



THE LAWRENCE LIFT

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE
20



DEAR LAWRENCE UTILITY CUSTOMER,

LAWRENCE UTILITIES IS MOVING FORWARD WITH KEEPING THE BALLOON SCHEME ON THE OAKLANDON TOWER

As was mentioned last month, the Utility was seeking comments/views regarding the final paint scheme to be used on the Oaklandon Tower. The overwhelming majority of opinion was for replicating the balloon scheme. Given this response, we have decided to move forward with keeping the balloon scheme on the tower and possibly adding a City of Lawrence logo as well. With greater than 90% of our responses in favor of keeping the balloon, we feel it is the right decision to make.

Scott Salsbery
Utilities Superintendent
(317) 524-6305
ssalsbery@cityoflawrence.org

Recently, Lawrence Utilities completed its required Lead and Copper sampling for 2017. Presently, Lawrence is required to sample every three years for these constituents. About 30 customers participated in collecting samples, which are required to be drawn from the customer's tap. The results of these tests indicate no issues with lead levels, but a small increase (six-hundredths of a part per million) in the copper level at the 90th percentile. The EPA's "action level" for copper is 1.3 parts per million. Lawrence's copper level at the 90th percentile tested at 1.36 parts per million. The "action level" is a level which, when exceeded, triggers required additional testing and, in this case, corrosion control improvements. Lawrence already has in place a corrosion control program with the addition of phosphates to line the interior surfaces of pipe walls, thereby preventing leaching of copper from customer pipes and fittings. The Utility has already increased the dosage of phosphates in the finished water in order to increase protection.



LEARN HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE A \$10 CREDIT ON YOUR NEXT UTILITY BILL

As mentioned above, this situation has triggered a requirement for additional testing to be performed and we are reaching out to our customers to get some additional testing locations. To participate in the testing program, your home must have been built prior to 1986. There is a \$10.00 credit available on participating customers' utility bills for every sample collected. We will need to find an additional 30 customers to participate, for a total of 60. Please contact Mr. Tom Speer at (317) 524-6311, or via email at tspeer@cityoflawrence.org if you would like to participate. For more information concerning copper in drinking water you can go to the EPA's website at www.EPA.gov and type "copper" in the search EPA.gov box. It is important to note that

in the last round of testing in 2014, the Utility had no action levels exceeded for either lead or copper. This condition was caught early and we are confident that the additional testing will provide results indicating that the copper levels have been adequately reduced to meet the water quality requirements.

One of the many goals of the recent water rate increase was to seek an improvement in the water utility's bond rating, which had been downgraded to BB+, or "junk bond" status in 2015 due to financial mismanagement and a failure to provide timely and accurate financial information to the bond rating agencies. I am happy to report that the rating has, as we had planned, been improved. Standard & Poor's has upgraded our water utility bond rating two notches

to BBB with a positive outlook. This upgrade to investment grade will allow the utility to refinance its existing bonds at a lower interest rate, providing substantial interest cost savings. Please visit <http://www.cityoflawrence.org/utilities> to view the report from Standard & Poor's. Our goal to restore fiscal soundness and start making improvements to our infrastructure is being realized and the picture is getting better each and every day. There is still a long way to go to address all the issues, but we are well on the way and I would like to thank all our customers for their understanding and patience in getting the utility operations back to health.

Thank you,
Scott Salsbery, Superintendent
ssalsbery@cityoflawrence.org