

City of Freeport

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Freeport, IL 61032
(815) 235-8200

We're on the Web!

<http://www.cityoffreeport.org>



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News from Freeport City Hall

City taking applications for housing grant program

The City of Freeport recently was awarded a housing rehabilitation grant through the Illinois Housing Development Authority's *Single Family Owner-Occupied Grant Program*.

This program is designed to financially assist homeowners with the costs associated with necessary rehabilitation on their homes. Necessary rehabilitation is defined as those rehabilitation measures required to ensure the home meets Federal, State, and Local housing standards and building codes.

Eligibility is based, in part on the homeowner's income. A household is considered income-eligible if the household's annual income is at or below 80% of Stephenson County's median income. These limits, based on family size, are:

• 1 person	\$33,550
• 2 persons	\$38,300
• 3 persons	\$43,100
• 4 persons	\$47,900
• 5 persons	\$51,750
• 6 persons	\$55,550
• 7 persons	\$59,400
• 8 persons	\$63,250

The applicant must own the home and the home must be the applicant's principle residence. The applicant may have a mortgage on the home; however, contract for deed purchases are not eligible.

The applicant must not be in default on a mortgage, have delinquent mortgage payment, and the property taxes must be paid and current.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development excludes the rehabilitation of mobile homes.

The funds are provided on behalf of the homeowner in the form of a zero percent interest, five or ten year, forgivable loan. There are no monthly repayment stipulations and, at the end of the loan period, the lien is released and the loan is forgiven. Should the homeowner sell the home or no longer maintain the home as their principal residence within the loan period, repayment of all or part of the original loan will be recaptured.

All work on the homes is bid from a pool of pre-qualified

contractors. All general contractors in this pool have passed a rigorous review of references, have a City of Freeport Contractor License, have insurance coverage as mandated by the City of Freeport and the State of Illinois, and have a State of Illinois lead Contractor License.

Upon completion of the rehabilitation, all properties will meet Federal, State, and Local building codes and standards, will be free of lead-based paint hazards, and will meet energy efficiency standards.

Applications will be taken at the following dates and times:

- Thurs, April 8, 2010
5:00 pm—8:00 pm
Freeport Public Library
- Fri, April 9, 2010
10:00 am—1:00 pm
City Hall Council Chambers
- Wed, April 14, 2010
5:00 pm—8:00 pm
Freeport Public Library

About this newsletter

This is the third issue of "News from City Hall". We began publishing it as a way to communicate more effectively with Freeport residents. We hope you'll find this issue — and the ones that follow — informative and helpful.

Would you like to receive future issues?

We will publish a new issue twice each year — once each spring with the curbside landscape pickup program information and once each fall with the bulky waste pickup program information.

All issues will be available to view or download from the City of Freeport website — www.cityoffreeport.org.

And if you'd like to be placed on our email subscription list, please send an email to maeirhart@cityoffreeport.org or call Mary Ann Eirhart at (815) 235-8200.

Have an idea for an article for this newsletter?

If you have a question you'd like to see addressed in a future issue, or if you have an idea for an article that you'd like to see, please call Shelly Griswold, Community Development Director, at (815) 235-8200 or send an email to sgriswold@cityoffreeport.org.

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- Dispose of your unwanted medication safely
- City offers new community information service at nixle.com
- City of Freeport Brownfields Fact Sheet

City Phone Numbers

Mayor George Gaulrapp
(815) 235-8200

City Clerk Meg Zuravel
(815) 235-8203

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold
(815) 235-8202

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin
(815) 235-8205

Finance Director Craig Joesten
(815) 599-5816

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman
(815) 235-8217

Human Resources Manager Debra Milliman (815) 235-2065

Library Director Carole Dickerson
(815) 233-3000

Police Chief Jerry Whitmore
(815) 235-8222

Public Works Director Tom Dole
(815) 235-8207

Treasurer Linda Buss
(815) 235-8201

Upcoming City Council Meetings

- Monday, April 5, 2010—6:00 pm
- Monday, April 19, 2010—6:00 pm
- Monday, May 3, 2010—6:00 pm
- Monday, May 17, 2010—6:00 pm

• Watch the City Council meetings on Comcast Channel 17 or come to City Hall to watch them in person.

• Meetings are re-broadcast on Comcast Channel 17 on the Monday following the meeting.

2010 Curbside Landscape Waste Disposal Program

Freeport's Curbside Landscape Waste Program is available again this year. All City of Freeport residences of six family units or fewer are eligible for the landscape waste curbside programs.

Please note that the program has changed this year. Read this article carefully before selecting an option.

What is Landscape Waste?

Landscape waste is defined as grass clippings, leaves, weeds, brush and tree trimmings. Brush and tree trimmings must be no more than two inches in diameter and four feet in length. Brush items must be bundled with rope in bundles not exceeding one foot in diameter and four feet in length. All loose landscape waste must be placed in refuse containers allowed by the Option selected by the resident.

When are the Pick-up Days?

Morning Disposal Customers. Landscape waste pickup will be on the same day as your regular garbage and recycling collection, beginning the week of April 12 and ending the week of November 8, 2010.

Gill's Freeport Disposal Customers. Landscape waste pickup will be every Wednesday from April 14 until November 10, 2010.

Option 1 — Landscape Waste Bag Service



Service will be provided one day per week by your regular trash hauler. There is an annual one-time sign up fee of \$40.25 for which you will be billed in three installments on your water bill.

Landscape waste must be placed at the curb in paper landscape waste bags.

Each bag must have a 50-cent garbage sticker affixed to it (the same sticker used for extra bags of garbage).

Brush bundles not exceeding one foot in diameter or four feet in length—with a garbage sticker affixed—will also be accepted.

In order to protect the health and well-being of the contractor's employees, paper landscape bags must not exceed a weight of 50 pounds.

Option 2 — Refuse Cart Service

Under this option, residents rent 65-gallon refuse carts from the hauler. Rentals are

on an annual basis. Each 65-gallon refuse cart containing landscape waste will need two (2) garbage stickers. Cart rentals are \$12.00 each.

There is a one-time sign up fee of \$40.25 for option #2. The fee (along with cart rental fees) will be billed in three monthly installments on your water bill.

For either option, landscape waste must be at the curb by 5:00 a.m. on the morning of pickup.

PLEASE NOTE *only waste produced on the property will be picked up. Abuse of this policy will result in termination of the service. No refunds will be given.*

To Sign up for Option 1 or Option 2

Call your regular trash hauling company to enroll (see numbers below). The fee for the option you choose will be billed on your water bill. You must provide your wa-

ter and sewer account number when you sign up. Fees will not be prorated for late enrollments and there will be no refunds.

Morning Disposal 233-9216
(Open 7:00 am to 4:30 pm)

Morning Stickers can be purchased at these locations:

- Freeport Recycling Center, 657 N. Van Buren Rd
- Dan's Phillip 66, 1348 S. Galena Ave.
- Glick's Triangle Grocery, 606 S. Galena Ave.
- Sullivan's, 2002 W. Galena Ave.
- Cub Foods, 1512 S West Ave.
- Horizon Supermarket, 1130 S. Galena Ave.
- Galena Ave. Mobil, 1220 W. Galena Ave.
- Gill's Freeport Disposal 233-5644 (Open 7:30 am to 4:30 pm)

Stickers can be purchased at these locations:

- Gills Freeport Disposal, 735 N. Van Buren Rd.
- Cub Foods, 1512 S. West Ave.
- Sullivan's, 2002 W. Galena Ave.
- Glick's Triangle Grocery, 606 S. Galena Ave.
- S & J Smilz, 833 S. Galena Ave.
- Boco, 511 E. Stephenson St.

Dispose of your Unwanted Medication Safely—and Free of Charge

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful, in cooperation with FHN and the Stephenson County Senior Center, is sponsoring an **Unwanted Medication Collection Event**.

This is an environmentally safe way (**at no charge to you**) to dispose of your unwanted, unused, or expired Medications.

This collection will be held Saturday, June 12, 2010 in the Lincoln Mall at the Stephenson County Senior Center. Collection hours will be 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Items Accepted

- Prescription & Non-Prescription Medications

tions

- Powder Inhalers
- Mercury Thermometers

Items Not Accepted

- Needles and Sharps
- Biohazardous Materials
- Medical Waste
- Aerosol Inhalers
- Illegal Drugs
- Radioactive Waste

Why is this collection important?

Safe methods of disposal are needed because improper disposal of medications presents both a public safety and environmental hazard to our community. The three main hazards are:

1. Contamination of water resources and danger to wildlife when medications are flushed down toilets.
2. Possible poisoning from accidental ingestion, particularly among young children and pets, when medications are thrown in the trash.
3. Illegal use or theft.
4. Identity theft from discarded containers that include personal patient information.

Residents with questions should call the Stephenson County Senior Center at 815-235-9777.



City offers new community information service at Nixle.com

The City of Freeport is launching a new Community Information Service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents in our area using the latest technology.

This service, created by Nixle, LLC delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications by web, e-mail, and cell phone.

Nixle is simple, trusted, and available at no cost.

Residents of Freeport can

now take advantage of Nixle! Nixle is a community information service that alerts you to public safety threats and community events via web, email, and cell phone. Sign up at www.nixle.com, then share this new service with friends and neighbors to spread the word.

We are very excited to have you experience it for yourself.

Nixle is a new community information service provider built exclusively to provide

secure and reliable communications. Its authenticated service connects municipal agencies and community organizations to residents in real time, delivering information to geographically targeted consumers over their cell phones (via text messages), through e-mails and through Web access. Nixle is offered at no cost to all governments, their agencies and organizations, non-governmental organizations and consumers.