

Spring 2015 Newsletter

with news and information from

The City of Lanark,

Lanark Chamber of Commerce,

& Living Lanark Committees



Feb. 26, 2015

Created by:

Mayor John Huggins

In This Issue:

- Water Bill Explained
- Scams, Fraud, Intimidation
- Living Lanark (MAPPING)
- Helping Neighbors
- SHOP LANARK Cards
- City Officials

NOTICE: Water Bill For One Month Only This Time

Please note the water/sewer/garbage bill is for one month only instead of a quarter.

The City's fiscal year runs from April 1 - March 31. In the past the quarterly billing has not lined up with the fiscal year. This usually increases the time and effort to complete the annual audit. Starting in April quarterly billing will resume.

Also in April, the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) fee takes affect. This will add \$3.00 per month to each bill.

SCAMS; FRAUD; INTIMIDATING SOLICITORS... Protect Yourself

It seems lately the number of scams, fraud, identity theft, etc. are becoming more frequent every week. Whether it is over the phone, on the computer, or even at your door, it seems no one is immune from these attempts.

Door-To-Door Solicitors

Solicitors are required to obtain a permit for the police department before going door-to-door. Local youth, nonprofit groups, or regular route delivery such as Schwan's do not need a permit.



Important Phone Numbers

City Hall
(815)493-2431
Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 9am-5pm
(closed 12:30-1:30)
Tuesday Noon-4:00
Wednesday 8:30-Noon
Council Meetings: First & third Tuesday of the month

Fire/Police Emergency
911

Police Non-Emergency
(815)493-6931

Fire Non-Emergency
(815)493-2341

Maintenance
(815)493-6832

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>>

Find more info on the web at www.lanarkil.com

SCAMS continued

The City of Lanark is working on more stringent rules for door-to-door solicitors in an attempt to keep the fraudulent and high pressure salespeople out for good.

If someone comes to your door trying to sell something or clean your carpets for free or save you money ask to see their permit. If they do not have one, shut the door and call the police non-emergency number: (815)493-6931.

Lately, sales people have been around trying to switch residents to I G S Energy. They are not attaining the proper permit to solicit in town.

They are telling people that they can provide better rates on your electric and gas. IF they save any money at all, there may be hidden costs or the rate is a “teaser rate” and is only for a short time and then they raise it a significant amount.

If you are on the electrical aggregate with Homefield Energy the city negotiated, your rate for electricity is at the price of \$0.07852 for the first 24 months and drops to \$0.07245 for the last 12 months. Do not show them a current utility bill, they can get your account number and switch you without you knowing it.

Phone Scams

If the caller ID is blank or says “blocked,” “unknown,” “no caller id,” or there is only a couple of numbers DO NOT ANSWER. If it is important or legitimate, they will leave a message.



One of the recent type of calls is just like the door-to-door solicitation for energy rates with hidden fees or teaser rates.

Another says they are from “card services” and want to lower your rate on your credit cards. THIS IS A SCAM trying to get your credit card number. Another says they are from the IRS and that you owe money and they threaten to put you in jail if you do not pay it. It is not the IRS, it is a scam. Others say they are from Microsoft or Tech Support and they want you to download software to let them into your computer to “clean up bad files.”

These are either an attempt to get personal and financial information from your computer or they

If THEY call YOU NEVER:

- ◆ Give account numbers, including: checking, savings, utilities, online shopping accounts, etc.
- ◆ Give credit card numbers
- ◆ Give Social Security Numbers
- ◆ Give passwords
- ◆ Download anything to your computer
- ◆ Transfer money to them
- ◆ The best thing to do is just don't answer the phone at all if you do not recognize the number. If it is important, they will leave a message.

If a solicitor comes to your door:

- ◆ Ask to see their permit
- ◆ If they do not have a permit tell them you are not interested and shut the door and call the police non-emergency number: 815-493-6931.
- ◆ Even if they have a permit, if you do not feel comfortable letting them in, DON'T.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >>>

SCAMS continued

lock you out of your computer and demand money to let you back in.

If you have received calls that either hang up or ask you to press a number to be removed from their calling list, chances are they will call you back anyway or sell your number to another telemarketer or scam artist. The best thing to do is not to answer the phone at all if you do not recognize the number.

Computer Scams

There are so many ways to get hacked or scammed on the computer. Here are some ways to help protect yourself online:

Have up-to-date antivirus software; use strong passwords; NEVER give out your password; never send credit card or account numbers via email or instant messaging; when shopping online, if in doubt, check it out and research the company; also when shopping make sure once you get to the checkout, the url in the address bar starts



with “https://”; and password protect your home Wi-Fi.

Be careful what you click on. Links from emails, pop-up ads, etc. can mean trouble. If you hover your mouse pointer over a link, if it look suspicious, do not click on it. Any hacker can make emails that look exactly like your bank or credit card company. BE SAFE!

Living Lanark Committees (MAPPING Committees):

Transformers Committee:

The Transformers Committee will be continuing their efforts in beautifying the downtown and other business areas around

town this spring with hanging flower baskets and banners and more. If you would like to donate toward the flower baskets stop in and see Rosemary at The Special Touch or call (815)493-6366.



Shop Lanark Cards are still available. See page 4.

Cornucopia Committee:

The Cornucopia Committee will be holding a farmers market again this year.



They are also planning on utilizing the empty lot on the corner of Broad and Locust with a community garden. To get involved with the garden contact John Huggins at jhuggins@lanarkil.com or (815)541-0557.



Lanark Area Community Foundation:

The Lanark Area Community Foundation now has assets over \$40,000 thanks to some generous donors. They have also given out their first 2 community impact grants.



LACF is not city-owned or politically controlled.

Visit <http://lacf.lanarkil.com> to find out more about the foundation.



Helping Neighbors



Lanark Health and Wellbeing Fund

The Lanark Health and Wellbeing (LHW) fund is collecting donations to provide assistance for people who are senior citizens, the disabled, people facing an emergency and others who may need help with paying their water and sewer bills during a difficult period.

Donations are tax deductible. Its easy to contribute to the fund when you pay your water bill. You can contribute a little or a lot. Even if you round it up your

payment to \$68.00, it is helping.

When you do contribute, please add LHW and the dollar amount on your water bill stub and write LHW and the amount in the memo section of your check.

To apply for assistance, contact the Eastland Council of Churches at 563-212-6810 or the Township at 815-493-9960.

Snow shoveling Assistance Program

Unfortunately, it is still possible to get more snow. Lanark's Snow

Shoveling Assistance

Program connects senior, disabled, and other special needs residents with snow shoveling services, both volunteer and for-hire.

For more info, to request assistance, or sign up to volunteer visit the website lanarkil.com and click on "Snow Shoveling Assistance." Or you can contact Mayor Huggins: jhuggins@lanarkil.com or call (815)541-0557.

SHOP LANARK! Card

SHOP LANARK! Card

The cards are only \$10 each. They can be used at 11 Lanark area businesses.

Participating Businesses: Lanark Food Center - Bella Pizza - The Special Touch - Twice-Sold Tales - Lake Carroll Clubhouse - The Cutting Edge - Southside Service - Carroll Service Building Center - End of the Road Antiques - Hollow Fence Post - The Crooked Roof.

Purchase SHOP LANARK! Cards at:

Lanark Food Center - The Special Touch - Exchange State Bank - Carroll Service Co. - The Cutting Edge - The Hollow Fencepost - Bella Pizza



★ Don't forget to VOTE! April 7, 2015 ★

City Officials

Mayor:

John Huggins, 541-0557
jhuggins@lanarkil.com

City Clerk:

Jackie Hawbecker, 493-2431
cityclerk@lanarkil.com

Treasurer:

Carol Kruzek, 493-2431
treasurer@lanarkil.com

Aldermen, Ward I:

Ken Weaver, 493-6452
kweaver@lanarkil.com

Anne Lindsay, 238-5159
alindsay@lanarkil.com

Aldermen, Ward II:

Lara Tallman, (312)399-6127
ltallman@lanarkil.com

Weston Burkholder, 499-4961
wburkholder@lanarkil.com

Aldermen, Ward III:

Mark Macomber, 291-8766
mmacomber@lanarkil.com

Ed Fehlhafer, 493-6235
efehlhafer@lanarkil.com

FOIA Officer, Police Chief, Zoning Officer:

Matt Magill, 238-6625
lpd@mchsi.com