East Lawrence News

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



ELNA

General Meeting Monday, July 1st, 7-9pm The Percolator

Agenda:

- ⇒ Guest Robert Baker from Tenants to Homeowners
- ⇒ Cultural Arts District

Please Note: June, July, and August meetings will be held at The Percolator in the alley behind 913 Rhode Island.

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Hello Neighbors!

There is an awful lot going on in the neighborhood. These are busy and exciting times here in East Lawrence. A few updates:

<u>Turnhalle</u>: Excellent news on the magnificent stone building on the SE corner of 9th and Rhode Island. Recall that this was purchased by the Lawrence Preservation Alliance last year with the intent of preserving it for future generations... well, last month the LPA was awarded a \$125,000 Douglas County Cultural Heritage Grant to begin the restoration work.



<u>Cultural District</u>: This is a huge topic for the neighborhood. The city has designated the geographic area of downtown and East Lawrence as a "Cultural District". What's a cultural district? Good question! There is an appointed task force working as we speak on defining exactly what this is and what it means for our neighborhood and town as a whole. ELNA has two representatives on the task force: Jacki Becker & KT Walsh, and they do not have an easy job. Please thank them when you see them out and about. Or better yet, give them a reassuring hug and an encouraging high five. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns on this topic, <u>please</u> let them know. Neighbor input is very important to them as they work on this.

8th and Pennsylvania Development: The Cider Gallery is up and running. If you haven't seen it you ought to stop by on a Final Friday to check it out, it's awfully nice. But you may have noted that doing so at the moment is a bit of a trick, due to the repaving of the 800 block of Pennsylvania. This street will eventually be brick and will tie the whole block together well.

Unfortunately, the work on this block has not been all positive. During the utility work, the city cut down a massive Siberian Elm tree. Not only was this a magnificent tree, estimated at over 200 years-old, but it had significant cultural value to many families who once lived on this block. Families who had only this tree remaining from a block of homes that were all torn down.

Santa Fe Depot: Last but most certainly not least, we have the magnificent mid-century train station at 7th and New Jersey. The city of Lawrence has been awarded a \$1.2 Million transportation enhancement grant to restore the depot. This is just huge news as it is the culmination of many years of work by Depot Redux, a group of volunteers who have been instrumental in getting to this point. Depot Redux, we all sincerely thank you for your passion, dedication, and persistence. Well Done!

ELNA President Josh Davis

East Lawrence History Project

- Phil Collison

Have you been hearing about The East Lawrence History Project and Lawrence's Historic Resources Commission? Here's a little more information:

The East Lawrence History Project was conceived in late 2007 after a meeting between Mark Kaplan and Professor Emeritus Dennis Domer. There had been other attempts to document some of the homes in the Nineties, but what came from this meeting was a recognition that the ingredients were in place to take this project to completion. Over the course of 2008 and 2009 forty or more homes were surveyed by a strong team of volunteers. They used their skills to research, make drawings and document with photos the significance of each of those homes. Over the years that research has been displayed at a variety of events around the city. The culmination of this project is at hand as the owners of a dozen of these surveyed homes have applied to be on Lawrence's Local Historic Registry. Nine applications were accepted and approved at May's Historic Resources Commission meeting and 3 more are on their June agenda. From there they will be placed on the City Commission agenda with a recommendation for approval to be placed on the local registry.

This is significant to East Lawrence because it helps to document how these homes came to be and how their owners contributed to the growth of this city. Recognition of these homes helps to give our generation and future generations a sense of where we came from and where we can go. It documents the evolution of our town. Too often we only remember the opulence of where we came from, and many of these homes demonstrate what can come from simplicity. Our humble community of East Lawrence has been described as the largest intact vernacular neighborhood in the Midwest! Meaning this neighborhood was largely built with native or indigenous materials.

The Project has only come to this stage only because of the work of volunteers. It will still need your help to lobby our City Commissioners of the benefits. Adding these homes to the Local Registry will help ensure that we do not forget how this city was built. Watch the E-News for information on when you can help with the final push.

With questions, comments, and or input, contact phil@collison.com

July / August Calendar

July

- 1st ELNA meeting, 7-9pm, Lawrence Percolator
- 3rd City Band Concert, 8pm, South Park Gazebo Special 4th of July Concert
- 7th Train Depot Clean-up, 3-4:30pm, BNSF Depot, 7th & NY Streets
- 10th City Band Concert, 8pm, South Park Gazebo
- 11th Brown Bag Concert, noon to 1pm, 900 Mass St. – Lonnie Ray Blues Band
- 14th ELNA Fundraiser Concessions at KVKL, 9pm, Hobbs Park
- 17th City Band Concert, 8pm, South Park Gazebo
- 18th Brown Bag Concert, noon to 1pm, 900 Mass St. – Borderline Country
 - Eastside Village Fundraiser, 5-7pm,
 Union Pacific Depot N. Lawrence
- 25th Brown Bag Concert, noon to 1pm, 900 Mass St. BRC
- 31st New York School Enrollment, 7:30am 3:30pm, New York School, 932 New York St

August

- 1st Brown Bag Concert, noon to 1pm, 900 Mass St, Paul Gray
- 4th Train Depot Clean-up, 3-4:30pm, BNSF Depot, 7th & NY Streets
 - ELNA Fundraiser Concessions at KVKL,
 9pm, Hobbs Park
- 5th ELNA meeting, 7-9pm, Lawrence Percolator
- 7th Central New Family Tours, 10am-12pm, Central Middle School
- 8th Central New Family Tours, 1-3pm, Central Middle School
- 9th Central New Family Tours, 10am-12pm, Central Middle School
- 12th Central 6th Grade Ice Cream Social, 6:30-7:30pm, Central Middle School
- 14th First Day of School, grades 1-5, USD 497
- 15th First Day of School, grades 6-12, regular schedule 1-5, USD 497
- 19th School regular schedule all grades Pre-K-12, USD 497
- 30th Central Middle School Back to School Activity Night, 6-8pm, Central Middle School

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Rent Your Gardening Equipment from ELNA

The ELNA rototiller and lawn mower (purchased new in 2010!) are now available for your use. The lawn mower rents for \$5/half a day. The rototiller is available for \$10/half a day. There is also a training video available on how to use a rototiller – available for free! Contact Phil Collison, 785-843-8098, for inquiries on how to rent this equipment. Please have a way to transport this equipment yourself.

Beloved Neighborhood Tree Cut Down by City - KT Walsh

On a lovely early June morning Michele Longhurst left her Poehler Lofts apartment to water the community garden at 8th & Pennsylvania Streets. Construction crews were already working on Pennsylvania St. replacing sewer lines. Alarmed by loud cracking and splitting sounds, Michele ran to see a front loader taking down a massive tree* that has shaded us for more than a hundred years.

(*Some believe this tree to be an oak, others a Siberian Elm.)

Michele frantically called the landowner and the City of Lawrence, but it was too late. The subcontractor had the tree down. All she could do was get permission to have the crew leave the beautiful trunk and branches there by the garden.

If you've lived in East Lawrence long enough, or asked the elders to tell their stories, you know that the northeast part of our neighborhood was initially primarily settled by impoverished former slave families called Exodusters who fled the Jim Crow South from 1865 on. Dave Evans' research tells us that they built homes out of anything they could find, planted gardens and found work. Later, the Santa Fe Railroad brought Mexican men and then their families to Lawrence and housed them east of the tracks at "La Yarda." Flooding brought them to the west side of the tracks to buy or build homes along Pennsylvania and New Jersey Streets. Their families and descendants then spread further out.

I'm telling you all this because that giant and healthy tree was all that was left in that place of the Exodusters and the Mexican-American family histories. Their homes and the popular El Tampico bar were torn down for the Haskell Loop Highway that was to cut through the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Association and many allies fought to defeat the Loop but not before the families were bought out, forced to move and their cherished homes torn down. The homes, the neighborhood, and that tree were enormously significant to these families. So significant was the tree, a few years ago, descendants gathered for group photos under the tree. One cousin, who moved to Florida, was dying of cancer and requested a branch of his "family tree" be cut and sent to him so he could hold it as he passed on.

The tree was in the city right of way, which means the city has the supposed right to cut it down, but many questions remain and here are the answers we have received so far:

-Why wasn't the new sewer line designed to go around the tree? The City Engineer (who is genuinely sorry this happened) says it would have required shutting off gas to some downtown businesses for four to five hours. Crews occasionally work on Sunday mornings to avoid disruptions but this cost would have to be budgeted in.

-Why didn't the subcontractor pause when they saw the thriving, giant tree and make one more phone call to Tony

Restoration of Santa Fe Station Funded by KDOT Grant to City

An East Lawrence landmark, and the gateway to the city for the national Amtrak passenger rail system, will be renovated and restored to its original 1950s appearance thanks to a \$1.2 million grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

The Santa Fe Station, located at 7th and New Jersey, is currently owned by BNSF Railway. The facility is in need of a new roof, modern heating and air conditioning units, upgrades to its electrical system, ADA upgrades to entrances and bathrooms, additional parking, and sidewalk improvements.

The grant, which is contingent on approximately \$300,000 in matching funds and acceptance by the City Commission, will also bring back the historic character of the station, which is regarded as a classic example of midcentury modern architecture. Work on the project would begin by September 2014.

Carey Maynard-Moody is president of Depot Redux, a local volunteer organization established in 2008 to promote renovation of the station. She expressed appreciation to Diane Stoddard, assistant city manager, for writing the winning grant proposal.

"The station is a tremendous asset for Lawrence," said Maynard-Moody, "and the KDOT grant gives us the resources to make it a showcase the city can be proud of."

More information about Depot Redux is online at http://www.depotredux.org/.

The Santa Fe Station grant was one of 35 announced by KDOT on June 11. The Transportation Enhancement program is federally funded, and \$17.9 million was awarded statewide. Other Lawrence projects funded by the program include restoration of the Breezedale Gateway monuments at 23rd and Massachusetts (\$55,000) and extension of the Burroughs Creek Trail between K-10 and 29th Street (\$218,838).



L to R: Richie Kennedy, Bill Getz, Gary Knudsen, Carey Maynard-Moody, Al Hack, Marci Francisco, Jim Budde, Tom Harper, & Dennis Domer. Absent are Larry Maxey, Nathan Anderson, Marty Kennedy, and Kevin Boatwrite.

Lawrence Fruit Tree Project

Did you know that your neighborhood has its very own public orchard? Now in its second year, the Lawrence Community Orchard is on its way to providing a bounty of fruit for the Lawrence community, and specifically the East Lawrence Neighborhood. In 2012, the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project applied through the City of Lawrence Common Ground Program to lease a .3 acre plot near the Burroughs Creek Trail. They were awarded the lease and held their first work day on St. Patrick's Day, 2012. Since then, dozens of volunteers have pitched in to help make the orchard a success.

The Lawrence Community Orchard is located at the end of Garfield St, near Delaware and 13th. It is designed to be a cosmetically beautiful, productive and ecologically rich, park-like orchard. Pedestrians have access to the orchard via Burroughs Creek Trail, and ripe fruits will soon be available for anyone to consume. The site also serves as an educational space where interested people can participate and learn skills in organic orcharding and nursery work. The orchard has been planted with many fruit bearing varieties that thrive in our region, such as paw paws, persimmons, pears and Jujubes. A shed has been installed this season, as well as an informational kiosk and plant labels, which will provide visitors with the opportunity to learn about the plants incorporated in the orchard. Workdays have been wonderful communitybuilding events and will continue monthly throughout the season. So join in the fun! Email lawrencefruittreeproject@gmail.com for more info.



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East Lawrence Community Garden – Some History

The East Lawrence Community Garden is located in the 900 block of Pennsylvania St. According to the sign hung on the west gate, the garden was started in the spring of 2003. Way back when, ten long east side years ago, there may have been a grant involved. Some gardeners have been growing there for 7-8 years, but no one for the entirety. Now ELNA Board members K.T. Walsh and John Swift were each at some point in time the Garden Master/ Coordinator/ Facilitator at the Garden.

The painting attached to the Garden shed depicts Bill Hatke, who lived in the area of 11th and New York St. This fellow produced nearly ALL of his food year round in his yard using masterful garden techniques!!

There are 18 individual plots at the East Lawrence Community Garden, and one central communal herb bed containing sage, mint, peppermint, horseradish, dill, savory, and a few sunflowers!! One plot is devoted to flowers and any other non-edibles like gourds. Last year gardeners planted a few luffa plants that did not do so well. Oh well!

The East Lawrence Community Garden has been on the Edible Garden Tour a couple of years. One year, at least one gardener stayed in the Garden all day and offered glasses of mint tea flavored with mint grown right there!

The Garden owns tools to use in the garden like hoes, shovels, rakes, hand trowels, and such, some purchased by the gardeners and some donated to the Garden.

Each year we get together as a group to clean up in the spring and fall, as well as a couple of times for a potluck get together to see each other!! One of those times in early spring we use the meeting to see who may not want to garden any more and who new would like to garden with us. Maybe we'll see you there!

For more information on the East Lawrence Community Garden, contact:

Rhonda & Alonzo Beardshear (785)-841-6850 or email roja 785@sbcglobal.net

Or Cynthia (Cindy) Trask at ozdog@sunflower.com (785)832-2448

ELNA is on Facebook!

Like our fan page at http://www.facebook.com/eastlawrence and look for updates regarding neighborhood events.

We have a Twitter too!

Get your neighborhood news short and sweet. Follow us, ELNAks, on Twitter.

District School News

New to Lawrence? New to the 'hood? Don't forget about USD 497's Welcome & Enrollment Center, the first stop for all new students enrolling in the Lawrence Public Schools. It's your "One-Stop Shop" for enrolling new students K-12 and Enrolling kindergartners that did not attend round up. You can come prepared by downloading enrollment forms at www.usd497.org, and some items you will need include: a birth certificate for the enrolling child, family contact information, the child's immunization record, and family proof of residency. Your proof of residency must be a current utility bill, a lease agreement, or a contract on new home purchase. At the welcome center, you can pay fees and establish a fee payment plan and applying for child nutrition benefits (free and reduced price school meals) and fee waivers.

The Welcome Center is located at 110 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS. Enter on the south side of the complex. The welcome center is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. Walk-ins are welcome, and daytime/evening appointments are available. For more information or to schedule and appointment call 785-330-1921.

If you are interested in Boys & Girls Club, contact Landon Harness, Site Manager at 785-917-9293, for enrollment information

New York School News

The New York School Enrollment Date is set for July 31, 7:30 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm-3:30 pm. All returning families are required to enroll their students. And, yes, kindergarten round up parents are requested to attend also.

New York School Garden Club Continues

The New York School Garden Club continues this summer, and it needs a little help!

This fall, the Garden Club would like donations of perennials for fall planting such as flowers or berry bushes. A border of raspberries or blackberries would be lovely! More immediately, we need a post or two put in the ground so we can put our handy handmade sign up.

If you are interested in volunteering to water or tend the garden, contact Jenny Welch Buller at jwbuller@yahoo.com or (785) 218-6233. Or, keep an eye on the garden's Facebook page for events, news, and needs.

What's Happening at Central Middle School?

Liberty Memorial Central Middle School is having a great summer and gearing up for a new school year! Here are some dates to be aware of:

August 7	10a - 12p	New Family Tours	
August 8	1p - 3p	New Family Tours	
August 9	10a - 12p	New Family Tours	
August 12	6:30p-7:30p	6th Grade Ice Cream Social at LMCMS	
August 14 Day of	8:08a	6th Grade Reports for First School, 7th/8th Report @ 10:00 am when Dismissal at 1:30pm	
August 19	6:30p-8:00p	Open House - All Grades	
August 22 & 23		School Pictures	
August 30	6:00p-8:00p	Back to School Activity Night	
Sept 2		NO SCHOOL	

Please remember, if you are new to the district, your first stop for enrollment is the Welcome Center located at 110 McDonald Drive.

Throughout the year, Central collects recycling as a fundraiser and anyone is welcome to contribute. Collection receptacles are located on site.

In Central Garden news, we garden every Monday-Thursday morning from 9-11 throughout the summer. Anyone is welcome to join us. We have students selling produce at the Cottin's Farmers' Market Thursday afternoons from 4 - 6:30 (or until we run out). This is the biggest ongoing fundraiser the garden does and all support is greatly appreciated, especially to stop by and see our students who keep coming out, even as it gets hot outside.

Laura Leonard Parent and Community Involvement Facilitator Central Garden Coordinator Liberty Memorial Central Middle School Lawrence, KS (785) 330.4817



Tom Harper CRS, ABR, GRI, e-PRO, REALTOR 785-218-6351

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ELNA Concessions at KVKL at Hobbs

Again this year, ELNA will run a concessions stand at some Kaw Valley Kickball League games. Dates chosen for ELNA concessions at KVKL are July 14th and August 4th, both at 9 pm at Hobbs Park.

All earnings will fund ELNA's continuing neighborhood projects.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the event or to donate items, contact Aaron Paden at aaronpaden@gmail.com or Christine Kosirog at ckosirog@yahoo.com.

Eastside Village Lawrence Update

Eastside Village Lawrence is a developing non-profit organization dedicated to creating a network of supports following the Village model to make aging at home a long-term, affordable option for older adults living east of Massachusetts Street, including North Lawrence.

Progress has been made since the first "Town Hall Meeting" in July 2012. A Steering Committee has been formed. Two AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers have been The website recruited. launched: www.EastsideVillageLawrence.org. Collaboration with various groups, including Douglas County Senior Services; Independence Inc.; AARP Kansas; The Lawrence Douglas County Advocacy Council on Aging; Lawrence Neighborhood Association, and the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging has strengthened the organization. Douglas County Community Foundation (DCCF) agreed to be our fiscal sponsor, allowing Eastside Village to move forward with donation and grant requests. Funds have been received from individuals, Douglas County, and DCCF. Several outreach events are completed or underway, including attendance at the East Lawrence Yart Sale, Lawrence's Earth Day Fair, presence and sale of birdhouses at Cottin's Hardware and the Thursday Farmer's Market, as well as a joint art exhibit with Tenants to Homeowners at the Lawrence Percolator (June 8-June 28).

Eastside Village's first major public fundraiser will be July 18th from 5-7pm at the Union Pacific Depot in North Lawrence; the anniversary of our first community meeting!

If you are interested in volunteering as we continue to develop, please contact Bonnie Uffman (785) 856-0057 or email bonuff@gmail.com. We are looking for individuals with IT, design, fundraising, grant writing and community organizing skills."

Adopt an Item for HCHC

Throughout the year, the Heartland Community Health Center food pantry will provide over 25,000 items for low-income families in Lawrence.

While community members recognize the need for continuous support, we often hear people ask how a local supporter, business, small group or family can make a *real* difference for people. The HCHC Food Pantry "Adopt-an-Item" program is one of those ways, and it works for any budget!

Adopt-an-Item, a new program in HCHC's Food Pantry, is an effort to ensure the most requested, or needed items, are made available to clients of the food pantry on a consistent basis.

The Adopt-an-Item program will provide the choice of healthy items for our patients and clients of the food pantry. This will encourage healthy life habits in addition to new lifestyle changes. Knowing that these items are available, our dedicated volunteers will have the opportunity to spend time with our food pantry clients and respond to any other needs they may be experiencing.

To adopt-an-item or for more details visit www.heartlandhealth.org/adoptanitem or email out-reach@heartlandhealth.org

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Tree . . . continued from page 3

Krsnik, the adjoining landowner, to be absolutely certain? Typically the city is really good at communicating with the affected landowners and neighbors when they are doing infrastructure projects. What was the disconnect here?

-How can we allow ourselves to be designated as a "Tree City" by the Arbor Day Foundation and claim to value all the benefits of our local trees but not get the word to the people who design our street projects?

Though we have these questions, we have learned some things through this tragedy. We have learned that we must study very closely any plans the city or developers bring to the neighborhood -- at every bush and tree! Tony Krsnik has already consulted a lawyer to prevent a subcontractor from cutting down the large, lovely cottonwood tree south of the Poehler Lofts. And, Michael Almon, Brook Creek Neighbor, has volunteered to champion adherence to our current tree ordinance or improvement/rewriting of our city tree ordinance to prevent this in the future. Because of Michele's quick actions the beautiful wood is there for the Hispanic families to take and use. After that we will decide how to honor the tree. Most of all, we have learned

that as we move forward, as the mostly residential part of the new Cultural District, our task is to recognize, mark, and celebrate what places carry our stories, and preserve them.

A local sculptor was moved to write a song after hearing about the cutting of the beloved tree.

Remembering a Tree

Gone, the tree is gone.

There is no man alive who could right this wrong. Some mistakes can't be unmade.

Trust is a precious thing until it breaks.

Gone...the tree is gone.

Gone...the tree is gone.

In her heart, a hundred rings...

In her roots, the hidden angel sings...

Rings worth more than those of gold.

Songs too deep for men to hear or know.

A tree that embodied only good.

The dull blades came and saw only wood.

13. three words the beginnings of the eastside's own arts scene

Gone...the tree is gone.

(Peter Spear, copyright 2013)

East Lawrence Crossword! Test your knowledge of the eastside with this crossword. Across: 1. two words—former resident of 731 New York St. 3. three words—gothic revival style church 4. two words—home to Lawrence's City Band 7. two words-KVKL home turf 11. Lawrence's oldest standing community building Down: 2. three words—bike trail from 11th to 19th two words—traveler's destination at 7th and New York St. three words—Langston Hughes went to 4th grade here two words-eastside umbrella artist three words—home of the oldest social service in Lawrence 10. two words—bicycle Dr. Frankenstein of the eastside 12. two words—our eastside art space

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association PO Box 442393 Lawrence Kansas 66044-2393 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID LAWRENCE, KS PERMIT #542

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. Please note, memberships are per individual, not per household.

ure p	ser marviadar, not per nousenora.		
	Support us. Let us	support you.	
	\$5.00 for out-of-neight	orhood memb	pers
	\$20.00 for in-neighborhood businesses	\$10.00 for in	-neighborhood non-profits
Nam	ne:	Date	:
Add	ress:		
Phor	ne: E-mail:		
c	We print the names of new and returning ELNA check here if it is okay to print your name. I'd like to be part of the East Lawrence Safety No.		
U S E	Please deliver an ELNA T-shirt – my \$12 is encluNI-SEX WONS M L XL XXL S M. Black Burgundy Navy Sage Brown Pink CHILD ONESIES!	MEN I L	Make checks payable to ELNA Send Payment to: ELNA, PO Box 442393 Lawrence, KS 66044
8	3-10 10-12 12-14 14-16 3-6mos 6-12 Kelly Green Kiwi Green Heather Grey	mos 12-18mo	os 18-24mos
	LADIES Tank Top S M L	Bright Blue-	going fast!
□ I	would like to join the ELNA Yahoo group – ple	ease invite me.	
Please add me to the "Thursday ELNA News" (the weekly neighborhood newsletter) email list.			
□ I	do not want to be included in email messages.		

Please remove me from the mailing list. Send to ELNA, Box 442393, Lawrence, KS 66044 *Plus! ELNA's website has a new paypal button, so feel free to donate securely there!*

ELNA Needs Your Help! Please Volunteer!

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

Work Days

_ `	YART Sale
1	Block Party
	Adopt-A-Family
	Art
1	Music
1	Photography
_ (Gardening
_ (Grilling
1	Fund Raising
1	Historic Preservation
\$	Serving on the ELNA Board
_ '	Website Management
1	Baking/ Cooking
(Other: