



“We Have  
Tomorrow—  
Bright Before  
Us, Like A  
Flame.”

-Langston  
Hughes

February

City information is available on-line at [lawrenceks.org](http://lawrenceks.org) and on cable Channel 25. The FLAME is published by the City Manager's Office, 832-3400.



## Cold Weather advisories for...

### ...YOUR PLUMBING

The weather outside is frightful and so are frozen pipes. Here are tips to help get your plumbing ready for wintertime freezing temperatures.

Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses. Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the pipe. Otherwise, a single hard, overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it is connected to.

Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas. If you have pipe in an unheated garage or cold crawlspace under the house, wrap the water pipes before temperatures plummet.

Seal off cracks. Repair broken basement windows. Winter winds whistling through openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes. But don't plug air vents needed by the furnace or water heater for good combustion.

Do not remove the meter tile lid. This can cause the meter to freeze and break immediately in cold weather.

Find the master shutoff. Each household member should know where the inside shut-off valve is located in the event that an interior water line breaks. Turning off the shut-off valve immediately can reduce the amount of water damage caused by broken lines. Mark the valve with a bright ribbon or colorful paint.

Leave cabinet doors open under sinks. Allowing warm air to reach the water pipes reduces the risk of frozen pipes. If you have a history of frozen pipes you can leave a pencil-lead-thin stream of water flowing from the kitchen or bathroom faucet during the worst of a cold spell.

Leave the heat on. When leaving for an extended period of time, leave the heat on in your home so the inside pipes won't freeze and break. Have a relative, friend or neighbor check your residence to make sure your water pipes are not frozen or broken.

What if it's too late? You wake up to find the pipes are frozen during an extended cold spell, despite precautions. Call your plumber.

### ...YOUR HOME

## FAQ's Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I cut down the tree in my front yard?

Maybe not. The tree in your front yard may be in the City's right of way. Right of way trees are required by City Code to create an attractive view, provide shade and add value to the community.

The City of Lawrence Forestry crew provides maintenance including trimming, removal and pruning of trees in the right of way. Property owners are prohibited from cutting, removing or trimming right of way trees. Call the Forestry Supervisor at 832-7979 with questions about trees in the right of way.

### When will the Mayor present the Mayor's Excellence in Education Award?

In March, so you still have time to nominate an educator for the Mayor's Excellence in Education Award. Educators in pre-schools or elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools may be nominated. March 5, 2007 is nomination deadline. Nomination forms may be downloaded from [www.lawrenceks.org](http://www.lawrenceks.org).

### When does the City Commission meet?

The Lawrence City Commission generally meets each Tuesday evening (except the fifth Tuesday of a month) at 6:35 p.m. in the City Commission Room on the first floor of City Hall located at 6th and Massachusetts Street. Agendas are available online at [www.lawrenceks.org](http://www.lawrenceks.org).

### Where do I find out if my property is in the floodplain? What does it mean if it is?

The Planning Office has copies of the floodplain insurance rate maps which generally indicate whether property is located in the 100-year floodplain. If the property is located in this area, new development must build to standards set out in the Zoning Ordinance. Generally, residential construction must be elevated two feet above the regulatory flood elevation and non-residential construction (commercial and industrial) must be elevated one foot above the regulatory elevation. Prior to issuance of a building permit, a local (and perhaps state) floodplain development permit must be issued. The floodplain maps are also online at [www.lawrenceplanning.org](http://www.lawrenceplanning.org).

o u r m i s s i o n :

We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community.

# Cold Weather advisories for...

Residents can take the following steps to prepare their homes for cold weather.

To reduce the amount of outside air entering a home and increase energy efficiency, consider the following improvements:

- attic insulation
- storm windows
- storm doors
- weather-stripping.

In preparation for cold weather, homeowners should:

- Check furnace and water heater for proper operation. Gas fueled appliances should have a clean, blue flame. If not, have a qualified contractor clean the furnace or water heater.
- Change furnace filter.
- Clean floor registers.
- Check all chimneys for proper air flow.
- Keep window coverings closed at night and open during daytime to allow the sun's heat in.

## ... YOUR TRAVEL

The Lawrence Transit System can help you overcome the challenges of traveling in cold temperatures.

Cold weather can leave cars with dead batteries, frozen door handles and a list of other mechanical failures. During winter, the "T" can provide safe, warm and reliable transportation. Riders can avoid scraping snow and ice from car windows and warming up the car. In addition, riders don't have to worry about road conditions.

The size of the buses means they can travel through the snow when individual cars may have difficulty. The routes of the "T" were designed to follow the arterial streets and those routes correspond to the snow plan followed by the Public Works crews when clearing the streets.

For more information on riding the Lawrence

Transit System, call (785) 312-7054 or visit the "T" on-line at [www.lawrencetransit.org](http://www.lawrencetransit.org). Riders will find that drivers are excellent resources when learning to ride public transportation and are encouraged to ask for assistance.

## ... YOUR SIDEWALK

To make public sidewalks safe for pedestrians, the owner or occupant of property immediately adjacent to a public sidewalk is responsible for the removal of any snow or ice that accumulates on the sidewalk. Removal must be done within 24 hours after the ice forms or the snowfall ends.

In the event that removal of ice is impossible, the property owner or occupant is required to place sand on the sidewalk within 24 hours.

# Good Neighbor Ordinances

The following is a list of City of Lawrence ordinances that help us live together as neighbors.

## PARKING

### YARDS

Parking on an unimproved surface in your front or side yard is unlawful. Parking is only permitted on an improved surface, such as concrete or asphalt. Dirt, grass and gravel are not improved surfaces, so they can't be used for parking. This ordinance provides attractive neighborhood landscaping, and keeps mud off of the street.

### STREETS

Vehicles parked on the street must be moved some visible distance every 48 hours. The street is primarily for transportation, not for long-term parking. This ordinance is complaint-driven, so keep your neighbors in mind as you park.

Recreational vehicles parked on the street such as campers, trailers and boats must be at least 100 feet from any intersection and drivers need to be able to see around them. They shouldn't impede traffic or visibility.

## TRASH

Use containers to place trash at the curb. Trash cans need two handles.

Trash won't be collected unless it is a reasonable weight and size. Keep your items weighing less than 65 pounds and collapse cardboard boxes.

## TIME

Your trash may be set out up to 24 hours before 7 a.m. of your collection day. Remove trash containers from the curb promptly after they've been emptied.

If your trash is refused; read the tag that the crews leave and fix the problem before the next collection day. Remember to remove the containers or items until the next collection day.

## PORCHES / YARDS

You may not store loose items of trash in your yard or on your front porch – this includes abandoned cars and miscellaneous items.

It is illegal to keep your refrigerator, bike or TV on your front porch or lawn. While these things may not be trash, they still affect your neighborhood's appearance. Furniture may not be kept on your lawn. Small animals will quickly take up residence inside any furniture you leave outside.

## NOISE

Don't play music so loud that it could disturb others outside your house. Excessive noise can disturb the peace.

It is illegal to play music from a vehicle that can be heard from 50 feet away, including bass reverberation.

Brawling and offensive language are a disturbance of the peace and aren't allowed in public.

Fireworks are not permitted within the City



limits.

## PETS

Animals should not disturb the peace. Long-term barking, howling or other sounds are distracting and can annoy your neighbors.

Animals should be under owner's supervision and on a leash when off their owner's property to prevent creating a hazard or disturbance to people, animals and property.

The City of Lawrence's off-leash dog park is at 1330 East 902, below the Clinton Lake dam. The facility includes drinking fountains, water for dogs and restrooms. Paths are mowed through fields and along wooded areas.

You are responsible for removing your pet's excrement. All pet dogs, cats and ferrets 4 months or older must be vaccinated against rabies.

Some animals are too exotic and dangerous to be owned in the City limits. Generally, you may own domesticated dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, rodents, birds, nonvenomous snakes and lizards, amphibians and fish.