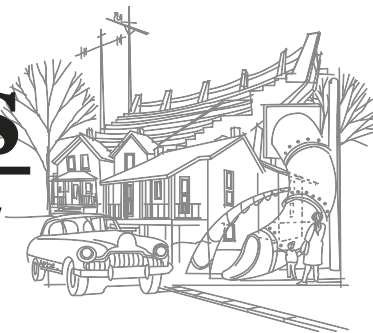


# East Lawrence News

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

www.eastlawrence.com

July 2017



## ELNA General Meeting

**JULY 10TH**

\*moved due to holiday\*

DELAWARE STREET  
COMMONS COMMON HOUSE  
**1222 Delaware St.**

July Agenda: Election of the ELNA Treasurer, to coincide with our fiscal cycle. The Treasurer, must be a member of the Board of Directors, and will be selected by agreement of the Board and attending membership. View an agenda as it's updated on our website at <http://www.eastlawrence.com/meetings/>.

**AUGUST MEETING on the 7th**

## *From The President, July 1, 2017*

Good news, folks! On June 6th the City Commission approved the rezoning initiative for north of 9th street. By the time you read this, the CC will have done the second reading adoption of this. I believe this is a very good thing that will provide security for homeowners for years to come. Here is an excerpt from the letter of support that the ELNA Board adopted unanimously at our June 5 meeting for the CC Meeting the next night:



"This area is a part of the original town site of the City and has pre-dominantly been single-family residences since the founding of Lawrence. There have been numerous similar initiatives to get this area re-zoned to the existing use, always falling short to compromise with other initiatives to make the area into some other use, from truck parking and other industrial uses, to becoming an extension of downtown commercial zoning. It is good for the City to be making the statement "this area is primarily single-family residences and we support that this is what it is into the future."

Change will come to the area, and there is potential for other uses within this area, but by making residential be the norm, there will be opportunity to change with a more concise plan, rather than a willy-nilly unplanned approach. It is not the City's role to look at a neighborhood and say, "gee, we really don't want you doing what you are doing there, we want something else to be there", and then leave that something else undefined. We can have a focused discussion about a new vision for the neighborhood should that vision occur. Until then, supporting this re-zoning will provide stability to the neighborhood for many years to come. We encourage you to support this initiative."

Thanks to Pam Blackburn who spear-headed the initiative, and to Cindy Trask (and Pam) who walked the neighborhood to drum up support and understand the details, and many others who helped to make this initiative happened. This is the culmination of over 70 years of effort to zone this primarily residential area to be just that. Way to go East Lawrence!

## Board Contacts

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## ELNA Contacts

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eastlawrence@yahoo.com... 785-330-3552

## *Home Tour Save the Date*

ELNA is organizing a Tour of Homes event for the fall of 2017, with a tentative date of the weekend of October 21st. Homes to be toured are to be determined, but the tour will feature a mixture of historic and modern homes of East Lawrence. Tickets will be available for purchase. Watch our enews, website, Facebook page, and the September-October paper newsletter for details.

## ***Attack of the Attached Garage — Lawrence Preservation Alliance***

Proposed attached garages in new and rehabbed homes in East Lawrence have been much discussed lately. To offer some insight on the issue of attached garages and preservation, the Lawrence Preservation Alliance has graciously allowed us to reprint the following article from their February 2017 newsletter.

“When examining building proposals for damaging impacts to historic listed properties, and in particular ones proposed within the urban core, the Lawrence Historic Resources Commission (HRC) is charged with filtering out invasive design species that would be foreign to existing historic patterns if allowed. One invasive critter that requires vigilance is the attached garage.

Core neighborhoods served by an alley system developed a predominant pattern of detached service structures, accessed by the alley, with rear yard space between the service structure and the main house. In the beginning, these structures served as tool sheds and small barns. As motorized vehicles became more affordable, a number of these structures underwent various modifications to become detached garages. Over the years, as infill projects were completed one by one, some but not all recognized and respected this pattern, and built new infill houses with detached one or two car garages.

As newer subdivisions were developed around the urban core, and began to coincide with the phenomenon of most families now being able to afford an automobile, the alley system was scrapped as a planning element, and the attached garage, accessed by a driveway along the side of the front yard and connecting to the street, was born. This distinct change in direction for neighborhood layout could not be more obvious! Have a youngster on a bicycle ride through a driveway-based neighborhood and an alley-based one, and he or she will be able to tell you.

As communities have increasingly documented their core neighborhoods and set up protections like those the HRC is tasked with upholding, positive amenities, based primarily on walkability, have been fostered that some who live in vehicle-based neighborhoods see as desirable. As they, one by one, buy vacant infill lots or properties that are demolished by neglect and propose an infill construction that will allow them to come back, it should be HRC’s mission to stand at the border (using the review process), and say, “You can come in with this and this, but not that.” There are always exceptions to every rule, but the attached garage is one design element that should face a very steep threshold of approval in core neighborhoods with historic registered properties.

....Continued on Page 4

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### ***Remembering Barbara Willits***



Barbara Jo Willits, 76, our long time neighbor of Delaware Street and former ELNA president, passed away on April 12th of this year. She left behind children, grandchildren, many friends and honorary family members, and a legacy of East Lawrence love. Here are a few reminiscences from her admirers.

#### ***About Barbara, from Chris Lempa***

Barbara Willits was one of the first people I met when I moved into my home at 1215 Delaware St. Our early conversations revolved around East Lawrence and how it was a special place. She told me that it was a great place to raise a family. The sort of place where neighbors looked out for each other. I have since learned that Barbara was, of course, right. Over the years Barbara became more than a neighbor. She became my friend. My lunchtime walks often consisted of a walk next door and discussing politics, gardening, or local news with Barbara. Courtney, her pup, was never far from her side and insisted that we include her in the conversation. Never a stranger, Barbara and Courtney would take walks on the block admiring the flora of Delaware’s 1200 block. She had her favorite plants on the block. In front of my house it was the mint. A lot of our conversations started because of those mint plants.

Barbara’s love for East Lawrence was contagious. You couldn’t help but feel proud of the neighborhood after hearing her tell stories about people or events. I’ll miss you Barbara. East Lawrence will miss you.





Willits family, from Kim

*About Barbara, from her daughter, Kim*

Mom and Dad lived in two houses in East Lawrence—first at 1136 Pennsylvania, then 1205 Delaware. She loved her yard including trees, flowers, birds and other wildlife. She was very happy to have Ginkgo trees in her yard as they are rare to find in Lawrence.



Photo Credit: Heather Smith Jones



Photo Credit: Carrie James

*About Barbara, from Carrie James*

Mrs. Willits was our neighbor for over 15 years. She liked me and my husband Ben, but she LOVED our daughter Josephine. For the past couple of years, Mrs. Willits helped us out a few times a month by watching Josie early in the morning. The two of them had a very special relationship. Mrs. Willits was a gentle, generous, loving soul, and we miss her very much. The neighborhood and our lives are not the same without her.



Photo Credit: Carrie James

*About Barbara from Mark Kaplan — June 20th, 2017, Mark Kaplan, 1029 Delaware*

“I got possession of my decaying old house on Delaware in East Lawrence, exactly forty years ago today. Over the course of these four decades, its become my Buddha, and cherished home. But if not for one Barbara Willits, who passed away on April 1<sup>st</sup> – this lifetime prize would never have materialized. An ill-conceived roadway devised by city hall, to polish off our district, for which she was front-and-center in halting, was to destroy it.

In the early '70s, Barbara became Secretary for the old East Lawrence Improvement Association (ELIA), set up by city hall, with 9<sup>th</sup> Street businessmen who lived elsewhere serving as its façade. Created to meet federal requirements for expenditure of Community Development funds for the 'Haskell Loop,' the group initially backed a roadway designed to funnel traffic from southern Kansas City, thru a ravaged neighborhood, destroying or isolating more than 50 residences, and threatening dozens of others with near-term demise. The 2-laner was to become a major truck route, which would inundate the historic enclave of Old East Lawrence, with volumes of traffic. The people who lived there, like Barbara, were irrelevant.

But Barbara knew that the meetings being staged by the city's proxies, of which she was thought to be one, was bullshit. Dog-and-pony shows run by crisp young dudes with white shirts and ties pushed the project. Sometimes the city manager stood at the back of the 'hall,' which was in the decrepit former sanitation barn, where the MB House is now, at 10<sup>th</sup> and Delaware. They were setting up our residents to dig their own graves, with their ancient vernacular dwellings tossed therein.

Barbara, a working-class woman of 35, with support from husband Jack, stood up for our neighborhood, in a most profound manner. I met her at a city-run ELIA meeting, then again at her door, with the petition I and others had created, in order to show the city that almost everyone but a few business owners expecting to profit from the taxpayer largesse were against the roadway, and understood that it was bad news for the 'hood.

City hall publicly ridiculed us, and Barbara, who spoke up frequently about how the neighborhood was being sold a bill of goods. The neighborhood's Mexican American community was being devastated by the proposed roadway's path, and forcibly removed from their homes along Pennsylvania Street. Barbara spoke up loud and clear, becoming the leader of our cross-section of neighborhood denizens salivating for a public confrontation with Lawrence's city manager, commissioners and real estate interests, over their attempt to shovel us all into those aforementioned graves.

In November, 1976, with friend and neighbor Carl Mibeck on the city commission – Barbara stood for president of the ELIA, against an E. 9<sup>th</sup> business owner, on a platform of demanding a halt to further planning and seizure of property for the Loop. She won the election that night, as the losers attempted to regroup in back, where garbage trucks had been staged for repairs, before being chased out the back door by the crowd, wise to their efforts to stuff the ballot box.

I spent countless hours with Barbara at her kitchen table in those years, in the family's patio-doored kitchen,

...continued on page 6

## ***School News***

### ***School Starts***

School starts for USD 497 students mid-August! Classes begin for grades 1-5 as a regular early dismissal day on Wednesday August 16th. At New York Elementary, that means school begins at 8:00 am and ends at 1:35. 6th and 9th grade students will also attend on Wednesday the 16th, but only in the morning, dismissing at 11:15 am. Kindergarten classes will alternate on Thursday August 17th and Friday August 18th. All grades but Kindergarten will attend a regular schedule on Thursday August 17th and Friday August 18th.

With questions, you can contact the office of each school: New York Elementary 785-832-5780, and Liberty Memorial Central Middle School 785-832-5400. Or, with more general questions, you may call the District Welcome Center 785-330-1921.

### ***Register for FREE School Supplies***

Families who meet qualifications for the free and reduced-price school lunch program are eligible for FREE school supplies! Register this summer at any of these three locations.

Required documentation includes identification showing proof of residency in Douglas County and proof of income, which may be a pay stub, letter from an employer or an award letter if receiving assistance from Social Security.

To register, drop in to these locations, on the listed date and time, to register. Pick up of supplies happens in early August.

**ECKAN**, 2518 Ridge Court, Room 104, June 26-July 28, Mon-Fri, 8:00-noon; 1:00-4:00; Lillie Okwuone at [lokwuone@eckan.org](mailto:lokwuone@eckan.org), 785-841-3357 or 785-423-4142.

**Penn House**, 1035 Pennsylvania Street, July 10-14; July 17-21; July 24-28; 9:00-noon; 1:00-4:00, Wayne Briggs at [wayne@ballardcenter.org](mailto:wayne@ballardcenter.org); 785-842-0440.

**The Salvation Army**, 946 New Hampshire, July 10, 11, 13,14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28; 1:00-4:00 pm, Jim Evers at [jim\\_evers@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:jim_evers@usc.salvationarmy.org), 785-764-0962.

*Attack of the Attached Garage... continued from page 2*

Aside from bringing in an architectural form that is foreign to predominant design patterns in these documented historic areas, the attached garage does create actual damage in at least two distinct ways. Transferring the form from a driveway accessed system to an alley system means the structure, attached to the house and abutting the alley, thereby eliminates the rear yard, a character-defining feature that is a repeated and common pattern in most older neighborhoods. Second, the historic building pattern of a residence with a detached service building breaks the built massing on the property into two separate components. The likelihood of an attached garage proposal exceeding the upper limits of massing found in existing structures in an older neighborhood is great.

Attached garages in older neighborhoods are going to occur, as not all properties in those neighborhoods are listed on historic registers and thus subject to review. It is also possible that some designs using the attached garage concept but with less of a suburban feel could come forward that would provide a rear yard and visually break up the structure's mass. Those charged with evaluating building proposals that trigger historic review should recognize each opportunity to protect the historic planning patterns of neighborhoods we are making an effort to preserve. If they do not, then little by little, one decision at a time, that invasive species becomes established, and that youngster on the bike begins to assume it was always there."

-- LPA, February 2017, <http://lawrencepreservation.org/news/2017/2/23/attack-of-the-attached-garage>

## ***LFK Lunch Santas***

LFK Lunch Santas started at the end of 2016 as community members were inspired by anonymous good deeds of fellow citizens and we are committed to grassroots efforts to keep this going. Combined with inspired individual donors, we have paid off nearly \$5700 in local lunch debt. We are always accepting new donations, especially for the upcoming end-of-year push. Donations can currently be made through PayPal to [lfklunchsantas@gmail.com](mailto:lfklunchsantas@gmail.com), or locally at the Meritrust CU on 23rd & Harper (just tell them "LFK Lunch Santas"). These are for general fund donations only. If you would like to help pay off a specific school, please stop by and speak with the school's administrator to have a targeted effect. Please follow us on Facebook for updates and changes: <https://www.facebook.com/LFKLunchSantas/>  
Thank you, Lawrence!!

## Upcoming Local Elections

ELNA does not endorse any candidate for election, but encourages East Lawrence citizens to engage civically, and exercise their right to vote. As of this Spring 2017, local City and School elections are no longer held in the spring, and instead have been moved to the Fall, concurrent with general elections. New deadlines and voting dates now apply.

According to the Douglas County Clerk website, here are some dates and details you may like to be aware of:

**July 11th** - Registration books close. You must be registered to vote by this date in order to vote in the Primary in August.

**July 12th** - Advance Voting in person begins at the Douglas County Courthouse. This is subject to change.

**July 31st** - Advance Voting closes at noon.

**August 1st** - Primary Election.

**October 17th** - Registration books close. You must be registered to vote by this date in order to vote in the November General Election.

**October 18th** - Advance Voting by mail begins.

**October 18th** - Advance Voting in person begins at the Douglas County Courthouse

**November 6th** - Advance Voting closes at noon

**November 7th** - General Election

You can find a list of candidates who have filed for election, plus read about how to register to vote (you can even do so online in some circumstances), how to advance vote, your polling place, and various voting resources for citizens of Douglas County on the County Clerk's website: <https://www.douglascountyks.org/depts/voting-and-elections>.



- ELNA Board Member
- PhD in Communication
- Taught at KU and Haskell Indian Nations University
- East Lawrence resident since 2005

## VOTE AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> FOR A LEADER WITH A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Visit [andersonforlawrence.com](http://andersonforlawrence.com) for more information

*Paid for by Anderson for Lawrence - Kyle Billings, Treasurer*



**Tom Harper**

CRS, ABR, GRI,  
e-PRO, REALTOR

785-218-6351

*Appreciating  
Older Homes*

visit my website  
**Tom-Harper.com**



As a Lawrence resident for 17 years, this is my home, and my community neighbors, my family. It is with gratitude and servant leadership that I lead or have lead on several boards, including The Merc Co+op, and that I will continue to lead on the Lawrence City Commission.

I am committed to maintaining that which makes us "uniquely Lawrence," and that includes the spirit of our neighborhoods, a focus on the arts, and a passion for ensuring positive change in our world. I want to work with residents to create the best future possible for our city, and I hope you will support me in my campaign for Lawrence City Commission.

**JENNIFER  
ANANDA**  
LAWRENCE  
CITY COMMISSION  
LEADERSHIP ★ VISION



Paid for by Jennifer Ananda for Lawrence City Commission  
Beth Peterson Roselyn, Treasurer

Contribute or volunteer at [www.jenniferananda.com](http://www.jenniferananda.com)

in a house nestled in a double lot, with an antique iron remnant of a fence, bestowed with local fame for its caricature in an 1898 'Souvenir History' picture book. We schemed out strategies for defeating our neighborhood enemies – and the racist goons at city hall. She always served me food and drink, and we laughed at the insanity of it all. She told me everything she knew about the wonderful people who had lived in East Lawrence since the end of the First World War, many of whom were still situated along our streets and alleyways. Her children were in and out, as was Jack. I always wondered if he was jealous of me, a bearded 24-year-old young man with a pony tail, who lived over on New York Street, with a bone to pick about everything.

Folks like Barbara don't come from a mold. I know she was, besides my friend and compatriot all those years ago, a daughter and grand-daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, and wife. I had far too little contact with her in the years beyond our struggle with the roadway, especially after I moved away in the early '80s, to try and make a living. Just these last couple of years, I realized that it was time to formally 'interview' her, journalistically, to try and reconstruct what had transpired, for the benefit of current neighborhood residents. Perhaps she might spark a rebellion against the rapacious, publicly-funded 'Alcohol Corridor' proposed for East 9th, designed to exploit and appropriate what so many of us had struggled to protect this past half-century.

Unfortunately – I've allowed that opportunity, like others – to slip away. But not withstanding, without Barbara, and her courage, integrity, and commitment to our wonderful district – we wouldn't have an extant neighborhood today -- and I wouldn't have the best life-time home that a man could ever hope to own. We all owe so much to Barbara and her family, the full story yet to be told.

### ***Thanks From Intersection Repair***

THANK YOU to everyone who came out to help paint the new E 14th Street intersection mural just east of the Burroughs Creek Rail Trail on June 3rd! We had an incredible day. Thanks also to ELNA, Brook Creek and our many other community partners who donated/ supported/ attended. We are so grateful for the neighborhood's support over the past few years and we couldn't have done it without y'all. If you haven't seen the new mural yet- check it out- the fish and lily pads are lots of fun!

Intersection Repair Crew



### ***ELNA Grilling at KVKL GOTW***

ELNA will be vending concessions at Kaw Valley Kickball League's Game of the Week at Hobbs Park some Sundays this summer as a fundraiser. We usually sell standards such as burgers and hotdogs, with vegetarian options. We'd love your help with grilling, serving, or cleaning up. If you'd like to bake something and donate it to us to sell, that'd be grand as well. We set up around 8 and clean up by 11pm. If you'd like to help, please contact Aaron [aaron-paden@gmail.com](mailto:aaron-paden@gmail.com). Remaining concessions dates are: July 9th and July 30th.

**Lisa Larsen for  
Lawrence City Commission  
Professional and Experienced**

- ✓ *Current Lawrence City Commissioner*
- ✓ *Former Small Business Owner (22 yrs)*
- ✓ *Kansas Supreme Court Certified Mediator*
- ✓ *Licensed Professional Geologist*

**[www.larsencitycommission.com](http://www.larsencitycommission.com)**

☑ *I ask for your support and your vote!*

## KH and Irene Tie-Dye Sale

July 29th, 8am –4pm  
916 Rhode Island

*t-shirts, scarves, tank tops, onesies, wallhangings*

## **Hobbs House Gatherings**

Join us for an evening of Eastside stories, art, music and other chit-chat at the historic Murphy-Bromelsick House in Hobbs Park. Folks who would like to share an Eastside inspired story, song, artwork or other doo-dad can contact Dave Loewenstein to make arrangements.

### **NEW AND RETURNING ELNA MEMBERS**

<i>March 2017</i>	Zoë Wohlford
Kait McNeely	Stacey Wohlford
KC McNeely	Reece Wohlford
Tony D. Holladay	<i>June 2017</i>
Jan Schaake	Emily Ryan
Lacy Myers	Holly Myers
Bobby Sauders	Sheryl Sanders
Dagon & Eira	Christy Brandt
Matt Fahrenbruch	Heather Coates
Melissa Fahrenbruch	Scott Watson

### **ELNA Merch**

KT Walsh is our new Merchship Captain, bravely selling the ELNA wares. We've got tshirts, hoodies, coozies, and stickers. Baby onesies too. You can find KT at various ELNA events, including the Hobbs House gatherings and the block party in the fall. But if you need an ELNA tshirt Stat! Immediately! Without delay! You can leave a note for KT on her porch at 732 Rhode Island, or email the coordinator at [eastlawrence@yahoo.com](mailto:eastlawrence@yahoo.com)



## **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.

*Support us. Let us support you.*

\$1.00 for in-neighborhood individuals	\$5.00 for out-of-neighborhood individuals
\$10.00 for in-neighborhood non-profit entities	\$20.00 for in-neighborhood businesses
\$100.00 lifetime individual membership	

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- We print the names of new and returning members in the bimonthly paper newsletter. Check here if it's OK to print your name.
- We're working on creating a block-by-block calling/check-in network of neighbors to contact in the event of an emergency. It's a work in progress. Check here if you'd like to be contacted about being a BlockHead—a contact person for your block in the event of emergency or issue.
- Check here if you'd like to be added to our "Thursday ELNA News" weekly e-newsletter email list.

Send this form and your check payable to ELNA to:

ELNA, PO Box 442393 Lawrence KS 66044

**Plus! Visit ELNA's website for information on \*new\* tshirts and merchandise!**

**Click the paypal button to donate securely there!**

## **ELNA Needs Your Help! Please Volunteer!**

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

- Work Days
- YART (Yard/Art) Sale
- Block Party
- Adopt-A-Family
- Art
- Music
- Photography
- Gardening
- Grilling
- Fund Raising
- Historic Preservation
- Serving on the ELNA Board
- Website/Technical Management
- Baking/Cooking
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association  
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