



# Freeport News

A newsletter from the City of Freeport

APRIL 2010

## Message from the Mayor

Dear Fellow Citizens!

Spring has sprung!

We are moving forward on our USDA Rural Development projects which will give us a better water supply and help bring greater public improvements to the City. Thank you to all whom have added input in this process and we look forward to many more interactions to do these projects right.

Also, on Saturday, March 27, the U.S. Census reported that Freeport was number 18 in the entire nation for our high percentage of Census form returns. Our local governmental aid and grant opportunities are largely dependent on the information gathered from the Census. Thank you for filling out the form and sending it in so promptly.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any concerns or ideas that can enhance our city, and let us work toward making it a great year.

Sincerely,

*Matthew H. Worms*

Mayor of Freeport

### City information:

City Hall – 125 E. Main Street

APRIL – OCTOBER: Monday - Friday, 6 A.M. to 2 P.M.

NOVEMBER – MARCH: Monday - Friday, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Phone: 320-836-2112, FAX: 320-836-2116

E-mail: [cityfrpt@albanytel.com](mailto:cityfrpt@albanytel.com)

Web site: [www.freeportmn.org](http://www.freeportmn.org)

City Council Meetings – monthly, last Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

### City Council:

Mayor Matthew Worms, Acting Mayor Joe Hennen

Council Member Dave Humbert

Council Member Ken Goebel

Council Member Ron Ritter

### City Staff:

Paul Hetland, City Clerk/Treasurer

- Abby Cunningham, Administrative Assistant

Jon Stueve, Director, Public Works Department

- Ryan Holescher, Maintenance Worker

Noah Van Beck, Fire Chief, Fire and Rescue Department

- Wayne Revering, First Assistant Chief

- Dean Jungles, Second Assistant Chief

- Loren Goebel, Secretary

- Firefighters

## CHANGES REMINDER

The latest information out of the Minnesota Capitol states that the anticipated local government aid cuts for 2010 and 2011 may not be as sharp as initially proposed. Until the final numbers come in and the money is received, we are still acting as though "the worst-case scenario" will occur in our fiscal planning. In the last month, we've received positive feedback on our fiscal planning and we aim to do our best to continue meeting the People's needs.

### City Hall Office Hour Change

Starting Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> office hours will change from 9 hours per day year-round to 8 hours during the summer months and 4 hours during the winter months to reduce energy costs, yet be available for most people. The summer hours will be April through October 6:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. This will allow most citizens to come in before work and contractors to get permits right away in the morning, as well as reducing cooling costs during the hottest times of the day. Winter hours will be 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. November through March (to match the Winter Parking Rules months). This will continue to accommodate most residents during the day for those months and greatly reduce energy costs by heating the building outside of the coldest times of the day.

### Quarterly Billing

By switching from billing 12 times per year to 4 times per year, we save over \$5000. You may choose to still pay your bill once a month based on your previous billings, but a statement will only be produced 4 times a year. The bill will still be due 30 days after the bill is sent and late fees will still apply on a 30-60-90 day cycle with any bill not fully paid after 90 days resulting in water turn off. The next bill will be sent out at the end of June and due at the end of July. We know this will mean some personal sacrifice and budgeting, but the times call for savings.

### Fees and Fines

Franchise fees, increased current fees, added fees, and adding fines will be a few of the added tools to keep taxes down, gain budget independence from the State, address more efficient code enforcement, and yet still serving supplemental needs on top of the core needs that taxes are meant to provide.

## "Does Felix or Snoopy need a license?"

All cats and dogs over the age of six months within Freeport city limits need a license. At this point, the requirements are fairly simple and common-sense for a pet owner. An owner needs to: pay a one-time license fee of \$5 per pet (up to four pets total), complete the license form (obtained at City Hall or by request), provide a collar for the pet with contact information, read the City's pet regulations, and have the pet vaccinated for rabies and distemper. Pet licenses are not transferable between owners or individual pets. Also, neither dogs nor cats can run at-large off of one's property in the City. Currently, there are well over 60 registered pets in Freeport and with the establishment of pet licenses and rules in 2005, it has greatly reduced City costs and neighborhood frustrations on pet-related concerns. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall.

Newsletter written by Paul Hetland

PLEASE NOTE: Your water/sewer invoice is printed on the front