



# Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

AUGUST 31, 2018

SUMMER, 2018

## SHNA Executive Committee

### *Officers*

Gary Webber -  
President

Matthew Paul -  
Vice President

Clint Idol -  
Secretary

Joanna  
Wiorcikiewicz-  
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, August 27, 2018, and discussed the following items:

- SHNA treasurer, Joanna Wiorcikiewicz-Kuczera, reported that the Association has a balance of \$856.04, and 117 members.
- Our Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) representative, Gary Webber, reported that at the May, June, and July LAN meetings the following items of interest to SHNA were discussed:
  - Treasurer's Report (July): Cindy Suenram absent. Shipley reported the total amount in the bank account to be \$2,745.11. There are 12 neighborhood members, 3 individual members.

#### Speaker(s):

- May: Rebecca Buford and Nicholas Ward from the Lawrence Community Housing Trust spoke. They advocated for changes to zoning that would allow smaller homes to be built in established neighborhoods.
- June: Tresa Hill and Kathy Tuttle representing West Lawrence Neighborhood Association described their efforts to have a crosswalk installed across Tennessee at 7th St. A traffic study showed speeds of over 40 mph. This creates a problem, since current policy denies crosswalk where speeds exceed 40 mph. Staff recommended denying the request. The Traffic Commission was sympathetic, and directed staff to include it on the list of projects. Their proposal scored low on the Non-Motorized Projects Prioritization Policy, and they requested that LAN help them work with the city to revise the policy so that more downtown and city core destinations received scores. LAN agreed to schedule a discussion at the July meeting. During neighborhood updates, the proposed locations for the Transit Hub were discussed. Schwegler opposes the Stewart Avenue location.
- July: Discussion of the City of Lawrence, Kansas Transportation Commission Non-Motorized Projects Prioritization Policy with respect to OWL's request for a safe pedestrian crossing on Tennessee. Guests included Chuck Soules, Director of Public works, Amanda Sahin, traffic Engineer, and Lawrence Police Chief Gregory Burns.
- Tresa Hill stated that OWL believes that the Prioritization Policy is biased against the central neighborhoods. Sahin pointed out that most of the SRTS are on local streets, and therefore benefits the neighborhoods. The policy prioritizes major streets because that is where the biggest pedestrian safety concerns are located. Sahin stated that Engineering is

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working on a Traffic Safety policy to replace current Traffic Calming policy. Staff feels that a crosswalk of Tennessee at 7th is a safety issue, and should be addressed with education, enforcement, and other methods.

- Chief Burns stated that violations were a problem. The department tries to take a balanced approach, with the highest priority on calls for service. In the past, officers were assigned to traffic enforcement, but that is not possible now. He hopes that in the future he may be able to dedicate one officer on each shift primarily to traffic enforcement. Traffic violations are the most frequent complaints he receives, but his officers have many important duties.
- Michael Almon stated that he believes that the prioritization policy is an important tool that needs improvement. He encouraged staff to consider that they are hearing problems with the policy.

Updates:

- 9th Street - Ninth Street project. Construction has begun on the street repair and renovation. Larsen stated the street infrastructure was authorized on June 19, 2018.
- 19th street – work on 19th street has been moved from 2018 to 2019. City staff is still working on a final plan.
- Sidewalks – \$800,000 has been budgeted in 2019 for the Sidewalk Hazard Mitigation Program, a marked increase from 2018 funding. These funds will be used for the city’s portion of the repairs, for low income grants, and to fund repairs where the property owner has more than one sidewalk.

The full minutes for both LAN meetings are available online. Follow these links for minutes for the [May](#), [June](#), and [July](#) meetings.

- Gary Webber reported that the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) has selected Sunset Hill as an honorable mention in a program to honor Kansas neighborhoods that demonstrate uniqueness, interaction, attractiveness, comfort, mobility, and leadership. For more details and a link to the article, see the article in “What’s Happening?” below.
- SHNA has received complaints about traffic standing in the southbound lane of Crestline at the intersection with Harvard while waiting to turn right to pick up students in front of West Junior High. These standing cars force drivers behind to enter the northbound lane to go around, creating a dangerous situation for motorists and pedestrians. Faye Hale reported that she had been in contact with Brad Kempf, principal of West, who stated that he has issued a traffic flow map to direct parents to appropriate parking areas, and that he has assigned the school resource officers to monitor traffic flow. SHNA would like to urge all parents to be aware of this problem and avoid standing on Crestline. A better solution would be to park on an adjacent street and ask you children to walk to you. Even better, encourage your students to walk to and from school whenever possible, reducing traffic congestion and providing a chance for healthful exercise.
- The second Centennial Park Cleanup organized by SHNA member Phyllis Farrar took place on June 9 and drew 6 volunteers from the neighborhood. The cleanup went very well, and the entire park was covered in about an hour. The Executive Committee voted to adopt Centennial for 2019, and to hold cleanup events in spring, summer,

## 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](#)

and fall. For details on the fall cleanup, please see the article that follows.

- The EC welcomed Joanie Stone, SHNA Applause Award coordinator, to the meeting. Joanie has coordinated this award program for many years, and the EC thanked her for her many years of volunteer work. This recognition of the brightest and best of our neighborhood is a highlight of every year.
- Paula Kellogg, New Neighbor Packet coordinator, announced that Sunset Hill had acquired 29 new property owners since the last packet was last distributed in April of this year. In addition, all of the properties sold for more than the asking price. This large number of property sales indicates that the housing market is particularly strong right now, and that Sunset Hill continues to be a desirable neighborhood in which to live.
- [Complete minutes are available on the SHNA website.](#)

## What's Happening?

### Sunset Hill Recognized as Best Neighborhood Runner Up



The Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) is a non-profit organization located in Wichita committed to fostering leadership for stronger, healthier and more prosperous Kansas communities. This year they sponsored a competition to identify "The Best Neighborhoods in Kansas", soliciting nominations from neighborhoods across the state. SHNA submitted a nomination, and we are pleased to announce that our neighborhood was one of 6 runners-up for this award!

In announcing the winners and runners-up in their quarterly publication "The Journal", the KLC said this about Sunset Hill:

*Sunset Hill offers townies and KU students alike a diverse mix of amenities that have a local flavor, even though it sits near two of the busiest, chain-store-friendly streets in Lawrence. You'll find parks and Lawrence's only bowling alley, as well as a natural foods grocery that*

*draws shoppers from across the city. The neighborhood association is large, with nearly 150 members, and residents have advocated for better sidewalks, traffic-calming measures, infrastructure repairs and policies on short-term rentals.*

Lawrence did very well overall, with two of the four winning neighborhoods, East Lawrence and Delaware Street Commons, and two of the six honorable mentions, Sunset Hill and Old West Lawrence.

Congratulations Sunset Hill neighbors for working together to make our neighborhood a special place to call home! You can read the full story in in the Center's publication, "[The Journal](#)", which is available online by [following this link](#).

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### **Call for Applause Nominations**

It is time again to nominate our neighbors for the Applause Award! Once a year the Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association recognizes neighbors who have recently enhanced their home through renovations, landscaping or other improvements. If you know of someone that has been working hard on their home and would be a good candidate for this award, please send a nomination email to Joan Stone at [jmstone@usd497.org](mailto:jmstone@usd497.org).



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### **Crossing Wellington Safely**

Many of you may have noticed the new crossing beacon at the intersection of Wellington Road and Steven Drive. Sunset Hill was happy to receive one of the first "Rapidly Flashing Rectangular Beacons" installed in Lawrence. These beacons are solar powered, and activated by a push button. The orange beacon warns drivers to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Many students from Sunset Hill Elementary and West Junior High cross Wellington while walking or riding to and from school, and the installation of this beacon is a much-needed safety improvement. To use the beacon:

1. Stop before entering the street and push the button.
2. Wait until all traffic has stopped.
3. Cross the street.
4. Don't forget to wave to the motorists as a sign of thanks!

## SHNA EC Expresses Support for Nearby Transit Hub Site

The Executive Committee sent a letter to the City Commission in July expressing their support for the proposed Transit Hub site at Bob Billings Parkway and Crestline. The text of the letter appears below.

*July 9, 2018*

*Dear Mayor Boley, Vice-Mayor Larsen, and Commissioners Ananda, Herbert, and Soden;*

*The Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Executive Committee supports the Bob Billings Parkway and Crestline Drive site as a good candidate for the location of the Lawrence Transit Hub. This intersection is on the southern border of our neighborhood. We believe that proximity and easy access to the transit hub will benefit our neighborhood and that the central location will benefit the city as a whole.*

*We are confident that the reconfiguration of routes that will follow the construction of the hub will not adversely affect our neighborhood, but we will be watching the process carefully to make certain this is the case. We believe that an efficient transit system is critical to the livability of Lawrence, and that better route design made possible by a central hub will increase ridership, resulting in decreased traffic, cleaner air, lower carbon footprint, and will benefit all of the citizens of Lawrence.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Gary K. Webber, President, SHNA*

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## First Annual SHNA Potluck was a Rousing Success!

The First Annual SHNA Potluck was held at 5:30 pm, Saturday, May 5, in Centennial Park East Shelter, and a very good time was had by all! Members brought side dishes and desserts, and the main entrée, pulled pork sandwiches, was purchased from our neighborhood barbecue restaurant, Biemers. The weather was excellent, and the approximately 40 attendees spent lots of time getting to know each other and enjoying the excellent food.

The total cost of the event including rental of the shelter was \$263.93. Since this was our first attempt, and we were not certain of attendance, we went a little overboard on our sandwich order, so future events should cost somewhat less. Everyone agreed that we should repeat this fun event in May of 2019!



## Adoption of Centennial Park

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 three times during a calendar year.

The second "trial run" of a park cleanup by SHNA members took place on June 9, and six Sunset Hill residents worked hard picking up trash in the park. Thanks to:

1. Eliza Darmon
2. Phyllis Farrar
3. Tony Moss
4. Dick Orchard
5. Georgia Orchard
6. John White

In their August 27 meeting, the EC authorized Phyllis to adopt Centennial on behalf of SHNA. To volunteer for the fall cleanup on Saturday, October 20 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm, please send Phyllis Farrar an email, [pfarrar@sunflower.com](mailto:pfarrar@sunflower.com), informing her of the number of volunteers you are bringing. Volunteers will meet by the Centennial 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. Bring one 30-gallon trash bag.

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## Getting to Know Your Executive Committee

Many of you know at least a few of the SHNA Executive Committee members. However, I thought you might enjoy putting a face with the names on the left of the front page of the newsletter. Here is a photo of our EC, with one absent.



Front row, left to right: Gary Webber, President; Marianna Nieto, 1<sup>st</sup> year at-large; Joanie Stone, Applause Award coordinator; Joanna Wiorcikiewicz-Kuczera, Treasurer.  
Back row, left to right: Clint Idol, Secretary; Paula Kellogg, 3<sup>rd</sup> year at-large and New Neighbor coordinator; Marlene Merrill, 2<sup>nd</sup> year at-large; Faye Hale, 2<sup>nd</sup> year at-large; Matthew Paul, Vice President; not shown, Eliza Darmon, 1<sup>st</sup> year at-large.

## Worshiping 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 second article in this series is about [Unity of Lawrence](#), located at 900 Madeline Lane. I asked licensed Unity teacher Sharon Dwyer the following question about Unity "What would you want SHNA members to know about Unity Of Lawrence?", and here is her response:

*"Unity of Lawrence, 900 Madeline Lane, is affiliated with Unity Worldwide Ministries, Unity Village, MO, also known as publisher of the Daily Word. The Unity movement comes from the same late 19th century roots as Christian Science, Religious Science, Science of Mind and Centers for Spiritual Living.*

*The foundational beliefs have to do with the creative power of thought inherent in all human beings, the concept of God as a universal force of good, Jesus the Christ as a wayshower for the love that lies in potential within us all, and inclusiveness regardless of religion, race, gender identity or other presumed differences.*

*Unity identifies as Christian but does not presume that beliefs other than Christian are wrong or less worthy. Its founders studied world religions and were influenced by ideas from many teachings, honoring varied cultural interpretations. The practice of going within in meditation is an important aspect of Unity teachings. Each person is thought to have the ability to access spiritual truths "in the silence" without the need of a priestly mediator with the Divine.*

*Unity also promotes issues of social justice, equal rights and world peace. Anyone is welcome to attend a service, class or event without pressure to hold any particular beliefs. Further, anyone seeking prayer support is invited to contact the international prayer support, Silent Unity, 1-800-NOW-PRAY."*

Thanks to Unity of Lawrence for their service to the congregation and to the community.

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That's it for now!

Enjoy the fall colors and watch for our fall edition in December!