

East Lawrence News

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 442393 Lawrence, Kansas - eastlawrence@yahoo.com
www.eastlawrence.com

March 2025
& April 2025



ELNA

General Meeting

March 10th 7-9 pm

April 14th 7-9 pm

IN PERSON AT THE DEPOT!

7th & New Jersey Streets

And Online via Zoom

Agenda & Zoom Link

always available at [http://](http://www.eastlawrence.com/meetings)

www.eastlawrence.com/meetings

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From the President *Barry Shalinsky*

2025 has already been a time of big changes. Weatherwise in February, we literally went from sub-zero to sixty in a couple of days. Anyone following national and international current events can see seismic shifts happening – changes with not-so-tiny ripple effects in Lawrence and Kansas, are being felt at Haskell Indian Nations University and elsewhere. At the state level, the culture wars continue, and Governor Kelly's veto pen no longer has the weight it carried before last November.

Flying more under the radar, there are big changes underway in Lawrence, and East Lawrence too. In April, a new Land Development Code will go into effect in Lawrence. The new code will essentially eliminate all single-family zoning, will increase allowable population density per dwelling unit, and will reduce off-street parking requirements.

In East Lawrence, we are already seeing a significant uptick in demolitions of modest historic housing, with larger and more expensive replacement units being constructed. With the changes to the Land Development Code, we can expect this trend to accelerate in East Lawrence, and spread to neighborhoods that consist primarily of modest mid-century era housing. A purported goal of the new code is to incentivize new housing options, leading to greater affordability. I believe it will have the opposite effect, incentivizing wholesale demolitions to occur in the very neighborhoods that have the largest supply of affordable housing. For many first time homebuyers, these modest homes are the only avenue for people working at the local wage scale to build any type of generational wealth through home ownership. New rentals are more likely to be of the luxury variety than "permanently affordable", unless significant public subsidies are provided.

In the face of these changes, ELNA is looking for ways to preserve the unique characteristics of our built environment, our neighborhood culture, and to maintain some level of affordability. One tool that people successfully use to preserve their homes is to get them listed on national, state and local registers of historic places. See more "how to" info inside this Newsletter.

In March, ELNA will participate in the St. Pat's Parade on the 17th in Downtown Lawrence, and will host the ELNA Yart (Yard + Art) Sale at New York School on March 29th. Contact Lane at eastlawrence@yahoo.com to volunteer your help for either event.

In times of uncertainty and change, the one thing you can count on is that ELNA will be advocating for our little 'hood that could, and helping everyone to have fun doing it.

It wouldn't be spring time without the

Yart Sale!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday March 29th, from 8am to 1pm, at the New York Elementary gymnasium, at 936 New York St.

DONATIONS: We want your stuff! Please bring your unique and useful gently used items to donate to our sale. We'll set up for the sale on Friday evening, that's Friday March 28th, from 6-9pm. You can bring whatever you have to donate then. We'll take just about anything – clothes, kitchenware, books, toys, housewares, small furniture, etc.

ARTISTS: Do you make stuff? Do you sell the stuff you make? We'd love to have you be a vendor at our sale. You're the Art part of Yart! Here's how that works – first, please email Lane at eastlawrence@yahoo.com if you think you'd like to sell, so we can promote your stuff! Then, come to the set up time on Friday night and stake out your space. Bring a table or whatever display you use. We will be able to provide chairs. Then, the sale starts at 8am on Saturday, and ends at 1pm. Just at the end of your time there, donate 10% of your sales to ELNA. That's it. Very low pressure.

VOLUNTEERS: We'll need help setting up on Friday. And we'll need help personing the check out table, and cleaning up and loading up trucks to haul stuff away on Saturday. Aaron Truck Crew King may need some more muscles and trucks for that last task. If you'd like to volunteer, email us!

SHOPPERS: Absolutely the most important part is shoppers! Please plan to come and shop the sale. We'll have yard sale items donated and any number of things from local artists – photographs, post cards, yarn crafts, tie dye, jewelry, ceramics, etc. We'll bring our ELNA merch for sale also. Cash is preferred, but we can take card and venmo. **PLUS!** There will be live music! And, if we're lucky, some New York kids will be on hand to sell you some baked goods and breakfast items. See you soon!

Mower and Tiller for Rent

It's yard work time again! When your grass is green and growing, you can rent a mower from ELNA for \$10 per half day. When you're ready to till up your garden, you can rent a tiller for just \$20 per half day. Please be prepared to provide your own transportation. Contact Phil by call or text 785-843-8098 or email to phil@pcollision.com.

East Lawrence Culture is Queer Culture – Max Wilcox (he/they)

"In East Lawrence, you're okay." Below our neighborhood motto, a scrappy possum hangs out; holding a tool in one paw, a pride flag in the other. Not only are they scrappy, they represent the underdog. The rainbow, trans, and inclusive flags also pepper the front porches, flag poles, and windows of many homes in East Lawrence.

As an abolitionist college town, it's no surprise that Lawrence has been a safe haven to Kansas queers. For example, in 2005, the Kansas Amendment 1 to Kansas's constitution made it unconstitutional for the state to recognize or perform same-sex marriages or civil unions. Douglas County was the only county in Kansas where voters rejected the 2005 amendment. In 2013, the first Trans-Kansas Conference was hosted in Lawrence. But why, in particular, have many queers chosen to call East Lawrence their home?

One reason is its location. East Lawrence borders Mass Street, the lively downtown area where weirdos of Kansas have gathered to perform art and build community for ages. From the Sister Kettle Cafe, known as a "vegetarian's delight" in the 70s; to the lesbian-feminist bookstore, the Spinsters, in the 80s; to Replay, Henry's upstairs, and the Bourgeois Pig today; Mass offers Lawrence queers safe places to connect and be themselves.

Other reasons are less tangible. A mother of three who has called East Lawrence her home for 25 years said, "East Lawrence has been a great place to raise queer kids. I knew it was a more open and accepting place for them... I've always felt safe letting them roam the neighborhood. It's hard to put into words, but I knew that growing up here wouldn't crush their spirit." It's a feeling that might be supported by the architecture. Another East Lawrencian reflected that the mix of new and old, small and larger duplexes and single-family homes supports the feeling that, "Everyone is just living together under different circumstances and just cool with each other."

Do you have a story to share about being queer in East Lawrence? Email eastlawrence@yahoo.com if you'd like to share your story for the newsletter.

Sources:

Janovy, C.J. 2018. No Place like Home: Lessons in Activism from LGBT Kansas.

University of Kansas. Kenneth Spencer Research Library. Spinsters Books and Webbery, Inc. records. <https://archives.lib.ku.edu/repositories/3/resources/1713>

Under the Rainbow: Oral Histories of Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Intersex and Queer People in Kansas. <https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/collections/1b9b0236-5d25-4b83-889f-ad9fc81f82a9?cp.page=2>

Change of Value Notices

The Douglas County Appraiser's Office mailed Change of Value notices for real estate properties for the 2025 tax year on Feb. 28. These notices also included an informational insert about the valuation process, an overall market snapshot of residential and commercial value changes, and the appeal process.

Most residential property owners can expect to see property values increase between 2% and 8% from the prior year, while most commercial property owners will experience increases between 5% and 10%. According to the Appraiser's Office, these value increases are typically due to year-over-year price increases, supply demand imbalances, renovations or additions to existing structures, or changes in property use.

The mailed notices also provided resources for taxpayers to obtain additional information about current or previous property assessments, as well as guidance on the property value appeal process in Kansas.

Appeal process: Property owners who want to appeal their property value must fill out the request form located on the back of the notice and submit it to the Appraiser's Office by 5 p.m. Monday, March 31. Submissions can be mailed or dropped off at the office, which is located in the basement of the County Courthouse at 1100 Massachusetts St., or emailed to appeals@dgcoks.gov.

Information sessions: For the first time, the Douglas County Appraiser's Office is offering information sessions. They will be at the County Courthouse, 1100 Massachusetts St., in the Commission meeting room on the second floor. These sessions are free and open to the public:

Monday, March 24, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. – A formal presentation about the valuation process, current market trends, property taxes and the appeal process, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Monday, March 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – A walk-in session where residents can meet with a Douglas County appraiser and ask questions about property values.

For more information, visit the County Appraiser's website at dgcoks.gov/appraiser.

Sunrise Project Update

Sunrise Project will be relocating their headquarters to Centenary United Methodist Church in North Lawrence at 245 N. 4th Street. This move entails a partnership with Centenary UMC based on the shared values of social justice, inclusivity and social connection. This organizational move begins in March 2025. Therefore, all site-based Sunrise programming will be paused starting March 1, until the move is complete. The plan is for Sunrise to offer on-site programming in their new North Lawrence location by the end of April or beginning of May.

Sunrise Project's new headquarters at Centenary United Methodist Church includes a large fellowship hall, kitchen, administrative space and an outdoor area for gardening.

As announced to the community in August 2024, Sunrise Project began the search for a new site in response to their landlord's decision to place the east-side location on the market.

Sunrise Project's mailing address is now: P.O. Box 143 Lawrence, KS 66044. Sunrise Project's phone number remains the same: 785-865-1618. Please contact the Executive Director, Melissa Freiburger, via email at melissa@sunriseprojectks.org with any questions.

We will no longer host spring plant sales but will have a new fundraiser we will launch in May! More details to come about that!!

We have absolutely loved our time at 1501 Learnard Ave and will miss our eastside neighborhood! We are grateful for the love and support we have experienced from east Lawrence. Thank you!! We sincerely hope that our eastside friends come over to our new location in spring! While we are sad to leave our current site, we are excited to share space with Centenary United Methodist church in North Lawrence and look forward to building more community ties and meaningful relationships in our new neighborhood!

Thank you so much!! Melissa



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STEPHENS
REAL ESTATE

East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan Updates

In 2021, work began on an update of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan, but it was abruptly halted in late 2022 as the planning staff turned its attention to amending the Lawrence Land Development Code (LDC). Now that the new LDC has been adopted and is slated to take effect in April, ELNA has been advocating for the Neighborhood Plan to be put back on the front burner.

This is the latest word from City planning staff: “We [hope to] have a workshop for the East Lawrence Plan in late March or early April. At this workshop we will refine the vision statement that was drafted from the surveys and public input sessions and work on goals for the plan. We hope everyone will join us to help in this very important stage. We will have some materials available on our website prior to the meeting. The website is <https://lawrenceks.org/community-engagement/east-lawrence-plan/> or you can email us at eastlawrenceplan@lawrenceks.org.” Once more information is available, ELNA will publicize it on our website, our weekly E-News and on social media.

ELNA To Host Historic Resources Workshop

The City’s historic resources administrator has agreed to lead a workshop in late March for property owners interested in learning more about the criteria for listing properties on the national, state and local registers of historic places, and the process for doing so. The event is tentatively set for the week of March 24, 2025. Contact Barry at ELNAPrez@yahoo.com to attend or for more information. Once more information is available, ELNA will publicize it on our website, our weekly E-News and on social media.

ELNA Online Resources

ELNA’s paper newsletter is delivered to every address in East Lawrence five or six times a year. This is a great source of information, but in times of rapid changes, it is not always the most current and up-to-date. Fortunately, ELNA also has a robust online presence. You can subscribe to ELNA’s weekly E-News, delivered every Thursday to your e-mail inbox. Contact Neighborhood Coordinator Lane Eisenbart at eastlawrence@yahoo.com to subscribe. We post about news and events on our Facebook page and our Facebook discussion group, as well as Instagram. We have a website, www.eastlawrence.com. In addition to information, ELNA merch is also available through our website. ELNA maintains an archival presence on Twitter / X, but we no longer actively post there.

Compost Facility Opening for Season

The City of Lawrence Compost facility will officially open for self-load events starting Saturday, March 8, 2025, providing high-quality compost and wood-chips made from locally collected yard waste.

2025 Season Highlights:

Opening Day: Saturday, March 8, 2025

Operating Hours: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Drop-Off: Available to Lawrence residents only, with proof of residency required.

Self-Load Events: Available to Lawrence residents only, with proof of residency required.

City-Load Events: Scheduled for the first Saturdays of April*, May, June, and October (pending material availability). There will be no drop-off available during City-Load events. The April event will be for Lawrence residents only, with the other City-Load events being open to the public.

To ensure smooth operations and accommodate demand, city-load events will have a one-scoop limit until 10:30 a.m. or until the line clears 11th Street, at staff’s discretion. Additionally, no self-loading or yard waste drop-offs will be allowed during city-load events to streamline operations and improve traffic flow.

Updated Pricing Structure:

The City of Lawrence remains committed to providing an affordable service while ensuring operational efficiency. The pricing for the 2025 season is as follows:

Self-Loaded Material (Residents Only)

Less than 20 gallons per trip – FREE

More than 20 gallons per trip – \$10

City-Loaded Material
\$15 per scoop

Yard Waste Drop-Off Fees
Small and large drop-offs – \$10
Extra-large drop-offs (truck & trailer, dump truck) – \$20

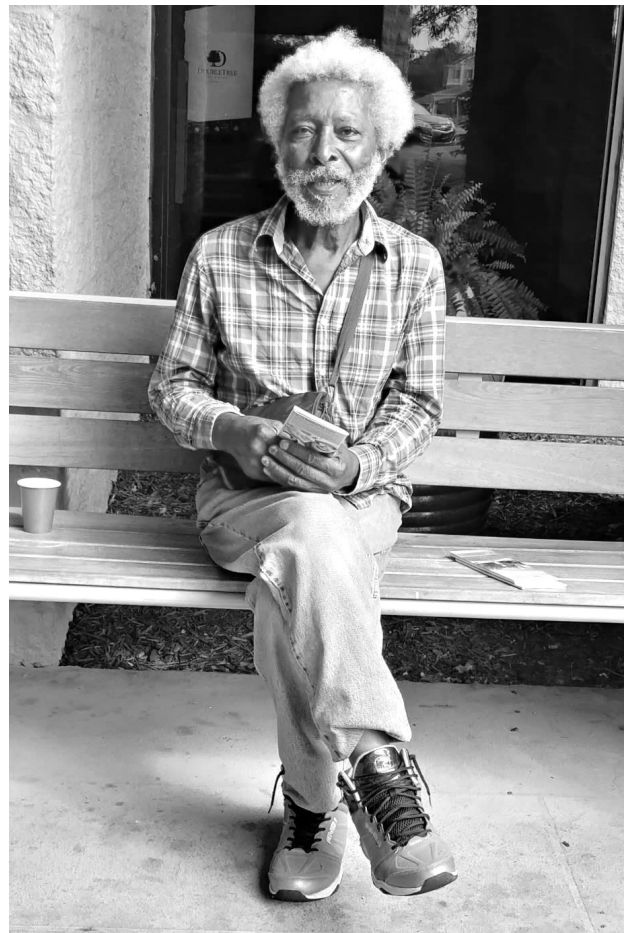
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In Memory of Leon Kimball

Our beloved neighbor, Leon Kimball, passed away on February 24th 2025, at the age of 84. Leon was a Lawrence native, and near lifetime resident of East Lawrence. If you've spent any time in East Lawrence, you've surely seen him around, chatting with a neighbor or walking an alleyway. Leon babysat a generation of east side kids and befriended many an east Lawrence mama. He was generous, creative, hardworking, and deeply caring, to say the least. You can read an obituary about Leon's long and colorful life at <https://peacefulrestfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/leon-kimball>.

At that site, you can view pictures, post stories, and contribute funds to Leon's funeral costs.

If you've got pictures of our friend Leon that you'd like to share, you can email them to leonkimballphotos@gmail.com. If you've got Leon stories you'd like to share, you can email those to Lane at eastlawrence@yahoo.com. We hope to do a fuller memorial publication about Leon, with your stories and pictures, in the near future. Additionally, a memorial for Leon will be announced in the coming months.



Compost Facility...continued

Important Reminders for Visitors:

The Compost Facility operates on a cash-only basis; please do not bring large bills.

Personal motorized loading equipment (e.g., skid steers) is not allowed.

Residents must bring their own tools for self-loading.

The facility may close or adjust hours due to weather-related issues, with advance notice provided whenever possible.

Customers should avoid stopping on the railroad tracks while waiting to enter the facility.

For a complete list of compost facility events, fees, and guidelines, visit lawrenceks.org/swm/compost or

Come join us on Sunday mornings!

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. - | American Sign Language Class |
| 9:30 a.m. - | In-person and Livestream Worship |
| 10:30 a.m. - | Sunday School and Adult Forum |



1245 New Hampshire St
Lawrence, KS 66044

p. 785.843.4150

www.tlclawrence.org



Livestream

New York News

Calling all Kindergarten and PreK students in the New York School Area!

2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration

Step 1: Go to www.usd497.org/parents-and-students/register-for-school. Then select the 2025-2026 New Student Registration Button.

Step 2: To complete your student's registration, provide the documents listed under step 2 by dropping them by the school office or emailing them to jori.roberts@usd497.org by March 31st 2025

Step 3: Once all documents are received, you will receive an email invitation to participate in Kindergarten Orientation session that will be held April 16th.

Step 4: Bring your student's original certified birth certificate to Kindergarten to be verified against the copy that was emailed to us.

If you have questions, call 785-832-5780 or the Enrollment Center at 785-330-1921

PreK Registration is Now Open!

Go to www.usd497.org/parents-and-students/register-for-school. Then select the 2025 New Student Registration Button.

To complete your student's registration, provide the documents listed in step 2 by dropping them by the NY School office, or emailing them to jori.roberts@usd497.org.

After registration, your student will be placed on a waitlist. You will receive further communication once we finalize the available spots to offer.

The PreK program is free for qualifying students or \$560 per month. If you are a tuition paying student, a signed contract acknowledging tuition is required to finalize enrollment.

Questions regarding the Montessori PreK Program? Email New York Elementary jori.roberts@usd497.org

NY PTA Needs

BOOK FAIR! March 12th and 13th

With the Book Fair coming up we have a few volunteer needs for PTA!

This biggest need is with set-up and clean-up as all of the book bins are stored in the attic and need to be carried down. Even if you can come for just 15-20 minutes during that block and carry a few bins it would be helpful and appreciated!

We are also looking for someone to pick up food from Terrebonne on Wednesday and deliver it to the school if anyone is available for that! (early afternoon)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BABAB23A7F9C70-55141910-spring>

FIELD DAY!

Friday April 11th

If you have never volunteered for Field Day, it is an absolute blast and one of my favorite things to do! If you HAVE experienced Field Day, you already know what I mean!! We need help with set up and supervision. Please review the available slots on the [signupgenius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FAAAF29A1FDC25-55346155-field#) and click on the button to sign up. If a slot is filled but you would like to help with a specific time please send me an email at caleb.locke@usd497.org

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FAAAF29A1FDC25-55346155-field#>

TEACHER WISHLISTS AND VENMO

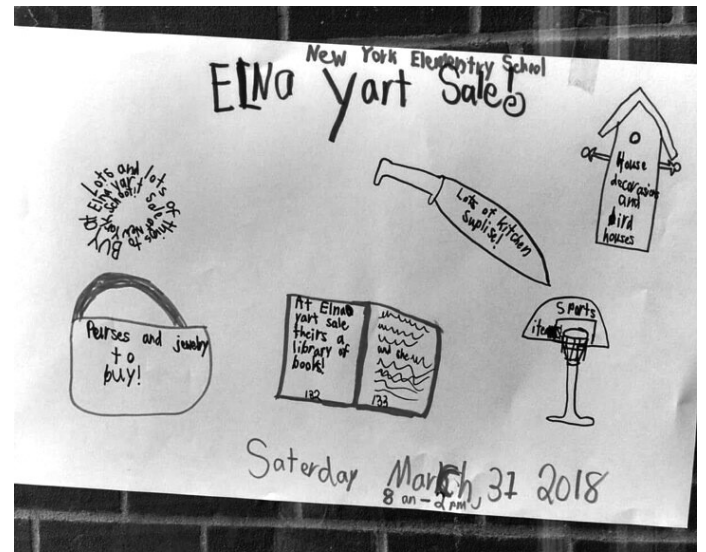
We are also still trying to fill all our teacher wishlists requests if you are able to help out with any of these!

You can also just Venmo @nyepta and specify valentine wishlists.

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2KZ8FMFO5HKUF...>

<https://www.giftster.com/gift/public/TDHTF/>

(all of these links can be found on the New York PTA page on facebook)



Join ELNA for \$1.00

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD – GET A BIG BANG FOR A BUCK!

Your \$1.00 membership in ELNA and contact information help us represent East Lawrence in our city and county government and to meet the needs of our neighborhood. Support us. Let us support you.

\$100.00 lifetime membership \$5.00 for out-of-neighborhood members
 \$20.00 for in-neighborhood businesses \$10.00 for in-neighborhood non-profits
(Please note personal memberships are per individual, not household.)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- ☐ Please add my email to the “Thursday ELNA News” (the weekly newsletter) email list.

Get even more East Lawrence news!

Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter, too!

Visit our Website eastlawrence.com

Make checks payable to ELNA

Send Payment to ELNA, PO Box 442393, Lawrence, KS 66044

ELNA Needs Your Help! Please Volunteer!

Mark what ELNA events / skills you would like to volunteer for:

- ☐ Work Days / Snow Shoveling
- ☐ YART Sale
- ☐ Block Party
- ☐ Adopt-A-Family
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Gardening
- ☐ Historic Preservation
- ☐ Serving on the ELNA Board
- ☐ Baking/Cooking
- ☐ Grilling / Concessions
- ☐ Other: _____

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
PO Box 442393
Lawrence Kansas 66044-2393

Eastside European – Conscientious Care for European Automobiles

Specializing in BMW and Mini, along with servicing for many other European automobiles including Mercedes-Benz, Audi and VW, Eastside European is Lawrence's trusted destination for European car owners looking for competent, conscientious automotive repair. We also welcome late model Subaru and Toyota cars. Locally owned and operated, we're proud to be a part of the East Lawrence neighborhood.

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