



City of Lawton

February 2008

712-944-5960

www.lawtoniowa.com

Water meter readings are generally taken around the 20th day of each month.
Invoices for water, sewer, garbage and landfill are sent on the 1st of each month.
These invoices are delinquent if not paid by the 20th of that same month.
A 10% Late Fee will be assessed on all delinquent accounts.

READINGS ARE ESTIMATED THIS MONTH

Local "True Story" about the ZIP CODE

July 1, 1963, is when the ZIP Code was first introduced. I'm sure many of us were slow to start using the five-digit code intended to help speed delivery of our mail. However, due to today's technology, it's imperative that you not only put the correct zip code on your mail, but please be sure it is legible and easy to read. While a person sorting mail may see "Lawton" and realize the envelope needs to stay here in town, a machine only looks at the zip code.

Recently we had a payment for water end up on the east coast. The machine took the "51030" zip code and misread it. The "5" was dissected to look like a "0" and the top line on a "7". Of course the "1" was read as the downward stroke on the "7". So instead of the machine reading "51030", it read "07030" and sent the Lawton water payment to Hoboken, New Jersey.

Unfortunately, the story does not end there. This payment had been sent in six days prior to the due date. This customer had every reason to assume I had received their payment. However, New Jersey did not send it back to Lawton in a very timely manner. The resident here in town had received a disconnect notice, and then had service disconnected as they still were under the assumption their check had been received at City Hall by this time.

On December 7th, I received an envelope in the mail with a postmark of November 14. Inside was the check that had made the round trip from Lawton, Iowa, to Hoboken, New Jersey, and back again. In just over 3 weeks time, this payment had traveled over 2,600 miles simply because a machine misread a zip code.

Supposedly a letter can be delivered to the proper address by only using the nine-digit ZIP code. I haven't tried this, and wouldn't recommend that you do either, but please be sure the City's ZIP code is easy to read if you are mailing your payment in. This was a horrible inconvenience for this family, and we do NOT want it to happen to anyone else receiving our services!

City of Lawton, PO Box 275, Lawton IA 51030-0275

February 2008 Calendar of Events

GARBAGE SCHEDULE

February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25

RECYCLE SCHEDULE

February 11
February 25

MISCELLANEOUS SCHEDULE

February 5, 5:00 pm
Council Meet. @ City Hall

February 5, 2-6:00 pm
Blood Drive @ L-B HS

REMINDERS

AFTER SNOW: Remove vehicles from streets so streets can be cleared.
Clear snow and ice accumulations from sidewalks within 24 hours after end of snowfall.
Do NOT blow or scoop snow or ice onto cleared streets, or onto neighbor's property.
PARKING: Park on right side of street "with" traffic rather than facing traffic.

Money can buy you a clock, but cannot buy you time.

Get More CASH Back!

This area included information from the United Way of Siouxland regarding qualifications for the **Earned Income Tax Credit**

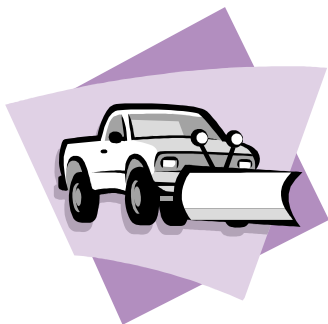
If you would like more information on this service, please call:
2-1-1
Ask for a Free Tax Site near you
www.unitedwayofsiouxland.com



In 2007, if you earned less than...

- **\$12,590 with no children you could receive a tax refund of \$428**
- **\$39,783 with two or more children you could receive a tax refund of \$4,716**

SNOW ISSUES...PLEASE READ



While looking through the ordinance book on another matter, an ordinance was discovered in the “Nuisance” section dealing with snow emergency parking. Basically it states that vehicles are not to be parked on the streets during a snow emergency until the streets are completely cleaned. Actual verbiage of **Sec. 3-3-33** states *“No person shall park, abandon, or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, alley, or City-owned off-street parking area during any snow emergency proclaimed by the Mayor unless the snow has been removed or plowed from said street, alley or parking area and the snow has ceased to fall. A snow emergency parking ban shall continue from its proclamation through the duration of the snow or ice storm and the forty-eight hour period after cessation of the storm except as above provided upon streets which have been fully opened.”* It goes on to say, *“When predictions or occurrences indicate the need, the Mayor shall proclaim a snow emergency... Such emergency may be extended or shortened when conditions warrant”*.

It appeared that most residents were conscientious during the snows that we have had so far this year. Not many vehicles were left out on the streets. The city crew really appreciates your effort in moving vehicles so they can move snow.