



HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...



A Message from the Village Manager: Summer is one of the busiest times of the year in the Village of Lawton. As you enjoy our parks and community events, our staff continues working behind the scenes to improve infrastructure, maintain public spaces, and invest in projects that benefit residents for years to come.

This summer, we're excited to celebrate the completion of our new pickleball courts while continuing important work on our lead service line replacement project, sidewalk improvements, and water system planning. These investments are helping build a stronger community while making responsible use of taxpayer dollars through grants and careful budgeting.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Pickleball Courts Are Open! The Village's four new pickleball courts are now open and ready for play! We are thrilled to provide another recreational amenity for residents and visitors of all ages. Please help us protect this investment by following the posted court rules, treating fellow players with respect, and helping keep the courts clean. We hope these courts provide years of fun and healthy activity for our community.

Splash Pad Update: The splash pad continues to be one of our most popular summer attractions. The hours will remain from 11am - 7pm daily.

To help keep it operating properly:
Press the activation button one time only.
Allow the full 10-minute cycle to finish.
Do not repeatedly push or hang on the activation button.

These simple steps help prevent unnecessary repairs and ensure everyone can enjoy the splash pad throughout the summer.

Investing in Our Community: Several important projects are moving forward this summer, including:

- Lead Service Line Replacement Project
- Water System Reliability Study
- Park and recreation improvements
- Planning for future infrastructure needs

Many of these projects are being funded through state and federal grants, allowing the Village to make significant improvements while reducing the financial impact on local taxpayers.

Utility Billing Update: The Village has implemented a new utility billing cycle that now provides approximately 30 days between the date bills are issued and the due date. This change gives residents additional time to make payments while creating a more consistent monthly billing schedule.

VILLAGE HOURS

Clerk's Office Hours:

M-TH 6:00am – 4:30pm
FRI - 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

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

There are no public notices for the Month of July.

For updated information, please visit our website
www.lawtonmi.org



Go PAPERLESS!

HELP SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS!

Every resident who enrolls in paperless utility billing helps reduce printing, postage, and mailing costs. Those savings can be redirected toward maintaining Village services and improving our community.

Small change. Big impact.
TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



FIRST-CLASS
POSTAGE HAS
INCREASED TO
82¢
PER MAILING!

BENEFITS OF PAPERLESS BILLING

- RECEIVE YOUR BILL FASTER**
- CONVENIENT ACCESS FROM ANYWHERE**
- REDUCE PAPER WASTE**
- HELP SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS**



Contact Village Hall today to enroll in paperless billing!

AUTHORIZATION FOR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF MONTHLY SEWER & WATER UTILITY BILL



By Completing this form, your monthly sewer & water utility bill will be electronically sent to the e-mail address provided below. Please check the option that applies to you:



YES – I would like to participate in the Electronic Submission of my (our) Monthly Sewer & Water Utility Bill.



CHANGE – Please change the e-mail address for where my (our) monthly sewer & water bill is electronically sent.



STOP – Please stop my (our) participation in the Electronic Submission of Monthly Sewer & Water Utility Bills.

Name(s) on Account: _____

Billing Address: _____

Utility Billing Account Number: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ✓ You will no longer receive a paper bill through the U.S. Mail while enrolled in paperless billing.
- ✓ Payment due dates remain the same. Late fees will still apply if payment is not received by the due date.
- ✓ Monthly bills are sent on or near the 8th of each month.
- ✓ You may cancel this authorization at any time by submitting written notification to the Village.



RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
Village of Lawton
125 S. Main St. • P.O. Box 367
Lawton, MI 49065



OR EMAIL:
mleonard@lawtonmi.org



FOR TIMELY PROCESSING:
Completed forms must be received by the 1ST of the billing month to begin electronic delivery that month. Forms received after the 1st will become effective the following month.



VILLAGE HALL

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

VILLAGE MANAGER

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thackenberg@lawtonmi.org

CHIEF OF POLICE

Greg Cordes
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VILLAGE CLERK

Brittany Rathbun
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VILLAGE TREASURER

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James Stermer
jstermer@lawtonmi.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Josh Appleby
President

Eric Dudek
President Pro-tem

Gail Dudek

Judy Peterson

Char Raber

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.

Lawton Public Library

by Lyn Tone

News



www.lawtonlibrary.org

269-624-5481

@lawtonpubliclibrary (facebook)



LIBRARY CLOSURES

The Library will be closed on
Friday, July 3rd,
Saturday, July 4th
for Independence Day.

Also, be closed on
Saturday, July 11th
for Lawton Summerfest.

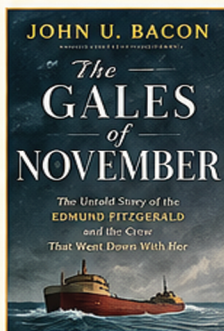


ADULT BOOK CLUB:

Thursday, July 16th at 11:30 a.m. at Big T's.
Any changes can be found on Facebook and our
Website www.lawtonlibrary.org.

We are currently reading *The Gales of November*
by John U. Bacon.

If you'd like to join our fun and welcoming book club,
we'd love to have you! Contact the library to reserve
your copy of the book and join the discussion.



SUMMER READING

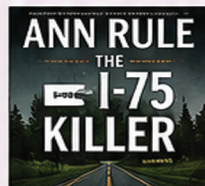
- **Wednesday, July 8th** –
Repco Wildlife at 4:30 pm.
- **Wednesday, July 15th** –
Indoor Dome – Registration
Required 11–4, closed 12–1
for lunch.
- **Wednesday, July 22nd** –
Musical Storybook at 2:00.
- **Wednesday, July 29th** –
Clark Lewis at 1:00.



MURDER MYSTERY CLUB –

Tuesday, July 28th at 5:30 p.m.

We are reading *I-75 Killer*
by Ann Rule.



KNITTING CLUB

meets **every Tuesday at 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.

*All are
welcome!*



STORY TIME –

Has ended for the Summer.
Summer Reading is in full swing.
See complete list for programs.



The Outside Dropbox
is behind the fire
department,
drive up and drop off!



DISPLAY CASE:

June and July will
be all things Summer Reading.



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

Libby.
By OverDrive.

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

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED!



- *Last Summer at the Golden Hotel* by Elyssa Friedland
- *The Second Chance Holiday Club* by Kate Galley
- *The Family Across the Street* by Nicole Trope
- *Sonora* by Jenni Walsh
- *Courage Can Save Us* by Rye Barcott
- *Shameful Silence* by Alexandra Loran
- *The Last Kings of Hollywood* by Paul Fischer

- *The Wonder of You* by Dani Atkins
- *Meet Me at the Seaside Cottages* by Jenny Colgan
- *The First Time I Saw Him* by Abby Jimenez
- *These Summer Storms* by Sarah MacLean
- *An Accident of Dragons* by Cheri Radke
- *Direct Action* by Jack Stewart

- *The Rainy Day Bookshop* by RaeAnne Thayne
- *The Girls Trip* by Allyson Condie
- *Bailey's Comet* by Gary Coldstein
- *Texas Hill Country* by William W. Johnstone
- *Killing Me Softly* by Sadie Jones

- *Inside Man* by John McMahon
- *Seven Devil's Road* by Richard Prosch
- *The Battle for Texas* by Rober Vaughan
- *In the Weeds* by Tom Vitale

and so many more!



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
Electronic
Library



VILLAGE OF LAWTON
Celebrating Excellence in Public Service

CONGRATULATIONS, BRITTANY!

Village Clerk Brittany Rathbun Named 2026 Michigan Village Clerk of the Year



Brittany Rathbun accepts the 2026 Michigan Village Clerk of the Year Award during the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference.

■ **Statewide Recognition • Leadership • Professional Excellence • Commitment to the Community**

The Village of Lawton proudly congratulates **Brittany Rathbun** on being selected as the **2026 Michigan Village Clerk of the Year** by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC). Since joining the Village in 2022, Brittany has become an indispensable member of Village Hall, serving not only as Village Clerk but also overseeing human resources, payroll, employee benefits, workers' compensation, insurance coordination, cash receipting, and financial reconciliations for the Lawton Fire Department. Her dedication to continuous learning led to earning her Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk (MiPMC) designation, and she remains active in professional organizations at both the state and national levels. She has also worked to strengthen communication and collaboration among municipal clerks across Southwest Michigan by sharing resources and coordinating educational opportunities.

Presented on June 18, 2026, this prestigious award recognizes Brittany's professionalism, leadership, and unwavering commitment to serving the residents of Lawton. We are proud to celebrate this outstanding achievement and grateful for the dedication she brings to our community every day.