



HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...

News and

Information

December 2021

From the Desk of Chief Mack

With Summer and Fall have passing us by, and as we enter into our Winter months, many of you will continue to take advantage of the Village of Lawton's golf cart ordinance. The golf cart ordinance is nearing the second year of its adoption, the Village has had very few issues with violations of the ordinance or other applicable state laws. With that being said, I would like to thank you. If you plan to continue driving your golf cart in the village, please be aware of a few of the rules that apply. The operator of the golf cart must be at least 16 years old and be licensed to operate a motor vehicle. The golf cart must be driven as near to the right side of the roadway as possible and should not exceed 15 miles per hour. The golf cart is not allowed on roadways where the speed limit is more than 30 miles per hour. **Golf carts are allowed to cross M40 at Fourth St. only.** There are no other intersections that allow for crossing M40 in the village, that would not cause the golf cart to travel on M40 itself. The golf cart restrictions exist to make for safe travels for all who wish to participate. The complete golf cart ordinance can be located on the Village of Lawton's website, www.lawtonmi.gov. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Lawton Police Department at 269.624.2382.

No-Parking

As of November 1st, there will be no parking on Village streets between the hours of 2:00am and 5:00am. Contact the Village Office at 269.624.6407 with any questions.

Leaf Pick-Up

Due to the amount of leaves left, we will be extending leaf pick-up for two more weeks, weather permitting. As a reminder, please place leaves to the curb, not the street. Contact the Department of Public Works at 269.624.6406 with any questions or concerns.

Utility Rate Update

Please review the back page of this letter. It contains important information on our water and sewer rate increase. As always, any questions or concerns can be directed to the Village of Lawton Clerk's Office at 269.624.6407 or email leonardm@lawton-mi.gov.

Village Hours:

Clerk's Office Hours:
M-F 8:00am - 5:00PM

Library Hours:
M-W; F 10:00am - 6:00pm
Th; Sat-Sun Closed

Museum Hours:
Please call 269.624.5481
to schedule a tour.

Holiday Closures:

Christmas ~ December 23 & 24
New Year's ~ 30 & 31

Contact Us!

Ask billing questions, sign up for our email newsletters, update your account information, get an explanation of rates, or make service changes:

Phone: 269.624.6407

Website: www.lawtonmi.gov

Facebook: @VillageofLawtonMI

Mail: PO Box 367

After-hours water/sewer emergency:
269.251.0148

Water and Sewer Rate Increase

Lawton's water and sewer system is a multi-million-dollar investment that directly affects the health, safety, and overall quality of life in our community. It is the Village Council's responsibility to safeguard the water and sewer system for our customers now and into the future.

Over the past year, the Village has completed a water and sewer rate study. The purpose of the study was to determine what rates are necessary to support a budget that will provide adequate operation of our system now and in the future. The result of the analysis is that a rate increase for both water and sewer are necessary.

There are several reasons that impact why the Village must increase the water and sewer rates.

- Over the last two years, the water and sewer expenses have exceeded revenues by \$450,000. While expenses have increased, water rates have not been adjusted since 2012 and sewer rates have not been adjusted since 2019.

- While rigorous routine sampling shows our water meets all standards related to lead and copper, a new State of Michigan mandate (the Lead and Copper Rule), requires all water services be free of lead components. This unfunded mandate requires Lawton to eliminate all lead lines over the next 20 years. The current estimated cost to replace all of the water services with lead components is budgeted at over \$3.5 million over next 20 years.

- In addition to the Lead and Copper requirements, over the next ten years, another \$4.5 million dollars will need to be invested in our aging water and sewer infrastructure to maintain a safe and efficient operation of the system.

- Also contributing to the rate increase is a decrease in water sales. Over the last four years, the amount of water sold decreased by more than 30% (55 million gallons). The decrease comes from both a declined industrial and manufacturing use as well as customers switching to efficient appliances and implementing water saving practices.

The Village is committed to providing fresh, clean, safe, and reliable water to our customers while being protective of our environment with state-of-the-art sewage treatment. At the December 14th Council meeting, the Village Council will be addressing the rate increase. The new rates will take effect with the March 2022 billing cycle. It is anticipated that the increase for both water and sewer combined will be approximately \$20.00 per month for the average residential customer. We understand that rate increases are difficult for everyone. Your January and February bills will reflect the current rate, as well as the future rate, in order to help you to budget accordingly. Please contact Village Hall 269.624.6407 with any questions.



VILLAGE HALL

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VILLAGE MANAGER

Lisa Imus
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COUNCIL MEMBERS

Josh Appleby
President

Eric Dudek
President Pro-tem

Gail Dudek

Judy Peterson

Nicole Smith

Ren Turner

Ryan Tanis

Council meets the second Tuesday at 7pm at the Village Hall. Subject to change with COVID-19 restrictions

Planning commission meets the first Tuesday at 7pm at the Village Hall.

DDA meets the third Wednesday at 7pm at the Village Hall.



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@VillageofLawtonMI