

East Lawrence News

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

January 2018



From The President



It's a new year! I hope your Holidays were memorable. Last year was a good one for ELNA. We continued to get funding from Community Development Block Grants managed by the City. We successfully improved our zoning in parts of the neighborhood to better support homeowners over real estate speculators. We held our Yart Sale and our Block Party, we published 6 issues of our newsletter, and we utilized social media for more outreach to our neighborhood. Let Lane know if you are not on our weekly email list.

The New Year will bring more of the same. We'll be following the Downtown Grocery store and the public incentives that they will require in order to move forward. We'll be watching the Short Term Rental issues and the impacts they have on our neighborhood in particular. We'll look forward to the plans for rebuilding 9th street from New Hampshire to Pennsylvania that should be revealed soon. And we'll watch for progress on the Lawrence Loop and how it moves through our neighborhood. All that in addition to another Yart Sale, another Block Party, more River Clean-ups and more special events.

Here's to hoping for another great year in East Lawrence!

Be involved in that!



Enormous thanks are due to our friends and neighbors who contributed to our Adopt a Family project this year. About 25 of you, and your families, contributed gifts and money and time, and we were able to get every item on our adopted family's wish list. We wish our adopted family of seven, and your families too, happy holidays and a wonderful new year!

ELNA General Meeting

JANUARY 8th

7-9 pm

New York Elementary School
Library

Agenda

RiverKings Museum
Arts Center Grant Update

Board Contacts

Phil Collison, President
..... phil@pcollison.com
Chris Lempa, Vice President
..... 8lempa8@gmail.com
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Katherine Harris (KH), Treasurer
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Mike Anderson
..... andersonforlawrence@gmail.com

ELNA Contacts

Lane Eisenbart, Coordinator
eastlawrence@yahoo.com 785-843-8098
www.eastlawrence.com

Neighborhood Remembers MLK

Don't miss the Annual MLK Chili Feed at New York Elementary on January 16th. ELNA archives indicate that the New York School Chili Feed tradition began in the mid-nineteen eighties when a group of New York teachers and neighbors decided they'd like to gather and celebrate Dr Martin Luther King Jr's life, together, with a warm bowl of chili on a cold winter day. Back then the chili was prepared on site, in what was the school kitchen, what later became the Shelly Miller Community kitchen, and for many years served as the teacher's lounge and kitchen.

ELNA archives also indicate that in the fall of 1990, "a garage at 12th and New York Streets ... had been vandalized with racial epithets" In response to that act of vandalism and harassment, the neighbors repainted the garage with the likeness of MLK himself. Members of ELNA, then ELIA, also wrote this letter to the editor to the Lawrence Journal-World, dated November 8th, 1990:

"The members of the East Lawrence Improvement Assn. voted unanimously at their Oct. 22 meeting to condemn acts of harassment that have occurred in an around East Lawrence in the past month. Racist graffiti and cross burning have no place in our neighborhood whether they are acts of youths or adults. In its meeting, the association also unanimously approved the formation of a committee to offer support to anyone in our neighborhood who is victimized by a hate crime. We will clean up graffiti and the leftovers of any harassment and provide other services as they are requested.

We believe that fostering a community where people of diverse cultures, religious, lifestyles and physical abilities, can live in peace and safety is as much the duty of a neighborhood association as guaranteeing that our roads are safe. We intend to carry out that duty with energy and dedication. Jolene Anderson, president, Diane Silver, Kathy Businger and other ELIA members."

A beautiful picture. A nice memory. Happy Birthday, Dr. King!

FOLLOW-UP STORY ON THE VANDALIZED NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE

If you'll remember, the last newsletter made mention of a garage at 12th and New York Streets which had been vandalized with racial epithets and that the garage would be repainted and a likeness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The following is a picture of the garage wall after the "re-do". The owners are happy with the results.



"MLK on garage at 12th and New York"
East Lawrence News November 1990,
Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries

Riverfront Clean Up Thanks

On Saturday, November 4th the Fall Riverfront Cleanup commenced at 9:00 a.m. Over three hours that morning eighteen committed volunteers helped remove a great quantity of trash and debris from the East Lawrence Riverfront Conservation Area. There was so much trash collected that we literally had to jump up and down on it to get it to fit in a large dumpster. After packing the dumpster full we still had several bags to dispose of as well as a small pile of larger items.

Our sincere thanks go to the following volunteers:

Matt Bellemere, Fred Bellemere, Andy Bellemere, Faith Ross, Krista Gentry, Josh Gentry, Jake Bellucci, Catherine Reed, John Swift, Pam Roberts, Bonnie Uffman, Frank Janzen, Pat Slimmer, Matthew Hall, Joe Douglas, Mike Myers, Lane Eisenbart, Brad Gibson.

Thanks also go out to the City of Lawrence Solid Waste Division, and the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department for their help in supplying materials and hauling off what we collected.

Please consider visiting our beautiful riverfront and woods. Fall is one of the best times to take a walk and enjoy the abundant natural beauty of our very own woods and river.

Sincerely, Mike Myers



Please Attend!

New York Elementary Annual MLK Chili Feed

Tuesday January 16th 2018, from 5-7pm

In the New York School gym and cafeteria

All friends, family, and neighbors are welcome. This is an all community event!
A free will cash donation will be collected at the door to benefit New York Elementary.
Chili (both meat and vegetarian), with sides, drinks, and desserts will be served.
Our wonderful neighbors at St Luke AME will perform.

What you can bring:

Students of New York are asked to contribute an item to the Chili Feed and to bring that item to school the day of the event, Tuesday January 16th.

Kindergarten and 1st: carrot and celery sticks, for sides

2nd and 3rd: shredded cheese for topping

4th and 5th: saltine crackers, for sides

Students, families, friends, and neighbors can bring:

Anyone can bring desserts to contribute. Bars, cookies, slices of pie or cake, anything easily portioned would be great. Those contributions can be brought to the school any time during the school day January 16th. If anyone would like to contribute vegetarian chili, that would be welcome too.

Let's celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr together! See you there!

Your 2017-2018 ELNA Board

A new ELNA board was selected at our November meeting. The 2016-2017 Board returns, minus Chris and Johni — who are both off on new adventures! Happy Trails! -- with two new additions, Judy and Vanessa.
Welcome Judy J Romero and Vanessa Reynaga! Thanks for your service!

Phil Collison, President

Preferred contact:
email or phone to
phil@pcollison.com
and 785-843-8098



"I think East Lawrence is a special place where I can live in my little bubble and tend my garden."

Aaron Paden, Vice President



Preferred Contact:
email or phone to
aaronpaden@gmail.com,
785-840-6400

"I love the East Lawrence events - Block Party, Yart Sale, & Clean ups - we run them with volunteers and it is a great way to meet your neighbors & have a good time."

Catherine Reed, Board Member

Preferred contact: by email to
reed.catherine@gmail.com



"I hope to help preserve East Lawrence's trees, trails and natural areas, and to help neighbors get outdoors."

Cindy Suenram, Board Member, LAN Rep



Preferred Contact:
email to
csuen3@sunflower.com

Dave Loewenstein, Board Member

Preferred contact: email to
dloewenstein@hotmail.com



"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."

Continued on page 5

The Kansas RiverKings:

Treasured Collection and Exhibition

The Kansas RiverKings were a group of men operating a thriving commercial fishing industry in Lawrence from 1870-1970. The first known cabin and business operation was located below the dam on the Kaw. Past slave, Jake Washington spent most of his time there where 100 pound fish were known to have been brought in.

For the past three years the Kansas RiverKings Museum and Exhibition have been located on the river at the site where the story began. Unfortunately, the space that once housed these stories and artifacts has gone back to its donor.

The founder and curator of the Kansas RiverKings collection is seeking a home site as close to the river as possible. A small space within a larger space is desired. If you're interested in keeping this wonderful piece of history in Lawrence where it belongs please contact the curator bhigginsdover@gmail.com or 785-393-9525.

Sunrise Coffee

Sunrise Project is opening a coffee shop soon after the new year! Sunrise Coffee will be a welcoming space for all to gather, build community, learn about Sunrise Project activities and meet new people. The coffee shop is an extension of Sunrise Project and all proceeds benefit the organization. Sybil Gibbs was recently hired as the Sunrise Coffee Manager & Community Connector. She will not only provide high quality food and beverages, but also create opportunities for empowerment and education. Thanks to an anonymous donation, the north portion of the old retail building has been renovated into a welcoming, cozy and fun space that we hope will be a "home away from home" for people of all ages and backgrounds. Coffee shops can serve as community spaces that build social connection and spark social change. The aim of Sunrise Coffee is to do just that. It will also give folks the opportunity to drop by and learn about other ways to get involved with Sunrise Project, whether it's presenting or attending a workshop, volunteering with another program or harvesting fruits or vegetables from one of our free food sites. Sunrise can't wait to open its doors to the neighborhood and wider community! Follow along at facebook.com/sunriseprojectks or subscribe to their newsletter at sunriseprojectks.org to stay posted on the opening date.



Wishing Bench Repair Fund

The Wishing Bench. Maybe it rose out of the Kaw like a Venus on the half-shell, it's pylons glistening in primordial sunrise. Maybe it came in on the 11:52 Amtrak from KC and shuffled down the track. Maybe it erupted out of the sidewalk like an overgrown sycamore root and sprouted a Christmas tree. Hey, we've got some great green thumbs in East Lawrence, who's to say?

While the origins of the Wishing Bench are shrouded in mystery and legend, it's current state is quite clear. The Wishing Bench needs your help! It was brought to our attention earlier this fall that the Wishing Bench is in need of repair. Some portions of the wooden base the bench stands on have rotted

away, while other planks are warped and unstable. Neighbors are concerned the Bench may cause injury. And, well, since no one in particular owns the bench -- The Wishing Bench belongs to the people! It belongs to itself! -- no one in particular is responsible for paying for repairs. But, ELNA can help a neighbor out. Even a bench neighbor. So! ELNA is organizing an effort to raise money to buy supplies for repairing the Wishing Bench. ELNA will raise funds, and Eric Jay, ELNA Board member and co-owner of Struct ReStruct, can provide expertise to rebuild the base. When the time comes to make the repairs, likely in the spring, ELNA may also organize volunteer labor for the construction of a new base. Stay tuned for more information on that.

But first, funds!

The cost of materials for a new (and improved and significantly safer) Wishing Bench base has been estimated at around \$650. Can you spare a few bucks? Visit our [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com/wishing-bench-repair-fund) at <https://www.gofundme.com/wishing-bench-repair-fund> or you can mail check or money order to Wishing Bench Repair Fund, ELNA, PO Box 442393, Lawrence, KS 66044.



Questions about the effort can be sent to eastlawrence@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Board Members.....

Eric Jay, Board Member

Preferred Contact: email to eric@structrestruct.com



“My family and I live in a house that I built on New Jersey St. When I’m not hanging out with them, or working on my house, you can

find me at struct/restruct, a design/build company which I co-own with a life-long friend of mine. I choose to serve on the board because I want to be instrumental in the evolution of the neighborhood.”

Jennifer Distlehorst, Board Member

Preferred contact: email to kansascoast@gmail.com

“East Lawrence is vibrant community of creative people who really care about their neighbors and their neighborhood. ELNA is a primary gathering place and communication channel for East Lawrencians and I enjoy working with Lane, Phil and my fellow ELNA board members to make the monthly meetings joyful, inclusive and productive.”



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Josh Davis (NY St), Board Member

Preferred Contact: email to jd12345@gmail.com



Judy Romero, Board Member, newly elected in 2017

Preferred Contact: email to romejj565@gmail.com



“I grew up in the neighborhood and appreciate all the positive changes. I appreciate those neighbors who have cared, watched over and preserved the neighborhood.”

KH, Board Member

Preferred contact: email to harriskmtc@gmail.com



“Many people don’t know that I learn a new clean joke every day because I believe laughter is the best medicine. I’m always ready to share them. I

choose to be on the board because I want to keep East Lawrence an unique and fun neighborhood.”

Lane Eisenbart, Coordinator

Preferred Contact: email to eastlawrence@yahoo.com

“I am ELNA’s only employee, and I have been for over six years. I get paid a small monthly stipend to run ELNA’s website, emails, and social media, to organize events, and to write your weekly enews and bi-monthly paper newsletters, among other things. I do this job because working is apparently my hobby, and because lending my skills is a way I can serve my community.”



Mike Anderson, Board Member

Preferred Contact: email to andersonforlawrence@gmail.com

“I was named the “Most Interesting Character in Small Town America” by *Reader’s Digest*. I have a PhD in Communication Studies from KU. I want to serve on the board because I want to make a positive difference in our community.”



Pam Blackburn, Board Member

Preferred Contact: email to pamblackburn55@gmail.com



Vanessa Reynaga, Board Member, newly elected in 2017

Preferred contact: email to veereynaga@gmail.com



“I am a native Californian that loves to build community and is intent on having voices like mine heard.”

KT Walsh, Board Member



Preferred Contact: notes to 732 Rhode Island St

ELNA Meetings

ELNA monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, unless delayed due to holiday. We meet from 7-9pm. During the school year, we meet at New York School, 936 New York Street. In the summer months and when school is not in session, we find an alternative location. In the past, we have met at the Delaware Street Commons, The Lawrence Percolator, and the Lawrence Makerspace. Holiday delays and alternate meeting locations will be announced as they are known. Agendas, as they are known, can be viewed at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gB0AhiF0GfBBCEDo_1bORk-EvjSc5ygIIDMyeWAnl-w/edit?usp=sharing, and archived after meetings on our website in a timely fashion.

ELNA Meetings for 2018:

- January 8th, delayed one week due to holiday, New York School
- February 5th, New York School
- March 5th, New York School
- April 2nd, New York School
- May 7th, New York School
- June 4th, location TBD
- July 2nd, *may be delayed due to holiday,* location TBD
- August 7th, location TBD
- September 11th, *likely delayed due to holiday*, New York School
- October 2nd, New York School
- November 6th, New York School
- December 4th, New York School

*Meeting January 8th, 2018,
delayed one week by the holiday,
7-9 pm at New York School*



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

*Appreciating
Older Homes*

visit my website
Tom-Harper.com



www.eastlawrence.com

Christmas "Tree-Cycling" collection dates

Recycling your Christmas tree following the holidays is a great way to return it to nature. Lawrence residents may place live-cut trees at the curb or alley by 6:00 a.m. on their 'trash day' the week of January 3 through 6 for tree-cycling collection. In addition, collection crews will run through all City neighborhoods on Monday, January 9 collecting all remaining trees.

Christmas trees will be collected separate from trash and will be used for wildlife habitat. Please remove all artificial items including tinsel, lights, ornaments, and tree stands.

For additional information, visit
www.LawrenceRecycles.org.

Emergency Furnace Repair Loans

In emergency situations, the City of Lawrence offers citizens an emergency loan program that can provide up to \$5,000 for emergency repairs or furnace replacement. Mobile home owners may access up to \$2,500.

Some eligibility requirements for the program include:

A family income not exceeding 80% of median level -- \$51,000 for a family of 3.

Property must be owner occupied.

Property must be within City limits.

The applicant or the structure may not have previously received a rehabilitation loan since 1978.

The Emergency Furnace Repair Loan application, with a detailed list of required qualifications and caveats can be found on the City website at: <https://assets.lawrenceks.org/assets/pds/devservices/cdd/applications/2017/ds-cdd-2017-emergencyfurnaceloanapp-6-2017.pdf>.

You may also request a paper copy of the application in the Development Services Office at 1 Riverfront Plaza #110, Lawrence. Information by phone at (785) 832-7700.

COTTIN'S
HARDWARE & RENTAL

1832 Massachusetts Street
Lawrence, KS 66044
PH (785) 843-2981

hardware@sunflower.com
<http://cottinshardware.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!*

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: _____

City Board Vacancies

Get Active, East Lawrence! Volunteer to serve on a City advisory board or committee.

Listed below are existing and upcoming vacancies on City of Lawrence Boards and Commissions. If interested in serving on a board, citizens should visit the website at <http://www.lawrenceks.org/boards> to volunteer online, or send a letter of interest to the Mayor, P.O. Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Affordable Housing Advisory Board:

Three positions expire 12/31/17 and are all eligible for reappointment. There are eligibility requirements for this board.

Contractor Licensing Board:

Five positions expire 12/31/17 are all eligible to serve additional terms. There are eligibility requirements for this board.

Douglas County Food Policy Council:

One position expires 12/31/17 and is eligible for reappointment to an additional term.

Homeless Issues Advisory Committee:

Two positions expire 12/31/17 and are eligible for reappointment to additional terms.

Human Relations Commission:

Three positions expire 09/30/17 and are all eligible for reappointment to additional terms.

Lawrence Alliance:

One vacancy for a position that expires 11/30/17 and three vacancies for positions that expire 11/30/18. Four

additional positions expire 11/30/17, with two being eligible for reappointment to additional terms and two becoming vacant.

Lawrence Douglas County Advocacy Council on Aging:

Five positions expire 12/31/17. Four positions are eligible for reappointment to additional terms and one position will become vacant.

Mechanical Board of Appeals:

One vacancy for a position that expired 03/31/17. This position is designated for a person qualified by training and/or experience.

Mental Health Board:

One position expired 04/30/17.

Public Transit Advisory Committee:

Two vacancies for positions that expire 12/31/17.

Senior Resource Center for Douglas County, Inc.:

One position expires 12/31/17 and is eligible for reappointment to additional terms.

Sister Cities Advisory Board:

One position expired 12/31/16. Five additional positions expire 12/31/17, with four positions eligible for reappointment and one position becoming vacant.

Sustainability Advisory Board:

One position expires 12/31/17 and is eligible for reappointment to an additional term.

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
PO Box 442393
Lawrence Kansas 66044-2393

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