

## PAYMENT KIOSK REMINDER

Please remember that the Utility has installed two new payment machines at the City of Lawrence Government Center located at 9001 East 59th Street.

The one outside on the south side of the building is available 24/7. There is another one in the lobby of the Government Center that is available during normal business hours.

Both take cash, check or credit card payments.



Also, please be aware that with our continuing efforts to better serve our customers we are preparing to make some additional changes to the on-line bill pay process that will provide customers with more account management features as well as a mobile-friendly app.

This new process is through Citybase, the same company that provides the new payment machine services. It is our hope that these changes will address many of the issues our customers have identified.

## BROOKHAVEN WATER MAIN PROJECT

For those customers living in the Brookhaven area, you will be pleased to know that the contractor is in the final stages of the water main replacement project and are now transferring service connections to

the new main. Next up will be restoration work and minor Punchlist items. They should also be making the repairs necessary from a storm sewer/sanitary sewer conflict unearthed in the area of 46th & Kit-

ley. We will look to have the next phase of this project's work in design later this year or early 2022.

## ELMHURST BASIN SANITARY SEWER REHAB PROJECT

The Elmhurst Basin Sanitary Sewer Rehab project is also virtually complete except final asphalt restoration and other minor items. The project area, bounded by Shadeland/I-465 & 48th to Pendleton Pike, has had significant sewer main and manhole rehabilitation work performed, which should help improve sanitary sewer performance in this area by eliminating sources of clear water.

Clear water (i.e. rainwater/groundwater, water from illegal connections) discharges to the sanitary sewer are prohibited under City Ordinance. We know we have a big problem with illegally connected sump pumps, gutter downspouts, foundation drains, etc. Even if these were "acceptable" in the past, they are certainly not now. In fact, they are part of why we pay much more money to CEG for sewage treatment than we should be. We also have defects in our public sanitary sewer system, which I have mentioned many times before.

Although we have performed numerous projects over the years to address our de-

fective sewers, with over 175 miles of public sanitary sewer mains and over 4,000 public manholes, we still need to do a lot of work to fix these issues! The key problem we have in attacking these issues



more aggressively is that the Sewer Utility is underfunded. We simply do not have adequate revenue to perform the projects we need to do, at the level we need to do them, in order to reduce costs and improve system performance. I know we will

never eliminate all sources of clear water as that is just not realistic.

In the interests of the public health and safety, we must reduce and/or eliminate Sanitary Sewer Overflows during rain events, as is required under our EPA Agreed Order. In addition, we need to ensure adequate capacity in our system for existing and future flows. Moreover, we must have adequate operating revenue to properly maintain, manage and operate our sanitary sewer system. I know that a sewer rate increase is not going to be popular, but we are at a point now where we really do not have an option.

State statute requires that we have adequate revenue to properly operate and maintain our system, as well as adequate revenue to fund improvements. We have not adjusted sewer rates since 2009 and we have to correct that situation. Then, we must take a better approach to setting utility rates, which in simple terms is more frequent but smaller increases.

## OTHER UTILITY WORK UPDATES

Our upcoming Zoeller Ave/Maple Lane and Wallingwood Drive water main replacement plans are at 90% completion and we will look to bid these projects soon to begin construction in the early summer. These projects will include pavement restoration and, on Wallingwood Drive, drainage improvements that will be required because of the water main replacement work.

Our Phase II - Contract B Water Main Re-

placement Project has just passed the 60% design milestone and we will be working towards finalizing plans and determining a bid/construction timeline with the engineers soon. Impacted areas include 46th Street from Franklin to Shadeland, including Elmhurst, Woodcroft and Kingman Drives; Franklin Road from 47th Street to 56th; Richardt Street from 48th to 56th and Hermosa Drive/Fall Creek Road from Indian Lake Road to the dead end. This project will likely bid later in 2021.

Our 52nd Street Elevated Storage tank will be out to bid in the fall of this year for 2022 construction. This work is limited to an exterior wash-down, interior recoating and structural and safety improvements.

Work on our Fort Harrison and Indian Lake Water Treatment Plants is proceeding well, despite some unforeseen conflicts during design, but generally, the projects are on time and on budget despite Change Orders.

## SPRING RAINY SEASON

As you all know, the spring rainy season is upon us. Now would be a good time to clean the drainage ditches serving your property of debris, litter, branches, leaves, etc. You should also check your driveway culvert to make sure it is clear of debris so it will move water downstream as designed. If you notice damaged inlet structures, or it appears as if sinkholes are developing over storm water pipes, please be sure

and report them via the web-portal at <http://www.cityoflawrence.org/report-potholes>. Please do not let the title of the link mislead you. You can and should use this link to report drainage issues. The form allows you to attach pictures too, along with the narrative description of the problem.



## CITYWIDE TRASH ISSUES



As you drive around the City, it is impossible not to see all the trash on the ground, in the street and everywhere else. It is impossible for city personnel to keep up with all this mess considering all the other required work of a higher priority that they perform daily. This situation has really gotten out of hand. It is overwhelming how much trash is out there. When did it become acceptable to throw trash out on the street? Why do we care so little for our environment and the appearance of our City? What does all this trash say about us as a community?

We can all make an impact by not overfilling our trash totes so that they spill out when being emptied; by keeping our properties free of trash and debris, especially drainage ditches; by not tossing trash out of our cars, etc. Simple things that add up to a cleaner community. We regularly contact our local trash services about trash

flying out of their trucks, which is a problem too. Businesses need to not overfill their dumpsters and make sure the lids are closed. I believe that if we make a concerted effort, we can rein this problem in. I know it will not ever be perfectly clean, but it can be much better than it is now!

Please remember that keeping the sidewalks along your property clean & clear, whether residential or commercial, is required under city ordinance. It is also a huge safety concern for those who use the sidewalks. They should be kept free of debris, obstructions and trash. Vehicles in driveways should not be parked so as to obstruct passage. And tree limbs overhanging the sidewalk need to be trimmed to be at least 10-feet above the sidewalk.

All these little things make a big difference in the appearance of our City and in our general well-being!!