



# the Lindsborg City View

Quarterly Newsletter - Issue 43 - AUGUST 2017

REMEMBERING THE PAST  
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE...

## Stormwater Utility

An Option for Stormwater Management

The purpose of the stormwater utility is to create a dedicated revenue stream to finance stormwater projects based on a fee structure linking the amount of stormwater runoff created by property owners to the amount of money these property owners pay toward upkeep of the system. Unlike the property tax, stormwater utility fees may be assessed on all properties, regardless of their taxable status. As proposed, fees will be based on the square feet of impervious area on a property. Impervious means hard surface areas that prevent water from entering into the soil, causing runoff into streets and stormwater channels. Examples are roofs, patios, porches and driveways. Residential customers will be charged a flat fee based on the average impervious area for all single family parcels in the community. Commercial and institutional properties will be charged a fee representing the actual amount of impervious area. Fee revenue will be placed in a separate fund and used only for stormwater management purposes.

Stormwater management is currently paid from property tax revenue. Annual operating and maintenance expenses of \$24,000 are budgeted from Street Department funds, already strained by several street repair projects. Several recommended capital projects that are critical for flood control have been put on hold for several years. Without a stormwater utility fee-based system, funding annual maintenance and necessary improvements would require a property tax increase of over 50%. Projects currently on hold:

### 2005 Cow Creek Study-

- Cow Creek Sedimentation Removal (Union St to Garfield St) \$ 275,000.00
- 2800' Channel Restoration Exiting City (Garfield St to 14th Ave) \$190,000.00
- Storm Sewer Replacement under Alleyway (near Normal St) \$16,000.00

### 2014 Northwest Drainage Study-

- Diversion Channel Modifications (North of Hwy 4) \$ 532,000.00
- Sinkhole Detention Area Restoration (North of Hwy 4) \$47,000.00
- Install Box Culverts Under Hwy 4 \$124,000.00
- Diversion Channel Improvements (East of Coronado Ave) \$60,000.00

### INSPIRATION -- n.

1.) The process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.

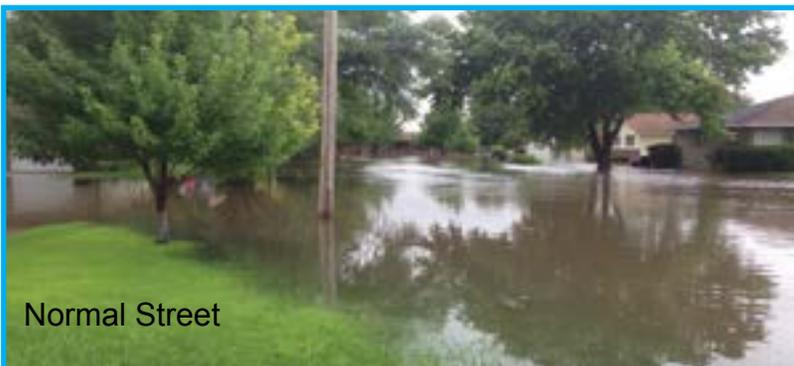
dictionary.com



West Garfield  
July 2013 Flood



Kansas Street



Normal Street

An additional concern is the current remapping of the local floodplain by FEMA, expected to be finalized in 2019. If flood control projects cannot be completed because of lack of funding, the area included in the 100-year flood zone is expected to be significantly enlarged. The revised map will likely add several properties to the floodplain, requiring owners with federally-backed mortgages to carry flood insurance.



THE CITY OF LINDSBORG

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Visit our City web page at [www.lindsborgcity.org](http://www.lindsborgcity.org)



## Public Works Department

The Public Works Department takes care of the electric, water and wastewater utilities and streets.

In the Electric Department, Superintendent Matt Lloyd and Lineman Colt Tomlin cover the electric distribution system. Responsibilities include the primary electrical system, sub-

stations, metering, streetlights and tree trimming.

Water and Wastewater is a blended department where Lynn Johnson serves as the Water Superintendent and Denny Walker serves as the Wastewater Superintendent. Lynn oversees the water distribution system, wells, towers and the telemetry system. He also maintains the water system at the swimming pool. Denny, with the assistance of Wastewater Operator, Cutler Croomes, operate and maintain the wastewater treatment plant and the sewer collection system. Cutler is also the primary meter reader for the utility billing system. Tobin Butterfield has provided seasonal assistance to the water department during the 2017 summer.

Jeff Peters is the Streets Department Superintendent. Cody Weibert and Lonny Dauer complete the crew whose primary responsibilities include street repair, curb and gutter repair, storm drain installation and maintenance, snow removal, street paint striping and compost site maintenance.

Chris Lindholm was appointed the new Public Works Director in April 2017. He is responsible for the overall supervision of the department, its projects and employees. His duties vary from managerial to administrative to working on any of the crews.

Although Public Works is made up of four departments, they all work together when it comes to keeping city streets and utilities functioning properly every day, assisting with festival preparations, major projects and significant weather events. They are a hard working group and do a great job!

### CITYWIDE CLEAN-UP DAY IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

- 8:00 AM to NOON •FOR LINDSBORG RESIDENTS ONLY •1111 EAST SWENSSON (formerly the old Tree Station)
- ITEMS **NOT** ACCEPTED DURING THE CLEAN-UP DAY INCLUDE:
  - TIRES •AMMUNITION •BATTERIES • LARGE APPLIANCES
  - ITEMS THAT CONTAIN OR DID CONTAIN FREON •HAZARDOUS WASTE
  - YARD WASTE (GRASS CLIPPINGS, DIRT, LEAVES, LIMBS, WEEDS, STRAW, ETC.)
- PLEASE CALL CITY HALL AT 785-227-3355 FOR MORE INFORMATION IF IT IS NEEDED

## Council Member Contact Information

Councilman **David Higbee**  
dhigbee@lindsborgcity.org

Councilman **Mark Friesen**  
mfriesen@lindsborgcity.org



Mayor **Bill Taylor**  
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Councilman **Blaine Heble**  
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Councilman **Corey Peterson**  
cpeterson@lindsborgcity.org

Councilwoman **Betty Nelson**  
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Councilwoman **Kathy Richardson**  
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Councilman **Rick Martin**  
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## STORMWATER FAQ's

- 1. What is stormwater runoff?** Stormwater runoff is rainfall or snowmelt that drains off rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, roads and other man-made hard surfaces that prohibit the infiltration of rainfall or snowmelt into the ground. The stormwater then flows into the City drainage system. All developed properties in the City contribute stormwater runoff to the drainage system and in some cases, to recurring drainage problems. In addition to flooding problems, stormwater runoff washes chemicals, debris, trash and other pollutants into the drainage system and our local surface waters.
- 2. What does a stormwater program do?** A stormwater program maintains and improves the City's stormwater systems located within the public street rights-of-way including storm drains, catch basins, underground pipes, open channels, culverts and creeks.
- 3. How is the City of Lindsborg proposing to address expanding stormwater drainage system needs?** The city of Lindsborg is establishing a stormwater utility and user fee system that will be dedicated solely to addressing stormwater management and drainage issues. The stormwater utility fee will provide the resources necessary for the City to deliver stormwater services to residents, businesses, institutional and government facilities.
- 4. What are the City's goals for a stormwater program?** The stormwater program focuses on reducing the potential for the loss of life or property due to flooding. The City is responsible for the management and regulation of stormwater runoff. This requires that the City must undertake various activities including the cleaning of ditches and pipe systems; replacement of aging infrastructure such as catch basins, storm drain inlets and curb & gutter; and construction of new drainage systems to increase or improve conveyance capacity. Fees collected will support the ongoing maintenance and capital improvements on the City's storm drainage system.
- 5. Why did the City decide to implement a stormwater utility fee?** The City has evaluated its stormwater management needs and concluded that additional resources were needed. The City has evaluated the feasibility of charging a stormwater utility fee as opposed to increasing property tax millage, and has determined that the user fee approach is more fair and equitable to allocate costs as opposed to increasing ad valorem taxes to fund stormwater management services. The user fee is not based on the assessed "value" of a property like ad valorem taxes, rather it is based on each customer's demand that they place on the drainage system and the corresponding stormwater management services provided. The user fee is very similar to water, sewer, gas and electric. An additional benefit of a stormwater utility fee is that all stormwater utility fee revenues must be spent on stormwater management and drainage related issues whereas ad valorem tax revenues are typically not subject to such restrictions.
- 6. What is a stormwater utility fee?** A stormwater utility fee is a charge for stormwater management services provided by the City to all developed residential and non-residential properties in the City. It is very similar to a water or wastewater fee, which are also charged to customers who received these services from the City. Under the plan proposed, the stormwater user fee revenue collected can only be utilized for the provision of stormwater management services and operation of the City's drainage system infrastructure.
- 7. Will the stormwater utility fee be influenced by the amount of rain?** The stormwater utility fee is not related to the amount of rainfall. The fee will fund ongoing maintenance and capital improvements on City maintained drainage systems and flood hazard mitigation programs.
- 8. How do you calculate a stormwater utility fee charge for an individual property and utility customer account?** The stormwater utility fee is based upon the amount of impervious surface on a parcel. Impervious surface means those areas which prevent or impede the natural absorption of rainfall and stormwater runoff. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, rooftops, building or structures, sidewalks, walkways, patio areas, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, and other surfaces such as compacted soil and gravel. The square footage of impervious surface on a property has a direct correlation to the amount of stormwater runoff discharged from that property. Developed parcels with greater amounts of impervious area will place a larger impact on the City's drainage system.
- 9. How will my stormwater user fee be calculated?** The stormwater user fee will be based on a billing unit or Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) that is approximate to the impervious surface on an average single family residential home, which in Lindsborg is 3,172 square feet of impervious surface. Single family residential (SFR) will be charged 1.0 ERU per month. All non-single family residential (NSFR) properties will be charged a stormwater user fee based on the total impervious area on the property. For example, if a commercial site has 31,720 square feet of impervious surface, that customer will be charged 10 ERU's per month. 31,720 square feet of impervious surface/3,172 sq. ft. = 10 ERU's (or billing units)
- 10. How much will customers be charged per ERU?** The proposed ERU fee is \$7.00 per ERU per month.
- 11. I rent the house that I live in, will I be charged?** The stormwater utility fee will be included as one of the utility fees on your City of Lindsborg utility bill. Thus, whomever pays the City utility bill will be charged the stormwater utility fee.
- 12. What will be the billing frequency and the billing mechanism?** The stormwater user fee charge will be billed on each customer's existing monthly utility bill, beginning in September 2017.
- 13. Who do I call if I have additional questions?** Call City Hall with questions at 785-227-3355.





According to the Energy Star® website, “The average household spends more than \$2,200 a year on energy bills, with nearly half of this going to heating and cooling costs.” There are several steps you can implement that will help control these costs. Through the efficient use of electricity, you can use less energy, maintain your same level of comfort and spend less money.

One of the steps that you can take yourself is to seal your heating and cooling ducts. Approximately 20% of the air that moves through a home’s duct system is lost due to leaks, holes and poorly connected ducts. Seal these leaks by using mastic sealant or metal (foil) tape and insulating all ducts that you can access such as those in the attic, crawl-space, basement, or garage. Don’t use ‘duct tape’ because it is not long lasting. Also make sure that the connections at vents and registers are well-sealed where they meet the floors, walls, and ceiling. These are common areas to find leaks and disconnected ductwork.

Maintaining your heating and cooling equipment is another step you can take to keep it running efficiently. Change the air filter regularly. A clean air filter will prevent dust and dirt from building up in the system to run inefficiently or worse, break down. This should be done at least once every three months and should be done monthly when you are cooling or heating your home. In addition to changing the air filter regularly, annual maintenance by a qualified technician is an important step in preventing future problems. It is best to check the cooling system in the spring and the heating system in the fall.

Typical Air Conditioner or Heat Pump Installation

If you have an air conditioning or heat pump system that is over 10 years old, you could save 18% to 36% by replacing it with an Energy Star® certified system. The coolSAVINGS™ air conditioning rebate program offers financial incentives to City of Lindsborg electric customers for the replacement of older air conditioning units with new energy efficient models. The rebates range from \$50 to \$600, depending on type of system.

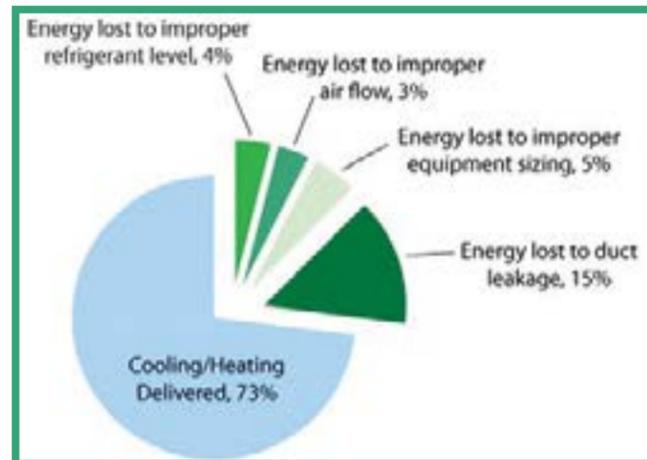
The eligible rebate items are:

- Central split systems and package air conditioners & heat pumps
- Mini-split systems air conditioners and heat pumps
- Ground source heat pump
- Window air conditioning units

There are eligibility guidelines for the replacement incentive.

- Replacement of air conditioning units ten (10) years or older
- Must be a City of Lindsborg electric customer
- HVAC 1.5 Ton to 5.0 Ton units and window air conditioners are eligible
- Minimum SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) of 15.0 and a minimum EER (energy efficiency ratio) of 12.5
- Energy Star® certified
- Window unit air conditioners less than 19,999 BTU’s must have an EER of 10.7 or above
- Window unit air conditioners greater than 20,000 BTU’s must have an EER of 9.4 or above
- First-come, first serve basis. \$10,000 has been budgeted for the program. Rebates will be paid until funding is gone.
- This program is for the replacement of inefficient systems and new units are not eligible

If you have an old, inefficient air conditioning system, now is the time to replace it! Contact one of the local HVAC system contractors. They are all familiar with the coolSAVINGS™ Air Conditioning Rebate Program and will be happy to assist. There isn’t a better time to save energy and save money.



# What inspires you?

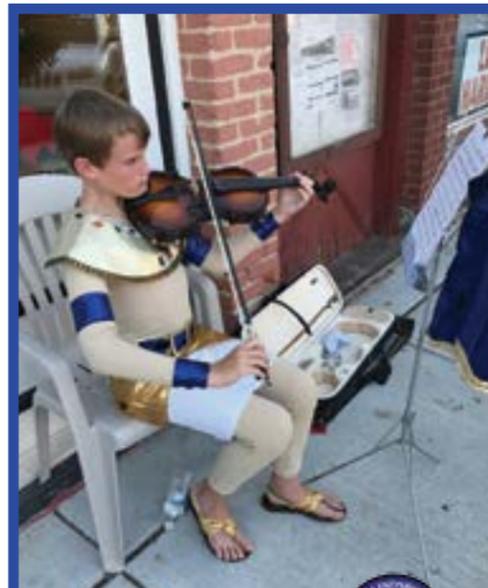
We can find plenty of inspiration in Lindsborg on the second Friday night of each month — the Makers Street Art Walk. These evenings focus on the artistic diversity enjoyed in Lindsborg. Each month there is always new variety of talent. New things to see, do, taste, and experience.



While the CVB office markets the Lindsborg community and these types of events to travelers, we acknowledge that it has been incredibly enjoyable participating in these events. Who knew one could still spin a hula hoop after all? The degree of skill for the average person was definitely not that of the performers swinging multiple hoops at one time, busking in front of Chestnut Studios but it is fun to try! Did anyone know that there is a salsa queen working at the Lindsborg Community Hospital? There is! Her spicy fresh salsa is shared by families everywhere in Lindsborg. Who would have expected to experience the culinary arts on Makers Street?



The greatest surprise of all? Watching from the sidelines as a group of young artists, many of them Bethany College grads, jump into action to create Makers Street. They brainstormed and brought together arts council members, artists and musicians from Lindsborg to Kansas City to Wichita, seasoned gallery staff, businesses...a community. They created yet another event that Lindsborg can be proud to share with a larger audience.



We can’t wait to see what Makers Street offers with in the coming months! Join us! Who knows? Maybe, just maybe, there will be another chance to hula hoop again.



# Be Prepared with Flood Awareness

Local flood hazard is caused by Lindsborg's flat terrain and slow storm water runoff. Cow Creek is in the 1% Special Flood Hazard Area, and poses a flash flooding threat because of the large drainage area (345 acres) and lack of elevation drop but other areas have risk too. In 2013, the Westview channel overtopped into the West Normal and Northridge neighborhoods, causing significant basement flooding and millions of dollars in losses. Street flooding occurs on the city's eastern and southern neighborhoods, resulting in stalled and water-damaged vehicles. Find out if your property is in the regulated floodplain by calling the Gary Shogren at City Hall, 785-227-3355. You can also learn more on our website under Community Development at <http://ks-lindsborg2.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=47>

Here are some things you can do to protect your family and property from flooding:

### Flood Insurance

Your homeowners insurance does not include coverage for a flood. One of the best protection measures is a flood insurance policy under the National Flood Insurance Program, which can be purchased through any licensed property insurance agent.

If the building is located in a floodplain, flood insurance will be required by most federally backed mortgage lenders. Even if you are not in a mapped floodplain, you may be subject to flooding from local drainage. Ask an insurance agent how much a flood insurance policy would cost.

Don't delay! There is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect. Learn the essentials to flood insurance, including what it covers, what it protects and who it protects at [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov).

### Protect People from the Hazard

Flash floods are the number one weather related killer in the United States. Do not attempt to walk or drive in flooded areas. Six inches of floodwater is enough to knock you off your feet, two feet of water will float your car. Do not drive around barriers, as the road or bridge may be washed out. Water moving at 10 miles per hour exerts the same pressure on a structure as wind gusts at 270 miles per hour.

### Protect Property from the Hazard

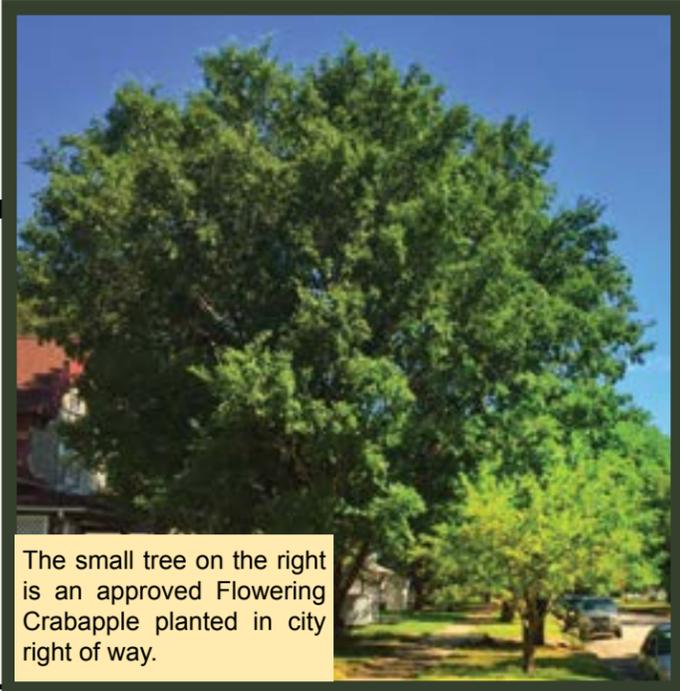
There are preventive measures that can be taken to minimize or eliminate potential flood damage to buildings. Sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber can be used to temporarily protect property. Moving furniture and other possessions to higher floors, if available, can reduce contents losses. Permanent flood proofing measures for flood prone areas are preferable to temporary ones. Talk to us about protecting your house or business at Community Development, 785-227-3355.

### Build Responsibly

Any development, not just construction of buildings, in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) requires a permit. Obtain a permit from City Hall, 101 S. Main St. before you build, alter, re-grade or fill on your property. Report any illegal floodplain development to Gary Shogren at 785-227-3355.

# APPROVED STREET TREES

This is a reminder that the City has a list of approved tree species that can be planted in the street right of way, the part of the front lawn between the sidewalk and curb. Approved planting lists help ensure that the species selected is appropriate for the local soil and climate. The list is put together by the Tree Board, and adopted by Council in the form of an ordinance.



The small tree on the right is an approved Flowering Crabapple planted in city right of way.

Small Trees	Medium Trees	Large Trees
Flowering Crabapple	Chinaberry	Baldcypress
Hawthorn	Chinese Pistache	American Elm
Amur Maple	Golden Raintree	Lacebark Elm
Paper Mulberry	Japanese Pagoda	Gingko
Redbud	Kentucky Coffee (Male)	Honeylocust (Thornless)
Serviceberry	Caddo Maple	Linden
	Shantung Maple	Autumn Blaze Maple
	Sugar Maple	Pecan
	Columnar English Oak	London Planetree
	Chinquapin Oak	Bur Oak
	Callery Pear Varieties (Not "Bradford")	Northern Red Oak
		Sawtooth Oak
		Shumard Oak
		Willow Oak

The spacing of street trees in residential areas will be in accordance with the three species size classes listed above. No trees may be planted closer together than the following:

Small trees	30 feet
Medium trees	40 feet
Large trees	50 feet

The distance trees may be planted from curbs or curb lines and sidewalks will be in accordance with the three species size classes above. No trees may be planted closer to any curb or sidewalk than the following:

Small trees	2 feet
Medium trees	3 feet
Large trees	4 feet

**No trees may be planted closer than 50 feet to any corner.**

# Cross Connection Control

In 1989, the City of Lindsborg passed an ordinance regulating cross connections to the municipal water system. The main reason for this ordinance is to protect public water supply from possible contamination. Contamination could occur because of backflow. Backflow is a condition that could possibly exist if there was a sudden leak on a water main or the fire department discharged a large amount of water while fighting a fire. This situation can create a vacuum that could draw contaminants back into the water main if a cross connection control is not in place. The reason behind this regulation is to try and prevent contamination of our potable water due to unprotected cross connections. Such items or entities might include chemical tanks, boilers, yard sprinkler systems, fire sprinkler systems, hospitals, mortuaries and clinics. The list of potential contaminants is quite extensive.

Backflow prevention devices range from a very simple air-gap in a discharge line, often used on water softeners, to the very sophisticated and expensive units that are required for the high hazard contaminants. There are several types of backflow prevention devices. Three of the most common are the pressure vacuum breaker (PVB), the reduced pressure zone (RPZ), and the double check assembly (DCA). Each situation needs to be evaluated to determine which style of backflow preventer would work best in that situation.

All backflow devices need annual maintenance to make sure they are working properly in case an issue happens where they need to function. Devices can get plugged or damaged in numerous ways so it is necessary they are tested by a certified backflow device tester on an annual basis. This is also a part of the city ordinance to make sure that this testing is performed. As



Basic vacuum break

a courtesy, the city sends out an annual reminder in the first part of every year. In Lindsborg, those records are kept and maintained by the Public Works Department Director, Chris Lindholm.

Cross Connection Control is very important in maintaining a safe public supply of water.



Backflow Preventor

# NEW EMS BUILDING IS NEAR COMPLETION!



Several years ago Lindsborg began identifying a growing number of ambulance calls. These numbers are consistent with many services that run full-time paid staff. Aware that sometime in the future the city would need to move to a full-time service, planning began. The first step in this plan was to provide a facility that included housing staff to take calls throughout the night. This planning has been on-going for almost eight years but now the first

step of providing a facility has become a reality.

The facility is a great recruiting tool for volunteers and the numbers of dedicated volunteers has reached nearly thirty. Currently, a volunteer EMT, when paged must be able to respond in the ambulance within a few minutes. This is difficult to do even if you live within a few miles of the city. With the new facility, volunteers have a place to stay or sleep when on-call. It also opens the door for EMT's who are students wanting to become paramedics. They can stay at the facility, have a place to study and train while assisting with calls.

This facility will help keep our volunteer roster vibrant, then when we are ready to move to the next phase of providing a full-time service, the city will be ready.







The City of Lindsborg  
101 S. Main  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**City Council Meetings - Sept. 5 (Tues) & 18, Oct. 2 & 16, Nov. 6 & 20**  
**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting - October 18**  
**Lindsborg Annual Downtown Street Dance - August 26**  
**Makers Street Art Walk - September 8 & October 13**  
**Battle of the Buses - September 9**  
**Citywide Clean-up - September 23**  
**Discover Your Swedish Roots - Old Mill - October 7 & 8**  
**Falun Classic 34- Mile Bike Ride - October 8**  
**Svensk Hyllningsfest - October 13 & 14**  
**Coronado Heights Run 15K and 5K - October 14**  
**City View Newsletter - Issue 44 (November)**  
**Recycling Center - (Open 24/7) Be considerate please**

For more scheduled events please view the calendars at [www.visitlindsborg.com](http://www.visitlindsborg.com) and [www.lindsborgcity.org](http://www.lindsborgcity.org)

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Police, Fire and Ambulance:	911
Police, Fire and Ambulance:	785.227.2988 (non-emergency)
Water, Sewer, Electric, Streets:	785.227.3428
Water Sewer, Electric, Streets:	785.227.3469 (after hours, weekends and holidays)