grandpaparents, siblings, and mother- and father-in-law.

### Do I need a permit to put in a fence?

Yes, a fence permit is required. When you apply for a fence permit, we'll ask you to stake out the location of the fence so the City inspector can come take a look at it to ensure it complies with local requirements. There's no charge for a fence permit.

### What about decks, garages and sheds?

Decks, garages and sheds all require permits. Like fences, we'll ask that you stake the area out prior to applying for a permit. In some cases, drawings of the structure may be required.

### Are there benefits to getting a permit?

The City has experienced, qualified inspectors that will inspect the work done under City building permits to help ensure that the work is up to code requirements.

In addition, there is a three-year property tax abatement on improvement projects made with a building permit. Not getting a building permit jeopardizes that abatement.

For more information on building permits, contact the Community Development Department at (815) 235-8202.



**Catch a ride citywide  
on Pretzel City Transit!**

Pretzel City Transit is the City of Freeport's public transportation program.

Schedule your rides by calling **233-RIDE** at least one day in advance and you can ride anywhere in the City for just \$2 a trip. It's just \$5 a trip for same-day rides.

Seniors (age 60 and over) ride free.

Student passes are available at Freeport City Hall, 230 West Stephenson Street and at the Highland Community College bookstore.

### Hours of Operation

Weekdays 6am to midnight

Saturdays 6am to 1pm

All of our vehicles are accessible for people with disabilities.

Pretzel City Transit is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the City of Freeport.



## **CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS**

230 West Stephenson Street  
Freeport, Illinois 61032

(815) 599-5800

**We're on the web!**

**<http://www.cityoffreeport.org>**

## City Contact Information

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| <b>Department</b>                 | <b>Phone Number</b> | <b>Email Address</b>             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mayor's Office                    | 815-235-8200        | freeportmayor@cityoffreeport.org |
| City Clerk                        | 815-235-8203        | mzuravel@cityoffreeport.org      |
| Community Development             | 815-235-8202        | sgriswold@cityoffreeport.org     |
| Finance                           | 815-599-5816        | cjoesten@cityoffreeport.org      |
| Fire Department (non-emergency)   | 815-235-8217        | firechief@cityoffreeport.org     |
| Human Resources                   | 815-235-2065        | adelong@cityoffreeport.org       |
| Legal                             | 815-235-8205        | sgriffin@cityoffreeport.org      |
| Police Department (non-emergency) | 815-235-8222        | jwhitmore@freeportpd.org         |
| Public Works                      | 815-235-8207        | tedole@comcast.net               |
| Treasurer                         | 815-235-8201        | lbuss@cityoffreeport.org         |
| Street Department                 | 815-235-8210        | tedole@comcast.net               |
| Water & Sewer                     | 815-233-0111        | cjoesten@cityoffreeport.org      |