



Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

MAY 2, 2018

SPRING, 2018

SHNA Executive Committee

Officers

Gary Webber -
President

Matthew Paul -
Vice President

Clint Idol -
Secretary

Joanna
Wiorkiewicz-
Kuczera -
Treasurer

At-large Members

Eliza Darmon

Faye Hale

Paula Kellogg

Marlene Merrill

Marianna Nieto

Past President

Jeanne Pees

Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee (EC) met on Monday, April 23, 2018, and discussed the following items:

- SHNA treasurer, Joanna Wiorkiewicz-Kuczera, reported that the Association has a balance of \$1025.87, and 94 members.
- Our 2018 Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods representative, Gary Webber, reported that at the March and April LAN meetings the following items of interest to SHNA were discussed:
 - In March four speakers discussed the upcoming sales tax referendum. In April, Mayor Boley discussed the 56% rental rate in Schwegler neighborhood. He believes the city commission should discuss ways to limit student rentals by encouraging home ownership.
 - 19th Street – discussion continues on the city's plan to extend 19th to the east. Adjacent neighborhoods are not in favor of this extension. The city plans to renovate and extend 19th in 2018.
 - Sidewalks – The inspection-based Sidewalk Hazard Repair Policy will begin in January, 2019. City commissioners have asked for the support of advocacy groups to allocate adequate funding for this project. The city manager's proposed budget will be presented in June.

The full minutes for both LAN meetings are available online. Follow these links for minutes for the [March](#) and [April](#) meetings.

- Election of Officers – The following slate was elected:
 - Gary Webber – President
 - Matthew Paul – Vice President
 - Clint Idol – Secretary
 - Joanna Kuczera - Treasurer
- Discussion of 2018 goals of SHNA
 - Adoption of Centennial Park – SHNA member Phyllis Farrar will organize a trial cleanup this summer. If 10 residents volunteer to clean the park, and the cleanup is successful, the EC will consider adopting Centennial at the August meeting.
 - Rental Property letter or annual meeting flyer – The EC decided to hand-deliver an annual meeting flyer in March, 2019. During the 2019 fiscal year we will send a rental property owner letter and a business letter.
 - Creation of Land Use Committee – Pees suggest we form a

Dates to Remember

May 5, 2018
SHNA Potluck

Contact Us

President

president@sunsethillna.org

785-312-4840

Website

<http://sunsethillna.org/>



[Facebook](#)

Land Use Committee to monitor development in our neighborhood. Webber offered to serve in this capacity since he already monitored city planning.

- Moved and seconded to make our annual contribution to West Middle School and Sunset Hill Elementary gardens. The motion passed unanimously.

What's Happening?

Messages from Members

Occasionally I receive messages from members, and if appropriate, I will share them in this space.

- *"I'd like to recommend a commendation for residents on the north side of the 2400-2500 block of Westdale--they all did a quick and thorough job of getting the snow and especially ice off their sidewalks in the recent storms. -Richard Hardin, dog walker"*
- I received a nice call from Pat Williams. She recently moved from her Harvard Rd. home of many years, and said she really enjoyed the newsletter and will miss her Sunset Hill Neighbors.
- I received an email from a neighbor who asked us all to remember to pick up dog waste when walking in the neighborhood.

Be Aware of Scams!



Putting a Spotlight on Utility Scams

"I am with ABC Utility Company and we are contacting you to let you know that we are shutting off your {enter here: power, water, cable} unless you make an immediate payment by wire transfer or prepaid card." Shutting. Off. Utilities. Those are three words that could leave you shivering, sweating, thirsty and more and for those very reasons, most of us would be willing to jump. Jump fast and jump high. But hold your horses and let's back up here. Why would they be asking for payment by wiring money or using prepaid cards? If the "utility company" that has threatened to shut your utilities off is requesting payment by one of these questionable methods, you can be 100% CERTAIN someone is trying to scam you.

Quick Links

Lawrence Police Department

Non-emergency Dispatch
785-832-7509

Neighborhood Resource Officers
785-830-7408

City Code Enforcement
785-832-3111

[Code Violation Form](#)

Animal Control
To report a loose or captured animal, call
785-832-7509

City Code Regulation of Animals

City of Lawrence

[City Information for Residents](#)

[Forms for Residents](#)

[Good Neighbor Ordinances](#)

[Snow Removal](#)

[Traffic Calming Policy](#)

[Dispose of Hazardous Waste](#)

Why do they ask for gift cards and money transfers?

The scammers use our gut reaction to desire to quickly resolve the “crisis.” They want to get the money from you fast and to then disappear without you or anybody else being able to trace them back to the scam. Once you wire money, provide prepaid cards (or the numbers off the back of them) your money is GONE.

How can you protect yourself?

The Federal Trade Commission provides several tips on how to quickly spot and avoid this type of scam.

- Make sure you’re really dealing with your utility company. Call the company using the number on your bill. You can also check your bill to confirm what you owe.
- Never wire money or send the number from a prepaid card to someone you don’t know – regardless of the situation. Once you do, you cannot get your money back.
- Contact the utility company if you are falling behind on your bill. See if you can work out a payment plan to catch up and keep your service on.
- Pass on information about imposter scams to people you know.
- Report it to our Consumer Protection Unit and to the FTC if you think a scammer has contacted you.

Contact Information for Some Douglas County Utility Providers

Lawrence Utility Billing - 1-785-832-7878

Westar - 1-800-383-1183

Black Hills Energy - 1-888-890-5554

Midco - 1-800-888-1300

AT&T cable/phone/Direct TV - 1-800-288-2020

[Link for Rural Water Districts and Phone Numbers](#)

If you have concerns about a utility scam or for any general consumer protection information, please contact our Consumer Protection Unit at 785-330-2849 or email us at daconsumer@douglascountyks.org. We are always ready to serve the citizens of Douglas County.

Sincerely yours,
Charles E. Branson
District Attorney

Douglas County District Attorney
districtattorney@douglascountyks.org
<http://www.dgcoda.org>

Judicial & Law Enforcement Center
111 E. 11th Street, Unit 100 | Lawrence, KS 66044

SHNA Annual Meeting Well Attended

The SHNA Annual Meeting was held on Monday evening, April 16, 2018, at West Middle School Cafeteria. About 50 residents attended and enjoyed lemonade and cookies provided by the Executive Committee. The current Executive Committee was introduced, and we said goodbye to two EC members who are leaving the committee, Kathy Heppert and Susie Nightingale. Thanks for much for your service to our neighborhood!

Brian Jimenez, City Code Enforcement Manager, provided the following information about Code Enforcement:

- Anyone can report a city code violation by filling out a code violation form at https://lawrenceks.org/pds/code_violation/
- Merger of the utility and public works departments is underway
- Brian oversees property maintenance code issues with a staff of 4
- A Short Term Rental (STR) ordinance is being proposed to the city commission regarding regulation of short term rentals, but details are not available at this time.

Q and A:

- *Is there a new ordinance on vacant properties?* Not at this time. Lawrence doesn't have the same level of vacancy issues as some other cities that have developed ordinances.
- *How tall can the grass be to warrant complaint?* 12 in.
- Will there be any movement on sidewalk repair? - Code Enforcement does not deal with right of way.
- *Do you work with Development Code? Are there updates and when?* Yes, that is chapter 20 of the City Code, which can be found online. Amendments are made regularly.
- *Have there been Sign Code changes?* In September of last year, city sign code changed. There can be no signs in the right of way and there are certain times, near elections, when candidacy signs can be posted.

Drew Fennelly, Lawrence Police Neighborhood Resource Officer, spoke briefly and provided the following information:

- The Public Affairs Unit addresses nuisance complaints, social media accounts, public education, and similar issues.
- Crime statistics for the last year in the neighborhood; 12 burglary reports and 15 auto burglary reports. Sunset Hill saw less of this type of crime than some other neighborhoods.
- The number of car stops increased in Sunset Hill, due to feedback from the neighborhood.
- communitycrimemap.com is a good resource for local crime statistics
- Coffee with a Cop at Briggs Automotive: Meeting with the new Chief of Police. Thursday, 4.19, 9-11.

Jennifer Ananda, our newest City Commissioner, accepted our invitation to attend and introduce herself. She shared that:

- She was elected in November,
- She is a 17-year Lawrence resident, and formerly practiced law with Boog Highberger,
- There are three key platforms or ideas Ananda uses to evaluate decisions that we make
 - Environmental impact of decisions that we make
 - Impact on humans in the community with regard for health and safety

- Future economic impact
- Her emphasis is on visioning, and attention to detail, which Ananda believes she brings to the City Commission.

Q and A:

- *Could you update us on the sidewalk repair issue?* City Sidewalk repair continues to be a conversation and the district by district evaluation of sidewalks has been given the green light to continue.
- *Could you update us on the Venture Park development?* Ground is being leveled. There are 3 properties being built.
- *A member of the audience invited Commissioner Ananda and other commissioners to witness traffic back-up at Kasold and Harvard due to limitation of traffic to one lane with stop signs in the construction zone.*

Treasurer's Report (Kuczera):

- Total household members: 65; Ending balance on 4/5/18 was \$870.87
- Please provide an email address when renewing or joining SHNA. This helps us save \$ when sending the quarterly newsletter. If you do not want to receive email, do not provide an address.
- All expenditures are geared toward improvement of the neighborhood.
- Donations were made over the last year to block parties, school gardens and the Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition.

Summary of 2017 SHNA Executive Committee actions

- EC Member Matthew Paul created our new SHNA Web site: SunsetHillNA.org
- Published first SHNA quarterly newsletter
- Donated \$50 each to Sunset Hill Elementary and West Middle School gardens, and \$40 to the Safe Routes for All Town Meeting
- Donated \$50 to Sunset Hill Elementary Library in memory of Hazel Stellmacher
- Contributed \$25 to one block party for food
- Presented 9 Applause Awards for exemplary homes
- Worked with Public Works to advocate for street maintenance
- Audited short term rentals in Sunset Hill
- Hand-delivered 38 "Welcome Neighbor" packets to new SH property owners
- Assisted Rockledge residents with efforts to calm traffic on that street (unsuccessful)
- Attended monthly LAN meetings

Election of Nominees to SHNA Executive Committee

- Eliza Darmon volunteered to serve the 3rd year of Kathy Heppert's term as Vice President
- Marianna Nieto volunteered to serve a 3-year term on the EC
- All in attendance vote in favor of nominations

Neighborhood Issues & Concerns – Common questions

- Cars speeding on streets – contact David Cronin, City Engineer, to investigate traffic calming
- Noise – contact the Lawrence Police Dept.
- Drug or suspicious residences – contact Lawrence Police Dept.
- Code violations – contact the Code Enforcement Division or complete the online form

- Dog waste - contact Code Enforcement. NOTE: city Ordinance 7125 requires owners of animals to remove waste and to be in possession of a means to remove waste when outside their property. Exception for physical disability or visual impairment. Minimum fine is \$10 plus court costs.

Questions from the floor

- *Could you please discuss sidewalks in more detail?* Sidewalks in eight Lawrence districts will be inspected one at a time beginning in January of 2019. The owners of deficient sidewalks will be sent a letter ordering them to make the necessary repairs. If the owner does not make the repair, the city will repair the sidewalk and add the value of the repair to the owner's property tax plus a 10% administrative fee. The city will generate funds for those in need of sidewalk repair that make 80% or less of the median income, and will share the cost of sidewalks for property owners with more than one sidewalk.
- *Is there an ordinance regarding cats loose in the neighborhood?* Yes, a complaint can be made to city code enforcement.
- *Is there an ordinance about barking dogs?* Yes, a complaint can be made to city code enforcement.
- *If I shovel my sidewalk and then the city plows and covers my driveway, who is responsible to shovel the driveway again?* The resident is responsible.
- *Public Transit Comment: Phyllis Farrar: 5 Routes serve our neighborhood. Phyllis is a point of contact for PTAC (Public Transportation Advisory Committee).*

First Annual SHNA Potluck Scheduled for May 5

Please join us for the First Annual SHNA Potluck! The potluck will be held at 5:30 pm, Saturday, May 5, in Centennial Park East Shelter. The East Shelter is just west of Biemer's Barbecue and access is off of Ninth St.

SHNA will provide the main dish (barbecue) and we ask Sunset Hill residents to bring side dishes or desserts, non-alcoholic beverages, and plates, cups and utensils. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow SHNA members and the SHNA officers and executive committee.

There is a playground and Frisbee golf course nearby, so come and play after dinner!

Trial Adoption of Centennial Park

Wanted: 10 Volunteers

What: Pick up litter in Centennial Park

When: June 9 at 9 a.m.

Why: Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department has an "Adopt-A-Park" program which helps keep City parks clean and free of trash and debris. Organizations, groups, or families participate by registering with the city to pick up several times during a calendar year. It's been suggested that the Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association adopt Centennial Park. This public service project would help maintain the largest park in our neighborhood as a welcoming, attractive, and safe place to play. But before committing our group to a year, we decided to take some "trial runs", to determine how much work is involved. At the annual meeting Phyllis Farrar announced an

afternoon clean-up on Earth day (April 21), and asked for volunteers. On that Saturday two people joined her and spent one hour collecting litter across approximately 1/3 of the park area. They gathered approximately three 30-gallon bags of debris.

We learned:

- To cover the entire park in one hour would require 10 volunteers
- Most of the litter is plastic, paper, or packaging – bulky, but not heavy
- Most of the litter is on the park's perimeters - streets and parking lots

To volunteer for our 2nd trial run on Saturday, June 9 at 9 a.m., please send Phyllis Farrar an email, pfarrar@sunflower.com, including the number of volunteers (bring friends/family). We will meet by the park sign at the parking lot entrance on 9th Street, just west of Biemer's BBQ. Wear long pants, long sleeves, gloves, and water proof shoes, (bug repellent) and bring water. Trash bags will be provided.

Worshipping in Sunset Hill Neighborhood

As a new feature of the SHNA Newsletter, each quarterly issue I will include an article introducing one of the houses of worship in Sunset Hill. Our first article is about our newest member, [Saint Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church](#), located at 1235 Iowa Street. I asked Father Lollar to tell us about his church, and here is his response:

"The primary experience of being Orthodox is to gather together in prayer and worship. The primary experience of that common prayer and worship is the experience of beauty, chanting, and iconography; it's a strongly sensory experience, reminding us of the beauty and glory of God and of the created world. There is also a very deep silence about our worship as well; it's an exalted and exuberant form but a very sober form as well. And so I think that our hope for a space in which to worship is that it can be a house of beauty as well as a house of silence, peace, and concentrated tranquility.

We often notice the traffic on Iowa, and it reminds us that we are in the midst of this very busy world that is going on about its business, but we come in here to pause and find a center of peace in silence. That is what our space feels like, a sacred enclosure. We hope that we can be that for the neighborhood and the city. We are in the middle of town right here, and we want to be an oasis of silence and contemplation and beauty in the midst of our city."

Thanks to Father Lollar for supporting the neighborhood by joining SHNA and his work in service to his congregation and to the community.

That's it for now!

Enjoy the glorious spring weather and watch for our summer edition in September!