



THE

LAWRENCE LIFT



NEWSLETTER

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DEAR LAWRENCE UTILITY CUSTOMER,

THANK YOU!

We want to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt Thank You to all our customers who have been patient and cooperative with us as we work

through this rather unusual year. This pandemic crisis has been very hard on many and sometimes it does not appear that it will be over with anytime

soon. But through it all we must remain hopeful and continue to do our best to protect ourselves and others. Things will get better!

WATER UTILITY PHASE 2

Speaking of things getting better, our water utility has recently embarked on the Phase II portion of the Water System Improvements Project, which includes improvements to the Fort Harrison and Indian Lake Water Treatment Plants, Winding Ridge Water Storage Tank, well improvements and 4 more water main replacement projects.

While the contractor is beginning work on the water plant portion of the project, our engineering firm, Wessler Engineering, is beginning design work to replace water mains in 46th Street from Franklin to Shadeland; Richardt

Street from 48th to 56th; Franklin Road from Plummer Street to 45th and



from 47th Street to 56th; and Hermosa drive/Fall Creek Drive.

These projects are all funded through our recent bond issue. Additional water main projects are being planned right now that will start in 2021.

In addition, the Water Utility will also be rolling out more water meter replacements in the very near future in order to replace old meters and provide our customers with access to the Eye On Water App version with the most robust features. More information on this project will be coming out soon.

SEWER UTILITY UPDATE

Something not getting better is the situation with the Sanitary Sewer Utility. We continue to struggle with inadequate funding to execute projects designed to address performance and capacity issues as well as eliminate chronic Sanitary Sewer Overflows.

As we proceed with performing a rate study we will be looking at spreading these increases out over a longer period of time with smaller annual increases. Our current contract with CEG calls for annual increases starting with 2019 on through to 2029. We must be able to handle not only these additional treatment cost hikes, but also continue

to fix our existing system, which is badly deteriorated in the older parts of the city, as well as generate enough revenue to properly operate the system on a daily basis.

As I have mentioned before, the Sewer Utility has not adjusted rates since 2009, which results in our falling behind with respect to capital improvements because routine operating costs, which includes our treatment charges (\$2,159,043 in 2019) and operating capital for pump replacements, instrumentation and controls, vehicle/equipment replacements and other operating costs such as electrical

power, gas, fuel, insurance, salaries & benefits, permits, etc. are putting the squeeze on capital funding.



SEWER UTILITY CONT.

The squeeze would not be so bad if we could free up the roughly \$900,000 we pay CEG to treat clear water that gets into our sewer system from illegal connections, defective manholes, sewer mains and sewer building connections (laterals).

But we have to act soon in order to start making effective progress that will not only restore financial soundness to the sewer utility, but also end

the regulatory action related to sewer overflows and restore adequate system capacity for existing as well as new development sewer volumes.

But if we do not collectively decide to address these issues by taking the proper actions to fix our system physically and financially, then we will be forced to continue to suffer from the negative impacts associated with underfunded utility operations. As a com-

munity we must make the hard decision to invest in our infrastructure, not only for ourselves, but for those who come after us.

The best way to do this is to have regular but smaller increases so we do not find ourselves falling farther and farther behind to the point where a large increase is the only option. The time to turn things around is now.

LEAF SEASON

As you all are no doubt aware, the Fall Season is just about on us! This means it's just about time to get the rakes and leaf bags out. It is a good time to remember that leaves, while they are beautiful when they turn color and start dropping, can also turn into an ugly mess when they are left in ditches and curb lines, where they tend to clog up storm sewers and cause other problems.

The same goes for grass clippings blown into the street and trash or other debris that is carelessly thrown out of cars or spills out of over-filled trash cans. All this debris makes its way into

our storm sewer inlets and will clog pipes over time as well as block the inlets too. When a good rain comes along, these blocked inlets and clogged pipes will result in flooded yards and streets. You can help yourself and your neighbors by not allowing leaves, grass, litter and other debris to remain in the street to cause these problems.

In conjunction with the above, property owners should also be aware that keeping sidewalks free and clear of obstructions, dirt, ice/snow is required under city ordinances. This applies to business owners too. Keeping properties free of litter and other debris is

also required. It really does not take much effort to do these things and if we all do them, our community will be much more attractive and have greater curb appeal! Keeping your trash toters out of the street also helps!

Per the ordinance requirements, they are to be stored so that they are not visible from the street. Tree limbs overhanging sidewalks must also be trimmed so that they are at least 10-feet above the sidewalk, which is also a property owner requirement under the ordinance. All these things add up to improving the appearance of our neighborhoods!

OTHER UPDATES

Please be mindful of our several construction projects that are ongoing in the City and avoid these areas whenever possible and, if you live in the construction area or have business there or are visiting friends or family, slow down and be observant.

These areas are undergoing much needed improvements, but these improvements come with a bit of inconvenience to the traveling public. Take a bit of extra time in order to be safe and for the safety of workers and pedestrians. There is really nothing so important that speeding through any residential neighborhood is warranted!!

Look for some positive changes coming soon in the DPW permitting and contractor licensing section! The City is diligently working on rolling out an electronic permitting and licensing application, which will also be able to accept electronic payment for permits and licenses. Some changes in policy and procedure regarding permitting and licensing have already been changed for the better.

Streets are being milled and resurfaced in Harrison Park (the subdivision east of Franklin Road between 48th & 50th Streets) and the Samuel Record's subdivision area (the area between the CSX tracks/Pendleton Pike and from

Franklin to Industrial Parkway).

Please try to avoid those areas unless you live there or have to be there. When you are in the work zones, please be mindful of traffic restrictions and workers and take the time to be safe. Harmon Way through Lawrence Park is also being reconstructed.

Thank you,



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