

"We Have Tomorrow — Bright Before Us, Like A Flame." *Langston Hughes*



Summer is here, which means it's time to splash around at the Outdoor Aquatic Center!

The Outdoor Aquatic Center is open for the summer season from May 26 through August 17. Additionally, it will be open on August 23 & 24 as well as August 30 & 31 and September 1. It will have the following hours this summer:

- Monday - Friday from 1 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

And don't forget - our area splash pads are open daily from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Enjoy the summer fun!

## OUR MISSION

We create a  
community where  
all enjoy life and  
feel at home.

City information is available  
at [lawrenceks.org](http://lawrenceks.org) and on  
cable Channel 25.

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## New electric buses feature art by Tokeya Waci U

The newest additions to Lawrence Transit's fleet are unique low-floor buses that allow passengers with a mobility device to board from the curb with a ramp, like a larger fixed route vehicle. This will improve the rider experience and shorten boarding times.

Local Indigenous artist Tokeya Waci U designed three distinct pieces of artwork for new electric buses. The design featured on the smaller electric buses is called "It's Geometric (boogie woogie woogie)." The two other designs will be forthcoming on 40-foot buses that are still in production. They are expected to be delivered in 2026.

Tokeya said he thinks projects that make Indigenous artwork and ideas more visible in the community can have a positive and healing effect.

"Each bus has its own design and is associated with its own meaning about my people's culture and outlook on the world," Tokeya said. "It also depicts the pride we have within ourselves and who we are. As our culture gets the recognition we were forced to disassociate with in the past, my hopes are that it will heal those traumas and uplift the children within our communities as well as the traumas within ourselves."

Tokeya worked with the bus system previously when he created artwork for two bus shelters as part of a collaboration with the Indigenous Community Center.

You can view the artist's website at: <https://coupcountdesignz.com>

### Artist's Statement:

#### "It's Geometric (boogie woogie woogie)"

The designs on this bus pay homage to how the Plains tribes adorned themselves with beadwork and its designs. A lot of these designs look very simple but have deep meaning within them and hold a lot of meaning to the people who wear them.

To the tribes who lived on the plains, the triangular designs represented hills as well as the power within them. Often, when we wanted to pray for something great, we would go to the tops of the hills because it was close to Creator.

The designs next to the triangles are called stems. These represent power/prayer/or blessings that shoot out from within or reach out.

The arching designs above the triangles and stems are just for the aesthetic and do not have real meaning within our culture, unless they are associated with an even bigger picture.

The designs in the green stripe are called Buffalo hoof prints and a group of different geometric designs made into one, Life/Power.

## A NEW LOOK FOR CITY UTILITY ACCOUNTS

# The MyMeter Online Customer Portal

The City of Lawrence is excited to share our new and improved online customer portal for City utility accounts: MyMeter. The new online portal is a big improvement on the overall customer experience!

MyMeter has several benefits for our utility billing customers, including:

- **Leak alerts!** Users can view hourly water usage information and sign up for leak alerts.
- **Use it on a smart phone!** It's optimized for use on a smart phone with several features that our previous portal couldn't offer.
- **Due date reminders!** Users can sign up for more alerts than we had before, such as a due date and/or a past due reminder.
- **Streamlined payments!** Making payments is embedded into the portal rather than launching to a new page.
- **Additional users!** You can include additional users on an account, which is helpful for roommates or parents who want access to view bills.

### Signing up for MyMeter

First, go to the new online customer portal: <https://utilitybilling.lawrenceks.gov>

If you were already registered for the previous online customer portal, follow these steps to register for a MyMeter account:

1. Click on "Forgot your Password?" in the upper right corner.
2. Enter your email address, your customer number (7 digits), and your account number (6 digits).

3. You'll receive an email with a link to reset your password, which will expire after 10 minutes.

If you did not previously have an online account for City utilities and will be making one for the first time, follow these instructions to get started in MyMeter:

1. Click on Create an Account in the upper right corner.
2. Enter the following information: zip code, name on account, customer number (7 digits), account number (6 digits), and email address.
3. Choose a password and select a secret question.

Questions? You can visit our website for more information on the customer portal and how to sign up for paperless billing: [lawrenceks.org/utility-billing/my-meter](http://lawrenceks.org/utility-billing/my-meter).

### Navigating the Transition

For several weeks after the new billing system launch, we anticipate longer than normal wait times due to additional inquiries about the new customer portal. We apologize for any inconvenience this new upgrade causes our customers and we appreciate your cooperation and patience during this transition period.

If you have questions on the changes or your bill, please contact Customer Service at [utilitybilling@lawrenceks.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@lawrenceks.gov) or (785) 832-7878.

Scan the QR Code to get started on the new MyMeter Online Portal!



## Summer Water Usage Tips

Kansas summers get HOT, and we're all using extra water this time of year. With the City's inclining block rate\* structure for billing water usage, excessive water use in the summer can really add up!

Keeping your lawn green can be one of the biggest uses of water in the summer. If you're irrigating, follow these helpful tips to get the most bang for your buck:

- Water early in the morning or in the evening to reduce evaporation and allow more water to reach your lawn's root zone.
- Water only when needed, not on a set schedule.
- Water your garden by hand or use drip irrigation rather than sprinklers.
- Use a rain barrel to capture water to water your garden.
- Use a rain gauge to determine when your lawn needs water and to measure how much you're applying. Generally, turf grasses need ¾-1" of water per week. If rain is forecasted, hold off on watering.

Beyond keeping your outdoor watering in check this summer, there are other ways to conserve and keep your bill low:

- Fix leaky faucets, showerheads and toilets, which can add up to gallons of water lost every day.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Take showers, not baths. Showers use less water (just keep an eye on how long you've been in there).
- Plug your sink or use a wash basin if washing dishes by hand.
- Use a dishwasher – and make sure it is fully loaded!
- Scrape your plate, rather than rinsing it, before loading it into the dishwasher.
- Throw food scraps in the trash rather than using your garbage disposal. (This one helps our sanitary sewer system, too!)
- Wash only full loads of laundry or select the appropriate water level or load size on the washing machine.

\*Learn more about the inclining block rate structure for water billing on our website: [lawrenceks.org/utility-billing/inclining-block](http://lawrenceks.org/utility-billing/inclining-block).

**SUMMERFEST**  
**JULY 3RD 3 PM - 10 PM**  
**DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
**2120 HARPER STREET**  
**MAIN GROUNDS & BUILDING 21**

-Live Music -Artisan Fair  
-Food Trucks -Drone Show  
-Kids Zone & More!

**Lawrence KANSAS**

MORE INFO: [WWW.LAWRENCEKS.ORG/LPRD/SPECIALEVENTS/ARTSANDCRAFTS/](http://WWW.LAWRENCEKS.ORG/LPRD/SPECIALEVENTS/ARTSANDCRAFTS/)