



THE LAWRENCE LIFT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE

46

DEAR LAWRENCE UTILITY CUSTOMER,

Water main projects underway, completed or in design:

- o 47th & Richardt Water Main Improvements (in construction)
- o Brookhaven Water Main Replacements (in design; bid late 2019)
- o Franklin Road Water Main Replacement (in construction)
- o 62nd Street Water Main Project & 5400 Carroll Road Water Main Project (in easement acquisition; design complete)
- o 46th Street Water Main Extension (completed)

We are also continuing to make improvements to our sanitary sewer system, including:

- o Lift Station 19 Rehabilitation (in construction)
- o Pipe Lining/Manhole Rehab – 46th/Shadeland area (in design)

Our 2020 Water and Sanitary Sewer Utility budgets have been presented to the Utility Service Board and are available at cityoflawrence.org/financial. The 2020 budget proposal is a sound and responsible fiscal plan that will enable the Utilities to serve the interests of its ratepayers. We have made tremendous progress in the past four years restoring the financial health of the utilities and reinvesting in our system. I am pleased to report that this will continue with our 2020 proposed budget.

Our Water utility has received an unprecedented 5 ratings upgrades over the past two years, and is now rated A by Standard and Poor's ("S&P") - a dramatic improvement from the junk bond rating of BB+ from a few years ago. These ratings upgrades alone have saved the utility at least \$3.5 million in borrowing costs through refinancing existing bonds and will continue to provide savings in the future in the form of lower borrowing costs for the utility. The utility will begin its Phase II capital projects in 2020, which will include our new Fort Harrison Water Treatment Plant, the Indian Lake Water Treatment Plant, the Winding Ridge ground storage tank, and water main replacements. These important projects will ensure a safe, reliable, and high quality source of water for our ratepayers for years to come.

Our 2020 budget proposal also includes an additional \$4 million for capital improvements to the water system – e.g. water main replacements, meter pit installations, and hydrant and valve replacements. With the 2020 budget, we will have reinvested nearly \$21 million back into the utility over the past four years!



The City of Lawrence has several water main projects underway, completed or in design.

SEWER SAVES \$750,000

We are pleased to report that we recently refinanced approximately \$2.5 million of outstanding sewer bonds at a lower interest rate, saving over \$750,000. These savings will be reinvested into the sewer utility for additional capital projects over the next three years. Our 2020 sewer capital improvements budget includes over \$3 million, including sewer main replacements and manhole rehabilitations.

As you are all aware, 2019 was another year of tremendous improvements for the City's Utility Operations. Our On-Line Bill Pay feature continues to be popular with more and more people signing up for this convenient feature, which allows customers to utilize on-line payments, including setting up recurring credit card payments, receive bills electronically as well as view historical billing and usage data.

In 2019 we saw the completion of our new Water Treatment Plant at Richardt Street, the complete refurbishment of the Oaklandon Water Tower (inside and out), and the completion of our Wellfield Improvements Project.

A SINCERE THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the outstanding Lawrence Utilities employees who work each and every day to ensure the highest level of service to our customers and residents. Rain, sleet or shine, in hot and cold weather, they provide outstanding water and sanitary sewer services to meet the needs of our customers and others,

such as the Lawrence Fire Department. Most people do not think of it this way, but Water and Sewer Utility employees play as big a role in assuring and maintaining the Public Health and Safety of our City as any other Public Safety agency. In addition to the field and administrative personnel who make all these great things happen, we must also give a heartfelt 'Thank You' to our CFO and staff, and our Utility Service Board members, who are a critical part of all our success here.

I would also like to thank all the other City employees who we work and interact with on a daily basis in taking care of the business of running the city. It truly is a team effort and each and every one of you all deserve thanks for all you do. No department is an island. It is through working together that we have attained the success we have and achieved the goals that we set for ourselves and our City. Let us endeavor to persevere.

FRANKLIN ROAD CLOSURE

The traveling public should be aware that we will be closing Franklin Road between 47th and 45th Street in early to mid-January. The road will be closed for approximately 54 days. This closure is necessary for the safety of the workers and traveling public and will also reduce project costs. The contractor will be posting warning and detour route signs in December to let people know so that alternative routes can be planned. This is just a part of a lot of new projects that are coming for what is termed "Old Lawrence". We have completed the Shadeland Way Water

Main Project and the 47th Street Water Main Project is under construction now. A Stormwater Project on Richardt Street has been bid and will be starting soon too, which is being performed by Indianapolis DPW with Lawrence Stormwater impact fees. We have received and opened bids for our Brookhaven Water Main Project and construction on this project will start in early 2020. In early 2020 we will also be launching a Sanitary Sewer Main and Manhole Rehabilitation Project in the area bounded by 46th, CSX tracks on north and south, and from Shadeland to I-465 on the west and east. And we are just getting started! Our remaining two water plants are in design now for major rehabilitation and improvement along with our Winding Ridge water storage tank and additional water main projects.

With all these improvements, there will be road restrictions and/or closures and lots of contractor employees working in the streets. While we and our engineers strive always to make sure there are no unaccounted for conditions on these projects, we sometimes encounter conditions that alter the scope of the project and can lead to unavoidable service outages or other delays. We greatly appreciate your patience as we get these much-needed projects built in order to better serve the needs of our customers.

Sincerely,

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