



Letter from the Director

As I write this letter, the COVID restrictions have been lifted as we transfer operations back to normal services. At the DPW, we will continue to be cautious, and will resume services while taking steps to protect the public and staff during the transition towards a “new normal”.

The journey so far has posed unprecedented challenges for us all and I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the citizens of Freeport for their ongoing patience and support during modified operations to help flatten the curve and keeping everyone safe.

In this newsletter you will find an update on our annual street resurfacing program, road rehabilitation program, tips on reducing stormwater pollution, Mulching, Event information, Recreation, and a reminder to take extra care when you encounter work zones so that our crews can complete their work as safely as possible.

Finally, I want to extend my appreciation to the entire Department of Public Works staff for adapting seamlessly to our new environment to keep Freeport working.

Thanks for reading!

Lance Petty

Director of Public Works





2020-2022 Interlocal Street Re Surfacing Program

The City of Freeport participates in an annual interlocal agreement with Brazoria County for the re-surfacing of two (2) miles of roadway per year. The two (2) miles of roadway is selected each year by the Department of Public Works through field inspections to determine the condition of the roadways to enable the Department to prioritize the much-needed repairs. The Department of Public Works submits the proposed repairs to the City of Freeport City Council in December each year, for approval for the following calendar year.

What is an interlocal agreement with Brazoria County for road re-surfacing?

The City of Freeport submits two (2) miles of road improvements to the Brazoria County Commissioners office for approval. Once approved through the Commissioners Court, Brazoria County will begin scheduling approximate dates for the needed repairs. Through this interlocal agreement the city is able to utilize the county to re-surface roadway at a discounted rate. Using the interlocal agreement the county labor and equipment is free of charge and the city only pays the material cost for resurfacing.

What is the re-surfacing process?

- Milling – removal of existing asphalt
- Cutting down – lowering roadway that has been elevated from asphalt overlays over years
- Tilling and stabilizing – tilling sub base with a mixer of dry Portland cement to stabilize sub base to aid in the failure of the roadway
- Compaction – use of a pad foot and smooth drum roller with water to compact the sub base material
- Asphalt – oil and installation of 3” of asphalt compacted to 2 ½” for a final road surface.

What is the timing for repairs?

The City of Freeport repairs are usually completed by the county in September/October of each year, we have to be mindful that each city in Brazoria County utilizes the interlocal agreement, but historically the work is completed in our city during the months of September/October.

What is the status of the 2021-2022 Interlocal resurfacing?

Council has approved the designated roads for re surfacing and these designated roads have been approved through the county commissioner’s court. The county is scheduled to begin repairs beginning July 2022.



What are the 2021-2022 Council Approved Interlocal Roads for resurfacing?

- Zapata – Brazosport Blvd to N. Ave Q.
- Skinner – N. Ave J. to N. Ave S.
- Travis – N. Ave G. to Jones Road
- S. Ave H – N. Velasco to Archer
- S. Ave G – N. Velasco to Archer
- S. Ave F – Caldwell to Archer
- Britt Bailey – S. Ave F. to S. Ave H.
- Ash St. – 8th to Railroad crossing
- Golf Course maintenance road – Completed
- Bryan Beach main entrance - Completed

2021-2022 contractual roadway rehabilitation

The City of Freeport issued bonds for a road rehabilitation program for much needed repairs to concrete roads, curbs, gutters and sidewalks in 2 phases. The repairs were anticipated to be completed over a three (3) year period, but with the process of engineering, geotechnical testing, and traffic flow for construction this process may take an additional year for completion. The Department of Public Works along with the City Engineer inspected the roadways and prioritized the rehabilitations based off of roadway condition and drainage. The proposed roadway rehabilitation projects were submitted and approved by council for engineering process to begin. Phase 1 construction will begin in calendar year 2022.

What is contractual roadway rehabilitation?

The Department of Public Works and the City Engineer completes a roadway inspection to prioritize a schedule of rehabilitation. The roadway rehabilitation program is submitted to council for approval of roadway to be rehabilitated along with an approval for engineering to begin. Engineering is 100% complete, and the bid openings were completed on January 6, 2022. The City Engineer is reviewing the sealed bids and a contractor will be presented to City Council for award. Once a contractor is secured for service, rehabilitation of roadway will begin, the estimated completion time of each phase is an additional 245 days weather permitting.



What is the roadway rehabilitation process?

- Removal of all concrete roadway, curb/gutter and sidewalk infrastructure
- Installation of new drainage infrastructure
- Installation or relocation of utilities that are needed
- Correction to any sub grade work to eliminate road failure
- Correction of elevation issues that would eliminate drainage issues
- Installation of all new concrete roadway and sidewalks

What is the status of the 2021-2022 contractual roadway construction for Phase 1 and Phase 2?

Currently the City of Freeport has received 100% engineering plans for the phase 1 rehabilitation. The city anticipates securing contractual services in January with construction beginning shortly after. Below is the list of contractual roadway rehabilitation:

Phase 1	Progress
• Arbutus – W. 2 nd to 4 th	50% complete
• W. 10 th – Velasco to Magnolia	
• W. 8 th – Dixie to 1841 W. 8 th	
• W. 6 th – Yaupon to Dixie	Concrete removal 50%
• W. 7 th – Yaupon to Dixie	Concrete removal 50%
• W. 5 th – Dixie to Court	Concrete removal 50%
• Lynn St. – Dixie to Avalon	Concrete removal 50%
• Avalon – W. 6 th to W. 7 th	



Phase 2 of the 2021-2022 contractual roadway construction is currently in engineering. The city anticipates engineering to be completed in August of this year and to initiate contractual services in September/October 2022. Phase 2 completion is anticipated during the 3rd quarter of 2023. Below is the list of contractual roadway construction for **Phase 2**:

- W. 9th – Yaupon to Dixie
- W. 10th – Magnolia to Cedar
- W. 11th – Magnolia to Velasco
- W. 12th – Magnolia to Velasco
- N. Ave G – Travis to Yellowstone
- N. Ave A – Fisher to De Zavalla
- N. Ave B -McNeal to Munson
- W. 2nd St – Velasco to Cedar

STORM WATER POLLUTION



The City of Freeport is always looking for ways to improve the quality of stormwater in the city. Last year the Department of Public Works implemented a stormwater maintenance plan to enhance and improve the stormwater system through preventative maintenance. The City of Freeport's stormwater system is a combined open ditch and closed ditch consisting of underground piping, curbs/gutters and inlets. The City of Freeport operates and maintains two (2) stormwater pump stations, one is located on Ave A and another on 2nd street, both pump stations are equipped with an emergency generator for power failures. This fiscal budget, the City of Freeport city council authorized the purchase of a new Jet Machine and Vacuum trailer that the department will receive in April 2022. These new purchases will enable the DPW to efficiently perform preventative maintenance on the stormwater system. The Department of Public Works continues to reserve emergency bypass pumps that you will see at different locations throughout the city for hurricane season to ensure proper movement of water if necessary, during these events.



Grass Clippings



How you maintain your lawn is a big deal to the City of Freeport's receiving waters. Whether you manage your lawn yourself or hire a landscaper there are some simple steps to take to make a big difference. These include leaving the clippings on the lawn, cutting with a sharp blade and at a time when the grass is dry, and growing grass taller. Yard debris such as leaves, grass clippings and other organic plant material are actually sources of stormwater pollution. Yard debris blown into the street may cause the storm drainage system to clog and eventually flood. Some good lawn management practices for you to consider are:

- Grass cycling or recycling clippings by leaving them on the lawn. This provides a food source for the lawn, improves moisture, saves time, energy and pollution related to capturing and transporting clippings.
- Making lower cuts and growing taller grass. Keep blade heights at 3 and 4 inches as this will make for a healthier lawn, will reduce mowing frequency, and watering needs.
- Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from the pavement back onto your lawn so that they don't wash into storm drains

Did you know that 1/4-acre lawn area can produce over 1 ton, or about 160 barrels of grass clippings annually!



Help Keep Pet Waste Out of Freeports Catch Basins



When pet waste is improperly disposed of in the street catch basins, it is picked up by storm water runoff and washed into Freeport's waterways causing significant water pollution.

Decaying pet waste consumes oxygen and releases ammonia both which can damage the health of fish and other aquatic life. Pet waste can also carry bacteria, viruses, and parasites that threaten the health of humans and wildlife.

Nutrients in pet waste promote weed and algae growth causing cloudy and green water making swimming and recreation unappealing and potentially unhealthy.

Dog owners can help prevent contamination of local waterways, by picking up after their dog and disposing of the waste in a proper trash receptacle.



Work Zone Safety



In work zones, the Department of Public Works crews are performing essential services such as maintaining streets, stormwater, parks, trees and all infrastructure, and ensuring that trash is properly disposed of. We need your help to ensure the safety and accessibility of all users of our roadways. Whether driving, riding or walking, use care when approaching work zones. Here are some safety tips to avoid a potential accident:

- Stay alert and minimize distractions
- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance
- Slow down when you see a work zone
- Look for flaggers
- Be aware of workers
- Proceed cautiously
- Be patient

Thank you for helping to keep us all safe.



The Right Way to Mulch

With spring in full swing, you may have seen mulch “volcanoes” dotting the landscape of Freeport (tall cones of mulch piled into a cone around a tree trunk). What you may not realize is that this kind of mulching is detrimental to tree health. Piling mulch high around a tree trunk can trap moisture and eventually lead to root rot or create an environment for rodents or insects to feed on the tree. The wrong kind of mulch can also promote weed growth.

When mulching your trees, remember:

- Bark chips, shredded bark, old wood chips, and composted leaves are the best materials for mulch
- When mulching around your tree, a 2” to 4” mulching depth is ideal
- If you have an adequate mulch layer in place, rake the old mulch to break up any clumps
- if you haven’t already, pull back the mulch layer so that the base of the tree trunk and root crown are visible





Community Events

The City of Freeport host many community events throughout the year for its citizens. The Recreation Department has been working hard planning for these events and we are excited to kick the event season off in February 2022. Below is a list of scheduled events for the community:

- April 2nd – Freeport Amateur Boxing @ Freeport Recreation Center
- April 9th - Eggstravaganza @ FMP park
- April 29-30th - River Fest @ FMP park
- June 4th - Sandcastle competition @ Bryan Beach
- October 27th – Fright Night @ FMP park
- December 1st – Holiday on the Brazos @ FMP park

The Recreation Department is also excited to announce that programs are returning. The staff is working hard creating programs for the citizens of Freeport of all ages. Currently Zumba and Step Aerobics classes have resumed and are being held on:

- Monday – 8:30 am to 9:30 am
- Tuesday – 8:30 am to 9:30 am
- Thursday – 8:30 am to 9:30 am
- Saturday – 8:30 am to 9:30 am

Step aerobics and Zumba classes have started. Please check with the city web page and Facebook pages for updates on programs at the recreation center or contact a staff member @ 979-233-6061.



Did you know that the City of Freeport has a Recreation Center located at 803 Mystery Harbor Lane?

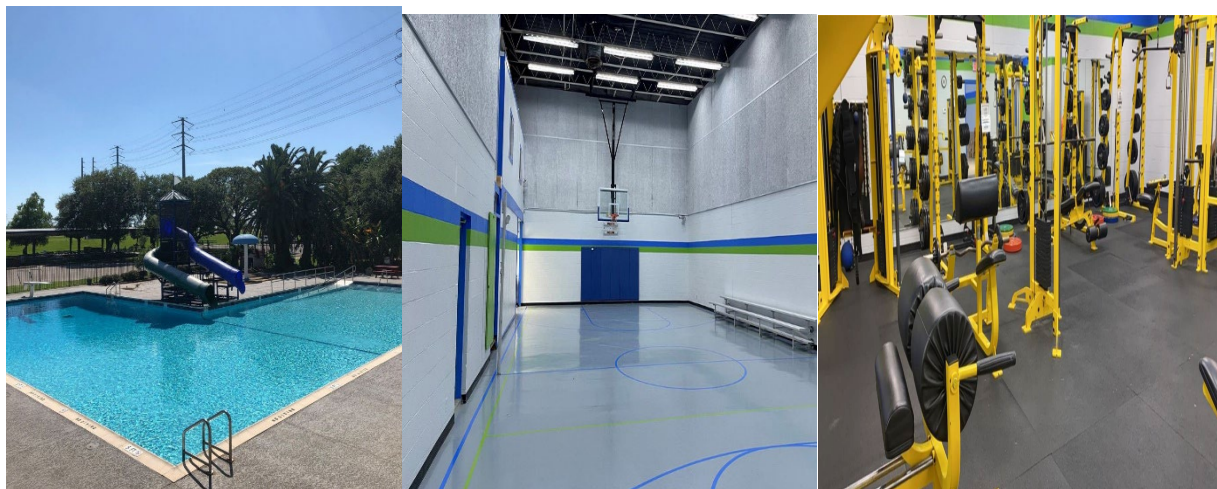
Whether it's a swim in the pool, working out in the weight room, working on cardio, playing basketball or racquetball, participating in programs or relaxing in the sauna the recreation center is the place to be.

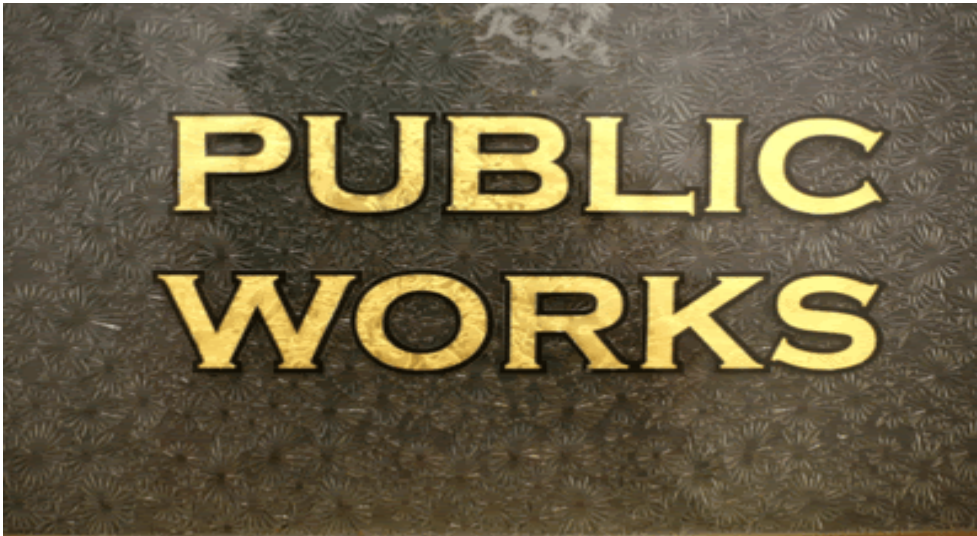
The hours of operation are:

Monday – Friday 6:00 am – 7:00 pm

Saturday – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed on Sundays





Important contact Information

Department of Public Works
510 S Avenue A
Freeport TX 77541

Hours of Operation
7:30 am – 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday

Phone # 979-233-4241
Director's ext. 2605
lpetty@freeport.tx.us

After Hours
979-239-1211