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Utility line protection program available to residents

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The city of Decorah is introducing a new, optional program available to homeowners that provides low cost, worry-free warranty protection for sewer lines. The program is provided through the National League of Cities (NLC) and administered by Service Line Warranties of America (SLWA).

The NLC Service Line Warranty program offers citizens an affordable way to avoid the unexpected and often large expense involved with a sewer line break. When a line breaks, the cost to repair it can often cause hardship on a family's budget. This new program will offer warranty protection to help cover the costs of a break.

"Many citizens are unaware that they are responsible for the sewer lines that go from their houses to the point of utility maintenance. If these lines break or leak, repairs can be very expensive," said Julie Fischer, Utility Committee chair.

"We chose to participate in this program for several reasons including that it is offered at no cost to the city and it serves to educate our homeowners on their service line responsibilities while saving them money on repairs," Fischer said. "SLWA has a perfect Better Business Bureau Rating and only uses local contractors who are familiar with our permitting and codes. This program could improve both water conservation and ground pollution, too, because we believe that residents will be more apt to quickly report any issues with their utility service lines."

In addition to the benefits for residents, we decided to apply the royalty associated with this program back to our residents which is reflected in the lower price for them.

City of Decorah residents will be seeing offers in their mailboxes soon. The cost for citizens who choose to purchase the warranty protection is \$6 per month, and will cover sewer line repairs up to \$4,000 plus an additional allowance of \$4,000 for public street cutting, if needed. The program is offered at no cost to the city, and no public funds are used to promote the program.

“We are pleased to work with the city of Decorah to offer homeowners an affordable Service Line Warranty program,” said Brad Carmichael, vice president of business development for Service Line Warranties of America. “We think Decorah residents will be pleased with our features and benefits, including a 24-hour repair hotline and the use of local, certified technicians. This keeps dollars in the local economy, an important benefit in these tough financial times.”

Service Line Warranties of America is the brand used by the Utility Service Partners, Inc. family of companies. Headquartered in Canonsburg, Penn., they are one of the nation’s largest and most trusted sources of utility line warranties, serving residential customers since 1996.

After a decade in business, SLWA has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. SLWA is proud to partner with NLC to deliver this program. The National League of Cities is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities, and serves as a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. To learn more about SLWA, visit SLWofA.com.