



Office Closures

In observance of the Christmas holiday & New Year’s Day, Columbus City Offices will be closed on Friday, December 24th and Friday, December 31st. Garbage collection scheduled to run in Ward 5 on both of those days, will be collected on the following Monday in addition to the normally scheduled route in Ward 1. Emergency services will be available 24/7 on both holidays.

We would like to wish our residents and staff a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Important Information

We anticipate the final round of poly carts to be delivered by December 31st. Be on the lookout for a blue envelope with important information regarding the poly carts. New guidelines will go in to effect on January 1, 2022.

**City of Columbus
Water/Sewer Rate Increase**



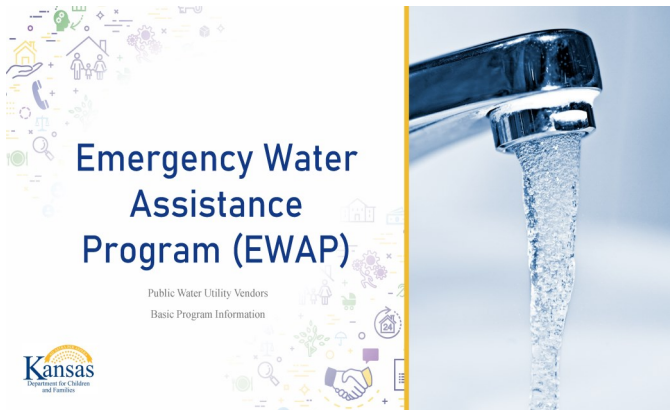
	WATER BASE FEE	ADDITIONAL GALLONS	SEWER BASE FEE	ADDITIONAL GALLONS
CURRENT CHARGES INSIDE CITY LIMITS	\$26.27/includes 1,000 gallons	\$7.66/per thousand gallon	\$17.06/includes 2,000 gallons	\$4.59/ per thousand gallon
NEW RATES INSIDE CITY LIMITS	\$27.06/includes 1,000 gallons	\$7.89/per thousand gallon	\$17.58/includes 2,000 gallons	\$4.73/per thousand gallon
CURRENT CHARGES OUT OF CITY LIMITS	\$35.73/includes 1,000 gallons	\$10.02/per thousand gallon	N/A	N/A
NEW RATES OUT OF CITY LIMITS	\$36.81/includes 1,000 gallons	\$10.32/per thousand gallon	N/A	N/A

- You will see this increase on your January bill which is due February 2022.
- In accordance with Ordinance 1462, the water base charge and the water usage charge for customers inside and outside the city limits increase 3% annually. In addition, the minimum wastewater charge and wastewater usage charge for customers will increase 3% annually per Ordinance 1463.



Final Leaf Pickup

The City of Columbus will provide a second leaf pickup December 6th thru December 17th. Please place your leaves as close to the street as possible by 7:30 am. Each ward will have 2 days of pickup. **The pickup is for LEAVES ONLY, if any trash, debris, sticks or logs are in the leaf pile it will not be picked up.** These items can cause damage to the street sweeper. For any questions, please contact City Hall at (620) 429-2159.



Emergency Water Assistance Program

The Emergency Water Assistance Program (EWAP) is a federal program recently released for residents in need of financial assistance with their water and sewer utility bills. If you meet the qualifications, this program can provide payments to restore or prevent disconnection of water and wastewater services.

Applications for the program are available at the local DCF (Department for Children and Families) office at 215 E. Maple St, Columbus, KS. To view the full program guidelines or to apply online please visit, www.dcf.ks.gov/EWAP.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- More than half** of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.
- More than 1/3** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- The top 3 days for home candle fires are **Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve**.
- Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous.
- On average, **1 of every 52** reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in death.
- A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.
- Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

Yard of the Month - Holiday Edition



The City Beautification team would like to remind you they are accepting nominations for December's Yard of the Month, Holiday Edition! This will be the final Yard of the Month contest until Spring of 2022. Nominations may be submitted by calling City Hall, or by sending photos with the name and address of the individual (s) you are nominating to the City of Columbus Facebook page, or you may email them to ewilliams@columbusks.gov



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