



HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...

JANUARY 2023

Village Hours:

Clerk's Office Hours:

M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm

Library Hours:

M-W 10:00am - 6:00pm

F 10:00am - 5:00pm

1st Sat of Month 10:00am - 2:00pm

Th; Sun Closed

Museum Hours:

Please call 269.624.5481

to schedule a tour.

Contact Us!

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

Clerk's Office: 269.624.6407

Police Office: 269.624.2382

DPW: 269.624.6406

Website: www.lawtonmi.gov

**Address: 125 S Main St
Mail: PO Box 367**

**After-hours water/sewer emergency:
269.251.0148**



Find and like us on Facebook!
@VillageofLawtonMI

MDHH Water Assistance Program

If you are struggling to pay your past due water account, there may be a program available to you.

*Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program
Water/Wastewater Provider Information*

Funding is administered through local MDHHS Offices and Community Action Agencies statewide until September 30, 2023, unless depleted prior to that date.

PROVIDER PARTICIPATION -

To be eligible for payment, providers must complete a LIHWAP Participation Agreement before receiving payments on behalf of eligible customers. The agreement is valid for the duration of the program. A LIHWAP payment shall guarantee service for at least 90 days after receipt of payment.

ALLOWABLE SERVICES -

Direct payment assistance for household accounts in arrears or disconnect status, including reconnection fees when services have been disconnected. For households that have had their water disconnected or are facing disconnection, LIHWAP funding may pay the full cost that will reconnect or prevent disconnection of service even if it includes costs other than water (e.g. trash, cable, etc.).

CLIENT ELIGIBILITY -

Qualified account holders must:

- Be a residential account.

- Be in arrears or disconnect status.

- Be under 150% Federal Poverty Limit and/or actively receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Assistance Program/-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (FAP/SNAP), State Emergency Relief (SER), Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI).

OUTREACH -

It is the expectation that Community Action Agencies work with water and wastewater providers as well as other community partners in their service area to provide outreach to increase program awareness.

For more information

Contact your local Community Action Agency (SWMCA) 269.925.9077
or MDHHS-LIHWAP@michigan.gov

2022 Year in Review

AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY NEW YEAR, WE REFLECT ON THE VILLAGE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

- Celebrated community through great events including Memorial Day Parade / BBQ, Lawton Summerfest, first annual Fall Escapade Parade with over 50 entries, "Deck the House" Holiday decorating contest and the Lion's Christmas Parade with Tree lighting and community holiday activities.
- Completed donation of property from the Ray Reid Family at 119 N Main for future public space.
- Farmers Market moved to property donated by Ray Reid Family between Wagoner's and Big T's.
- The Downtown Development Authority awarded 2 Façade Grants in the amount of \$2,000 and purchased a golf cart to facilitate downtown maintenance.
- Removed asbestos and demolished 410 White Oak.
- Contracted with Wightman Engineering for several projects including: a Distribution System Materials Inventory for water lines as required by State, Feasibility Study to expand water and sewer utilities into Porter Township, contracted to serve as the Prime Professional for the Chancy Lewis Park renovations.
- Adopted new 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for all infrastructure projects.
- The Master Plan Steering Committee, together with the Village Council and Planning Commission worked with Progressive A|E to draft a new Master Plan for the Village, including 6 joint Village Council / Planning Commission meetings.
- Establish new Water & Sewer rate fee schedule as well as for the Oak Grove Cemetery.
- Move from committee structure to Committee of the Whole for second monthly meeting.
- Contract with Zoning Solutions for code enforcement officer / zoning administration.
- Hired new Village Clerk, Brittany Rathbun and new Police Officer Dalton Edwards.
- Appointment of Paul Rathbun to the Planning Commission, and Chris McComis to the Downtown Development Authority. Swore in Josh Appleby as Village President, Eric Dudek as President Pro-Tem, Ryan Tanis as Village Trustee, and Ren Turner as Village Trustee.
- Changed street parking configuration at elementary school to promote safety.
- Established a Plant Rehabilitation District and an Industrial Faculty Tax Exemption for Welch's Foods \$23 million expansion project.
- Received Market Van Buren's first ever Municipal Trailblazer of the Year award.
- Approved conversion of Union Street to one-way between M-40 and West Street.
- Holden Garwood completed Cemetery Eagle Scout Project, cleaning 103 historic grave markers in Lawton's Oak Grove cemetery.
- Welcomed Modern Well and Blueberry Hill Assisted Living as new business in community.
- Updated Village Investment Policy and became member of the Michigan Class Investment Pool.
- Approved Contract with MDOT to plan, engineer, and contract 2023 / 2024 M-40 Highway improvements from 72nd Avenue to the Village limits for an estimated cost of \$2,095,300.
- Awarded DNR Passport Grant (\$74,000 Grant/\$26,000 match) for Pickleball Courts and other improvements to Chancy Lewis Park.
- Awarded \$1,000,000 Michigan Enhancement Grant through Senator Aric Nesbit for water and sewer expansion.
- County Commission approved \$20,000 ARPA grant for water/sewer feasibility study.
- Applied and anticipate RAP grant award of \$800,000 for 2024 downtown infrastructure and street-scape project.



VILLAGE HALL

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VILLAGE MANAGER

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VILLAGE TREASURER

Melina Leonard
mleonard@lawtonmi.org

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.

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

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