



VILLAGE OF LOCKLAND

Mayor
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Village Administrator
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Press Release

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas Wehmeyer", is placed to the right of the contact information.

On or about April 1, 2024, Village of Lockland Public Works Department employees observed spray painting around potholes in multiple locations within the Village of Lockland (East Wyoming Avenue & Central Avenue, East Wyoming Avenue & Williams Street, and multiple markings on Bacon Street & Westview Avenue). No one was authorized by the Village to mark the roadway in these areas and the matter was forwarded to the Lockland Police Department for investigation.

Village Officials notified the Police Chief that a resident of the Village had previously been warned about marking the Village's roadways. On April 14, 2024, the Police Chief interviewed the resident and he admitted to painting the roadway. The resident advised that Public Works wasn't doing enough to address the potholes.

Since the resident had been warned not to paint Village roadways in the past, they have been criminally charged and the matter is progressing through the legal system. This issue has attracted a great deal of media attention and while the Village understands today's quest for instant feedback to questions, the Village must weigh that against potential damage to a criminal proceeding. With that in mind we have the below noted points.

- Painting a Village roadway is little different than painting a building, vehicle, or another piece of someone else's property; it is damaging the property of another, essentially vandalism, regardless of the intent.
- Paint colors have specific meanings regarding the marking of underground utilities. In this case, orange would indicate that communication lines and equipment are present.
- The Village was in the process of hiring a new public works director during this period, a decision had been previously made to assign two personnel to a truck to repair the potholes, when the asphalt plant was making product. The ability to repair a pothole is dependent upon our asphalt source (plant) and the weather.
- The proper way to express one's frustration (The resident advised that Public Works wasn't doing enough to address the potholes) is to attend a council meeting to discuss the issue or contact the Village Administrator, not take it upon yourself to paint the roadway.
- The Village is committed to maintaining our roadways and at this point the majority of issues have been addressed but like all communities, potholes are and will be an issue every winter, into the spring.