



# CityNewsletter

300 East Nine Mile Road ▪ Ferndale, Michigan 48220 ▪ FerndaleMI.gov ▪ Winter 2015, Issue 2

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**Postal Customer  
 Ferndale, MI 48220**

### CITY DIRECTORY

Emergencies	Call 911
Fire Emergency	(248)541-3600
City Manager	(248)546-2360
City Clerk	(248)546-2384
Community Development	(248)546-2366
Finance Dept.	(248)546-2376
Fire Non-Emergency	(248)546-2510
Police Non-Emergency	(248)541-3650
Public Library	(248)547-2504
Public Works	(248)546-2514
Public Works <i>after hours</i>	(248)541-3650
Recreation Department	(248)544-6767
Special Events	(248)546-1573
Tax Department	(248)546-2370
Water & Sewer	(248)546-2374
43 <sup>rd</sup> District Court	(248)547-8700
Ferndale Area Chamber	(248)542-2160
Ferndale DDA	(248)546-1632
Historical Society	(248)545-7606
Housing Commission	(248)547-9500

### 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 19, 2015  
 Martin Luther King Day – City Hall is closed.

January 22 – February 5, 2015  
 “Art at City Hall”, featuring paintings by artist, Kali Blache

January 31, 2015  
 “BBQ Rib Burnout VIII”, 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Library Parking Lot

February 16, 2015  
 President’s Day – City Hall is closed.

March 12 – April 23, 2015  
 “Art at City Hall”, TBD

April 3, 2015  
 Good Friday – City Hall is closed.

April 29 – June 4, 2015  
 “Art at City Hall”, featuring Judy Eliyas Photography

May 16, 2015  
 Clean the Ferndale Up! [www.facebook.com/CleanTheFerndaleUp](http://www.facebook.com/CleanTheFerndaleUp)

## Where there’s ice and snow, there’s need for caution and safety.

We want to encourage all residents to keep safety in mind and to make certain that to keep your sidewalks clear of ice and snow.

City ordinance requires any ice or snow remaining on a public sidewalk after the end of incremental weather to be removed by the owner or occupant. This includes any sidewalk adjacent to your home whether it be along the front yard, side yard or backyard.

The owner or occupant is responsible for clearing the ice or snow that has accumulated in or during the nighttime shall be removed by 12:00 noon; snow falling or drifting during the day shall be removed before noon of the following day.

As for ice, we suggest to immediately use sand, or any other material approved by the Department of Public Works (DPW,) to be strewn upon in such a manner and in such quantities as to prevent the sidewalk from being slippery and dangerous to pedestrians using the same, followed by removing the ice at the earliest possible moment thereafter.

If you fail to clear public pathways and someone reports you to the City, you may receive a citation and face fines.

If the ice or snow is not removed as required, the City may notify the owner or occupant to notify of the violation. This notification may be made in person, by telephone or by written notice left at the property.

If the owner or occupant fails to remove the ice or snow within 24 hours of the notification of violation, the City may cause such ice or snow to be removed and charged the property owner of actual costs of the sidewalk clearance, plus a penalty against the property. If that charge is not paid within 45 days, it may be assessed against the parcel consistent with Chapter XII, Section 24 of the City Charter. If you have any questions, please contact: DPW at (248) 336-4205 or Code Enforcement at (248) 336-4365.



### There are several things you can do to keep your property safe.

- Watch for spouts coming from the roof as they can cause ice patches or dangerous icicles. If a downspout is near a sidewalk or driveway, take extra caution to clear it. If you have icicles hanging from your home, block off the area until you can remove them. If you're out of town or physically unable to remove snow and ice, you still must arrange to have someone else clear your sidewalks and driveways.
- Take notice of other safety hazards while removing snow and ice. Water expands when it freezes, so large cracks and holes can appear in your sidewalk, which poses a tripping hazard. Be sure your outdoor lighting is adequate as well.
- If you rent or lease your home, you are responsible for removing ice and snow.
- If you live in an apartment complex with several other units, the landlord or property management company is responsible for removing snow and ice. However, always read your rental agreement thoroughly – there may be a clause in the contract stating you must take care of snow and ice removal.
- If you live in a retirement community or rent from a company that manages properties for retirement-age tenants, they are to take care of all maintenance and landscaping – including snow and ice removal.
- If you are a home owner, review your homeowner's insurance to fully understand what your coverage in case of an accident on your property.



## Mayor's Corner

It's winter in Ferndale and we know that when the weather is the worst, residents need us most. Last year was an unusually harsh winter – we declared a record number of snow emergencies and used every last grain of salt on our roads.

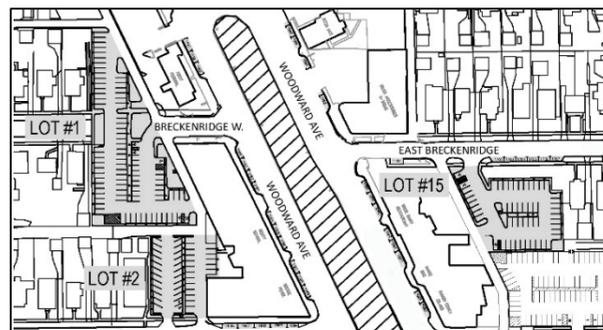
Still, we've used last winter as an opportunity to better respond in these harsh conditions:



- Our Department of Public Works (DPW) workers are adapting traditional lawn equipment to now improve our ability to clear sidewalks, parking lots and crosswalks. They're also using a new, 12-foot box scraper (*see picture*) also used to scrape wet leaves from the streets in the Fall to replace older, less reliable rotary snow brooms;
- We used to communicate snow emergencies only with news releases. Now, to better meet the needs of a digital age, we also use proactive tools like social media for mobile or email alerts. I encourage you to sign up on our updated website, [FerndaleMI.gov](http://FerndaleMI.gov), "like" us on **Facebook** *Ferndale.Michigan* or follow us on **Twitter** *@FerndaleMich*;
- We have also stepped up enforcement of snow emergencies. As a reminder, a snow emergency is declared when 4 or more inches of snow have accumulated in one hour or more. Parking on city streets is prohibited until the street is plowed, and cars are subject to ticketing and being towed. Remember that streets immediately become available for parking once they've been plowed curb to curb;
- A special parking permit is available for homes without driveways; call the Ferndale Police Department's non-emergency number at (248)-541-3650 to find out if you're eligible. For those who are unable to obtain a permit or can't find a temporary space for your car, we invite you to park your vehicles in the East and West Breckenridge parking lot (#1 & #15) located in the map shown to the right. >

We strive to provide you with outstanding city services, and I welcome your feedback. I hope you have a safe and healthy winter and a prosperous 2015.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Dave Coulter



## Ferndale Recreation Happenings!



### Daddy Daughter Dance

Friday, February 6, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Be our guests for an enchanting evening with the little princess in your life at the Daddy Daughter Dance, presented by Ferndale and Oak Park Recreation Departments. Each couple will receive a photo, sweet treats and each little lady will receive a lovely carnation. Before the dance, enjoy a pre-dance dinner special at The Emory and The WAB, bring in your sweetheart and registration receipt and girls will dine FREE! Queen Elsa and Princess Anna will be onsite from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, you won't want to miss it!

Save the Date...for the annual **Egg-Stravaganza!**, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Kulick Community Center.

Be sure to visit [FerndaleMI.gov](http://FerndaleMI.gov) for the latest program information including youth and adult leagues, senior programs, AARP tax aide and more! Contact the Kulick Center at 248-544-6767 or by email at [ferndalerecreation@ferndalemi.gov](mailto:ferndalerecreation@ferndalemi.gov)

## Upcoming 2015 Tax Season and Assessment Change Notices



Prior to the month of March, all property owners will receive assessment change notices for the upcoming 2015 tax year. These notices include information on your property's State Equalized Value, Taxable Value, and other valuable information that affects your property taxes. If you feel your property value is not appropriate, you have the right to file an appeal with the Board of Review.

Appeals for the assessed and/or taxable value for the 2015 tax year are heard at the March Board of Review meetings. The schedule for the required Board of Review meetings, in accordance with the City's Code of Ordinance and Public Act 206 of 1893, are listed below. Additional days may be added to the schedule if needed. Please visit the City's webpage or refer to your assessment change notice for more information on the appeal process.

- Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:00 am – Noon, 1:00 – 5:00 pm and 7:00 – 8:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – Noon, 1:00 – 5:00 pm and 7:00 – 8:00 pm
- Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – Noon, 1:00 – 5:00 pm and 7:00 – 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – Noon, 1:00 – 5:00 pm and 7:00 – 8:00 pm

The Board of Review is in need of full-time and alternate members. The responsibilities require attendance at the March Board of Review meetings as well as a December and July meeting. More information can be found on the City's website or by calling the City of Ferndale Treasurer at 248-546-2377.

## Safety Tips to Snow Shoveling

- 1. Don't shovel snow if you're not physically fit.** Shoveling snow can strain your heart and back. If you are not in good physical shape, are older, overweight or have a history of back or heart problems, have someone else who is fit to do it or use a snow-blower to clear the snow.
- 2. Warm up your muscles before you shovel.** Before you begin shoveling, do warm-up stretches and flexing exercises to loosen up the muscles and prepare them for the job ahead.
- 3. Lighten the load with the right snow shovel.** A snow shovel should be lightweight, a little over 3 pounds and the blade shouldn't be too large. The handle should be long enough so that you don't have to stoop to shovel and the grip should be made of plastic or wood because metal gets too cold.
- 4. Bundle up.** Wear several layers of warm lightweight clothing that's easy and comfortable to move in. Make sure your head (especially your ears), feet and hands are well covered. Your winter boots should be warm, water-resistant and high-cut, and provide good traction. Gloves should be light and flexible and give you a good grip.
- 5. Pace yourself.** Shoveling snow in heavy-duty clothing can be as strenuous as weightlifting. You may want to get the job over with as fast as you can, but it's better to keep moving and work at a steady pace. A good recommended rate for continuous shoveling is usually considered to be around 15 scoops per minute.
- 6. Push and face – Don't Lift or twist.** Push the snow rather than lifting it. If you must throw it, take only as much snow as you can easily lift. And remember, the wetter the snow, the heavier it is. Consider using a snow scoop to push the snow. Turn your feet to the direction you're throwing. Don't twist at the waist. Don't throw snow over your shoulder or to the side.
- 7. Rest and Recover.** Take frequent breaks and drink some warm non-alcoholic fluids. In extreme conditions, such as very cold and windy weather, 15 minutes of shoveling should be followed by 15 minutes of rest.



The City is seeking citizens to serve on a variety of Boards and Commissions. If interested, please check out [www.onboardmi.org](http://www.onboardmi.org) or call the City Clerk's Office at 248-546-2384.

City Council Meetings are held every second and fourth Monday of each month at the Ferndale City Hall Council Chambers, located at 300 East Nine Mile Road, and begin at 7:00 pm.