

East Lawrence News

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

July August 2026



ELNA

General Meeting

July 13th, 2026

August 10th 2026

IN PERSON AT NEW YORK SCHOOL

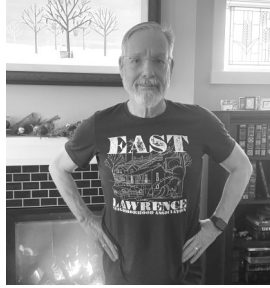
936 NY St

And Online via Zoom

Agenda & Zoom Link

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

www.eastlawrence.com/meetings



From the President

Years ago, I was a public-school teacher in the Topeka area. I mostly taught US history and a variety of political science classes. One of the courses I had the privilege to teach was called "Local and State Government." We often took field trips to the State Capital to watch legislation move through committees and sometimes were able to be present as it was voted on by either the full House or Senate.

When we have elections in Lawrence, I am reminded of what I used to teach to my students. Local elections are often the most important elections as the results have a direct effect on how we live, the taxes we pay, and what priorities our local politicians make. The amazing thing is that even though these local elections make a huge impact on our day to day lives, they do not generate the same enthusiasm or participation. If 25% of eligible voters vote in local elections or primaries, people celebrate. It is a sad reflection on the lack of civic engagement.

A couple of years ago, I asked someone if he was planning on voting in a particular local election. This person looked at me as if I had asked if he was planning on taking a vacation to the planet Mars. "No," he said, "it doesn't make any difference." I then asked if he was carrying any cash with him. "Yes," he replied. "Well, take it out of your billfold and give it to me and I will let you know when and where you can spend it." I did not have to explain the importance of the local election any further as he seemed to understand the power he was giving away.

August 4th is the state primary election this year which provides us with the opportunity to participate in local and state government. ELNA never makes candidate endorsements in partisan elections. We do accept political ads in this publication, but the presence or absence of any candidate advertising does not indicate our support or opposition of any candidate. We do encourage strong voter participation so that East Lawrence voices are heard in public policy decisions. And although there are no local (to East Lawrence) offices open for election in this primary, I encourage you to claim the power you have by participating. Personally, I want to have a say in the priorities of both our state and local governing authorities as we move forward as a community. It's not just the way both spend tax money but it allows me to claim my place at the table. If the participation surged to over 50% (or more) could you imagine the message it would send to our elected representatives?

Sometimes it is difficult to make the time to get informed about issues, as well as showing up at the polls to vote but, as citizens, it is incredibly important. The news media tends to focus more on federal elections and issues which often increases participation. But the primary and local elections affect our daily lives in a significant way. So don't let someone else make decisions for you.

Vote! — Darrel Proffitt, ELNA, President

Board Contacts

Darrel Proffitt, President,

darrelproffitt@yahoo.com

785 260 7973

KT Walsh, Vice Pres, HRC rep

kathleenbridgetwalsh052@gmail.com

Aaron Paden, Treasurer,

aaronpaden@gmail.com

Phil Collison, Secretary,

phil@pcollison.com
785-843-8098

Barry Shalinsky, Past President

bshalinsky@hotmail.com

Pam Blackburn,

pamblackburn55@gmail.com

Sacie Lambertson,

sacie.lambertson@gmail.com

Brenda Nunez,

brendajnunez@hotmail.com

Max Wilcox,

wilcoxmax27@gmail.com

Krista Gentry,

leekris@hotmail.com

Sarah Norman,

sarahenorm@gmail.com

Courtney Shipley

shipleyco@gmail.com

Jan Butin

hscl@ku.edu

ELNA Contacts

Lane Eisenbart, Coordinator
eastlawrence@yahoo.com

ELNA Statement of Trans Inclusion — Darrel and Max

Recently the state of Kansas passed a law restricting the use of restrooms by the transgendered, as well as preventing government issued IDs from being changed to reflect their gender. In response, ELNA wants all to know that we vehemently disagree and stand with transgendered people. We support the right of all, including transgendered people, to live in peace, without fear of discrimination, and in safety. The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association continues our long tradition of acceptance and support of those the state may wish to intimidate.

Max, a trans member of the ELNA board, said that they moved to East Lawrence in 2024 because it felt safe. "There are pride flags on so many houses of both trans and cis allies alike. This visibility matters. It makes me feel like, if I'm walking and something happens, that my neighbors have my back." However, they continued, "As great as East Lawrence is, we're unfortunately not isolated from state and nationwide policies. What I'd really like lawmakers and others to know is that trans people are humans. We just want to be left alone to live our lives peacefully. I returned to Kansas after college to build community, but if my family's safety is threatened further, we will have no choice but to leave."

Max's neighbors, Stu and Lori were willing to share their story. They said "raising our trans son in East Lawrence (he started to transition around age 13) we felt nothing but support from friends, neighbors, schools, and the wider Lawrence community in general. Recent legislation and legislative initiatives at the state level have made things much more difficult in Kansas. Our son (now 28) and his husband have relocated to Chicago where trans folks enjoy more legal validation and protection. We are planning to move away from Kansas within the year to live in a state where trans rights are protected so that our son and his husband can visit without worrying about coming to a state with laws that are antagonistic towards trans people."

We, as the Board of ELNA, support Max, Stu and Lori, as well as others who have been targeted by inhumane policies and legislation. We remain steadfast in our opposition to this law.

HOBBS PARK LEGACY PROJECT

The Municipal Stadium at Hobbs Park Legacy Project is a community-led coalition interested in preserving and rehabilitating the Municipal Stadium in Hobbs Park. The group held a community listening session at Bon Bon on June 7, where we engaged with a variety of interested community members. We haven't scheduled future listening sessions or outreach events yet, but we look forward to continued community engagement during this process. We have submitted drafts of National Register of Historic Places nominations for Municipal Stadium and the Murphy-Bromelsick House. They will be reviewed by the Kansas Historical Society and we should hear feedback from them in several months. We applied for a Historic Preservation Fund grant from KSHS and should hear back by the end of June.

Currently, we are raising funds to complete a Historic Structure Report, which will provide engineering and architectural analysis of the facility, in order to get rehabilitation cost estimates and begin building a timeline for future work. This is estimated to cost around \$30,000. If you are interested in donating, please search for the Municipal Stadium fund at the Douglas County Community Foundation.

Please continue to spread the word about this project and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages for more information. If you have questions or stories/photographs of Municipal Stadium, please email Andrew Stockmann at astockmann@watkinsmuseum.org.

Save the Date!

For the ELNA Block Party!
Saturday September 26th 2026,
5-9pm, Hobbs Park. We'll have
music and food and neighbors and
all good things.
Mark your calendars!

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.

COMMUNITY BUILDING ACCESS UPDATE

You may have heard that the Community Building, just west of East Lawrence on 11th St, is open for public use for free, unlike other rec center facilities, through the year 2026. It is reportedly on the City Commission agenda to discuss continuing fee-free admission to that building, at the City Commission budget meeting July 7th, 2026 meeting. So, show your support for continued free access to our Community Building through this year by visiting as much as you can.

Community Building

115 W 11th

**Hours: 8am to 8pm M-F,
9am to 6pm Saturdays,
10am to 4pm Sundays**

Facility Offerings:

Office – for class enrollments and reservations
8am to 5pm M-F
Locker /Shower facilities
Full-size Gymnasium
Weight room
Cardio Equipment
Classes held regularly

How to Access?

During regular operating hours, the facility is locked and patrons may gain entry by pressing the Ring doorbell button, located at both entrances, and staff will assist them. As the facility has two entrances, accurately tracking usage has been challenging. To address this, we implemented this process to ensure accurate facility usage and access.

All patrons are required to check in. Upon entering the facility, patrons will go to the front desk to check in and scan their access card. We ask that all patrons scan their card each time they enter the facility. If a patron does not have a card, staff will assist them in obtaining one. In the event a card is lost, staff can issue a replacement at no cost.

There is a Community Building membership, which is free of charge, as well as memberships for other recreation facilities that require a fee available to purchase at that time. The same access card may be used for all facilities, based on what patrons sign up for.

Who can use the Community Building?

Everyone! It's especially important for young people, low income people, and seniors on fixed incomes to utilize the space in order to show the City with numbers how important free access to health and fitness is to our community!

TIRED OF THE SAME OLD POLITICIANS?

VOTE

ERIK MURRAY FOR US SENATE ON AUGUST 4TH!

Housing costs are skyrocketing. Rural hospitals are closing. The economy is failing Kansas families.

**Erik Murray has spent his career
actually solving problems –**

- ✓creating jobs,
- ✓building housing,
- ✓transforming communities.

Politicians see challenges and think small.



**Erik Murray
BUILDS.**

**ERIK
MURRAY
FOR U.S. SENATE**



Paid for by Erik Murray for Kansas

**JOIN OUR PEOPLE-POWERED
CAMPAIGN TODAY AT
ERIKFORKANSAS.COM**

★★★
**LEADING WITH REAL SOLUTIONS,
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST.**

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

VOTER INFORMATION FOR AUGUST 4 PRIMARY ELECTION

Voters should prepare to vote on a very significant ballot question. A proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution would change the way that State Supreme Court justices are selected. Under the current system, a non-partisan nominating commission selects three nominees for vacant positions, and the Governor appoints one of the nominees to fill the vacancy. This system has been in place since the late 1950's. Under the proposed amendment, judges would be directly elected by the voters. A YES vote would change the selection process to elect judges directly. A NO vote would maintain the current selection system.

In the aftermath of the 2022 US Supreme Court's Dobbs decision overruling Roe v. Wade, Kansas was the first state to decide on state level constitutional protections for reproductive choice. The overwhelming NO vote maintained the protections found in the state constitution. Legislators who placed the judicial election proposal on the primary ballot have long been frustrated that the Kansas constitution protects reproductive choice and funding for public education. Proponents of the change hope that elected judges might rule differently on whether the state constitution protects reproductive choice and public education funding.

Every registered voter may participate in the August 4 Election, whether or not you are registered to a political party. **PLEASE VOTE!**

KEY DATES TO KNOW:

July 14: Last day to register. Registered voters who need to update or correct their name or address should do so before the registration deadline.

July 15: Advance Voting begins, in person at Douglas County Elections Office (23rd and Louisiana) Weekdays July 15-24, 8 am to 5 pm; July 27-31, 8 am to 6 pm.

July 15: Voting by mail begins. July 28 is the Deadline to request an advance ballot to be mailed.

July 25 and August 1: Saturday Advance Voting 9am to 1pm, Lecompton Community Building, Eudora City Hall, Baldwin City Library, County Clerk Elections Office (23rd and Louisiana at the Malls Shopping Center

August 3: Advance Voting at the Elections Office Closes at Noon.

August 4: ELECTION DAY - every registered voter may participate!

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

August 4th 2026 is the August Kansas Primary Election. Voters will cast ballots on a proposed Kansas judicial selection Amendment. Voters who are registered unaffiliated or third party WILL be allowed to vote on the Amendment. Voters who are registered with a political party will also vote on their party's nominees for public offices, including US Senate, Congress, Governor/Lt. Gov., and precinct committee posts. There are no contests for State Representative or County Commission on the Primary ballot for East Lawrence. If you are unaffiliated with a party, you may declare an affiliation and vote at the polls.

KEY DEMOCRATIC RACES:

US Senate: (vote for 1) Damon Anderson, Christy Davis, Adam Hamilton, Jason Hart, Kevin Latz, Erik Murray, Sandy Spidel Neumann, Anne Parelkar, Patrick C. Schmidt, Michael Soetart, Noah Taylor.

US House First District: (vote for 1) Colin McRoberts, Lauren Reinhold.

Governor & Lieutenant Governor: (vote for 1) Ethan Corson & Renee Duxler, Cindy Holscher & KC Ohaebosim, Curt Skoog & Jennifer Bacani McKenney.

Precinct Committee posts by law are gendered positions. In Precinct 39, nobody filed for Democratic Committeewoman, but a candidate may be elected by write-in. Barry Shalinsky filed for Democratic Committeeman. In Precinct 40, Alana Cloutier filed for Democratic Committeewoman and Craig Stancliffe filed for Democratic Committeeman.

KEY REPUBLICAN RACES:

US Senate: (vote for 1) Roger Marshall, Pond Naramore.

US House First District: (vote for 1) Tracey Mann, Craig Musser.

Governor & Lieutenant Governor: (vote for 1) Ty Masterson & Jeffrey Klemp, Charlotte O'Hara & Michelle Dombrosky, Stacy L. Rogers & Michael W. Smith, Phillip Sarnecki & Joy Eakins, Vicki Schmidt & Joe Newland, Scott Schwab & Ken Rahjes.

Precinct Committee posts by law are gendered positions. In Precinct 39, nobody filed for Republican Committeeman or Committeewoman, but candidates may be elected by write-in. In Precinct 40, nobody filed for Republican Committeewoman, but a candidate may be elected by write-in. RJ Torrey filed for Republican Committeeman.

Primary Election Info Continued...

WHERE AND HOW TO VOTE

If you're not yet registered to vote or you've changed addresses or names etc., you can register here: www.ksvotes.org. Not sure about your registration? Check that here: <https://www.dgcoks.gov/depts/voting-and-elections/your-voter-information>

If your registration is accurate and complete, you may vote in advance by mail in ballot or in person. To request a ballot be mailed to you, you must fill out the Application for Advance Voting by Mail form. It's best to print it and sign it, as digital signatures are not accepted, and bring it to the County Clerk's office, mail it in, or fax it. You can find that form with instructions here: <https://www.dgcoks.gov/depts/voting-and-elections/advance-voting#Link-To-Advance-Voting-by-Mail>.

You may use a secure drop box or mail your ballot in. To guarantee on time arrival, it is best to use a secure drop box. Drop boxes are located at the Douglas County Courthouse at 1100 Massachusetts Street (south parking lot), Douglas County Elections Office at 711 W. 23rd Street, the Douglas County Treasurer's Office at 2601 W. 6th Street, and elsewhere in the county.

In person advance voting takes place from Wednesday July 15th to Friday July 31 at the Douglas County Elections Office at 711 W 23rd St, Suite 1. Also 8am to Noon on Monday August 3rd. More information about other times and locations is listed under "key dates" above.

If you enjoy the thrill of voting on Election Day in person, you can cast your ballot in person at your precinct location. The northern portion of East Lawrence is in precinct 39. If you live east of Mass and north of 11th, you'll vote at the Cider Gallery 810 Pennsylvania St. The southern portion of East Lawrence, south of 11th and north of 15th, is precinct 40 and votes at Trinity Lutheran Church at 1245 New Hampshire. Polls are open 7am to 7pm on Election Day, August 4.

If you need help getting to your polling place, please email Lane at eastlawrence@yahoo.com and we'll find you a ride!

Allen Press Development Survey

Members of a development group called Eastside Innovations from the Kansas City area attended our ELNA meeting on Monday June 8th. They are in the beginning stages of redeveloping the old Allen Press building, the old Stokely cannery site north of 11th, east of Delaware. The group has shared a survey designed to help the Eastside Innovations team better understand the wants, needs, and priorities of the East Lawrence community as they explore opportunities for a future multi purpose development space. Your feedback will directly influence the types of programs, services, businesses, and experiences considered for the project. Take the survey at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvGeXJ-Cie11gspj8cPp2efumv_LAiGCvpAF74Xwk5wyoGw/viewform

Questions can be directed to mk@eastsideinnovation.com

You can read more about Eastside Innovations at <https://www.eastsideinnovation.com/>

Volunteers Wanted: Neighborhood Photo Project

The ELNA Residential Preservation Committee is exploring a project to photograph homes, buildings, brick streets, sidewalks, and other features throughout our neighborhood. The goal is to create a visual inventory that could support future historic preservation and research efforts, including documentation for the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory.

At this stage, we're simply looking to gauge interest and identify volunteers who might be willing to help with photographing and uploading images.

No experience is needed—just a smartphone or camera and an interest in our neighborhood's history.

Interested? Please email Danica Lam at DanicaPelzel@proton.me. If there's enough interest, we'll develop a plan and share next steps.

USD 497 SUMMER MEALS

USD 497 Nutrition & Wellness staff look forward to seeing you this summer!

Public Meal Site

Sunset Hill Elementary School
901 Schwarz Rd, Lawrence, KS 66049

Congregate (on-site) meal service:
Food must be eaten on-site and cannot be taken home.

June 1 - July 24 (Monday-Friday),
12:00-12:45 PM

NOTE: No meals served on June 19 or July 3

No registration or ID required.

Children ages 1-18 eat free

Adult meals can be purchased for \$5 (cash or check only)

Special Event Days

Dottie the Bookmobile!

EVERY MONDAY

Noon-1:00 PM

Bring your library card!

Dottie the Lawrence Public Library Bookmobile will be on site. Check out new library books and return the ones you borrowed the previous week.

Lunch + Live!

TUESDAYS

June 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14

Grab lunch and enjoy a free performing arts series featuring local storytellers, poets, and musicians.

Listen, watch, and even join in through fun, Interactive music and storytelling activities!

Summer Meal Kits

Douglas County Fairgrounds Open Air Pavilion
2110 Harper St, Lawrence, KS 66046
(Enter off of 19th St — Northwest side of fairgrounds)

Pick up 5 days of breakfasts & lunches for you to take and prepare at home.

Free for children ages 1-18.

No adult meals available.

Tuesday mornings, 7:00-9:00 AM

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21

Registration required at:

<http://www.usd497.org/SMKR2026>

****Please note:** Due to federal regulations, summer meal kits are only available to kids who are not participating in the summer food service program at other locations (including the Boys & Girls Club sites - Hillcrest, Sunset Hill, & Schwegler).

2026 Summer Meal Kit Changes

New Location - Douglas County Fairgrounds

While there's no single perfect location for our summer meal kit distribution, we hope that the new location will support our families who struggled to get to the previous site and will be safer, overall, from a traffic perspective.

This new location gives us more space for meal kit distribution. It will also help keep our families, staff, and food better protected in case of severe weather. We are very thankful to Douglas County and 4H for allowing us to use this space.

Different Distribution Style - Insulated totes (or bring your own cooler)

For each walk-up registration, 1 insulated tote bag will be provided. Families should bring it (or another bag or cooler) back each week.

By switching to a model where families walk up and use a reusable bag/container, we are able to keep the frozen products in the freezer for longer — which improves food safety and product quality.

Reusable tote bags also reduce the amount of cardboard that is being thrown away each week. What if I forget to bring a bag or cooler? We will have a limited supply of empty product boxes available for you to use.

More Customization

Survey results from the end of last year led us to change our pickup format. This year, you will be given a card for each child where you will pick which items you want packed specifically for them. Only want chocolate milk? We can handle that. Your kids don't like the fresh produce? That's okay, you can choose not to take it. Is juice something you'd like to avoid? It's no longer required.

Breakfast and lunch entrees will still be required and the other required items might seem a bit unusual, but we have it set up so we're still following the strict guidelines of the USDA, who funds our program — so please bear with us!

The Summer Food Service Program is federally funded by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



TOM HARPER

CRS, ABR, GRI, e-PRO, REALTOR®
tomharper@stephensre.com
Tom-Harper.com
785-218-6351

Find me on Instagram
@Lawrencemodern

STEPHENS
REAL ESTATE

New York School Update

Enrollment begins first week of July:

<https://www.usd497.org/parents-and-students/enroll>

PreK Montessori Program

Available for children ages 3-4

Free tuition for those who qualify, \$690 per month for others.

Priority for students within district boundaries for New York School.

Register at www.usd497.org/NewStudentRegistration

Questions regarding enrollment? Contact by email to Sheila Callaghan at la.callaghan@usd497.org

More about New York's Montessori program at <https://newyork.usd497.org/about-us/montessori>

First Day of School: August 13th

First Day for Preschool: August 18th

ELNA Meeting Dates 2026

ELNA meets on the second Monday of each month, from 7-9pm in person and on zoom. This year, we'll meet in the New York School library at 936 NY St.

Mark your calendars with these meeting dates:

July 13th, Aug 10th, Sept 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 9th, Dec 14th.

Do you get our weekly enews?
We send out an enewsletter on
Thursday of EACH WEEK! It's
full of East Lawrence (and adjacent)
happenings that are more timely
than our printed news. If you'd like
to be added, email Lane at
eastlawrence@yahoo.com

Register by July 14

Vote by August 4

for Judicial Independence

**VOTE NO
AGAIN!**

Pol adv Pd by B. Shalinsky, Dem Pct 39

Love this Newsletter? Sign up to help deliver it! To save on postage, a group of East Lawrence neighbors walk a route of newsletters, and we could always use more hands (and feet) to do delivery.

Love this Neighborhood Association? Sign up to be a supporter! If you'd like to support the work we do, consider making a donation. Navigate to our website and click any donate button there, or scan this QR.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out. Email eastlawrence@yahoo.com.



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

Eastside European – Conscientious Care for European Automobiles

Specializing in BMW and Mini, and 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. Locally owned and operated, we're proud to be a part of the East Lawrence neighborhood.

(785) 843-5606 • eastside-european.com • 901 Delaware, Lawrence, KS 66044

