

East Lawrence News

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

May 2025
& June 2025



ELNA

General Meeting

May 12th 7-9 pm

June 9th 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

Warm weather has arrived in East Lawrence. The landscape has turned from muted browns to vibrant greens, and other blossoming colors. Neighborhood students impatiently wait for the last day of school. Fun times are ahead with time honored local traditions about to begin anew. Wednesday Lawrence City Band Concerts in South Park. Art Togeau Parade, PRIDE Day, Juneteenth, Busker Fest and numerous other events are all on the calendar. Kaw Valley Kickball "game of the week" happens on Sunday nights in Hobbs Park. Most weeks, ELNA is there grilling burgers and providing concessions.

Beyond the joys of summer, not everything is so pretty. Or maybe it is, depending on your point of view. Clearly our built environment is changing rapidly in the wake of changes to the Lawrence Land Development Code. Demolitions of old buildings on our streets that have stood for 125 years or longer are proceeding ever more rapidly. Outdated eyesores, or treasures in need of just a little TLC? Perhaps some of each? New townhouses are planned for 701 Rhode Island Street. Some love the idea. Some hate the idea. Some like the idea but dislike the proposed designs. Brick sidewalks being replaced by concrete. A nice new smooth surface, or the destruction of neighborhood defining character? I know my opinions. And you are entitled to yours. The East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan process is restarting on May 22, after a two-and-a-half-year hiatus. Please take advantage of all upcoming opportunities to share YOUR vision for what kind of neighborhood you would like to live in.

This newsletter is produced 5-6 times a year. It is full of content to keep you informed about goings on in and about our neighborhood. We hope you will read it. We hope you will let the advertisers who help bring it to you know that you appreciate them. We hope you will come to ELNA's meetings, social and cultural events. We hope you will be involved citizens who vote in upcoming elections. Most of all, we hope you will take time this summer to enjoy whatever you love about living here!

Election Season Coming: Registration Deadline July 15

It is not too early to start making a plan to vote in the August Primary election. Large numbers of people have filed to run for City Commission and School Board, and several more are rumored to be considering it. The Kansas Legislature has put a question on the August ballot calling for direct election of Kansas Supreme Court justices, just like they did with the (Anti) Abortion Amendment three years ago. Check with the County Clerk's Election Office at 23rd and Louisiana to make sure your voter registration information, including address, is current. your voter registration information, including address, is current.

BCNA & ELNA

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association is teaming up with East Lawrence Neighborhood Association to hold a two-neighborhood yard & art sale on Saturday, May 31st from 8am - 2pm.

But it's not just a bunch of yard sales! Artists are welcome too! If you're an east side art maker, please feel free to set up in your space to sell your wares.

If you have questions, or you'd like us to promote your location on social media and in newsletters please email BCNA Coordinator Brooke at brookcreek-na@gmail.com. Please let us know by Friday May 23rd!

PS - if you're an artist wanting to sell your stuff, but you don't live in east Lawrence or have an east Lawrence porch or yard for set up, please email ELNA Coordinator Lane at eastlawrence@yahoo.com. We may have a solution!

East Lawrence Neighborhood Planning to Resume at May 22 Gathering

The City of Lawrence Planning Department has announced an “Open House Community Conversation” from 4-6 pm on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the Carnegie Building, 200 W 9th Street (at Vermont Street). According to the City’s East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan webpage, <https://lawrenceks.org/community-engagement/east-lawrence-plan/> “The Planning & Development Services Department is seeking public engagement on an updated neighborhood plan for East Lawrence.... Your input drives the planning process! We want to hear from the East Lawrence neighborhood and work together to create your neighborhood plan.”

The webpage was updated with this information on May 2, 2025, after not having been updated since October 2022. 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). ELNA has been advocating for several months for the Neighborhood Plan to be put back on the front burner.

ELNA Hosted Historic Resources Workshop

The City’s historic resources administrator Lynne Zollner led 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 was recorded on Zoom for people who are interested in the topic but were unable to attend. Contact the ELNA Coordinator eastlawrence@yahoo.com to arrange to view the workshop. ELNA thanks Lynne Zollner from the City of Lawrence for leading this valuable workshop!

Get the Latest Info from ELNA Online

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.

New York School News and Wishes Yearbooks

Every Student Gets a Yearbook! Yearbooks are \$5 each to cover costs, but if you would like to donate extra to help someone, that would be amazing! Please have students bring money as cash or check to the office before 5/23.

Yearbook signing will be at 5/23 at 9am

Collaboration Makes Us Stronger

The East Lawrence neighborhood is widely regarded in Lawrence as (one of) the most vibrant and well organized in the city! The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association (ELNA) plays a key role in celebrating and preserving the neighborhood’s unique (unmistakable) culture, built environment and important institutions, including our neighborhood schools. While we sometimes have to go it alone, more often we get by with a little help from our friends!

ELNA’s newest partner is the recently launched Coalition for Collaborative Governance (C4CG). The ELNA Board recently voted to officially join the Coalition, whose goals are to increase transparency, engagement and accountability in local governance. Although C4CG’s current focus is on City Hall, the coalition recognizes that there are also opportunities to improve the governance cultures of Douglas County and USD 497 as well. C4CG will be closely monitoring the process for writing the East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan as it unfolds to see that transparency, engagement and accountability are front and center. The process is of citywide importance, because it could become a model for how future neighborhood plans for other neighborhoods are written. For more information, to sign on as a supporter, and to donate in support of the Coalition’s work, visit the Coalition’s website at www.c4cgovernance.com

One of ELNA’s oldest partners is the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN). There was a time when City Hall used to pit neighborhood against neighborhood, fighting over crumbs in the city budget. That came to an end in 1987 when neighborhood associations from East Lawrence and other neighborhoods around Lawrence formed LAN. Thirty-eight years later, ELNA continues to receive support from LAN on important issues, such as recent updates to Lawrence’s Land Development Code, and we happily provide advice and assistance to neighborhood associations that want to enhance their effectiveness. This is a link to LAN’s website: <https://lawrenceneighborhoods.wordpress.com/>.

ELNA has longstanding working relationships with Lawrence Preservation Alliance (LPA) (<https://lawrence-preservation.org>) and Kaw Valley Kickball League (KVKL) (<https://kawvalleykickball.com>). ELNA and LPA have shared several policy positions and worked together to support preservation projects through the years. ELNA has maintained a consistent presence at the KVKL Game of the Week on summer Sunday nights at Hobbs Park, grilling burgers and providing concessions. Currently, LPA and KVKL are working with ELNA, the Watkins Community Museum, the City of Lawrence and other partners on planning stadium renovations and other major improvements to Hobbs Park.

There are a plethora of other non-profits and community organizations domiciled in and around East Lawrence that work hard to maintain and improve local culture and quality of life. ELNA looks forward to continuing and enhancing these relationships into the future. Better Together!

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@pcollison.com.

Hobbs Park Planning Moves Forward

In January, we reported that ELNA is working with the Watkins Community Museum, Lawrence Preservation Alliance, Kaw Valley Kickball League, Shelley Miller Trust and others to discuss renovation and restoration of the Municipal Stadium along with other needed improvements to Hobbs Park. Since that time, the group has sought and received support from the Parks & Rec Advisory Board, the Historic Resources Commission and the Lawrence City Commission to write nominations listing the Municipal Stadium on the National Register of Historic Places and the Murphy-Bromelsick House on the Kansas Register of Historic Places. The group has pledged of \$8,500 to help fund research and writing of the historic register nominations. Once the properties are listed, the plan is to conduct architectural engineering studies, draw up architectural plans and embark on a major fundraising campaign to do the renovations. The groups intend to complete the project with minimal reliance on municipal tax dollars. Given the current budgetary woes that the City is facing, and the rate at which the stadium is deteriorating, we don't want to wait for large sums of public money to become available.

ELNA Creates Residential Preservation Committee

Changes, both real and potential are coming quickly to the East Lawrence landscape. In the last few weeks, applications for demolition of six properties have been submitted to the City, including one for the historic stone building at Ninth & Pennsylvania Streets that dates from the 1870's. Several properties with serviceable buildings are being advertised for sale, based upon their redevelopment potential under the new Land Development Code. Despite decades of paying lip service to the preservation of brick infrastructure, the City is embarking on a project that would replace several brick sidewalks with concrete along three blocks of Connecticut Street and all of Twelfth Street. These are but a few of the changes and potential changes in the works. In the face of this situation, ELNA has created a Residential Preservation Committee under the purview of the ELNA Board to look at strategies for preserving the unique characteristics and integrity of East Lawrence's built environment. As with all of ELNA's work, we always welcome the participation of our wonderful neighborhood volunteers.



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STEPHENS
REAL ESTATE

Lawrence Public Schools Summer Meals for Kids

Planning ahead for summer? Our Nutrition and Wellness Team has you covered for FREE summer meals for children and youth ages 1-19. Stop by Woodlawn Elementary in North Lawrence from 11:30-12:30pm every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in June for lunch. Adults may purchase a meal for \$5.

You can also preregister for FREE weekly summer meal kits for ages 1-18. Kits contain five breakfasts and five lunches to prepare at home. Pre register at this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEIWzDrQfoWxKR4GoG88yqs8iATu2HoLvwlwIm4VsecF1EoQ/viewform>

Then pick up meal kits from 6:45-8:45 am Tuesdays in June and July, through July 22nd, in our drive through at the Youth Sports Complex at 4911 W 27th.

Visit the USD 497 Website for menus, meal kit prep instructions, and more information about FREE meals for children and youth this summer. <https://www.usd497.org/parents-and-students/programs-and-services/food-service/summer-meals>

Public Meal Site

Meals must be consumed on site. No registration or ID required. Free for ages 1-18. Adult meals \$5. Monday, Wednesday, Friday in June, 11:30am to 12:30pm Woodlawn Elementary School, 508 Elm, Lawrence

Weekly Summer Meal Kits

Pick up 5 days of breakfasts and lunches to prepare at home
Tuesdays June 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, July 1st, 8th, 15, 22nd
6:45-8:45am pre-registration required
8:45-9:15am same day registration subject to availability
Free for kids 1-18, no adult meals

Pre registration at the USD 497 website: <https://www.usd497.org/parents-and-students/programs-and-services/food-service/summer-meals>

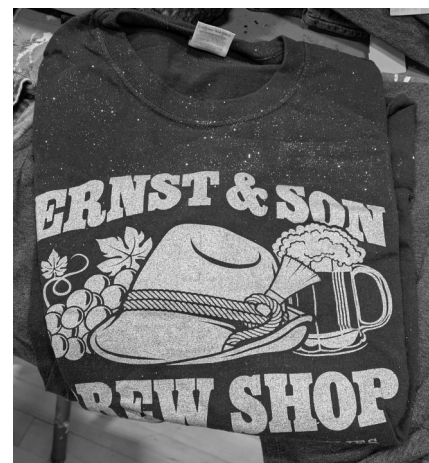
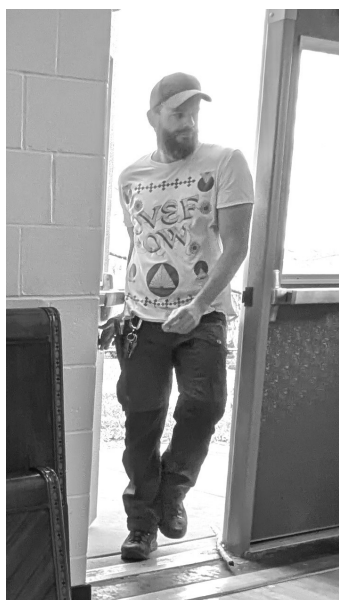
Pick up at Youth Sports Complex, 4911 W 27th St

YART SALE see pages 4 & 5





Yart Sale
March. Thanks
music for us to
companionent.



YART SALE 2025

Thanks Thank you all for coming to our little yard sale art market in
to everyone who volunteered their time, sold their wares, and played
! We raised about \$4000. Not bad for a sunny Saturday with live ac-
(:)

Lawrence Juneteenth

Saturday June 14th, noon to 8pm, South Park

Underground railroad tour at 8am, parade kick off at 11am, community celebration at noon until 8pm at South Park. Kids zone, parade, live music, food and craft vendors. Kids eat free.

Established in 2003, before Juneteenth became a national holiday in the United States, our organization has worked tirelessly to uplift the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and create spaces of belonging and pride. As a 501(c)(3), the Lawrence Juneteenth Organization relies solely on grants, volunteers, and most importantly, community support. In past Juneteenth Events, sponsors helped raise enough revenue to fund a parade, host entertainment, pay for facility reservations, produce educational material, produce scholarships, purchase annual T-Shirts, and provide an overall safe space to relax and learn about black history in Lawrence. Please consider sponsoring or donating today to help continue the cause.

More info at lkjunteenth.org

Lawrence Pride 2025

Get ready, Lawrence! PRIDE is Saturday June 7th 2025!

The parade downtown begins at 11am and ends with a block party in South Park after. The Party in the Park features music, drag performers, food vendors, and vendors with everything from crafts to merch. Best of all, this event is FREE for the entire community. Sponsor and volunteer opportunities can be found at: <https://www.lawrencekspride.com/support>

Let's paint the town with PRIDE and show the world the vibrant spirit of Lawrence Kansas!

ELNA will be there! And we'll have some special pride themed merch!

ELNA at Kickball

Hey! Lawrence is grilling for KVKL's Game of the Week Kickball games for most of the summer. 9pm Sunday evenings, Hobbs Park. Aaron and crew will prepare the usual fare – brats, vegetarian and meat burgers, with all the fixins, plus water and chips and pickles and occasionally baked goods. Email Aaron if you'd like to help serve or contribute homemade baked goods, aaronpaden@gmail.com. Or maybe you just want to come get a burger! See you out there!

May at Sunrise!

Filling the calendar with community, joy and good food!

We have fully moved into our new space!

245 N. 4th St. is a wonderful place to be! We have had a meal, a cafe and several garden days and it all adds up to an awesome start to our new headquarters. Below you will see what we are up to this month... join us!! All activities are free and open to all. You are welcome here!

Meal Schedule in May!

Community meals are always free and open to all! Donations accepted but never required. We would love for you to sit and eat with us but if you need your meals to-go, we got you covered! Meals are served 5-7 PM at 245 N. 4th St. (Centenary United Methodist Church). Our door is on the east side (4th Street). There are a few parking spots adjacent to the church, otherwise please park on nearby streets (no parking in alley). See you soon!

May Menu

May 14th: Veggie Rice Bowls – edamame, carrots, cucumbers, red pepper, cabbage, seasoned rice, spicy mayo, and dessert!

May 21st: Mediterranean Lentil Salad – lentils, tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers, herbs, and dressing. Served with pitat bread and dessert!

May 28th: Tofu with Rice & Broccoli – fried tofu served with broccoli, rice, and sauce.

Do you love to bake? We can always use homemade cookies and brownies for our community meals. If you would like to sign up to bake for a meal, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5A729A3FB6-44764431-cookies#/>

Help at the Orchard!

The next Lawrence Community Orchard Volunteer Day is May 17th. 1-4pm. Bring water and be dressed appropriately for work. All are welcome. In addition to our volunteer days, we could use help with mowing. Wanna get some exercise, be in nature, and help your community? Mowing might be a great fit for you! We have a mower, just need the people power. If interested, email Skyler: lawrencefruit-treeproject@gmail.com. The orchard is located at 830 Garfield St.

Volunteer in Our Garden!

Come garden with us! All ages and skill levels welcome. Beginning May 16th, all Mondays through June, from 6:30-8pm Our new garden, named Taz Grout 222 Community Garden, is located on the west lawn of our new space. Park on Elm or 4th, please. If you have questions, email Melissa at melissa@sunriseprojectks.org.

Burroughs Creek Firefly Festival

Saturday, June 14th, 5-11 pm

The Firefly Festival celebrates natural outdoor environments and wildlife habitat adjacent to urbanized areas of Lawrence. The event will feature a community picnic, live music, art, walking and other activities along the Burroughs Creek Trail along the eastern edge of the neighborhood. Meet at the Burroughs Creek Park on Fifteenth Street. For more information, visit www.outdoorsunscripted.org, @burroughscreekcorridor on Instagram, or e-mail burroughscreekcorridor@gmail.com

Other Happenings May & June

Lawrence Busker Fest!

Friday May 23rd through Sunday May 25th
Downtown Lawrence!
Fri 5/23 5pm-8pm
Sat 5/24 Noon-11pm
Sun 5/25 Noon-7pm

The Busker Festival is on! It's our once-a-year-get-weird weekend where you will find unusual entertainment all over historic downtown Lawrence. Join us as we celebrate with a roster of street performers from all around the world. Magicians, jugglers, musicians, acrobats, and more will perform. It's a full-on festival with food, libations, and fun around every corner

St John's Mexican Fiesta

Saturday June 7th 4-10pm
St John Church and School
1234 Kentucky
Free Admission!

Featuring Live Performances by: Mariachi Girasol, Grupo Folklorico, Izalli, DJ 151, Daniella Valdez, Son Venezuela, Grupo Picante

Plus authentic Mexican Food, Carnival games, confetti eggs, beverages, and more!

Cash recommended. No outside food or beverages and no pets allowed.

Midsummer Night on Mass

Friday June 20th 4-10pm

Join us in Downtown Lawrence for an evening of Shopping, Dining, and Entertainment. Your favorite retail businesses will stay open late with specials, restaurants and bars will have fun promotions, and street entertainers will perform throughout downtown. Businesses will pack the sidewalks with massive deals for just this night! This is an evening to celebrate our community and our treasured downtown.

Lawrence City Band in South Park Wednesdays

The Lawrence City Band is a community ensemble of volunteer musicians who have been entertaining audiences with a variety of music for over 150 years. The summer concert series is free to attend and happens every Wednesday at 8pm at South Park around the gazebo. In the event of rain, check the City rainout line for current information on the concert and where it will be held if there is inclement weather.

<https://rainoutline.com/search/dnis/7853714980>
or call 785 371-4980

From the City Band website:

<https://www.lawrencecityband.com/about>

Lawrence has had band music almost before there was a Lawrence. In 1854, eight men left rural Vermont for Kansas, bringing with them their musical instruments, and became the nucleus of the first band in Kansas. This pioneer band played for funerals and often provided martial music to aid enlistment in the local militia. After these musicians performed for the Kansas Conference of Methodist churches with their old, battered instruments, Governor Charles Robinson became interested in improving the quality of the band. After much practice with their newly acquired silver instruments, the bandsmen gave a concert on August 20, 1863. The next day, Quantrill and his gang raided Lawrence. Four of the bandsmen were murdered. For the remainder of the war, the survivors went on to serve as a military band.

In about 1875, a band was organized and presented its first concert under the supervision of Professor William Alden Bolles. This ensemble was followed in 1884 by Bell's Military Band. Then came Buch's Military Band, which consisted of two drummers and eight brass instrumentalists.

By 1900, the band had grown to twenty-eight members and needed a permanent place to present concerts. With donations of materials, money, and labor, the gazebo in South Park was dedicated in 1906.

This version of the Band disbanded, but the Haskell Band, the University of Kansas Band, and the Lawrence High School Band attempted to take up the slack. These ensembles were not always able to provide the sociability and conviviality associated with concerts in the park, however. In 1965, the Lawrence City Band made its appearance, under the direction of Ken Bloomquist, Director of Bands at the University of Kansas.

In 1969, the summer concert series expanded, and the gazebo in South Park again became the home of the Lawrence City Band, with William L. Kelly as organizer, librarian, custodian, and conductor. The band and Bill Kelly established a reputation for presenting excellent and enjoyable music in the style of turn-of-the-century Sousa Band concerts. The Band developed a large and loyal audience. In 1988, the city named the well-preserved South Park gazebo in honor of Bill Kelly and the Lawrence City Band.

In 1989, the Lawrence City Band was presented the Sudler Scroll, the nation's most prestigious award for community bands, sponsored by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. Afterward, the band underwent financial reorganization under the leadership of Robert E. Foster, Director of Bands Emeritus at KU. Under the previous leadership of Mr. Foster and the current leadership of the present Director of Bands at KU, Dr. Paul Popiel, the Band has maintained its standards of artistic excellence and cultural leadership in the Lawrence community.

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



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www.tlclawrence.org



Livestream

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
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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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