

We recently changed PO Box address, our new information is listed below.

**Payment Processing**  
**PO Box 1366**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46206-1366**

If you are currently paying your utility bill through your bank, you will need to update the PO Box information to avoid your payment being returned. Please contact the billing office at 317-542-0511 if you have any questions.

## SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE & GRANT UPDATES

In the last issue, I mentioned that we were preparing to make application for State Water Infrastructure Fund Grant to perform sanitary sewer infrastructure improvements. Our plan is to utilize American Relief Plan (ARP) funds as our local matching contribution.

We expect notification as to whether or not we will receive grant funding on or about August 6. We are hopeful, but there are hundreds of utilities applying for the available funds (\$50M in 2021 and \$50M in 2022). If we do not receive funding this year in round one, we will apply again in 2022 for round two.

taining the SWIF Grant funds, the plan will be to use ARP monies to fund a portion of these projects, in lieu of the larger-scope SWIF-funded projects.

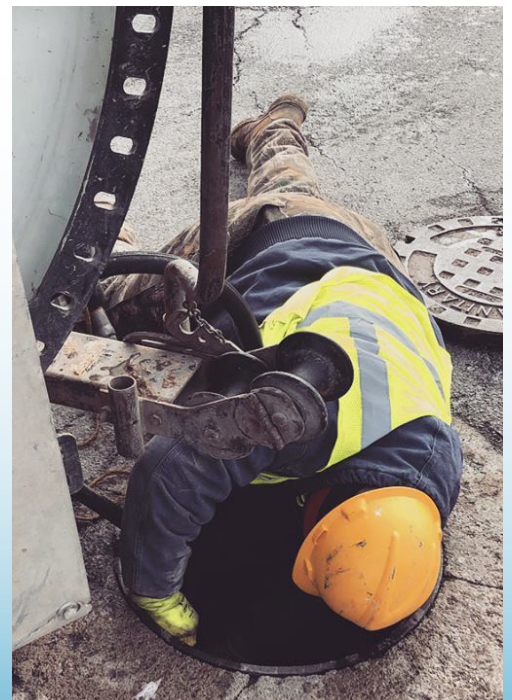
We are also preparing to get our sewer rate study done and have met with our financial consultant. This study will evaluate the utility's needs with respect to generating adequate revenues to fund our daily operation and maintenance costs, provide for additional staffing in the sewer utility as well as funding to cover existing debt and new projects, as well as an annual Sewer Rehab Project fund.

This will support an annual main/manhole/lateral rehab-replacement program, the same as we are doing for our water distribution system. The EPA projects will focus on specific issues regarding the elimination of chronic SSO's in our system as mentioned in the July issue of the Lift. We will be seeking to complete the study as soon as possible in order to begin these much-needed improvements to our sanitary sewer system as well as shore up our routine Operations and Maintenance.

It bears repeating that we have not adjusted sewer rates since 2009, which trend, if allowed to continue, will place the sewer utility in the same crisis the water utility was in back in 2016-2017. As a community, we simply cannot allow that to happen. Our infrastructure systems are the backbone of our community and affect not only our quality of life, but affect our economic development and health as well. Investment in our infrastructure systems is an investment in all of us.



The sanitary sewer project areas we are focusing on with SWIF Grant/ARP Funding extend from Kitley Avenue on the west to Industrial Parkway on the east, and from Pendleton Pike/CSX tracks on the south to 56th Street on the north. We will focus work on sewer infrastructure with high priority ratings with regard to condition and age issues. If we are unsuccessful in ob-





## WATER UTILITY METER REPLACEMENTS

The Water Utility is preparing to launch another phase of our ongoing water meter replacement program.

The program will continue our practice of installing Automated Meter Reading (AMR) meters that provide greater efficiency and accuracy in meter reading and billing. Although we are working all over the city on this project, the biggest affected areas include Briar Creek and Quail Creek Mobile Home Parks; Bay Ridge, Chesapeake, Echo Pointe subdivisions, and the Kingsboro/English Oak Drive area.

The Utility has contracted with NECO to perform the meter change-out work. We

anticipate project startup in September. The contractor's employees and vehicles will be clearly identified with the following image:



Each installation takes approximately 30 minutes to complete and installers will attempt to notify the homeowner before beginning any work. Installers are trained to observe meter function so that they are

not shutting off a service while it is being used. All affected properties will receive a notification letter in advance, which will contain contact info for NECO.

You may also contact the Business Office at 317-542-0511 with any questions. This project, funded via our water capital improvements funding, places no additional cost on our customers and no action is required from the customer. We do ask that customers maintain social distancing while the NECO employee is performing the work.

## PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY & TREES

One of our Street Departments many duties is addressing issues with trees located in the public right of way. The public right of way is property that the city owns and is generally for the construction of roadways. Property owners are not taxed on this property, although they do have maintenance responsibilities such as:

- ◆ keeping ditches/driveway culverts clean and mowed,
- ◆ not blowing dried grass clippings/leaves into the street, where they end up clogging storm sewers;
- ◆ removing litter,
- ◆ trimming trees/shrubs so as to not impede sidewalk foot traffic (there must be at least 10-foot of clearance above the sidewalk on your property) or obstruct vision for motorists, etc.

An easement is taxable property that the property owner owns, and has granted the right to install, maintain and repair various utilities like water, sewer or electric, phone and cable lines.

The city is not in any way responsible for trees located in easements. Property owners should consult with the city before planting trees, installing fences, sheds or performing any other kind of improvements in an easement. The party that has

utilities in the easement has the right to remove obstructions placed in easements and is not liable or responsible to replace them.

The Street Department will place notification signs in advance when they are targeting an area for tree trimming or removal. Trees in the public right of way may be removed if they:

- ◆ Are causing damage to streets/sidewalks due to root spreading,
- ◆ Are dead or dying,
- ◆ Have been damaged to the extent that they will soon be dead.

Trees in the public right of way may be trimmed if they:

- ◆ Are overhanging the street so that they pose a safety hazard to vehicular traffic,
- ◆ Have dead branches that are in danger of falling in the public right of way,
- ◆ Are causing sight obstructions such that motorists' safety is impaired.

The Street Department does not remove trees or trim trees in easement areas unless they must do so to repair, replace or relocate city-owned and maintained infrastructure in the easement area. They also do not remove or trim trees at property owner's request for aesthetic purposes.

As always, with our many maintenance activities and improvements projects that are underway and/or soon to start, please avoid construction areas whenever possible, and if you have to drive through them, please slow down and be alert for construction/utility workers!

