

East Lawrence News

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

www.eastlawrence.com

January 2022



ELNA

General Meeting

January 10th 8 - 9:30 pm

Note new time – Just this month!

Online via Zoom

Agenda

always available at <http://www.eastlawrence.com/meetings>

Email Phil at phil@pcollison.com

for zoom link info

Board Contacts

Barry Shalinsky, President,
elnaprez@yahoo.com

KT Walsh, Vice Pres, HRC rep
kathleenbridgetwalsh052@gmail.com

Pam Blackburn, Secretary
pamblackburn55@gmail.com

Aaron Paden, Treasurer,
aaronpaden@gmail.com

Phil Collison, phil@pcollison.com
785-843-8098

Dave Loewenstein,
dloewenstein@hotmail.com

Joshua Davis (NY St),
jd12345@gmail.com

Sacie Lambertson
sacie.lambertson@gmail.com

Brenda Nunez,
brendajnunez@hotmail.com

Julianna Patterson,
pattajul000@gmail.com

Krista Gentry,
leekris@hotmail.com

Kate Lowder,
reallowd@gmail.com

ELNA Contacts

Lane Eisenbart, Coordinator
eastlawrence@yahoo.com

www.eastlawrence.com



From the President

Barry Shalinsky

“Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty” according to a lofty maxim from the 1800’s. For us in East Lawrence, a more apt statement might be “Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Survival”. For our neighborhood, born, burned and rebuilt in the era of Bleeding Kansas, survival has always been a struggle, and vigilant resilience has been baked into our neighborhood DNA.

New York School has been an essential part of the fabric of East Lawrence, since its founding over 150 years ago, in 1869. As one of the oldest continually operating public schools in Kansas, it is widely recognized as an excellent Title 1 school, highly responsive to the individual needs of its students. There have been recent reports that USD 497 is looking at closing New York School as our neighborhood school due to budget shortfalls. It is a tired old story – “fiscally responsible budgets” are often balanced on the backs of low- and moderate-income communities such as ours. ELNA will vigorously oppose any proposal(s) to close our neighborhood school(s)!

From the earliest days, long before there was an East Lawrence Neighborhood Association, this neighborhood faced challenges related to our geographical location in a low-lying part of the city, the historical diversity of our population and our working-class roots. Since the advent of a neighborhood association in the 1970’s, this neighborhood has had to be vigilant against: City Hall’s attempt to destroy the Municipal Stadium and dozens of homes to build a Haskell Loop highway, and to redirect the Myra Hobbs bequest away from our neighborhood park in the 1970’s; rusty water lines in the 1980’s; proposals to expand downtown parking into the Rhode Island Street historic areas in the 80’s and 90’s; decades of code enforcement being used as a political tool to stifle the voices of activists; decades of demolitions and threatened demolitions of historic buildings; truck traffic on neighborhood streets; and repeated threats to close New York School.

For nearly 50 years, the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association has been the ever-vigilant watchdog and advocacy organization that has given voice to the residents of our neighborhood. To give better focus to our vigilant advocacy efforts, ELNA is creating a committee structure. The new committees are: Executive Committee (officers); Built Environment (zoning, land use, planning, historic resources, infrastructure); Traffic Safety; Services and Social Justice (including educational equity); Art and Culture; Neighborhood Engagement (grass roots communication); Budget and Finance.

Thirty years ago, then- East Lawrence neighborhood president Shelley Miller created a t-shirt highlighting the importance of being “ever vigilant”. Please read the story inside this newsletter about the origin of the t-shirt. ELNA has re-designed the t-shirt and is now offering it for sale to our neighbors and friends! In view of our current concerns with traffic safety, air quality and the future of New York School (and maybe even Liberty Memorial Central), the new t-shirt could not be timelier.

ELNA needs you! Please join the Association; there is strength in numbers! Please volunteer to work with an ELNA committee. Help save our neighborhood school! Proudly wear your new t-shirt. You can help write the next chapter of our history. Your vigilance will ensure that East Lawrence and its unique culture survives into the next generation!

ELNA Meetings 2022

The ELNA Board and interested membership meet each month on the 2nd Monday, from 7-9pm. Currently, we're meeting on zoom, but we hope to suspend online meetings and gather in person in the spring.

The meeting agenda is a google document that is updated each month as it is known. That agenda is always linked on our website: eastlawrence.com > meetings

Here are the dates of ELNA meetings in the year 2022, so you can clip it out and place it prominently:

January 10th

February 14th

March 14th

April 11th

May 9th

June 13th

July 11th

August 8th

September 12th

October 10th

November 14th

December 12th

For agenda (including zoom link), past minutes and updates on postponed or rescheduled meetings, please visit <http://www.eastlawrence.com/meetings>

The Story Behind This T-shirt

Shelley Miller (1954-1994) was a beloved East Lawrence friend and neighbor. When Shelley served as East Lawrence's neighborhood association President, she took on the issue of truck traffic in the neighborhood. Tractor-trailers frequently traversed streets that were not designated truck routes, including Shelley's. After repeated unsuccessful calls to the City to enforce its traffic ordinances, Shelley was known to run from her yard into the middle of the street to stop trucks, and explain to the drivers that they were not on a designated truck route. Shelley went to a City Commission meeting to address the issue, and told the Commission that it should not have to be her job to run into the street and be the "ever-vigilant neighborhood bitch." The Journal-World published the quote in the newspaper. Shelley embraced it, and designed "ever-vigilant neighborhood bitch" t-shirts that many neighbors proudly wore. Thirty years later, with traffic safety still an issue in East Lawrence, ELNA has resurrected the t-shirts with an updated design. Wear yours proudly! – Barry



Get your own Ever Vigilant Neighborhood Bitch t-shirt by emailing Lane at eastlawrence@yahoo.com. Shirts are available in sizes small through 2xl, \$18 each. Free porch delivery east of Iowa.

Employers Hiring Persons with Felony Convictions

Neighbor KT Walsh asked a local probation officer for a list of employers who are willing to hire people with felonies. Here's that list:

Berry Global

Amarr

Brown's Cargo

Maximus-pending on background check

Lawrence Paper Company-JM Staffing (Temp) is who they can go through.

American Eagle in Ottawa

Modern Manufacturing in Eudora

Pretzel Co-but they have panel interviews for those who have backgrounds so the person has to be really willing to turn themselves around.

Boy Scout Troop 62

Welcome Troop 62 - East Lawrence's new and only Boy Scout Troop! Troop 62 meets on Tuesday nights (when school is in session) from 7-8:30 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1245 New Hampshire St. The troop welcomes new members, boys in 6-12th grades, who want to enjoy scouting in a small troop with a relaxed atmosphere. Troop 62 offers monthly camping trips and



outdoor activities along with lots of leadership and advancement opportunities. The troop has 3 boys working on Eagle, some brand new to Scouts and others at every level in between. The troop's experienced adult leaders include: Scoutmaster Lorin Maletsky, Committee Chair Cary Strong, Asst. Scoutmaster Pat Donohue, and Chartered Organization Representative Ryan Devlin. Boys and their grown-ups are welcome to come to a meeting, or contact: Nick Ernzen at: nernzen@ku.edu for more information about joining.

New York School MLK Jr. Chili Feed

The Martin Luther King Jr. Chili Feed will be the MLK Community Meal again this year. In consideration of COVID safety, the meal will be to-go, drive through style. The meal will take place on Tuesday, January 18th 5-7pm. Students, families, and community members are all welcome to attend no RSVP or cost. Free Will donations will be accepted via cash, Paypal, Venmo or checks made out to New York Elementary PTA. More details will come as we finalize a menu in the next few weeks.

We will need individually wrapped dessert donations for sure. Please contact Lane at eastlawrence@yahoo.com if you'd like to volunteer to contribute desserts.

Sunrise Community Meals

The Sunrise Project folks just want to make sure you know you're invited to our bimonthly community meals. Free, high quality, delicious meals are served at the Sunrise Project, 1501 Learnard, from 5-6pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Right now, all meals are to go. Gluten Free & Vegan options are available. Donations are always accepted but never required.

Interested in volunteering? Need a delivery? Want some more info? Email ella@sunriseprojectks.org.

Watch Sunrise social media for meal menus and other events and volunteer opportunities.

VAN GO Hiring 18-24 year olds

Van Go, Inc. (www.van-go.org) is NOW HIRING 18-24 year olds for the spring session of The Arts Train (TAT), an arts-based part time employment and job-training program. The position is 20 hours/week. The young adults in our programs will develop job skills as well as life skills in the context of a supportive work environment based on the arts: painting, metal work, glass work, wood working, etc. No experience necessary! We also help place participants in off-site internships for different individualized work experiences. Due to our federal grant funding, we do have some eligibility criteria for applicants: (1) Applicants must be residents of Douglas County; (2) be 18-24 years old; and (3) must NOT currently be enrolled in post-secondary schooling. Other qualifying factors apply, so we encourage interested individuals to call or stop by for more information! Ask for Jeff or Emma. Van Go is located at 715 New Jersey Street, Lawrence. 785-842-3797



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Social Service League Update

Hi Everyone. We are finally going to stick our proverbial toe back in the water. We be partially opening to sales – starting with the Saturdays after Thanksgiving. We will be open SATURDAYS ONLY – 10am to 4pm at the store, 905 Rhode Island. If we can generate enough sales to sustain a paid employee, we will expand from there. We hope to see all our friends and supporters. We've missed you all! – SSL

NOTE: There will be NO vouchers on Saturdays. Voucher days are Tues, Wed, Thurs, 10-2.

2nd NOTE: The League is always in need of large sized mens clothes and new socks and underwear for our clients.

FEMA Funeral Assistance

The FEMA funeral assistance program has been underutilized and a lot of funding is still available. Families can receive up to \$9000 per funeral and any costs incurred in 2020 and forward are eligible. More info on the Douglas County United Way website: <https://www.unitedwaydco.org/covid-19-funeral-assistance>

Holiday Tree-Cycling Collection

The City of Lawrence offers residents an opportunity to return their live-cut holiday trees to nature with the Tree-Cycling program, in which the trees are given a second life as wildlife habitat. Residents hoping to utilize the Tree-Cycling program should place their live-cut trees at the curb or alley by 6 a.m. on their collection service day throughout January each year. Residents in apartment complexes should place the trees to the side of the dumpster area – not in front of the dumpster – to allow easy collection for staff. All artificial items including tinsel, lights, ornaments and tree stands should be removed from the tree before placing it at the curb. For more information on recycling holiday lights, visit the Recyclable Materials Directory.

For more information, call MSO Solid Waste Customer Service at 785-832-3032 or email recycling@lawrenceks.org.

1. Introduce yourself -- what do you do for a living? for hobbies? what do
2. What projects do you want to work on, or issues do you want to learn more to you that you want to serve on the ELNA Board?
3. The obligatory silly question that is supposed to give us some insight into



Dave Loewenstein

I'm a dad to an incredible four-year old. I'm also an artist focused on community-based projects. I've lived in East Lawrence for 20+ years, and I'd like to learn how to do some close-up magic tricks.

I serve on the ELNA board because I want to help ensure that the neighborhood continues to be the affordable, welcoming and imaginative place beloved by so many.

Josh Davis

I work in early-stage investing, but I am most passionate about the skills and social opportunities that students get from participating in competitive debate. I am on the board of and work closely with DEBATE-Kansas City which is the regional urban debate league.



Affordable housing is my number one concern, but I am thankful for the variety of issues that ELNA is involved in including schools, giving and traffic issues.

I would love to improve my very basic Spanish speaking skills.



Sacie Lambertson

Relatively new to East Lawrence. We are long retired. We lived up north in the country for 20 years before moving to town. I've been off and on in the building business, overseeing the construction of houses and while I no longer do this, I find I am super interested in the subject and always not how well it is being done in our neighborhood.

I would like to see traffic routed along one designated street with a monitored speed limit. We are an area with lots of rentals. I'd like to see some ordinance that requires landlords to maintain their properties, inside and out, and enforces this. I would like to see more opportunities for our unique mix of residents to participate in our community. I would like to figure out ways to further enhance community spirit.

Gads what a question. Being not young I am entirely happy with having "been there, done that" in many walks of life. Having done it once, I think however I might like to ride my bike across our country again, probably not always camping as we did before.



Brenda Nunez

New Jersey Street neighbor Brenda Nunez returns to the ELNA Board. Brenda has lived in and around East n for over 70 years, and served on the ELNA Board on and off for decades! The knowledge, perspective, and no-nonsense wisdom she brings to our group is greatly appreciated.



Barry Shalinsky

I am a long time East Lawrence resident. I returned home in 2019 after an unexpected twenty-year detour, with my wife and two sons (now students at LMCMS). I do part-time contract work from my home office, and serve on the Lawrence Board of Zoning Appeals. I am Democratic Precinct Committeeman for the area north of 11th Street and east of Mass., and do a lot of volunteer work for the Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation. I was ELNA President for three years in the mid-1980's, and somehow find myself doing it again. We love living in the historic Mary & AJ Griffin home at 7th & Connecticut and are slowly doing our part to preserve it for coming generations.

East Lawrence is a wonderful neighborhood with a powerful sense of community, grounded in our history, streetscape and cultural institutions. Our diversity is our strength. The things that make us special have long been under threat by economic and political forces that would sanitize and homogenize the neighborhood into something we would no longer recognize as East Lawrence. ELNA's job is to keep East Lawrence, East Lawrence. Right now, that means protecting New York School, first and foremost. As ELNA President, I will always be involved in zoning and land use, traffic safety, keeping our people resilient and ELNA strong.

At a loftier level, I would love to learn how to be a better person and a more effective advocate. At a practical level, it would be nice to learn how to do more basic house repairs and create a damn spreadsheet. Sadly, I have just about given up on art, music and foreign languages.



Pam Blackburn

I work for KU. My group brings Assessment testing to the state of Kansas. We provide the computer platform that students use to take standard assessment/achievement tests and the application that educators use. I am a computer programmer/quality assurance analyst.

My interest is in zoning to ensure that East Lawrence continues to be a great place to live. I also want to support the communication to the community (ie; newsletters) by helping with the fundraisers that support the creation and mailing. Yep, Kickball concessions is a social event to me!

I like to travel. I would like to be able to learn languages easily. I am always amazed at how others can speak so many different languages. Makes me wish I had worked harder at Spanish & German when I was in school.

— Three Questions

Do you want people to know about you?

Learn more about, in this year of your ELNA board service? Basically, what's so important

to who you are as a person -- If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

Krista Gentry

Hi! My name is Krista. I have lived in East Lawrence for about 5.5 years. I share my home with my spouse, toddler, three dogs, one cat, and a fish. We recently foster "failed" and adopted the cat and additional dog. I currently work for the Federal government and have a decent amount of civil and non-profit work experience. When not at work or caring for my family, I enjoy spending time with friends. I also like to hike, try new craft beers, work in my yard (love/hate), travel, and watch live music. I moved to East Lawrence due to my desire to live near downtown. I love the fact that I can walk to so many different parks and playgrounds, restaurants, and stores.



I'm interested in learning more about ways in which we can balance new development with the historical significance of many parts of our neighborhood. The fact that the neighborhood was "up and coming" when I moved here, attracted me to be honest. I think the interest in East Lawrence for new development and rehab is exciting and I want to find a way to do that without pushing long-time residents out of the neighborhood. Topics that interest me include affordable housing, recreational opportunities, blight reduction, crime reduction, and pedestrian safety.

There are so many things I have interest in learning. This is a tough question. I think probably the most basic task I would love to learn to do better is to cook meat. I always seem to overcook or undercook meat. I know a meat thermometer could probably resolve some of this issue, but it would be nice to just be a natural grill master!

Kate Lowder

I am Kate Lowder and have lived at 8th and Connecticut St. for the last 3 years with my partner, Byron, and my cat Chel. I have rented and resided in the downtown area of Lawrence for the past 20 years, minus a few "breaks" from Lawrence. Lawrence is always pulling everyone back because it's such a wonderful community to live in! I have experience in assisting with a winning election for Mike Amyx in 2018 and currently serve as a member of his steering committee. I was also the campaign manager for Adam Rains, who successfully was voted in as the Douglas County Treasurer. My past work experience includes over a decade with Cottonwood, Inc. and several other not for profits, providing direct support for individuals with disabilities. I currently work at Scanning America as a digitization specialist. The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association is such an important asset to keeping our neighborhood so wonderful!



Also see pg. 6

Phil Collison

Hi. My name is Phil Collison. I have lived at my current location in the neighborhood since May of 2004. I have served on the board of ELNA since about then, and have served as president for a few of those years. I spent a fair amount of time enjoying the neighborhood before that. I moved here in 1976. I am retired. I like to putter in the yard, ride my bike and spend time in wilderness areas.

This winter ELNA will be starting up a new Traffic Safety committee, and I hope to play a role in that, hopefully having an impact on making it a bit more safe to walk, ride and drive in town. Unfortunately it appears we may have to spend more time trying to keep New York School open!

I would like to learn music theory.



Julianna "Julia" Patterson

I am currently Program Officer for the Global Classroom team at the World Affairs Council of Seattle. Through professional development, curriculum resources, classroom visits, etc. we help educators K-12 stay up to date on global education and global current events so that they can bring the world into their classrooms. My hobbies include dancing (teaching, taking class, and performing), traveling around the world when I can, movies, Marvel, and going to museums. I am someone who likes to learn something new every day! I always try to put myself in the shoes of others



and I believe that education and taking the time to genuinely learn about peoples, cultures, religions, etc different from your own and building lasting and meaningful relationships out of that knowledge will help make for a better world. I also love animals! I have a cat named Astrid, she's been with me for 12 years!

I am interested in becoming more involved with the Lawrence community! I was born and raised in Lawrence, but have not been very engaged community wise because I have been living in Seattle for the past 4 years. Returning home I would love to help create enrichment opportunities for youth throughout East Lawrence, particularly youth of color, that focus vocational skills/opportunities, farming and sustainability, beekeeping, arts and culture, travel and international engagement, and more to provide an introduction to the potential opportunities they could have in the future. I really want more youth of color and people of color in Lawrence to feel seen and valued in this community and city, so that's what anything I do on this board would be founded in. I also have a general interest in the "tea" of Lawrence. This is the perfect way for me to stay up to date on initiatives, policies, volunteer opportunities, town halls, events, etc in Lawrence, so that I can be an active and engaged member of the community!

I would really love to learn sign language! I've been trying to teach myself through youtube for a while, but if there are classes that I could find here, I would dedicate time to learning!



KT Walsh

Hi all, I live at 732 Rhode Island & have lived in E.Law for over 40 years. I love it here-especially the good people, the historic vernacular buildings, the trains & the river. I'm an artist, housecleaner, landscaper & a proud Irish woman. My wacko dog Bo & I explore wild places all over the county.

This year we have a bunch of work to do.

Keep New York School open!, begin revising our Neighborhood Plan, involve more neighbors in the ELNA sub-committees & have fun. I love meeting more neighbors, new & old & continue to be impressed by the smarts in East Lawrence.

I'd really like to learn how to yodel before I check out of this mortal plane. Oh, & do the Madison dance.



Aaron Paden

I design and build hardware components for radar systems used to measure polar ice sheets. I also coach youth soccer and photograph works of art. I like playing soccer, cooking, and having ever expanding to do lists.

I always enjoy helping put on the neighborhood events – like the Yart Sale and Block

Party. This year I will continue with fundraising.

I'm musically untalented – if I could learn to do anything it would be to play the piano.

Lane Eisenbart

I'm Lane. I'm the ELNA Coordinator. I'm not a member of the board. I'm ELNA's only employee, and though I work only *very* part time, I've been doing this gig since the Fall of 2011. I do the newsletters and the weekly enews, the social media and website, email, events, merch, etc. I really like reading and writing about East Lawrence history and using my skills to help my neighbors. In my other life, I do similar work for a small non-profit, Positive Bright Start, that provides services to children under six and their families. I also make jewelry and work some at my friend's salon. I live in a little pink house on Pennsylvania street with my teenage daughter and our three cats. I have an older daughter off at college! I do a lot of yoga and I like plants. Silly question answer: If I could learn to do anything, I think I'd like to play music. I play some. I'm not very good, but it's fine. I'm always really impressed with people who make beautiful music like it's no big deal.



Adopt a Family Thanks!

Twenty East Lawrence friends and neighbors collected over \$1300 in gift cards and contributions for our holiday giving effort this year. You all helped us purchase gift cards for our adopted family and a variety of non-food items to donate to our local pantries. Thank you for caring!

Winter Shelter Volunteers Needed

The Winter Emergency Shelter provides a warm and safe environment for anyone in need of shelter, free of charge. During the winter months when the daily overnight temperature posting on the Lawrence Journal-World website is listed at or below 35°, the shelter will be open 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the Community Building, 115 W. 11th St. and/or the East Lawrence Recreation Center, 1245 E. 15th St.

Volunteers are needed to help staff the shelter overnight. All volunteers and guests are required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Proof of vaccination is required upon arrival of the first volunteer shift. If you'd like to assist with the shelter by being a volunteer for a shift, please fill out the volunteer form online, available at: <https://lawrenceks.org/winter-emergency-shelter/volunteer/>

SHIFTS INCLUDE

7–11 p.m. Evening Check-in

11 p.m.–5 a.m. Overnight

5-8 a.m. Morning Cleanup

For more information, contact emergencyshester@lawrenceks.org or call (785) 832-7958.

Save the Date! ELNA Yart Sale

ELNA will hold our annual yard and art sale – Yart! – fundraiser this year on Saturday, April 9th from 8:00am to 1:00pm at the New York Elementary gym. That's a couple weeks later than tradition, so you'll have lots of time to clean out your spaces and find stuff to donate to us to sell. We need your useful and unique items for our sale! We'll also need artists willing to vend their stuff and be the “art” portion of our Yart Sale.

Email Lane eastlawrence-@yahoo.com for details and with questions.

COVID SAFETY: Like all things for the last two years, we're going to have to deviate from the norm in order to keep our neighbors safe. We're not sure what that will look like just yet, but things will be different, and you can probably expect to be required to wear a mask on school grounds.

Check our March/ April paper newsletter, enews, website, and social media for details later. Plan to come!

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\$100.00 lifetime membership \$5.00 for out-of-neighborhood members
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(Please note personal memberships are per individual, not household.)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____


- We print the names of new and returning ELNA members in the ELNA newsletter . Check here if it is okay to print your name.
- Please add my email to the “Thursday ELNA News” (the weekly enewsletter) email list.

*Get even more East Lawrence news!
 Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter, too!
 Visit our Website eastlawrence.com*


ELNA Needs Your Help! Please Volunteer!

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

- Work Days / Snow Shoveling
- YART Sale
- Block Party
- Adopt-A-Family
- Music
- Art
- Photography
- Gardening
- Historic Preservation
- Serving on the ELNA Board
- Baking/Cooking
- Grilling / Concessions
- Other: _____



Earth Care Forum Series - 2022
 OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED
Sundays, January 2 – 30 9:15 - 10:15 am
Recordings may be available at the close of the series.
First Presbyterian Church, 2415 Clinton Parkway (Fellowship Hall)



January 2 Restoring Creation
Presenter: Brad Bradley, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Nature Conservancy for the past four years, has a strong interest in conservation. He serves the Kansas River Regional Advisory Committee of the Kansas Water Authority and is Chair of the University of Kansas School of Law Board of Governors.
Description: Bradley will speak about his experience managing 2047 acres in eastern Kansas and western Missouri, including reclaimed mining land and a portion of the Osage River. He will discuss the need to rebuild the subsoil ecosystem as well as the ecosystem above ground, using pre-chemical farming techniques. These techniques store carbon in the soil and minimize the climate-altering footprint of farmers.

January 9 Restoring Kansas Landscapes Through Community Engagement and Education
Presenter: Courtney Masterson is the Owner-Operator and Ecologist of Native Lands LLC, an ecological restoration and native landscaping company based out of Lawrence, Kansas. She is a Restoration Ecologist and earned her master's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at KU.
Description: Masterson will share information on our local landscapes, their importance and how we might protect them, including details about several local ecosystem restoration projects managed by Native Lands LLC. The importance of having diverse groups experience and learn connections to stewardship and connections to native plants using field science and outdoor experiences will be discussed.

January 16 Medicinal Plant Gardens
Presenter: Dr. Kelly Kindscher is a Professor in the Environmental Studies Program and Senior Scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey at the University of Kansas. His research and 130 publications have focused on ethnobotany, medicinal plants, prairies and prairie restoration, wetlands, and plant communities.
Description: Dr. Kindscher will share his being a passionate advocate for native plants, native landscapes, edible/medicinal plants, and wild places. He will especially provide knowledge regarding the requirements for developing a medicinal plant garden, including the possibility of one at First Presbyterian in the south area now being left unmowed.

January 23 Planning for the Future: The Process of Forming County Regulations to Permit Large Scale Industrial Solar Installations in Douglas County.
Presenter: Jim Carpenter, with degrees in Biology, Environmental Studies and Law, is in his sixth year as a City appointee to the Lawrence/Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission. He currently chairs an ad hoc subcommittee of the Planning Commission working with County staff to draft regulations under which application may be made for the construction of large-scale solar installations in the County.
Description: Acknowledging our need to include large scale solar into the mix of solutions to climate change is easy. Drafting regulations so that it does not do more harm than good to rural Douglas County is not. The discussion will highlight concerns that have been addressed in drafting regulations to permit this large scale land use in Douglas County.

January 30 Mowing Residential Lawns: A Habit to Question and Alternatives to Explore
Presenter: Dr. Sharon Ashworth is currently Horticulture Program Assistant for K-State Research and Extension, Douglas County. She also serves on the Lawrence/Douglas County Metropolitan County Planning Commission. She earned her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at KU. She has published *Wading Right In: Discovering the Nature of Wetlands* (University of Chicago Press).
Description: Urban Lawns make up less than 2% of ground cover in the US, yet the ecological impact is enormous. It is the most irrigated crop in America and pollution from fertilizer and pesticide application and runoff is significant. Also, air pollution occurs when mowed using fossil fuel. Historically, what has created this habit of “manicured” lawns and what are alternative habits that will benefit the soil, air and water?



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