



# HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...

# JANUARY '25



**Council Meeting Agendas:** If you would like an electronic copy of upcoming agendas or meeting cancellations, please contact the Village of Lawton Clerk at 269.624.6407 or [clerk@lawtonmi.org](mailto:clerk@lawtonmi.org) to be placed on our distribution list. Council meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, 7pm at the Village Hall. In the case of a cancellation, a notice will be posted on our website ([www.lawtonmi.org](http://www.lawtonmi.org)), email distribution list, and in front of Village Hall.

**Winter Weather:** As we enter the winter weather season, our Department of Public Works will remain committed to keeping your commute safe. We ask that motorists exercise caution during inclement weather events. When plowing and salting operations are underway, please do not crowd the plow and give the crew room to work.

**SMCAA:** The Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency is an invaluable resource if you're facing challenges with paying past-due water/sewer accounts, seeking assistance to enhance the health and safety of your home, or needing support such as rental assistance and beyond.

**Water Affordability:** The Low-Income Household Water Affordability funds provides arrearage and disconnection payment assistance for water and wastewater utilities. SMCAA reimburses water utility providers for providing bill forgiveness for applicable fees incurred by residential water customers.

**Weatherization:** The Weatherization Assistance Program was created to decrease energy needs for low-income households. Weatherization is a critical move to help off-set rising utility costs. It also provides a safer, healthier and more eco-friendly home.

**Emergency Housing Assistance:** SMCAA offers many emergency services designed to help residents across Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties, including emergency housing assistance such as rent or mortgage payments.

Please visit SMCAA's website [www.smcaa.com](http://www.smcaa.com) or call 269.925.9077 to learn more about the programs that might be available for you. \*Eligibility differs based on programming and household income.

## VILLAGE HOURS

### Clerk's Office Hours:

M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm  
SAT - SUN CLOSED

### Library Hours:

M-W 9:30am - 6:00pm  
F 9:30am - 5:00pm  
Sat 9:30am - 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:** 269.299.0012

**Website:** [www.lawtonmi.org](http://www.lawtonmi.org)

**Address:** 125 S Main St

**Mail:** PO Box 367

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



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@VillageofLawtonMI

## PUBLIC NOTICE

There are no public notices for  
the month of January..



# PROTECT YOUR PIPES



Winter can be harsh on your plumbing, and freezing pipes are a common problem in cold weather. Here are some helpful tips on preventing your pipes from freezing and what to do if they do freeze:

## **\*\*Preventing Frozen Pipes\*\***

- 1. Insulate Pipes:** Use foam insulation sleeves or pipe insulation tape on exposed pipes in unheated areas like basements, attics, garages, and under sinks.
- 2. Seal Gaps and Cracks:** Inspect areas where pipes enter your home, like around windows, doors, or vents. Seal any cracks or gaps with caulk or foam to prevent cold air from getting inside.
- 3. Keep the Heat On:** If you're going away for the winter, leave the heat on in your home, set to at least 55°F (13°C). This helps keep the temperature inside consistent, even in unoccupied rooms.
- 4. Let Faucets Drip:** During very cold nights, let your faucets drip slightly to keep water moving through the pipes. This reduces the chance of water freezing in place.
- 5. Open Cabinet Doors:** In particularly cold areas of your home, open the cabinet doors under sinks, especially in kitchens and bathrooms, to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes.
- 7. Add Extra Insulation to the Attic or Crawl Space:** Make sure the attic, crawl spaces, and other areas where pipes run are properly insulated.
- 8. Disconnect Outdoor Hoses:** Disconnect garden hoses and shut off the outdoor water supply to prevent the outdoor faucet from freezing. Consider adding insulated covers to outdoor faucets.

## **\*\*What to Do If Pipes Freeze\*\***

- 1. Locate the Frozen Pipe:** Find the frozen pipe by looking for signs of frost or bulging in the pipe. Listen for strange sounds when you turn on the faucet or check for any discoloration in the water.
- 2. Turn Off the Water:** Before you try to thaw the pipe, turn off the water supply to prevent leaks or bursts when the ice thaws.
- 3. Thaw the Pipe Gently:** Use a hairdryer, space heater, or warm towels to thaw the frozen pipe. Start from the section nearest the faucet and work your way back toward the frozen end. **\*\*Avoid using open flames, like a blowtorch,\*\*** as they can damage pipes or start a fire.
- 4. Apply Heat to the Pipe:** You can use a heating pad or even a portable heat lamp directed at the pipe, being careful to maintain a safe distance. Never leave these tools unattended.
- 5. Check for Leaks:** Once the pipe has thawed, slowly turn on the water and check for leaks. If there's a crack or burst in the pipe, call a plumber immediately.
- 6. If You Can't Thaw It Yourself:** If the pipe is in a hard-to-reach location or you cannot safely thaw it, it's best to call a professional plumber. They have specialized equipment to thaw pipes safely.
- 7. If the Pipe Bursts:** If a pipe bursts, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve immediately. Use towels or a bucket to contain any water, and call a plumber for emergency repairs.



## **VILLAGE HALL**

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## **VILLAGE MANAGER**

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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.

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

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