East Lawrence News

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

January 2025 & February 2025



www.eastlawrence.com

ELNA

General Meeting

January 13th 7-9 pm
February 10th 7-9 pm
IN PERSON AT THE DEPOT!
7th & New Jersey Streets
And Online via Zoom
Agenda & Zoom Link
always available at http://
www.eastlawrence.com/meetings

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From the President

Barry Shalinsky

Happy New Year!

The holidays, and 2024 are now in the rear-view mirror, and 2025 promises to be an eventful year, in terms of big the big picture, and in our neighborhood.

Since the publication of our most recent edition of the East Lawrence News, we had a significant election. Vice-President Kamala Harris received the votes of 90.6 % of East Lawrence's voters, more than anywhere else in Lawrence, and probably the state. President-elect Donald

Trump received 7.8% of East Lawrence votes, and other candidates combined for 1.6%. East Lawrence voters, like voters citywide, rejected a proposal to change the form of local government, and approved a small local sales tax increase to fund affordable housing and homeless services.

In a less significant election, the ELNA membership elected ELNA's Board for the coming year, and re-elected the officers. While I appreciate the opportunity to be of service, I am hopeful that someone else will take the reins in 2026. Speaking of reins, the annual horse parade took place on a beautiful and warm Saturday in early December, as lots of people watched from East Lawrence. ELNA once again had a successful adopt a family event for the holidays. Sadly, the Sunrise food pantry ceased operations. At City Hall, things have gotten more crowded as offices at the Riverfront Plaza were vacated and operations consolidated. The City Commission approved an amended Land Development Code, there were heated discussions about the municipal pool, and it was decided to locate a new downtown bus transfer station near the site of the existing operation.

As we enter into 2025, please mark January 21 on your calendars. New York School will be hosting their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Chili Supper that evening, an always inspiring event! There is always a need for volunteer cooks and servers.

Exciting things are starting to happen for improvements to Hobbs Park, as a broad coalition is coming together to advocate for preserving and renovating the Municipal Stadium. Please read about it in this edition of the East Lawrence News! And after a two-year hiatus, community engagement on the East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan is expected to resume soon, likely in February. We hope you will make sure your voice is heard!

New York School MLK Chili Feed

Tuesday January 21st6-7:30pm, 936 New York St

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Meal has been a tradition at New York Elementary for decades. This year we celebrate 38 years of tradition. We always celebrate on the Tuesday after MLK Day. This years event will be January 21, 6-7:30pm.

We'll have both vegetarian and meat chili, celery and carrots, cheese, crackers, and some drinks and desserts too.

No one will be turned away for inability to pay, but cash donations will be gratefully accepted at the door.

Neighbors! Please consider donating veggie chili and/or desserts to the feed. You can find the signupgenius form on the NY PTA facebook page, or email eastlawrence@yahoo.com and we'll send it to you.

HOBBS PARK PLANNING UNDERWAY

Several months ago, we reported that improvements to Hobbs Park would be a high priority for ELNA. Fortunately, we now have some key partners in the process. In December, the Watkins Museum hosted a meeting of representatives of the museum, Lawrence Preservation Alliance, Kaw Valley Kickball League, The Shelley Miller Trust, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association and a former staff member from Parks & Rec to discuss renovation and restoration of the Municipal Stadium, along with other needed improvements to Hobbs Park. The Watkins Museum shared historical documentation that there were at least two baseball games at the stadium featuring teams from the old Negro Leagues. Nationally, there are very few venues still standing where Negro Leagues teams played, making Municipal Stadium historically significant. In January, members of the Hernly Architecture firm will meet with the group to discuss what it would take to put together drawings and cost estimates for a restoration project. The group hopes to meet on an ongoing basis to discuss grant writing and fund raising. We will provide periodic updates of progress in the East Lawrence News.

CITY AMENDS LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

The City Commission voted to amend the Lawrence Land Development Code. The 500+ page document makes several significant changes to Lawrence's zoning, land use and development policies. The most significant changes would be the elimination of single-family zoning throughout most of Lawrence, the reduction or elimination of off-street parking requirements, allowance of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs, also known as in-law suites) in all residential zones, and an increase in occupancy per dwelling unit from three to five unrelated persons.

What exactly does all of this mean? Currently, on a standard fifty-foot single family zoned lot in East Lawrence, there could be one dwelling unit in which no more than three unrelated adults could live. For all newly constructed units, there has been a requirement for one off-street parking space per bedroom. Under the approved changes, there could potentially be two units on a lot, in addition to an ADU. Five unrelated adults could live in each unit, plus another one or two in the ADU, all without parking space requirements. Hence, potentially a dozen adults could live on one standard sized lot, and several cars could end up parked on the street.

ELNA's Board agrees that it makes sense for the city to densify to some degree, and to diversify housing options, but not to this degree. Specific concerns are a likely loss of historic housing and streetscape character, due to economic incentives to demolish and redevelop more and larger units; increased storm water runoff and flooding with less permeable surface area due to new and larger construction; rising housing prices as modest "affordable" homes for renters and first-time homebuyers

are replaced with new construction, primarily geared to the rental market or higher end homebuyers; a glut of parked cars on neighborhood streets, especially in areas adjacent to commercial properties which will also no longer have requirements to provide parking.

City Commissioners stated that they will consider minor tweaks to the new code before it goes into effect in April.

WORK TO RESUME ON EAST LAWRENCE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

Neighborhood Plans can be an important tool for documenting the history of a neighborhood and charting a path for its future. To be effective, neighborhood plans should be consulted regularly, and implemented rigorously. East Lawrence's first neighborhood plan was adopted in 1979, and an updated plan was adopted in 2000. Both plans captured a snapshot of the then current state of the neighborhood, and stated goals for future preservation and revitalization. Actual implementation has been less than rigorous.

In 2021, work began on another update of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan, but it was abruptly halted in late 2022 as the attention of city planning staff turned to amending the Lawrence Land Development Code. Members of the planning staff recently contacted ELNA to inform us that the process for updating the East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan will be restarting in 2025. Tentatively, a public meeting is being scheduled for Monday, February 10, at the Amtrak Depot, immediately before our monthly ELNA meeting. We are told a draft outline will be available approximately two weeks before the meeting. As of publication time, there are no further details.

ELNA encourages all neighborhood residents to follow and be involved in the process. This is your neighborhood! For the most current information, please regularly visit the official city website, https://lawrenceks.org/community-enagagement/east-lawrence-plan/. ELNA will also have periodic updates on our website, www.eastlawrence.com and on our Facebook pages.



Board Members amd Lane

Darrel Proffitt, Episcopal

Priest darrelproffitt@yahoo.com 1200 block New Jersey St.

I am currently in and out of Lawrence, as I am serving as the Rector in the Interim at All Saints Episcopal Church in Omaha. We will be returning to living in Lawrence full-time in 2025, probably sometime around the summer. We moved to East Lawrence from a



house in West Lawrence in 2023 because we wanted to be closer to the vibrant heart of Lawrence. We built a house to fit into the ethos of the community, modeling it after a 1920-30s Craftsman Bungalow. I love the deep and rich history of East Lawrence and am especially interested in doing all I can to continue this legacy. I am especially interested in historical buildings and finding ways to move forward by recognizing the importance of both the buildings and places like Hobbs Park. East Lawrence is culturally relevant and historically important as a major player in the future of Lawrence. Too often our neighborhood has been seen as irrelevant and unimportant to the community at large. I have a passion to lift up the neighborhood as a whole and work hard to deepen the connection we have with both the history and future of Lawrence.



Max Wilcox (they/them)
Public Contact Info - (913) 202-0273
(by text, please)
General Address
800 block of Delaware

How long have you lived in the neighborhood? *May 2024*

What do you do for a living? *Transportation Safety Planner for the state*

What do you want neighbors to know about you? I'm passionate about community building, LGBTQ support, and supporting local arts and food initiatives.

What are you mad about/ fired up about/ eager to work on in our community right now? I am excited to see projects from Lawrence's Vision Zero Plan get implemented

Lane Eisenbart,

Coordinator eastlawrence@yahoo.com 1200 block of Delaware

I have lived in East Lawrence since the fall of 2005. I just keep moving from street to street in the 1200 blocks – New York, then Pennsylvania, now Delaware. think I'll



stop trying to move. My youngest daughter (who is now an adult!) was born in the house we lived in on New York Street. I'm officially embedded.

I work a couple jobs. I'm ELNA's only employee, so not technically a board member. I work less than 10 hours a week and do the newsletters, enews, socials, website, email, merch, events, and more. I do something similar for Positive Bright Start. That's my real job, where I get insurance and stuff. There, sometimes I get to hang out with three year olds in our PreK classroom. Sometimes I fix someone's computer. I make sure we never run out of copy paper OR toilet paper. It's a pretty good gig. I also make things, jewelry mostly, and sell them as my label (and Instagram handle too if you wanna look me up) LadyIronbeard. I dance a little. Play music a little. Bake a little. I build the occasional website too!

I read a lot. I make stuff. Aaron and I are working, slowly but surely, on our beautiful old house. I currently only have two cats and I feel I need more. So, if you should find any kittens this spring, you know where the cat door is. I want to be patient and compassionate, but I'm also kind of a petty b*tch, so maybe know that too.

I am deeply saddened by the current state of the world. Hateful politicians, climate change, end stage capitalism, etc etc. It's enough to really beat me down if I let it, you know. But, I can't give up. I've got to keep going if only because my to do list is just so very long. So, I ask myself, how can I make this hurtful world better for me and my beloveds? The only answer I keep coming up with is that it has to start here. In this neighborhood, in this City. What can we do to ensure that people can survive and thrive? What can we do to make Lawrence a safe place for queer people, people of color, women, children, the poor, the unhoused, others, not just in name but in practice? And, to reference that petty b*tch comment from above, we need City leaders who actually listen to what residents have to say. When people say they hate your project, listen, and do something differently!

Phil Collison

phil@pcollison.com and 843-8098 900 block of Pennsylvania



How long have you lived in the neighborhood? I am now 20 years at my current residence. 48 years in Lawrence. 25 or so in EL total.

What do you do for a living? I'm retired.

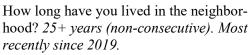
What do you want neighbors to know

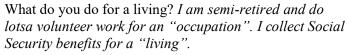
about you? I rent the ELNA mower and tiller. They both work pretty well these days.

What are you mad about/ fired up about/ eager to work on in our community right now? I think the new land development code brings a lot of risk to losing some of the character of our neighborhood. We are already a real estate speculation zone, and the new code will intensify that. I also wish the City could put some outcome measurements on achieving their "critical success factors" for having "Safe, Healthy and Welcoming Neighborhoods". The current standard is to state that a new development impacts the Strong Welcoming Neighborhoods but does not compute whether that impact is positive or negative. We're gearing up to put pressure on the City to put better protections in place for the existing residents of neighborhoods all over the City. And we're always looking for folks to provide more input and assistance in our efforts. Come join us!

Barry Shalinsky

ELNAPrez@yahoo.com Winthrop (7th) & Connecticut Streets





What do you want neighbors to know about you? After 20 years in exile, I am now living my best life in East Lawrence, with my wonderful life partner and two awesome sons. We are slowly working on projects to restore our historic home to keep it viable for future generations.

What are you mad about/ fired up about/ eager to work on in our community right now? I want to keep East Lawrence East Lawrence. I like our historic architecture and street scapes, our neighborhood landmarks including our parks and neighborhood schools, our helpful eclectic small businesses, our grass roots art, music and culture, and all of the quirky characters who are my neighbors and friends. Every unnecessary demolition, every brick sidewalk replaced with concrete and every person priced out of their own home or business, tears at the fabric of what makes East Lawrence special. I do this work primarily out of love, but yeah, sometimes it feels good to stick it to the man when he tries to mess with our scene.



Leekris@hotmail.com 1100 Block of New Jersey

I moved to East Lawrence in 2016.

I work with owners of apartment buildings that have government-backed loans or affordable housing subsidy, making sure they follow HUD rules.



I volunteer with multiple other organizations in addition to ELNA such as Girl Scouts, New York PTA, Lawrence Humane Society, and my Union at work. I enjoy giving back to my community as I want Lawrence to continue being a great place to raise my 6-year-old.

Issues that are near and dear to me include crime, affordable housing, keeping our neighborhood schools open (I don't think that fight is over), cleanliness of our neighborhood parks and school playgrounds, and the demolition of existing buildings in our neighborhood that could be rehabilitated.

Aaron Paden

aaronpaden@gmail.com (preferred) Phone: (785) 840-6400 1200 block of Delaware

How long have you lived in the neighborhood? 18 years

What do you do for a living? I work at the University of Kansas at CRESIS as a Research Technician Senior, specializing in engineering, design, and machining. Additionally, I own a photo studio where I focus on lighting and documentation of artwork, as well as occasional other projects.

What do you want neighbors to know about you? I love organizing community events and workdays—they're such a great way to have fun while building connections and working together. Even after 18 years in the neighborhood, I'm still meeting new people and getting to know familiar faces better. It's one of my favorite parts of living here.

What are you mad about/ fired up about/ eager to work on in our community right now? I'm always up for helping out with events—they're such a big part of what makes our neighborhood special. Looking ahead, I think the biggest challenges we face are wrapping up our neighborhood plan and figuring out how to adapt to the city commission's decision to remove single-family zoning.

Pam Blackburn

pamblackburn55@gmail.com 800 block of Connecticut

I have lived in East Lawrence 12 years

I am a QA Software Quality Control Analyst for KU

I am eager to help maintain our neighborhood as a neighborhood, not as a free for all for development. Affordable housing needs to be in all areas of Lawrence not just in a single area.

Suzan Hampton

Suzanhampton@gmail.com 1200 block of Pennsylvania

How long have you lived in the neighborhood? *Eight years*

What do you do for a living? *Instructor and PhD student in architecture at KU*

What do you want neighbors to know about you? I believe close-in neighborhoods like East Lawrence have deep cultural and landscape heritage that is worth protecting since it helps create a sense of community and fosters greater social and environmental resilience. Please say hi if you see me out walking Bear, my sweet Aussie Shepherd/Great Pyrenees rescue pup: we don't bite!

What are you mad about/ fired up about/ eager to work on in our community right now? Going for grants to fund restoration of Hobbs Park and the stadium, and working with others to reduce demolitions in the neighborhood.



Sacie Lambertson

700 block New York St

I've lived in East Lawrence a relatively short time, only 8 yrs. I live near the railroad station. I am most interested in our active eclectic neighborhood. I like most of the issues that arise. We love the generous



activism of our community (note my partner is also interested and as well as being very supportive of me). We want EL to remain a varied community and we do NOT want good old houses to be torn down to be replaced with unaffordable properties. Having gone through our house's historic designation, we are happy to help others. We are long retired, so have time to help keep our community vibrant. We also would like to see <u>all</u> the historic brick streets in EL renewed and repaired. I am pretty sure our own block has the single worst street in the entire city.

Sunrise Project in the New Year

Dear Community!

We still do not have a timeline for our move from 1501 Learnard Ave. However, as part of our strategic plan for 2025, we will implement steps to ease our transition, so we can focus our energy and resources on the many changes to come.

These changes are aligned with our mission to build community through shared activities that involve education, good food and social connection.

- -Our porch pantry will close at the end of the year last day will be Dec. 31, 2024.
- -Community meals will remain 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month (unless there is a holiday).

Meal delivery service will end at the close of 2024 as we work to bring more people to us, to socially connect.

- -Our community garden will be re-located in Spring 2025 (we are working on a location).
- -Our orchards in East Lawrence will remain unchanged.
- -Starting January 2025, our cafe will open 1 Sunday a month with activities (to be announced!)
- -We will continue building our Food Rocket program to work with kids in classrooms across the community.

Our programs always evolve with community input, energy and ideas. We will keep changing and adapting and we will continue to share information as we move through the new year.

If you have further questions or concerns, feel free to e-mail the Sunrise Board of Directors at boardofdirectors@sunriseprojectks.org.

As always, we appreciate your support, love and community care.

Sunrise Project Board and Staff

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

(*Due to the holiday on the 1st, we are serving meals the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of January!)

Community Meal Wednesday January 8th 5-7pm

Join us for dinner! For this meal, we are making Hoppin John, served with a side of cornbread and dessert! Our Hoppin John will feature black-eyed peas, tomatoes, celery, peppers, onions and carrots served over basmati rice. Vegan and gluten free!

Dine in or grab and go! We look forward to seeing you!

Community Meal Wednesday January 15th 5-7pm Free and open to all. Donations accepted but never required. See you soon!

We are serving Chickpea Sweet Potato Curry: Chickpeas, sweet potatoes, onions, garlic, ginger, coconut milk and tomatoes served over basmati rice. Dessert is available too!

Dottie, LPL's mobile library joins us 5-6PM as weather allows. See you soon!

Community Meal Wednesday February 5th 5-7pm

All are welcome for dinner! We are making Minestrone soup: A vegetable pasta dish featuring onions, carrots, celery, kale, butternut squash, white beans and tomatoes. We will serve the soup with locally baked bread, dessert and a sprinkle of Parmesan (no cheese is an option, too!)

Community Meal Wednesday February 19th 5-7pm All are welcome to join us for Veggie Chili and dessert! Donations accepted but never required.

Our chili will feature black, pinto and kidney beans with onions, garlic, celery, tomatoes and carrots. Take your meals to go or dine in!! Our cozy cafe will be open 5-7 p.m. and we'll have hot coffee, tea and good vibes to accompany your meal.

Dine in and get all of the toppings your heart desires: Tortilla chips, jalapeños, cheese, sour cream, cilantro and green onions. See you there!



Earth Care Forum Series - 2025 OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED

Sundays, January 5 – February 2, 9:15 - 10:15 am

Recordings can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/@firstpreslawrence2258/playlists

First Presbyterian Church, 2415 Clinton Parkway

(Fellowship Hall)



January 5: "What is Biodiversity, How Do We Measure It... Why Do We Care?"

Presenter: Hank Guarisco: Guarisco was assistant curator of arachnids at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. He was also a research associate of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. As a biologist he has done fieldwork for the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks and the Kansas Biological Survey. Guarisco has a master's degree in Systematics and Ecology from KU. He has also done fieldwork for the Kansas Department of Wildlife/Parks and Kansas Biological Survey.

Description: After an introduction outlining the topic, a film by David Korten: "For the Love of Life, Finding Our Way to An Ecological Civilization" will be discussed. Korten is an author, former professor of the Harvard Business School, political activist, prominent critic of corporate globalization, and "by training and inclination a student of psychology and behavioral systems". Korten is co-founder and board chair of the Positive Futures Network, which publishes the quarterly YES! Magazine.

January 12: Reweaving Our Homes and Our Lives Back into the Web of Life

Presenter: Ken Lassman, author of Seasons and Cycles: Rhythms of Life in the Kansas River Watershed (1985), Wild Douglas County (2007), and curator of the Kaw Valley Almanac, a weekly nature calendar.

Description: Many of us are striving to reduce the impacts of humanity on the earth's ecosystems, but also finding ways to rejoin our lives into those ecosystems. What would it take to rejoin the many-species web of life that permeates the earth, by living in ways that nurture that web? One step is to regain ecological literacy of the place where we live by knowing the dynamic cycles of life that make this place unlike any other place on the planet. The catalyzing combination of climate change and biodiversity degradation increases the importance of this fun process: reconnecting our home and ourselves to the Earth. If you don't know what the cycles are, how do you know when they change?

January 19: Mapping our Natural Heritage: A Geographer's Perspective on the Rare Plants, Animals, and Ecosystems of Kansas

Presenter: Jennifer Delisle, Ph.D., Associate Researcher, Kansas Biological Survey & Center for Ecological Research Description: Stewardship of our natural world begins with knowing what is here and precisely where it is found. The Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory has been compiling information about the status and location of the state's most threatened species and ecosystems for nearly 40 years. I'll illustrate some of the state's lesser-known rare species and show how maps of biodiversity data are being used for conservation work at the local, state, and national levels.

January 26: Opportunities and Challenges for Monarch Conservation

Presenter: Kristen Baum, Director of Monarch Watch: Kristen is Senior Scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey and Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas. Baum has worked with pollinators for more than thirty years. She has served on numerous state, regional, national, and international working groups to support monarch and pollinator conservation efforts.

Description: Monarch butterflies have exhibited substantial population declines in recent years. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed listing the monarch as threatened with a 4(d) rule under the Endangered Species Act. Learn about the status of monarchs, factors that have contributed to the decline, details about the USFWS proposal, and ways to support monarch conservation.

February 2: Gardening to Support Insects: Native Plants Matter, But Don't Rip Out Your Peonies Presenter: Sharon Ashworth, Ph.D., serves as the Horticulture and Natural Resources Agent for Douglas County. Her work with Extension began as a volunteer with the Extension Master Gardeners after transitioning from academia to a book, "Wading Right In - Discovering the Nature of Wetlands" (2019)

Description: Whether it's diagnosing plant problems, recommending suitable plants for landscapes, or advising on rural acreage care—from ponds to prairies— Sharon applies scientific knowledge to help people create sustainable and beautiful landscapes.

Since 2015, the EcoTeam of First Presbyterian Church has coordinated presentations by well-informed individuals addressing earth care concerns which are open to church members and the general public. The church is recognized by the Presbyterian denomination as an Earth Care Congregation and is also a member of Lawrence Ecology Teams United in Sustainability (An interfaith network of green teams related to the following faith traditions: Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Unitarian Universalist, Zen Buddhist).

ELNA Meetings 2025

The East Lawrence Neighborhood will meet the 2nd Monday of each month. We will continue to meet at the Santa Fe Depot at 7th and New Jersey Streets and on zoom for the foreseeable future. Watch our weekly enews for details and agendas. Don't receive the weekly enews? Email eastlawrence@yahoo.com to subscribe!

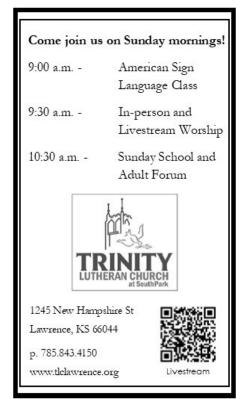
Jan 14, Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug 11, Sept 8, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8

And go ahead and mark your calendars for the two big yearly ELNA events!

Yart Sale Saturday, March 29th Block Party Saturday, September 27th

Adopt a Family Thanks

Thank you to all who contributed funds and gifts for our Adopt a Family project. We pulled it off again! And thanks to Aaron for supplying the wrapping party space and chili.



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

Work Days / Snow ShovelingYART SaleBlock Party

Adopt-A-Family

Please Volunteer!

would like to volunteer for:

ELNA Needs Your Help!

Mark what ELNA events / skills you

__ 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 – Same Great Shop, The Same Great People

You got to know us as Slimmer's Automotive, and you still know us now that we're Eastside European. Specializing in BMW and Mini cars, and with an emphasis on European automobiles, the name change reflects our repair service evolution. We also welcome late model Honda, Subaru and Toyota cars. Same great people, same great place, same great service.

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