

Greetings and Happy New Year to all our customers!

METER CHANGE OUT PROGRAM

Our water meter change out project, started in 2021, is about 50% completed. Our contractor, NECO, will be out installing the new meters and we hope to have this work completed in March-April.

As a reminder, those customers who have had the new meters installed will be able to have the full features available in the Eye On Water app, which is a free app provided by Badger Meter. The app allows customers to better manage and monitor water usage as well as receive notification of possible leak activity within 24 hours. Leak activity is determined when the me-

ter detects continuous water flow at a rate of at least 1 gallon per hour for a 24-hour period.

Many customers already have the type of meter that has this full range of features in the app available. If you are not sure, you may contact the Business Office at 317.542.0511 to find out. Our goal is to have all our meters switched over to the new style. We are presently targeting 2,500 meters per year for this change out project and it will take several years before we have them all changed.



WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROGRESS

The Franklin Road section of our Phase II, Contract B water main replacement project, performed by JG Case Construction, is underway. Many of you have likely already noticed the barricades out on Franklin Road just north of Pendleton Pike, blocking off the westernmost southbound lane.

At this time, the contractor is locating and exposing the various underground utilities within the project area, which extends north all the way to Barksdale Drive, just north of the Franklin Road Community Park. As soon as the locations and depths of these other utilities are determined, the contractor will then proceed to begin installing the new water main via horizontal directional drilling technique, also known as "boring".

JG Case has already installed new main on Hermosa Drive and Fall Creek Drive in the Indian Lake area and will soon be at a point where they can pressure test, disinfect and place that new main into service and begin transferring the individual

connections to the new main. These two areas are just part of the overall project, which will also include main replacement on 46th Street from Franklin to Shadeland, McGuire Court, and Richardt Avenue, from 48th to 56th streets.

In March, weather permitting, Miller Pipeline will begin the water main replacement work on Wallingwood Drive, Maple Lane and Zoeller Avenue. We selected these areas due to age, condition as well as the

fact that they have poor flow characteristics. This work is set to start in March and completed by the end of the year.

As always, please be aware of these construction zones and plan ahead to avoid them whenever possible, and to drive safely and slowly through the construction zones when you cannot avoid them. We greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to make these improvements to our infrastructure!



ITS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

Leaves and trash tend to build up in drainage ditches and inlets at this time of year. Increased runoff from snowmelt and rain can result in areas of ponding water that can freeze and make for hazardous driving conditions. Property owners are responsible to handle the leaves on their property and to keep drainage ditches and other drainage structures on their property free and clear of debris so that rainwater can get away downstream. Also, do not forget to clean your gutters and downspouts out too, as clogs/blockages can lead to ice dams and water problems inside the home.

It is also a good time to make sure your main inside water shut off valve is accessible and working. If your meter is located inside, please take care to protect it from freezing and breaking. The cost to replace meters damaged by freezing and breaking is charged to the customer on their bill. The price goes up for 1-inch and larger meters.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind those property owners who have

sump pumps, gutter and perimeter/foundation drains, or other sources of rain or groundwater connected to their sanitary sewer laterals that these connections are prohibited by city ordinance.



These illegal connections are a considerable part of our capacity issues in the sanitary sewer system. These sources of clear water, when introduced into the sanitary sewer, contribute to overloading the sewer system in rain events, leading to sewage spills and increased costs due to the increased volume of the waste stream sent to the treatment facility. We are essentially paying for clean water that does not need

to be treated. This situation contributes to our ongoing issues with sewer capacity and sanitary sewer overflows that we are under orders from the EPA to address.

Fats, Oils and Grease, so-called “biodegradable or disposable” wipes are also prohibited from being introduced into the sanitary sewer system. These materials can foul or clog not only your own plumbing, but also cause problems with the city’s sanitary sewer mains, manholes, lift stations and grinder pumps. These problems may also contribute to backups and sewer spills as well as increased costs for maintenance and cleaning and even pump replacement costs. Clean greasy pots, pans and dishes with a paper towel and place in the trash; or collect grease in an old can or jar with a lid for disposal in the trash. Wipes should be disposed of in the trash, not flushed. Despite manufacturer’s claims, these items do not break down and end up clogging and damaging pumps in lift stations and grinder pumps.

2022 TRASH SCHEDULE

The 2022 Heavy Trash and Recycle Schedule is now posted to the City’s website at <https://www.cityoflawrence.org/solid-waste>. There you can also review the rules for heavy trash pickup.

Please also make a note of the Utility’s After-Hours on-call phone number (317-260-0220) in case you need to contact us after normal working hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM), on weekends, or when we are closed for a holiday. The following is the approved 2022 Holiday Closing Schedule for the City of Lawrence.

- Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 17
- President’s Day - Monday, February 21
- Good Friday - Friday, April 15
- Memorial Day - Monday, May 30
- Juneteenth - Monday, June 20
- Fourth of July - Monday, July 4
- Labor Day - Monday, September 5
- Columbus Day - Monday, October 10
- Veteran’s Day - Friday, November 11
- Thanksgiving - Thurs & Fri, November 24 & 25
- Christmas - Monday, December 26
- New Year’s Day - Monday, January 2, 2023



HAPPY 2022!

Finally, no matter what kind of year you had in 2021, we here at the City of Lawrence Utilities, and I am certain I speak for our Mayor and all our other departments, wish you and yours a Safe, Healthy, Happy and Prosperous Year in 2022.