

CITY OF LOCKPORT

Mayor
Dev Trivedi

City Clerk
Alice Matteucci

Administrator
Tim Schloneger



“WE CARE”
www.lockport.org

Alderman
Pete Colarelli - 1st Ward
Dick Van Dyke - 1st Ward
Joe Fracaro - 2nd Ward
Brian Smith - 2nd Ward
Tom Kelly - 3rd Ward
Bob Morris - 3rd Ward
John Robert Krzos - 4th Ward
Robert Perretta - 4th Ward

CITIZEN UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2011

This E-Newsletter is being sent by the City of Lockport to update you on current and future issues, projects, events, and successes involving the city. This is our sincere way of showing our residents and businesses that “We Care”.

Public Works Prepared to Battle the Storm

The City of Lockport is currently under a Blizzard Alert. Rest assured, our Public Works Department is ready to battle the storm. We have our full fleet out as well as all PW personnel. We will work around the clock until the snow is removed. We are also on stand-by to aid the Fire and Police departments in emergency situations. Remember, for all emergencies please call 9-1-1. The following Blizzard Alert was posted to our website at www.lockport.org. Our official Snow and Ice Control Policy, adopted in 2009, can also be found on our website.

BLIZZARD ALERT!

There's a tremendous amount of snow and high winds predicted for our area this week, starting this evening. The blizzard ahead is predicted by weather forecasters to be the worst snowstorm to hit the Lockport area in over a decade. Accordingly, we respectfully request your help.

- ***Lockport's public works crews are equipped and ready to deliver, but your assistance will be essential in helping us clear streets as quickly and efficiently as possible.***
- ***Please remove your vehicle(s) from the streets, starting tonight. Maneuvering heavy snow plowing equipment is safer, easier, and more efficient when vehicles are not parked on the streets. Crews can work quicker. Please avoid blowing or shoveling snow from your driveway or sidewalk onto streets. Snow blown or shoveled onto the street impedes traffic and can block storm sewers, causing icing.***
- ***Even with public works crews working 24/7, vehicular travel this week is likely to be difficult.***
- ***Crews will clear major arterial streets first. Residential streets will be cleared second. Cul-de-sacs and other areas which receive minimal traffic flow will be cleared last.***
- ***Plan ahead and avoid vehicular travel whenever possible.***
- ***If you are in need of a temporary warming center, please call (815) 838-0549 and City staff will help make arrangements.***
- ***Please share the information in this alert with your friends and neighbors.***

Thank you for doing your part to help all of us in our community out!

PLEASE NOTE – DUE TO THE STORM, WASTE MANAGEMENT HAS DELAYED PICK-UP BY ONE DAY, SO THEY WILL NOT PICK UP ON WEDNESDAY, 2/2/11!

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CRIME Alert! – Beware of Ruse Entry Burglaries (Gypsy Scams)

The Lockport Police Depart just posted the following alert:

The Lockport Police Department has been notified by surrounding area police departments that gypsy scammers have been conducting Ruse Entry Burglaries. This scam usually operates with 3 to 4 man crews, and have been targeting persons between the ages of 70 to 90 years old. The offenders will come to your door and tell you that they are either employees from the water department checking on leaks, or they are golf course employees checking on property lines, or they are from the electric company checking on breaker panels inside your residence, or they are working at your neighbors regarding fence installation. Mentioned are only scenarios that have been reported to law enforcement. When the offenders are asked to display identification to the homeowner, they have been known to forcibly enter into the residence. While one or two offenders are distracting you, the third and fourth will be busy stealing personal items such as cash, checks, credit cards and jewelry. The offenders use either cell phones or two-way radios to communicate with each other during the scam.

The Lockport Police Department urges you to be vigilant and report any suspicious person, vehicle or activity immediately to the police. The best practice is to not open your door to any outside service unless you have scheduled an appointment or have checked with the company to verify that they do have employees providing services in your area.

If you have any questions please contact either Crime Prevention Unit (815) 838-2132 ext 2219 or Investigations Unit (815) 838-2132. If your situation is an emergency dial 911!

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Why Were the Water and Sewer Rates Increased?

Maintaining safe drinking water and environmentally sound sewer services is one of the most important responsibilities of the City of Lockport. As providing Water & Sewer services becomes more expensive, the City is faced with the constant challenge of balancing our interest in offering a fundamental public health service at an affordable price, against the necessity of managing our systems in a financially sustainable manner. Water, sewer and all other utilities are businesses, regardless of who owns them. The City's Water & Sewer utilities are businesses that just happen to be owned by government.

Despite the fact that the City has been deferring equipment replacement and maintenance, putting off needed capital improvements, and operating with manpower below EPA recommended levels, expenses are still outpacing revenues in the Water & Sewer funds. The City's cash reserves are not sufficient to sustain the system.

The City has performed a comprehensive analysis of the water & sewer systems to identify system deficiencies, to determine future system requirements, and to recommend facility improvements that correct existing deficiencies and that provide for future system expansion.

In the water system, new wells, storage tanks, well & pump modifications and replacement water main are necessary to serve our existing population. In the sewer system, eliminating Infiltration and Inflow and adding lift stations are necessary to run a more efficient system that stays in compliance with environmental regulations. In addition, costly improvements are being mandated by the Illinois EPA.

The City carefully considered information gathered by its city staff, engineers, financial consultants and the Illinois EPA. The City reached a point where it made the financial decision in order to address this important health and environmental issue.

Deferring problems in our Water & Sewer systems would have made it more costly to fix than ever. Delay makes the problem worse. Changes in spending or revenue accumulate over time. The earlier changes are made, the more they contribute to a solution.

The new rate structure funds only the highest priority improvements in the Water & Sewer systems as recommended by the City's engineers, and mandated by the Illinois EPA.

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City Negotiating New Garbage/Recycling Contract with Waste Management

Frequently Asked Questions About the Proposals From Waste Management

What is occurring?

Waste Management conducted a survey of the Lockport residents in FEBRUARY 2010 to determine the resident's satisfaction with certain aspects of the program. The results of that survey were as follows:

- Most residents were satisfied with the current refuse cart size
- Most residents required a recycling larger cart size
- Most residents wanted to end the sticker program for yard waste

What are the proposals for?

The City requested that Waste Management prepare several proposals based on the City's requests for adding and changing some of the services offered to residents. Waste Management presented the proposals to the City Council in December.

What are some of the proposed changes?

In response to resident feedback over the years, providing larger refuse and recycling carts for families is one of the options. One of the other options is to eliminate the sticker program for yard waste. One **possible** option would be to provide recycling services on an every other week basis.

Why every other week recycling?

Recyclables, when properly rinsed, should not leave any odors when stored for short periods. Collecting the recyclables every other week takes the efficiency of recycling a step further because it will save fuel and labor and wear and tear on City streets. Providing the services every other week will also reduce the City's costs in the long run as the labor savings will be passed on to the City.

What's changing?

There are no changes yet – the City Council is reviewing the proposals now and there will be another presentation in February. There were no major changes to the overall program and no new restrictions are being made.

What's been decided?

Nothing has been decided at this point. The City council is simply reviewing the proposals and assessing the different options that were presented. Please check the agendas posted on www.lockport.org for continued updates.

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Sales Tax Referendum Passed – When Will It Become Effective?

As you are aware, in November 2010, the voters passed the Sales Tax Referendum. This means that the sales tax within Lockport will increase by 1%. This increase will become effective July 1, 2011.

All new revenue created through the sales tax will be placed in a restricted fund, which will only be used to fund “Local Capital Improvement Projects”. A “Local Capital Improvement Project” means an expenditure for any of the following purposes, or financing thereof: (A) Road construction, renovation, repair or resurfacing, (B) sidewalk, bike path and pavement improvements, (C) construction, renovation, enlargement or repair of dams, weirs, bridges, flood control projects and creek maintenance (D) the preparation and revision of capital improvement plans, designs, engineering, and project oversight (E) floodplain management and hazard mitigation activities, (F) right-of-way acquisition, (G) roadway equipment purchase or rental, (H) bridge repair, maintenance and replacement. Local capital improvement projects may be completed by consultants, contractors and/or in-house engineering and public works employees.

WHY IS ACTION NECESSARY?

All roads eventually reach the end of their useful life. As the physical condition of the asset declines, deferring maintenance and/or replacement increases long-term costs and liabilities. The goal is to manage the City’s roads in order to minimize the total cost of owning and operating them while continuously delivering the standard that the community expects.

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Upcoming City Projects

The Engineering Department has the following projects planned:

1. Adams Street watermain replacement- The watermain on Adams Street adjacent to Kelvin Grove school will be replaced in March/April 2011. The new watermain will run from Valley to 8th. We anticipate that work will take approximately 4 weeks, weather permitting.
2. McKinley Street watermain replacement- The watermain on McKinley Street from 11th to Grandview will be replaced this summer. The existing watermain in the rear yards between McKinley and Grandview will be abandoned.
3. Bruce Road resurfacing- The City's portion of Bruce Road will be resurfaced between Farrell Road and Briggs Street using an Emergency Repair Program grant from IDOT. The contract documents are currently being reviewed by IDOT, with construction to commence in May 2011.

**Please note, Will County has scheduled the resurfacing of Division from Cedar to Briggs in 2011.*

4. Farrell Road patching- Farrell Road from Bruce to Division will be patched using Emergency Repair Program funds from IDOT. The contract documents are currently being reviewed by IDOT, with construction to commence in May 2011.
5. 2011 Sidewalk Program- The City is currently taking requests for residents to be placed on the 2011 Sidewalk Program. This program is intended to remove and replace poor sections of sidewalk throughout the City. Interested residents should call the Engineering Department as soon as possible to be placed on the list. Work is paid for 100% by the City and will take place this summer.

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The City has received the following grants for projects currently under construction or pending design approval:

- CMAQ Route 7 Sidewalk project- Under Construction- \$319,000
- DCEO Adams and McKinley watermain project- \$150,000
- ERP- Bruce Road Resurfacing- \$116,000
- ERP- Farrell Road patching- \$98,000
- CDBG South End Sanitary Sewer Repairs- \$120,000
- HBP Division Street Bridge Phase I study- \$80,000
- ITEP Briggs/Division/Farrell Pedestrian and Path Facility- \$456,000
- ITEP Route 7 Sidewalk Phase 2- \$652,800
- STP 13th/State Intersection Improvements- \$278,400
- USEPA Sanitary Sewer Improvements- \$31,100

The City has applied for the following grants and is awaiting notification:

- STP Garfield Street Reconstruction- \$736,000
- STP Read Street Reconstruction- \$1,000,000
- Safe Routes to School Kelvin Grove Sidewalk- \$250,000

If you have any questions regarding the above projects or grants, please contact the Engineering Department at (815)838-0549 ext 2313.

For more information on upcoming projects and the city's status, the Mayor will be giving his State of the City presentation on Friday, April 15, 2011 at The Narnia Estate. This presentation will be taped and presented on LCTV. For reservations contact the Lockport Chamber of Commerce at (815) 838-0549 x 1150.

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Update on Downtown Fires

The downtown has been hit with a series of unfortunate fires. The first was the bar and restaurant known as Dreams on April 1, 2008; a few months later the Mexican restaurant known as Las Fuentes at 1026 S. State, and most recently in November, 2010, the multitenant building at 925 S. State Street.

The City has been working with the owners of Dreams ever since the fire occurred. Progress was being made on the rehabilitation of the building but has since stopped. Right now the Building Department is addressing all property maintenance violation issues with the owner and deadlines have been set for the owners to correct them.

The property owner at 1026 S. State Street has been working on the interior build out of the fire for awhile. The owner is trying to find a tenant to occupy the space so that they can finish the interior work. Right now, a tequila and Rum Distillery is seriously looking at the space but is still in need of funding to open the business.

The recent fire at 925 S. State Street impacted four businesses, American Family Insurance, Weber's Denim, Lockport Lanes and Stephenson Photography. The owner of the building and business owner of American Family Insurance, purchased a property farther east on 9th Street, in between Burger King and Nicky's Gyros, and is currently under construction for remodeling. Stephenson Photography has temporarily located their business to the 3rd floor of the Gaylord Building, while Weber's Denim and Lockport Lanes have not reopened elsewhere. The City is working closely with the owner of the property and discussing the options for the building. Right now, the owner is looking to see if the building can be salvaged and or if it will ultimately have to be demolished.

The City has been in open communication with all the property owners and businesses that have been impacted by these fires. The City's goal is to get these properties cleaned up and occupied as soon as possible.

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FREE Office Space in Lockport

The City of Lockport is looking to attract entrepreneurs to the downtown historic district with a business incubator program. Business incubators are programs that are designed to facilitate the success of an entrepreneurial company through an array of business support resources and services. The City will offer available office space at either the Lockport Train Station and or the upper floor of the City's Community Development Center. The goal is to provide a physical location at no charge initially, then at below-market rates. Over time, the rent will be increased based on the square footage of the space utilized. The goal is that the business will be able to focus their energy and money on the core operations of growing the business instead of trying to pay large overhead costs during the start up phase.

In late FEBRUARY, the City Council initiated the competitive Request for Proposal process for the Business Incubator Program. A committee was established by the Mayor which is comprised of individuals that have a good working knowledge of what it takes to own and or manage successful businesses in Lockport. As of date, the Committee has gone through the first round of interviews and the top candidates are being seriously considered.

For more information on the program and if you would like to apply, please visit online at www.lockportworks.com

City Clerk Seeking Classic Classroom Pictures

As many of you know, the current Central Square building was formerly a school (back in the day). The City Clerk thought it would be nice to showcase this fact by displaying old classroom pictures. We plan on framing them and hanging them in the second floor hallway for everyone to see. We already have five pictures and are seeking more. If you have a classroom picture from Central Square School and would like to donate a copy, please bring it to the Clerk's office at 222 E. 9th Street, 2nd Floor. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Tadey at (815) 838-0549 x 2121. Thanks to those who have already donated!

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APRIL 5th ELECTION INFORMATION

Voter Registration

You may register to vote in the City Clerk's Office if you are: a U.S. Citizen, 18-years of age by the date of the next election and a resident of your Will County precinct address for 30 days immediately prior to the next election. Two forms of identification are required to register through a Deputy Registrar; at least one of the two forms must show your name and current address; and only one form of identification may be a piece of mail addressed and delivered to you. The second form must show your name. These forms of identification shall include, but not be limited to: driver's license, employee ID card, library card, checkbook, social security card, student ID card, insurance card, telephone book, birth certificate, credit card, utility bill, state ID card.

Registration is open throughout the year **except** during the 27 days preceding an election. This allows voter files to be prepared for the election. Registration reopens the second day following an election. The deadline to register is March 7, 2011 before the April 5, 2011 Consolidated Election.

Candidates' Forum

There will be a Candidates' Forum presented by the Lockport Chamber of Commerce at Lockport Township High School East Campus, Maroon Room, 1333 E. 7th Street on March 3, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. All the current Candidates running for Aldermanic Office in the upcoming Consolidated Election on April 5, 2011 will be presenting a statement about their candidacy.

Public is invited to attend.

4th Ward Alderman Candidate Night

Please mark your calendars and save the date for March 24th... "Meet the 4th Ward Alderman Candidates". All 4 Candidates are splitting the cost to having this event at Broken Arrow. The event is not sponsored by anyone other than the following 4th Ward Candidates - (listed in order as on ballot)

- ❖ Denise Marynoski
- ❖ Darren Deskin
- ❖ John Krzos (current Alderman)
- ❖ Tom Quinn

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City of Lockport Now Hiring....Certified Treatment Plant Operator

The City of Lockport is accepting applications for the position Treatment Plant Operator in the City's Wastewater Department. The operator's position is responsible for the day-to-day performance, operation and maintenance of assigned level utility systems, including wastewater treatment plants, wastewater collection systems, wastewater pump stations, storage facilities and distribution systems. The work is performed under limited supervision and requires exercise of independent judgment and initiative. The nature of the work performed requires that an employee in this class establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees.

The successful candidate for the wastewater operator's position must have obtained a minimum of a current valid I.E.P.A. Class 4 Wastewater Treatment Certificate of Competency as well as an Illinois Class B CDL Driver's License. The candidate must also have knowledge of the operations for the advanced process of activated sludge processes, and related sampling and analyses procedures for such processes.

The position will involve working in the daily operations as well as preventive maintenance at both the City's north & south basin wastewater facilities and will include the daily maintenance and operation responsibilities over the City's seven wastewater lift stations and collection systems. The responsibility of the operator will include but not be limited to the daily as well as unscheduled events that are encumbered by the wastewater treatment division, as set forth by the superintendent of wastewater treatment. Previous wastewater experience is highly desired to fill these positions.

The operator position is covered under the collective bargaining agreement and will be subject to the terms listed therein.

The City of Lockport is an Equal Opportunity Employer and offers an attractive employee benefit plan.

Applications for these positions may be picked up at the Public Works and Engineering Facility located at 17112 S. Prime Blvd. Lockport, IL 60441. Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed application for consideration to the Director of Public Works, 17112 S. Prime Blvd, Lockport, IL 60441 no later than February 18, 2011.

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Introducing.... The Lockport Public Works Citizens Academy

The City's Public Works Department has established a Citizens Training Academy that includes weekday evening classes and a Saturday Field Tour. The Academy will include hands-on training activities, tours of City facilities, and presentations by experienced public works team members. Participants will receive a uniform shirt and safety equipment, and will have the opportunity to experience real Public Works working conditions. Some classes will be held outdoors so participants will need to dress accordingly for each activity. Graduates of the Citizens Academy will be awarded Certificates of Completion at a City Council meeting at the conclusion of the program.

To join the City of Lockport 2011 Public Works Citizens Training Academy, which is tentatively scheduled for **March 29, - April 30, 2011**, please complete the registration form (that you can find on-line) and return it to us via mail, email or in person. Please be sure to include all information. Registration information will not be shared with outside parties. ***Class sizes are limited so please register early.***

To receive additional information about this program please contact the Public Works Department at 815-838-0549 ext 2308 or visit the City's website www.lockport.org.