



# HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...

# MAY 2026

## News & Information

**Summer Hours:** The Village of Lawton Clerk's Office will commence summer hours the week of May 25th (closed Monday 5/26 in observance of Memorial Day). Our office hours will be as follows: M-TH 6am-4:30pm.

**Summer Sewer Billing:** Summer sewer usage will be calculated based on the average of your December, January, and February sewer bills. During the months of May through September, your actual water usage will still be billed; however, there will be no additional sewer usage charges beyond your winter average. This means you will not be charged extra sewer fees for water used for activities such as filling swimming pools, washing cars, or running sprinklers, since that water does not enter the sewer system.

**Cross Connection Control Program:** HydroCorp has been hired to assist the Village of Lawton with the State-mandated Cross Connection Control Program. This program is designed to help protect the public water supply from potential contamination caused by backflow or cross connections within plumbing systems. HydroCorp will assist the Village with inspections, compliance tracking, and public education to help ensure our community's drinking water remains safe and protected. If you have not yet contacted HydroCorp to schedule your inspection, please do so soon to help the Village remain in compliance with State requirements and to protect our community's water system.

**Mosquito and Tick Prevention:** As warmer weather arrives, mosquitoes and ticks become more active throughout the area. Residents can help reduce exposure by removing standing water around their property, keeping grass and brush trimmed, and using EPA-approved insect repellents when spending time outdoors. It is also a good idea to check for ticks after outdoor activities, especially after walking through wooded or grassy areas. Taking a few simple precautions can help protect your family and pets from insect-borne illnesses this summer.

**Protect Motorists- Keep Grass Off the Roadway:** Grass clippings left on roads can create dangerous conditions for motorists, especially motorcycles, bicycles, and smaller vehicles. Wet or heavy clippings can become slick, reducing tire traction and increasing the risk of skidding or losing control. Grass clippings can also clog storm drains, contributing to localized flooding during heavy rain. Residents are encouraged to keep grass clippings off streets and roadways by directing mower discharge away from the road and properly sweeping or blowing clippings back onto the lawn after mowing.

**Stay Informed with the IRIS Notification System:** The Village of Lawton uses the IRIS Notification System to quickly share important alerts and community information with residents. IRIS can send notifications about emergencies, water main breaks, road closures, utility interruptions, weather-related updates, public safety notices, and other important Village announcements directly to your phone, email, or text messages. Residents are encouraged to sign up to stay informed and receive timely updates. To register, visit [www.lawtonmi.org](http://www.lawtonmi.org), and type "IRIS" into the search bar to access the registration page.

## 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



Find and like us on Facebook!

@VillageofLawtonMI

## Public Notice!

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that Village of Lawton Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Village Hall, 125 S. Main st., on Truth in Taxation.

Original notice has been posted on our website and the Courier Leader.

# FLUSHABLE WIPES AND YOUR SEWER SYSTEM

What goes down the toilet doesn't just disappear—it can cause big problems for our community.



## THE PROBLEM WITH FLUSHABLE WIPES



### CLOGS PIPES

Flushable wipes don't break down like toilet paper. They can accumulate in sewer pipes, causing blockages and sewage backups into homes, streets, and waterways.



### DAMAGES EQUIPMENT

Wipes can clog pumps, wrap around machinery, and reduce the efficiency of lift stations and treatment plants. This leads to more breakdowns and costly repairs.



### CREATES FATBERGS

When wipes combine with grease and other debris, they form fatbergs—large, solid masses that can block entire sewer lines and are extremely difficult and expensive to remove.



### COSTS COMMUNITIES

Increased maintenance, emergency repairs, and equipment wear lead to higher operational costs—costs that are passed on to residents through utility rates.



### HARMFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Blockages and overflows can lead to sewage releases into rivers, lakes, and streams, harming wildlife and threatening public health.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Help protect our sewer system, our environment, and your community.

FOLLOW THE SIMPLE RULE: →



PEE



POOP



TOILET PAPER

ONLY FLUSH THE

# THREE P'S



**ALL OTHER ITEMS, INCLUDING WIPES (EVEN THOSE LABELED FLUSHABLE), BELONG IN THE TRASH.**



## SMALL CHOICES. BIG IMPACT.

By making the right choice and keeping wipes out of the sewer, we can reduce costs, prevent backups, protect our environment, and ensure reliable wastewater service for everyone.

*Thank you*  
for doing your part!



### VILLAGE HALL

125 S Main St  
Lawton, MI 49065  
P: 269.624.6407  
F: 269.624.6408

### VILLAGE MANAGER

Todd Hackenberg  
thackenberg@lawtonmi.org

### CHIEF OF POLICE

Greg Cordes  
gcordes@lawtonmi.org

### VILLAGE CLERK

Brittany Rathbun  
brathbun@lawtonmi.org

### VILLAGE TREASURER

Melina Leonard  
mleonard@lawtonmi.org

### PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN

James Stermer  
jstermer@lawtonmi.org

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Josh Appleby  
President

Eric Dudek  
President Pro-tem

Gail Dudek

Judy Peterson

Char Raber

Ryan Tanis

Ren Turner

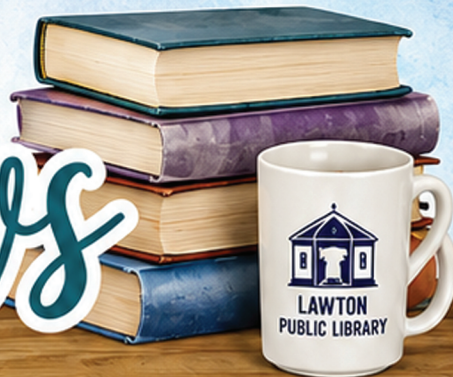
Council meets the second Tuesday at 7pm at the Village Hall.

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

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

# LAWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY *News*

By Lyn Tone



 [www.lawtonlibrary.org](http://www.lawtonlibrary.org)

 269-624-5481

 @lawtonpubliclibrary



## ADULT BOOK CLUB

Thursday, May 21  
11:30 a.m. at Big T's

We are reading *Frozen River*  
by Ariel Lawhon.

If you are interested in joining  
please call the library and  
request a copy.

Any changes can be found on  
Facebook and our website  
[www.lawtonlibrary.org](http://www.lawtonlibrary.org).



## MURDER MYSTERY CLUB

Tuesday, May 26 • 5:30 p.m.

We are reading  
*Out of the Woods*  
by Gregg Olsen.



## KNITTING CLUB

Every Tuesday • 10:30 a.m.

Whether you're experienced  
or not, stop in and see what  
these ladies are working on.  
Many of these ladies can offer  
tips, tricks, and new ideas for  
your next project.



## STORY TIME

Wednesdays • 10:30 a.m.

For ages 0-5

Don't miss out on all the fun!



May 13th will be the last  
Story Time for the summer  
and will be held at the  
Lawton Elementary with  
Mary from Family Links.



## NEW ARRIVALS & SERVICES

We appreciate your patience as our previous book vendor recently closed, and we've been working with our new vendor as they assume ordering for all libraries.

### New books we have received, along with many donations:

*Ordinary Heroes* by Joseph Pfeifer • *The Answer is* by Alex Trebek  
*Unstoppable* by Joshua Greene • *Why My Mother Hid* by Daniel Hurst  
*The Couple Next Door* by Shari Lapena • *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir  
*Bring One Home* by Thomas Pelissero • *Hope Rises* by David Baldacci  
*The Patchwork Players* by Jennifer Chiaverini • *Strangers in the Villa*  
by Robyn Harding • *Camper and Criminals* series by Tonya Kappes  
*Buried in a Book* by T.C. LoTempio • *The Mother-Daughter Book Club*  
by Susan Patterson • *The Nanny* by A.J. Rivers • *Revenge Prey* by John Sandford  
*The Book Witch* by Meg Shaffer • *A Woman's Place* by Danielle Steel  
*A Day of Judgment* by Charles Todd • *Turn Off the Light* by Jacquie Walters  
*The Fox and the Devil* by Kiersten White • *The Rancher* by Peter Brandvold  
*All Booked Up* by Melody Carlson • *Thunder of the Mountain Man*  
by William Johnstone • *A Sociopaths Guide to Successful Marriage*  
by M.K. Oliver • *The Case of the Missing Mad* by Rob Osler  
*Wild Instinct* by T. Jefferson Parker • *Rambling Down the Range*  
by Dusty Richards • and several children's picture books,  
junior fiction and ya books.



Libby by OverDrive now offers  
Magazines, along with books,  
eBooks, and much more.

Take a look and if you have any  
questions stop in and we can  
help you navigate through.



OUTSIDE DROP BOX  
IS BEHIND THE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Drive up and drop off!

## DISPLAY CASE

For our May display, we want  
to thank Toni Meabon,  
beautiful art work.

If you have a fun collection  
and you want to let Lawton  
enjoy, please reach out and  
let us know.



Can't Find  
a Book?



If we're unable to order it, we can often  
borrow it through MEL, our free  
interlibrary loan service available  
to all patrons. Feel free to reach out  
to our staff with any questions.

**MEL**  
Michigan eLibrary

# MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & CEREMONY

★ *Honoring Our Heroes* ★

Join the Lawton community as we come together to remember and honor the brave men and women who served our country.

This event is open to the public — we encourage all residents, families, and friends to attend. Please respect private property along the parade route and the Cemetery grounds.

“SOME PEOPLE LIVE AN ENTIRE LIFETIME AND WONDER IF THEY HAVE EVER MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD. A VETERAN DOESN'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM.”  
RONALD REAGAN



## EVENT DETAILS

**Monday, May 25th**

Parade Begins: 10:00 AM  
Lawton Fire Department

Ceremony Location:  
Oak Grove Cemetery, Lawton, MI



## FEATURED GUESTS

**Guest of Honor:**  
**Michael Fossitt,**  
Van Buren County  
Veterans Services Director



## JOIN US IN REMEMBRANCE

Help us show our gratitude for the sacrifices made by our veterans.

Whether you're lining the streets for the parade or joining us for the ceremony at Oak Grove, your presence helps keep their memory alive.



★ ★ ★ *We Remember. We Honor. We Never Forget.* ★ ★ ★