



APRIL
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THE LAWRENCE LIFT NEWSLETTER

REPUBLIC SERVICES ANNOUNCES SPRING CLEAN-UP DATES

The designated 2018 Spring clean-up for the City of Lawrence will be the week of May 21st. During this week, Republic will pick up customers regular one bulk item plus up to an additional five bulk items. Pick up will occur during your regularly scheduled trash day. Please contact Republic Services at 317-917-7300 with any questions.

Scott Salsbery
Utilities Superintendent
(317) 524-6305
ssalsbery@cityoflawrence.org

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DEAR LAWRENCE UTILITY CUSTOMER,

Many of you see our utility vehicles and crews all around town on a regular basis. But you may not be aware of the tremendous amount of work that happens around the clock to keep water flowing and waste going. It takes a tremendous amount of motivation and dedication by a trained and professional staff to make these seemingly simple things happen, and to respond and fix things when they break or malfunction. Hiring and retaining the caliber of employees required to do this very demanding work is fast becoming one of the most difficult problems facing utilities. It takes a special kind of person to subject themselves to a life of sacrificing significant amounts of their 24-hour day to be a utility employee; a life of missed family gatherings, children's ball games and other activities, family meals, etc. Because when the call goes out, regardless of the time of day or night, regardless of weather conditions, these people respond quickly and efficiently, often performing physically demanding work. They do so because they care about their water and sewer systems and their customers. I know it sounds hokey, but that is the way it is. We need to be sure we attract and retain quality employees by continuing to offer competitive wages and benefits. A revolving door of unmotivated and untrained employees is inefficient, costly and leads to operational problems.

Here is just a brief summary of what your 38 water and sewer utility employees take care of:

- Three Water Treatment Plants, four water storage tanks, 10 production wells and all the associated pumps, motors, piping, fittings and controls
- 26 sewage lift stations and 84 sewage grinder pump installations
- 218 miles of water mains; 188 miles of sewer mains
- 2,252 public fire hydrants; 4,525 sewer manholes; 6,843 water main and other water valves
- Approximately 14,600 metered accounts

LU FOCUSES ON 2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Our staff works each and every day to properly operate and maintain all these things so that we get the maximum performance and useful life possible. But these things do all eventually need to be replaced. Rehabilitation projects can often extend their useful life and we utilize appropriate types of rehabilitation technologies and routine preventive maintenance to maximize life span. But all things must pass, and that holds true for infrastructure as well. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to take proper care of our infrastructure legacy left to us by those who came before us.

We have made significant improvements in the utility operations in several areas over the last two years and we will continue to make improvements. Utility financial reports are available on our website at

www.cityoflawrence.org. Please take the time to see how your utility bill payments are being used.

Project Updates:

- The Richardt Water Treatment Plant is making significant progress. The filter building is up and under roof now and the clear well and aerators are set and the contractor is getting ready to start pouring the concrete backwash water holding tank. Some of the internal piping in the filter gallery has been started along with the water mains exterior to the building. The contractor and IP&L are also preparing for the main power lines to be run. This project is on time and under budget.
- The Sumac Water Main Replacement is completed and the final walk-through inspection is set for the week of April 2nd.
- The Oaklandon Tower project is starting up and the telecom

gear on the tower has been removed to a temporary pole and site fencing installed. The contractor will begin mobilizing to the site in the next week. As a reminder, please note that the Oaklandon Play Park will be closed for safety reasons during this project, which is anticipated to be completed at the end of June.

- The Wellfield Improvements Project will be set to bid in the next week or two. This project will address structural defects with some of our well-houses along with electrical/control improvements and the addition of standby generators at 3 wells to allow us to continue to produce water should the main power supply in the Indian Lake or Fort Harrison well fields fail.
- The 2017 manhole Rehabilitation Project is almost complete. To date over 160 manholes have had work performed

to restore structural integrity, eliminate leaks allowing rainwater inflow and grade adjustments.

- The Trades District Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project is underway and several hundreds of feet of old clay sewer pipe has been lined along with the service laterals in the right-of-way.

We are closer to rolling out our new e-Billing module in our billing system along with preparing to launch the Eye-On-Water app for our customers. These customer service enhancements will provide customers with tools to better monitor and manage their water usage as well as providing access to their billing account to view bills, view historical consumption, receive bills electronically along with the Lawrence Lift and also provide an easy to use portal to make payments on-line. More information on these improvements will be coming out as we near roll-out time.

Thank you



Scott Salsbery, Superintendent
www.cityoflawrence.org