



# THE LAWRENCE LIFT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE  
**39**

## *DEAR UTILITY CUSTOMER,*

Check out our new online bill pay! Visit us at [www.cityoflawrence.org/billpay](http://www.cityoflawrence.org/billpay) to enroll in e-bill and pay by credit card! Remember to record your password somewhere secure after you set up your account! And remember, going through the Paymentus portal is NOT the same as accessing your e-Suite account. For optimal service, please use your e-Suite account! And please remember to choose paperless billing, which is good for the environment and also reduces costs!

Scott Salsbery  
Utilities Superintendent  
(317) 524-6305  
[ssalsbery@cityoflawrence.org](mailto:ssalsbery@cityoflawrence.org)

I would like to remind our customers residing in the area bounded roughly by Franklin Road on the east, Kitley Avenue on the west, Pendleton Pike on the south and 56th Street on the north that we could really benefit by having letters of support for our OCRA Grant application to make repairs to the Sanitary Sewer system in this area. We are seeking to supplement our sewer capital funds with an additional \$700,000 from the OCRA in order to make these much-needed repairs. To date we have had very little response from our customers and several of those responses concerned storm sewer work, which is not what this grant is for. If you have experienced sanitary sewer problems and live in the project area, which also includes Harrison Park, please send us your letters. They will help us score higher on the application.

Speaking of sanitary sewers, we were called out on a sewer main issue on Saturday, which ended up being a clogged sewer main that serves a considerable number of folks in an apartment complex here in Lawrence. The problem turned out to be one which I have mentioned in this newsletter several times; Grease. The location of the clog made it clear that the source of the grease was the apartment complex and a small commercial development that has no restaurants or major commercial kitchen operations. The City has no control over what goes down the drains of private residences and multi-family residential developments. Of course, we do respond and get the sewers opened up as quickly as possible, but the real problem here is that the grease should not be in the sewer in the first place. It really is quite easy to wipe greasy pots and pans out with paper towels and throw them in the trash. It is also very easy to collect and dispose of cooking fat, oil and grease (FOG) in a container and dispose of it in the trash too. One could also try eating healthier meals that do not require loads of fat, oil or grease, but where is the satisfaction in that, right? I would rather do the paper towel thing and keep eating bacon.... But this issue is getting to be a real problem here in the City. We do perform inspections of restaurants and other food establishments to ensure they have grease traps and that they are maintained properly, but it is a never-ending battle to get people to just do the right thing to begin with.



# GO PAPERLESS

**AND RECEIVE \$5 OFF YOUR  
NEXT UTILITY BILL TODAY!**

**[WWW.CITYOFLAWRENCE.ORG/BILLPAY](http://WWW.CITYOFLAWRENCE.ORG/BILLPAY)**

The Marion County Health Department also monitors restaurants, and we have sometimes called them in certain cases, but that is not their primary mission. FOG is a real problem for any sewer operation. It has been expanded lately from FOG to FROG, which is fats, rags, oils and greases. Ragging of sewer lift station pumps results from the use of these so-called "disposable and biodegradable" wipes, used for cleaning everything from baby's rear-ends to kitchen counters. They can contribute to clogged mains as well as jam up the impellers of our sewer pumps. Just throw them in the trash!!!

This is all just like the storm sewer issues I mentioned an issue

or two ago. We get called out so many times for clogged inlets and ditches that are clogged because leaves do not get collected and bagged for disposal. They clog up storm sewers and create drainage problems in the neighborhoods. They do not pick up trash out of ditches. Drainage swales get blocked with sheds, fences, landscaping and impede drainage. This is especially common in the older subdivisions and these problems are on private property, which the City does not maintain.

Until we all start caring about our community and stop doing the things that contribute to or directly cause these problems, it will just continue to be a problem.

## TWENTY WAYS WE CAN BUILD A BETTER LAWRENCE

1. Keep your property free of litter and debris; put it in the trash
2. Don't litter; there is a trash can wherever it is you are going
3. Keep drainage ditches clean and free of grass clippings, leaves, trash and other obstructions
4. If there is a street drain along the curb by your house, check it periodically and keep it free of debris so rain water can enter it instead of flooding the street
5. Don't put fats, oils, grease, "disposable and/or biodegradable" wipes down the toilet
6. Don't allow trees to grow out over the sidewalk (they have to be at least 10-feet high over any sidewalk) or into the roadway
7. If your neighbor is unable to cut their grass due to illness, injury or some other valid reason, be a good neighbor and cut it for them
8. Don't leave your trash cans out at the street constantly, the neighborhood looks so much better when they are stowed out of sight
9. Maintain your homes outward appearance
10. Don't maintain a junkyard in your front yard, or your backyard
11. Be courteous to one another
12. Be kind to one another
13. Have some pride and respect for your community
14. Help someone out whenever you can, however you can
15. Support local business!
16. Keep a watch on your neighborhood and if you spot suspicious activity, call 911
17. Make sure you have working smoke detectors
18. Check your plumbing for leaks at least twice per year, the more the better
19. Join a local service club or organization
20. Report broken or non-working street lights to DPW via the website in the "How do I" tab

These are just a few of the things I thought of right off the top of my head. There are many more things we can do as members of the community we live in to make it better. All it takes is just a little effort and a little time. The payoff is worth it in the long run for all who live, work, play and visit the City of Lawrence.

Thank you,



Scott Salsbery, Superintendent  
[ssalsbery@cityoflawrence.org](mailto:ssalsbery@cityoflawrence.org)  
(317) 524-6305