



SEPT  
2018



# THE LAWRENCE LIFT

NEWSLETTER

## MUNICH IS COMING TO LAWRENCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 4:00 - 7:00PM

Lagers in Lawrence Oktoberfest is coming on September 29 between 3:00 and 7:00pm at 9230 Memorial Park Drive (at the Civic Plaza located on Fort Harrison directly behind (north of) Jockamo's Pizza). On-line tickets are available at [www.lagersinlawrence.com](http://www.lagersinlawrence.com). You must be 21 years of age or older to enter. More than 100 craft beers will be available.

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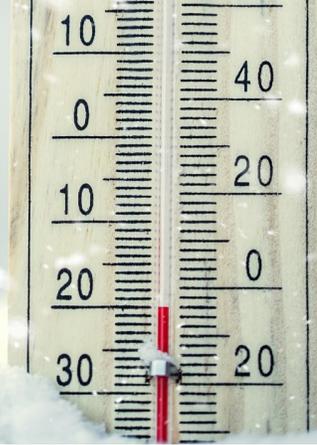
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## DEAR LAWRENCE UTILITY CUSTOMER

I am writing this on the last day of Summer, and that reminds me that Winter is soon to be upon us. I know that many of you are as excited about that as I am! Alas, it is also a reminder that it is time to start thinking about winterizing those irrigation systems, checking for leaks and making sure they are fixed, and insulating pipes and meters in garages and other places subject to exposure to freezing temperatures. Do you know how to shut the water off in case of a frozen or broken pipe? If you know where your main shut off valve inside the house is, do you know if it works? Are you missing curb box or meter pit lids? Are these lids intact and properly secured to prevent cold air entering the pit and freezing valves, piping and/or the meter? How about your outside spigots? Do you have a way to shut them off in the winter or at least cover them to protect against freezing and breaking? Did you know that we here at the Utility have also observed sewer lines freeze? Up close to the house or business, these sewer "laterals" can be as shallow as 18-inches and, if water is flowing through them due to even a small leak and especially if the cleanout cap is missing, these can freeze and become blocked, preventing your sewer lateral from functioning

# PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR THE WINTER



## Who's Responsible?

The property owner is responsible to make sure these lids are in good condition and close or seal properly. If a meter freezes and breaks, the Utility charges for replacement meters. The property owner is responsible for the service line from the meter pit or shut off valve (if the meter is inside the house) in the yard and all the plumbing inside the house. If a meter is located inside the home or garage and is inadequately protected from freezing, the property owner is charged for the replacement meter.

## The Costs Involved

Leaks can significantly run up a water bill in a short period of time and the Utility does not adjust the water portion of a bill. The only adjustment presently allowed would be for the sewer portion of the bill it is determined that the water did not enter the sanitary sewer system.

## Routine Check Ups

Please take the time to check your home or business' water and sewer systems regularly to ensure that you do not have any unexpected leak and repair costs. If you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to advise you or else contact your plumber to perform these checks regularly if you are not so inclined or are unable to do so. It is a good practice to perform these checks when you do your smoke detector checks, or even when you have your HVAC systems checked and readied for the changes of seasons.

## We are Focused on Keeping Our Streets Clean

Many of you are aware now that we have stepped up our efforts to clean up our streets and right of way areas with increased street sweeping and tree/bush trimming. One thing

that we have received feedback on is that we did not provide notice that we were going to be in an area so that cars could be moved to provide a complete sweep. But with the extent of the debris in the curb from inadequate street sweeping in the past, we opted to just get out there and clean as much as we could to try and get things to a more manageable level. A master street sweeping plan is something that we are in the process of working on and we will be planning and placing notices so that we do this task more effectively in the future. Regarding tree trimming, this is another area where we are playing catch-up. We have tried to focus on areas such as intersections where the inability to see other traffic approaching, or to see stop signs or lights, as a matter of public safety. We are also focusing attention on areas where traffic is impeded or endangered by tree limbs extending into the right of way and/or roadway. One thing that property owners should be aware of is that under the existing ordinances it is the property owner's responsibility to keep tree branches located on their property trimmed so that they do not impede or obstruct pedestrian traffic on sidewalks. Tree branches are required to be kept trimmed to a minimum of 10-feet above the sidewalk and/or street surface.

## Who's Responsible for Keeping Drainage Ditches Clean?

Our DPW Director would also like to remind property owner's that it is their responsibility to keep drainage ditches cleaned and free-flowing to prevent water backing up on other properties. This means not dumping grass clippings or leaves in drainage ways and keeping pipe inlets and drainage structures located on your property free of debris. Letting leaves fall and remain in the curb line contributes to clogged storm sewers

creating drainage problems that affect all. It truly does not take much effort to keep these drainage ditches and storm sewer structures free and clear of debris so that they work as intended when needed.

## Salt forecasts at Record Lows

Due to present and forecasted salt shortages this year and into 2019, the Street Department will be implementing a more judicious use of salt combined with brine applications to deal with ice & snow this winter. It is our intention to better utilize the application of brine to tackle ice & snow and to reduce salt usage.

Finally, if there is a topic you would like to see addressed in this newsletter so that you better understand the roles and responsibilities of property owners and City Operations crews, or if you have questions regarding Utility billing, permitting or code enforcement issues, please do not hesitate to contact me via email and I will get answers for you. I cannot guarantee they will be answers you like or want to hear, but I will make sure your concerns are addressed. And if I don't know the answer, I know I can find out who does have an answer! The more we all know and understand how our local government functions and what it is responsible for versus what we as citizens and property owners are responsible for, the better our community will be for all!

Thank you,

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