

East Lawrence News

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

September 2011



ELNA General Meeting

Tues., Sept. 6
7-9 p.m.

New York School
Library

Agenda includes:

- 9th & NH Development
- Block Party
- Work Day
- New Coordinator

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ELNA Contacts

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www.eastlawrence.org

Change in ELNA Meeting Day and Place

What would normally be our ELNA meeting day - the first Monday in September - is the Labor Day holiday. So in September, ELNA's meeting will be on **Tuesday**, Sept. 6, 7-9pm. We will be back at New York School, in the library.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Annual Block Party Returns

On Saturday, October 1st, from 5-9pm, at Hobbs Park, ELNA will throw its annual block party. Come and join the fun! We will have all our favorite things - food, entertainment, games and lots of great neighbor-mingling!

The block party can't happen without volunteers. Please read the list of events, and see what kind of help we need. Contact eastlawrence@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Food! ELNA will supply the drinks and grilled fare. *We ask that all neighbors bring a side dish or dessert to share. Volunteer to take a turn at the grill. Volunteer to be on trash duty.*

Best Side Dish! Back by popular demand - the 2nd annual Best Side Dish competition. We want you to bring out your best for the block party. There will be a contest for the best side dishes - see the article inside this newsletter. *Bring a scrumptious side dish or dessert! Volunteer to be a judge!*

Cake Walk! The cakewalk, a neighborhood favorite, will be back! *We need you to donate a cake!*

Prizes! We always have great door prizes - we need donations to make this happen. *Donate your art! Go out in to the community and ask for donations!* Contact eastlawrence@yahoo.com if you have an item for the prizes.

Music! East Lawrence always brings out its best musicians on this night. If you would like to play at the party, contact Aaron Paden, aaronpaden@mac.com, or Phil Collison, phil@collison.com to sign up. *Come, listen and enjoy!*

Bike Repair! Get your bike fixed by our friendly neighborhood bike mechanics! *It's the perfect time to start your bicycle commute!*

ELNA T-shirts! We will have shirts in several shades and kid's sizes! *That must-have item for your fall wardrobe.*

Set-Up & Take-Down! We know it's not glamorous, but it's VERY needed. *Be an ELNA hero, volunteer to set-up or take down!*

Trash Duty! Again, not glamorous, but NEEDED! *Volunteer to be on trash duty!*

From the President



How both exciting and terrifying to be the new President of ELNA! Many thanks to Deron who has set the bar very high as President for the past two years, but had to step down a few months early to become a Planning Commissioner and new daddy!

A short bio of me: I've lived in the neighborhood for 8 years now and have been a board member for around 6 years. I own a pet sitting company that I run from a home office. I love our little neighborhood and can't imagine living anywhere else!

Tasks to be completed during my short term as fill-in President are #1 – to hire a new ELNA coordinator, #2 -- to wrap up any loose ends related to the long-running historic preservation project, and #3 -- November ELNA elections when we will be voting in a new President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Board Members. We'd love to have you if you're interested!

Our next ELNA meetings are September 6th and November 7th, both at 7pm at New York Elementary School. And last but not least, our annual neighborhood block party is October 1st at Hobbs Park. Hope to see you there!

Leslie Soden

ELNA is on Facebook!

Join us! We are at www.facebook.com/eastlawrence

Do you get the Thursday ELNA News?

Each Thursday, ELNA sends out an e-newsletter via email. In it, you'll find the latest in weekly neighborhood events and up-to-date ways to get involved in ELNA projects. To receive the Thursday ELNA News, email eastlawrence@yahoo.com and

Calendar for September & October

September

- 4th - **Train Depot Clean-up, 3-4:30pm**, BNSF Depot, 7th & NY Streets
- 5th – **Labor Day – No School**
- 6th – **ELNA Meeting, 7-9pm**, New York School Library
- 10th - **Lawrence Conservation Energy Fair, 10am-4pm**, Community Bldg @ 115 W 11th St.
- 11th – **Fall Arts & Crafts Festival**, South Park
- 25th – **Festival of Cultures, 12-5pm**, South Park

October

- 1st – **ELNA Block Party, 5-9pm**, Hobbs Park
- 2nd – **Train Depot Clean-up, 3-4:30pm**, BNSF Depot, 7th & NY Streets
- 3rd – **ELNA Board Meeting, 7-9pm**, New York School
- 6th, 7th, 8th – **Fall Woodchip Sale, 8am – 3pm**, 1420 E 11th St.
- 9th - **Dogtoberfest, 11am-4pm**, South Park
- 14th – **NO SCHOOL** – New York & Central
- 15th – **ELNA Workday, 9am**, place TBA
- 15th – **Electronic Recycling Event, 9am-1pm** – Free State HS Parking Lot
- 20th, 21st, 22nd – **Fall Compost Sale, 8am – 3pm** - 1420 E 11th St

Best Side Dish Contest at the Block Party!

We have so many great cooks in the neighborhood that ELNA decided to have an “ELNA Cook Off” as part of the block party this year. Bring out your best dish! Join in the fun! There will be prizes! Your dish must be there by 6:30pm to be entered into the contest.

Here are the categories:

- *Best salad*
- *Most creative*
- *Best use of fresh veggies/fruits*
- *Best dessert*

Are you interested in being a judge for this event?

Contact eastlawrence@yahoo.com to volunteer.

ELNA Grant Awarded to Social Service League

ELNA raised approximately \$1700 at March's Yart Sale this year. The ELNA Board decided to award a percentage of these earnings to neighborhood groups in the form of a one time grant. At the July board meeting, board members voted to award the Social Service League (905 Rhode Island) a \$400 grant that will help them create an office space.

The Social Service League (SSL) is the oldest service organization in Lawrence. It has been providing cost-effective assistance to the financially challenged of Lawrence and Douglas County Kansas since 1863. Money raised through thrift store sales goes directly back into the community through Social Service League programs. They provide eye exams and glasses for children and adults, shoes for school children, and clothing and bedding for individuals in need. You can visit the store Wednesday through Friday, 9-4 or Saturday, 9-2.

The SSL has never had an official office. This past summer, some of the League's board members got together and renovated part of the attic into an office. They are using the grant to purchase a computer. Until now all of their files have been passed between board members, without a centralized database. Having a computer at the store will help them keep all their information organized, better operate and expand their programs, and connect with other organizations in the community.

In addition, the SSL now has an AmeriCorps volunteer, who needs a workspace. An office will allow the volunteer to keep track of the number of people they serve, track needs they are meeting, and what needs still need to be met. Being connected to the internet will also allow them to sell vintage clothes and antiques on EBay, to generate additional revenue.

ELNA was glad to assist in this expansion of the Social Service League and its services in our neighborhood!

ELNA Planning Fall Work Day - Saturday, October 15

Following the huge success of our spring workday cleaning brick sidewalks, ELNA decided that we should continue cleaning our sidewalks for our fall workday. The details are still being worked out, but please keep the morning of October 15 open to join ELNA in this endeavor. Mike Myers is again searching out sidewalks in need to some TLC, and we will again need plenty of volunteers. Workdays are more fun with volunteers.

The workday will begin at 9am with bagels and coffee, and then get underway. There will be information and a sign up sheet at the ELNA block party, and you will also find details, closer to the date, advertised in the Thursday ELNA News. If you do not yet receive the Thursday ELNA News but would like to, email eastlawrence@yahoo.com.

The rain date for this event is October 22.



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New York School Walking School Bus

The New York School Walking School Bus (WSB) will launch for the 2011 fall semester on September 12th. A Walking School Bus is a group of students, with adult supervision, walking along a set route between their homes and school. It's a fun, healthy and simple alternative to motorized transportation. The New York Elementary WSB calls on parents and community members to be volunteer "drivers" and supervise children on the walk home. Walking with the bus offers health and social benefits to children, parents and volunteers alike.

FOR PARENTS

How do I register my child for the WSB? Contact the front office at New York School and ask for a Walking School Bus parental consent form. Return the form to the school after it is completed and signed. Your child will then be added to the bus roster.

Do I have to walk with my child? No, you do not have to walk with your child for the WSB. However, you are encouraged to accompany your child as often as you'd like, or to volunteer as a "driver" for the WSB.

Where will my child be dropped off? The WSB will make stops at each of the points marked on the route map. You should arrange to meet your child at one of the designated stops, or instruct him/her to walk home from the nearest stop.

What is the weather policy for the WSB? In case of inclement weather, the Walking School Bus will be cancelled by 12 p.m. and parents will be notified that alternate arrangements should be made to pick up their children. Guidelines for cancellation will be the same as the New York Elementary School recess policy.

FOR VOLUNTEERS

Who can volunteer? Parents, teachers, community members—any adult who cares about the health and safety of children in his/her community. To ensure everyone's safety, volunteers must submit an application and agree to **undergo a background check** prior to starting.

What is expected of a volunteer? Volunteers are asked to supervise a group of children as they walk a set bus route home from school. At least three volunteers should be present for each walk. Volunteers must be aware of pedestrian safety, communicate safety precautions to children, and take necessary action in case of inclement weather or child injury.

What is a volunteer's time commitment? Individuals/organizations are asked to commit to volunteering at least once a week for one semester or one academic year, depending on availability. Typically, it will take a total of two hours to prepare for and walk the bus route each week.

How do I start volunteering? Ask for a Walking School Bus volunteer application at the front office of New York Elementary, or contact Chris Lempa at (785) 331-4418 or clempa@ldcha.org for more information. You may drop off or mail your application to the Huppee Community Facility, 1600 Haskell Ave. #150. Once you have been contacted to start volunteering, you may arrange a time to do an initial walk of the bus route with current volunteers.

Are You a Member of ELNA? Sign Up at the Block Party

The Block Party on October 1st will have an ELNA table, where you can sign up to be an ELNA member – come and renew your membership or sign up for the first time! It's easy to do, and membership for East Lawrence residents is only \$1/year. If you live out of ELNA boundaries, the membership cost is \$5/year. And if you are a business, we sell memberships for \$10/year. We currently have 223 members.

The following are our most current new/returning members:

Erica Zabusky
Mitch Stockton
Madelaine Beltina
Lane Eisenbart
Mike Lindeman
Robert Baker

Lawrence Preservation Alliance

by Pat Kehde, LPA Secretary

Some of you already know about the Lawrence Preservation Alliance (LPA), but for those who don't here is a brief introduction. LPA is a local organization of volunteers who are interested in local history, and the buildings and spaces that reflect that history. We try to help preserve the unique houses, public spaces, commercial buildings and green spaces that tell the stories of our heritage.

Because East Lawrence is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Lawrence with a wonderful number of historic houses and public buildings, LPA has a close relationship with ELNA. In the past few years some of LPA projects included helping with the restoration of St. Luke AME Church, rehabbing the bungalow at 1120 Rhode Island, writing the nomination for the Santa Fe Depot for the National Historic Register, mounting an exhibit of photos and documents about the La Yarda site, and most recently Dennis Domer, Brenna Buchanan, Dave Evans, and Richard Kershenbaum have "surveyed" about 50 houses in East Lawrence, investigating them physically and in archives, meeting with ELNA to work for local nominations for these properties. The salient difference between this work and the usual architectural survey, is that those four went into many houses, photographed the interiors, talked with the owners, evaluated the house's evolution and placed them in the context of other houses.

If you are interested in the work that the LPA does, we always welcome new members and volunteers. There is strength in numbers and we encourage you to talk with your neighbors about helping keep East Lawrence the treasured neighborhood revealing so much of Lawrence's history. For more information or to become a member, check out our website at lawrencepreservation.org/join.

ELNA Requests Neighbor Input on Historic Preservation

Dear Neighbors,

Dr. Dennis Domer and a group of dedicated neighbors, preservationists and historians have completed a multi-year architectural survey in East Lawrence. This survey identifies a unique architectural style of vernacular housing uniquely located within our neighborhood.

ELNA has recently conducted two separate informational meetings regarding this survey. The goal of these meetings was to discuss the process of listing properties on the Lawrence Register of Historic Places and to address any concerns neighbors may have regarding a potential listing. ELNA sent letters inviting to all property owners identified on the survey and all property owners within the "environs" of a property on this survey to attend these meetings. The City of Lawrence defines "environs" as those properties within 250 feet of a listed property.

As we are still in the input gathering stage, we would love to hear thoughts from the entire neighborhood about this project. Please send your comments, concerns, and/or questions to Deron Belt - gradually@hotmail.com. Thank you!

New York Elementary PTO Needs Your Help

The New York School Parent Teacher Organization could really use some new faces this year! Some fun things we do for our kids, teachers, and community include the Back to School Watermelon Feed, the Annual MLK Chili Feed, the Spring Book Fair, and the PTO Plant and Bake Sale at the ELNA Yart Sale. We also bring dinner and treats for our teachers during the parent teacher conferences, create a yearbook, and spruce up the school grounds in the spring and fall, just to name a few.

Want to help? We won't ask you to sell anything, and meetings aren't mandatory! Just email Lane Eisenbart at leisenbart@yahoo.com and she'll send you an e-vite to our PTO-Site Council Yahoo group, where you can hear all about what we're up to, and maybe volunteer. Let's make a great year at NYE! 5

Upcoming ELNA Elections – Have You Considered Serving On the ELNA Board?

The ELNA Annual Meeting is coming up in November. This is the meeting where ELNA elects its new board members and officers. An ELNA Board member serves a one year, renewable, term. There are 14 slots (four officers and up to ten board members) available.

Have you ever considered becoming a board member? If so, the first thing to do is to make certain that you are a current member of ELNA. Contact eastlawrence@yahoo.com, to see if your membership is up to date. Then you should attend the September ELNA meeting on Tuesday, September 6 @ 7pm in the NY School Library. At this meeting, existing board members and officers can answer any questions you might have about the ins and outs of serving on the board. Finally, you should come to the Annual Meeting in November and volunteer your services to the ELNA board.

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ECM University-Community Forum

Open to the public - Fall 2011 Schedule * Wednesdays 12:00 - 1:00pm *

Optional lunch 11:30am -12

Aug. 24	"Taking the Kansas Pulse at 150 years" Thomas Fox Averill, writer-in-residence at Washburn University and commentator for KANU.
Aug. 31	"Milestones of Tribal Involvement in the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial" Chris Howell, Chief Operating Officer at Kansas Arts Commission.
Sept. 7	"A Search for a Home for the Homeless Center" Loring Henderson, Director of Lawrence Homeless Shelter.
Sept. 14	"On the 1966 Meredith March with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." The Rev. Joe Alford, retired Episcopal Campus Chaplain and founder of the Jubilee Café.
Sept. 21	"Kansas Legislature: Current Legislative Assessment" Tom Sloan, Kansas State House Representative.
Sept. 28	"Protecting Land into Perpetuity" Jerry Jost, Interim Director of Kansas Land Trust.
Oct. 5	"Unforgettable, Strange and Wonderful Facts About the Banana" Charles Lee Stansifer, Professor Emeritus of History.

www.ecmku.org * ECM 1204 Oread Ave * ecmku@ku.edu, 785-843-4933

ELNA's metal recycling account at the 12th and Haskell Recycle-Bargain Center at 1146 Haskell turns your junk into \$\$\$ for ELNA. You can take ANYTHING metal to the south side of the building and the staff will help you unload. Take your ticket to the front and tell them to donate the \$\$\$ to the ELNA account. This is another fundraiser to help meet our budget for the year.

ELNA T-shirts are for sale for \$12.00 We have shirts in light blue, burgundy, black, navy, royal blue, and brown. And we have children's sizes in green. Get yours today! There is an order form on the back page of this newsletter. Or, contact Heather at eastlawrence@yahoo.com.

Cans for the Community recycles aluminum cans and donates proceeds to local non-profit orgs. Recycle your cans in the Trinity Lutheran parking lot on 13th St. Look for the miniature blue house.

Thank You to Black & Veatch

ELNA had a huge turnout for our work day last year when we cleaned the creek bed along the new Burroughs Creek Trail. When we arrived, we were not the only group out there. There was a large group of people painting the building on 15th street, and planting trees along the trail. This group was from Black & Veatch.

Black & Veatch subcontracts to Westar and has been doing a lot of work in Lawrence. Wherever they work, they volunteer and donate. Since that work day, they have donated \$25,000 for playground equipment along the trail! The equipment is there, and East Lawrence wants to send a huge THANK YOU to Black & Veatch for their time and their donations. East Lawrence loves its new trail, and they have made it even better.

And look for new benches and a new swing set to appear along the trail in the near future. Lawrence Parks and Recreation is planning on purchasing and installing these items soon. Thank you to Parks and Rec as well!

Help Your Neighborhood Schools:

Liberty Memorial Central & New York Schools

Recycling: Both schools have dumpsters that take all types of recyclables, except glass and plastic bags. Help our local schools raise funds—they get \$25/ton for your donations.

Box Tops for Education: Both schools collect Box Tops for Education. These are available on several popular grocery items. Please clip and save when you see them. You can turn box tops in at the front office of either school.

HyVee Receipts (for Central): Please save HyVee receipts and send them into the middle school office. More receipts yield a bigger cash reward for field trips, and for the 9th Grade Fun Day!

Checkers Receipts & Campbells Soup Labels (for New York): Save all your receipts from shopping at Checkers and labels from your Campbells Soup cans and turn them into the office at New York School.

Platform Construction Recommences

by Richard Kershenbaum

edited by Carey Maynard-Moody

After a four-month hiatus, construction company crews resumed work on the reconstruction of the depot platform August 8. Work was halted in April after Depot Redux members informed the Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer that the original plans did not meet historic preservation standards. Incorporating design changes proposed by local preservation architect Stan Hernly, Amtrak engineers reworked the project plans, and the SHPO determined that the revised designs have no significant adverse impact on the historical or architectural integrity of the 1955 Mid-Century Modern depot.

The new plans include a step down to the new, lower platform surface necessary to accommodate an electric wheelchair lift. The platform surface will be replaced with new concrete. The tubular canopy posts, with new footings, will be restored to their original appearance.

New European-design pole lights that harmonize with the building's modern design will be installed bathing the platform in soft, reflected light. An automated system with manual over-ride will turn the lights on at train times and off when not needed.

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
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Membership is \$1.00 per person
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(\$10.00 for a business)

Please deliver an ELNA T-shirt, \$12 ea: size _____ color _____
____ Uni-sex (burgundy, black, navy, royal blue, brown)
____ Women's cut (light blue, burgundy)
____ Children's (green)
____ I would like to join the ELNA yahoo group – please invite me
____ Please send me email notice of ELNA Business and Events
____ I do NOT want my name listed in the newsletter at a new/returning member

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

Mark what ELNA events/skills you
have that you would like to be con-
tacted about to volunteer:

- Work Days
- YART Sale Volunteer
- Block Party Volunteer
- Adopt-A-Family at Christmas
- Artist
- Play Music
- Photography
- Gardening
- Running a Grill
- Fund Raising
- Historic Preservation
- Serving on ELNA Board
- Website Management
- Baking/Cooking
- Advertising Skills
- Other: _____