



Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

JUNE 15, 2020

SPRING, 2020

SHNA Executive Committee

Officers

Gary Webber –
President/Treasurer

Matthew Paul -
Vice President

John White -
Secretary

At-large Members

Jesús Garcia

Faye Hale

Marlene Merrill

Mariana Nieto

Chris and Betsy
Ostrander

Past President

Jeanne Pees

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President

president@sunsethillna.org

785-312-4840

Website

<http://sunsethillna.org/>



[Facebook](#)

Hello SHNA Members!

So much has changed recently, it feels like much longer than three months since I published the winter newsletter. I hope you are all well and safe.

My sincere thanks to all of you (104 so far) who renewed your membership to SHNA for 2020! I especially want to welcome our 15 new members. Please get involved, your neighborhood needs your energy!

The Executive Committee met on Zoom last month. Here are the draft minutes from that meeting:

Executive Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

The EC met on Thursday, May 7, 2020, 6:30 pm, online via Zoom.

Participants: Dillon Heter, Marlene Merrill, Matthew Paul, Betsy Ostrander, John White, Gary Webber

- I. Approve March 2, 2020 minutes: Motion to approve from Merrill, seconded by Heter, motion passed unanimously.
- II. Treasurer's Report: \$1255.75 balance, 111 members. Webber discussed the \$.50 service charge for each transaction over 25 per month. This creates a problem in March when renewals come in. Paul suggested we encourage cash renewals on all applications, and Webber suggested we can space the check deposits out over 2 or three months to avoid going over the limit. Webber suggested that a future project could be recruiting business members. This was discussed about 2 years ago. Paul suggested that it would be beneficial to amend the bylaws to remove the specified membership rates, and instead allow the EC to set rates. Webber will add this discussion to the next agenda.
- III. Old Business
 1. LAN update (Webber): LAN is meeting via Zoom. The April meeting was mostly a discussion of online meeting logistics. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20. Webber reviewed the Accessory Dwelling Unit controversy and the letter we submitted.
 2. Website update (Webber): Nothing to report.
 3. Discuss recruiting of new member(s), including news of a volunteer for the Treasurer position: Longtime member Bill Arick has volunteered to join the EC and serve as treasurer. Webber will train him when social distancing constraints allow. Paul and Merrill will serve one more term. This completes the EC and we are ready for elections at the Annual Meeting.
 4. Plan for postponed Annual Meeting and Picnic: We will plan on scheduling the Annual Meeting in September or October as conditions allow. A virtual meeting was discussed, but most members preferred a face-to-face meeting if that is possible.

Quick Links

Lawrence Police Department

Non-emergency Dispatch
785-832-7509

Neighborhood Resource Officers
785-830-7408

Report Traffic Safety Concerns
[Online form](#)

City Code Enforcement
785-832-3111

[Code Violation Form](#)

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

[Regulation of Animals](#)

City of Lawrence

[City Information for Residents](#)

[Forms for Residents](#)

[Good Neighbor Ordinances](#)

[Snow Removal](#)

[Dispose of Hazardous Waste](#)

Sunset Hill Businesses

- Absolute Pawfection
- Acres Realty
- Advanced Health Center
- Alvin's Wine & Spirits
- Arcpoint Labs
- B. A. Green Construction
- Barnes Homes
- Beautiful Music
- Belltone Hearing Aid Center
- Biemer's BBQ

5. Report on PPE collection drive: Webber reported on the PPE drive, organized by Rhonda Schademann. The drive gathered masks, paper and cleaning products, and other PPE.

IV. New Business

1. Consider \$50 donations to West and Sunset Hill for gardens: Paul wondered if gardening was taking place since the schools were closed. Heter mentioned that Sunset Hill was still working on their garden. Merrill moved to issue the checks, Heter seconded. Webber will send the checks.
2. Time for spring New Neighbors packet: Webber will contact Jesus Garcia to see if he will be able to assemble and distribute the packets. Webber will also help if needed.

V. New agenda items from participants

1. Question on the status of Centennial and Harvard from Merrill: Webber reported that efforts to solve the illegal parking on Crestline during West Middle School pickup continue. Some recently discussed possible solutions include:
 - i. Cars waiting to pick up students from the front entrance must approach the school from the west on Harvard. They can then park legally on the south side of Harvard and turn into the driveway as traffic allows. Cars leaving the driveway must proceed west on Harvard. White suggested that making that section of Harvard a one-way street might make entering and leaving the driveway easier.
 - ii. Move parking on Harvard east of Centennial from the south side to the north side of the street. Cars must approach the school on Harvard from the east. Then when cars parked on Harvard reach Centennial, additional cars can park on the north side of Harvard.
 - iii. Establish Hillcrest southwest parking lot as a remote drop-off and pick-up site. Students would then use the new sidewalks on Yale to walk to and from remote parking.
2. Question on the status of the Transit Hub from Merrill: Webber reported that the transit hub is still in process. Lawrence Transit has a new director who understands the need to improve service.
3. Discuss date for next meeting: Participants agreed that Monday, August 17 would work for the next EC meeting.

The city is also currently developing a city-wide Safe Routes to School plan and is encouraging all schools to formalize a drop-off and pick-up procedure. Webber will set up a meeting with school, police, and planning department representatives and invite the EC to attend.

2. Question on the status of the Transit Hub from Merrill: Webber reported that the transit hub is still in process. Lawrence Transit has a new director who understands the need to improve service.
 3. Discuss date for next meeting: Participants agreed that Monday, August 17 would work for the next EC meeting.
- #### VI. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

SHNA works hard in your behalf, so please support us by [renewing your membership!](#)

What's Happening?

Annual Meeting and Picnic on Hold

At their August 17 meeting, the EC will discuss plans for rescheduling the Annual Meeting and the Picnic. If the Annual Meeting can be held this fall, we will elect three new EC members at that time (really only one new, Matthew Paul and Marlene Merrill have agreed to serve an 3-year additional term.)

- Body Boutique
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas
- Buckingham Palace Cleaning Services
- Busey Home Mortgage
- Capitol Federal Savings
- Capitol Agency Insurance
- Central Bank of the Midwest
- CEK Insurance
- The Chiropractic Element
- Chops Comics
- Chris Munk State Farm Insurance
- Christal K-9
- Color Studio
- Commerce Bank
- Connie K. Grob, Bookkeeping
- Conroy's Pub
- Cosmos Indian Store & Cafe
- Crimson & Brew's
- Dazzlers Christian Dance
- Econo Lodge
- Edie Insurance
- Empire Bar & Billiards
- Ernie Williamson Music
- Everest Liquors
- Excalibur of Westminster Hair Styling
- Family Psychological Services, LLC
- Family Therapy Institute Midwest
- Farm Bureau Financial Services
- The Fit Flavor
- Free State Insurance
- Free State Ride
- Genstler Eye Center

If it is still not possible to meet in person, we will discuss an online meeting and election. A quorum for this meeting is 10% of the paying members, or 12 currently. I will update you in the summer newsletter.

SHNA Member Organizes PPE Collection Campaign

In April, SHNA member Rhonda Schademann contacted SHNA and asked if she could use our mailing list to promote a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) collection drive. The EC granted permission. When I asked her recently how the campaign went, she replied:

"We didn't get as much as I hoped but every little bit helps right? We ended up with about 20 masks, two boxes of trash liners, a box of gloves, one hand sanitizer and a pair of goggles. I might be forgetting something."

"I went to LMH but the person I talked to said maybe a smaller group could use it. I ended up donating them to Visiting Nurses. I hope that was okay. I did receive a very nice thank you note from them that maybe we could share. They were very appreciative."

Thanks, Rhonda, for organizing this worthwhile collection.

City Crew Trims and Thins Trees on Centennial

In April I received an email from SHNA member Richard Hardin. Richard was concerned about a line of trees on the east side of the 900 block of Centennial in. These trees are on Hillcrest Shopping Center property but are within the street right-of-way ("street trees") and are thus the city's responsibility.

The trees were in bad shape. They were planted much too close together, and many were spindly and weak. They obviously had not been trimmed in years and were full of dead branches hanging over the street and sidewalk.



Centennial Trees before trimming

I emailed Crystal Miles, Horticulture Manager, Landscaping and Forestry Division, Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, and asked for her help. I remembered that Crystal was extremely helpful when SHNA bought a tree to be planted in Centennial Park to honor our longtime President, Jeanne Pees.

- Orchards Executive Golf & Footgolf
- Goodcents Deli
- Great Plains Media
- Heartland Meat Market
- Hillcrest Laundromat
- Hillcrest Styling Center
- Hite Collision
- Hi-Q Massage
- In the Zone Pro Shop
- Ignacio's in Empire Bar & Billiards
- Iowa Massage
- Jade Garden Restaurant
- Jayhawk Nail
- Jayhawk Trophy
- Jazzercise Lawrence
- Joda & Friends
- John R. Hooge, Attorneys at Law P.A.
- Kansas Secured Title
- Kathy's Alterations
- Kobe Japanese Steakhouse
- Kwik Shop
- La Petite Academy
- Lawrence Center for Entrepreneurship
- Lawrence Family Vision Clinic
- Lawrence Shirt Factory
- Lawrence Suitel
- Lawrence Tattoo
- Leeway Franks & Butcher Shop
- Lewis Veterinary
- Linux New Media
- Living Financial Solutions Center
- Life Enrichment Center
- Manpower
- Mediterranean Market & Café

Within a week a crew arrived and began trimming and thinning the trees. Three trees and much deadwood were removed, and the excellent result is there to see. Thank you to Crystal and her LPRD colleagues for their quick response and excellent work! And thanks to all our city staff, administration, and crews for the frontline work you do every day to keep our city healthy, well-maintained, and safe.

SHNA Adopts Ludlam Park!

In February SHNA formally applied to adopt Ludlam Park and clean it three times yearly. The adoption was accepted by the city. SHNA now cleans both useable parks in Sunset Hill. I say useable, because there is a third park in our neighborhood, Quarry Park, that is unimproved and not usable currently.



Ludlam Toddler Playground

In coming months, I will be visiting with Mark Hecker, Assistant Parks & Rec Director, about clearing some of the volunteer growth from the east boundary of the park.

Centennial & Ludlam Adoption Updates

In 2018, SHNA adopted Centennial Park and committed to cleaning it of litter three times annually. In 2020, we also adopted Ludlam Park (see above).



October 2019 Cleaning Crew

The first cleanup of Centennial in 2020 took place on or around April 25. Rather than meet as a group, Phyllis Farrar, Cleaning Crew Organizer, divided the park into 5 sections and pairs cleaned their sections at times convenient to them.

The next schedule cleanup of Centennial and Ludlam is scheduled for July 18 at 9 a.m. Phyllis will be in touch with the cleanup crew about logistics.

Please add your name to the list of volunteers by sending an email to Phyllis, pfarrar21@gmail.com. Volunteers will be contacted a few weeks before each of these dates, to confirm who can participate and explain the cleaning plan. If you volunteered at any of the clean-ups last year, you should hear from Phyllis around the first of July.

Executive Committee Supports ADUs in RS5

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) are tiny houses that share a lot with a full-sized house and may be occupied only by the owner or a relative of the owner. They are currently allowed in all residential zoning areas except the smallest, RS5. RS5 zones are single family residential lots between 5000 and 7000

- The Merc Co+op
- Midwest Property Management
- Muddy Waters Studio
- Munchers Bakery
- NAPA Auto Parts
- Optometry, F. J. Florey, O.D.
- Orchards Drug
- Phoenix Furniture & Home Goods
- Point A School of Dance
- Pops-N-More
- Prestige Hair Studio
- Property Management Services
- Quality Inn Lawrence
- Red Pepper Chinese Restaurant
- Reuschhoff Automobiles
- Dr. Robert Werner, Chiropractor
- Royal Crest Lanes
- Salon Renew
- The Scone Lady's Coffee Shop
- Scotch Cleaners
- Screen Express
- The Selection Autos
- Sew Forth
- Shelter Insurance
- Sizzors
- Sonic Drive-in
- Southern Accent Catering
- The Spectacle
- Stephens Insurance
- Stephens Real Estate
- Stoneback Appliance
- Stuart Chiropractic
- Sue Mulcahey, D.C., Chiropractor
- Sunflower Natural Pet Supplies
- Sunflower Rentals

square feet. City staff has proposed allowing ADUs in RS5 zones. This was attempted in 2013 and failed. There was and is significant neighborhood opposition to this proposal, primarily from older neighborhoods where most RS5 zoning is located.



Lisa's tiny house

In February, SHNA member Lisa Goans asked the SHNA Executive Committee to support allowing ADUs in RS5 zones. This change would allow her to share her home with her daughter. The EC agreed and submitted the following letter to the Douglas County Planning Commission:

*March 9, 2020
Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association
Gary Webber, President
907 Murrow Ct.
Lawrence, KS 66049*

*Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission
1 Riverfront Plaza, Ste. 320
PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044*

Dear Commission Members;

*The Executive Committee of the Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association (SHNA) does not object to the appropriate, regulated use of accessory dwelling units (ADU) in **all residential zones, including RS5**. We believe that current regulation of ADUs is adequate to ensure the neighborhood will not be negatively impacted.*

The Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association area has two registered ADUs. One of our subdivisions, Sunset Hill Estate, is zoned RS5 and includes almost 120 residences.

Please consider approving a text amendment to allow ADUs in RS5 zones.

Sincerely,

SHNA Executive Committee

*Jesús Garcia, member
Faye Hale, member
Dillon Heter, member
Marlene Merrill, member
Mariana Nieto – Treasurer
Betsy Ostrander/Chris Ostrander, member
Matthew Paul, Vice President
Gary Webber, President
John White, Secretary*

This proposal continues to work its way through the Planning Commission and the City Commission. The best way to know about issues coming before

- Sunset West Laundry
- The University National Bank
- VA Medical Center
- Virginia Inn Suites
- Waddell & Reed
- Walgreens
- Watson's Barbershop
- Wayne & Larry's
- Wakarusa Valley Credit Union
- Westside 66
- Yellow Brick Yoga

Sunset Hill Houses of Worship

- Christ Community Church
- Christ Covenant Church
- First Baptist Church
- Free State of Lawrence
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Saint Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church
- Unity of Lawrence
- West Side Presbyterian Church

Sunset Hill Parks

- Centennial Park
- Ludlam Park
- Quarry Park

Sunset Hill Schools

- Sunset Hill Elementary School
- West Middle School

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SHNA Donates to Neighborhood Schools

Each year for the last several years SHNA has donated \$50 each to Sunset Hill Elementary and West Middle Schools to support their school gardens. I'm certain many of you have been watching these gardens as they have grown and improved. Once again, we are happy to support these valuable projects with our small donation. This is a great example of your dues benefitting the neighborhood.

Non-resident Property Owner Letter Campaign

In 2017, SHNA sent out its first non-resident property owner (NRPO) letter, and decided to send it every other year, alternating with a flyer distribution to all single-family residences. Our primary goal in this mailing/flyer campaign is to get more of our neighbors to join us in making Sunset Hill the best neighborhood it can be. This letter went to the owners of property in Sunset Hill who live in another neighborhood of Lawrence. To do this, every two years The EC requests a listing of properties in the neighborhood from the county clerk. Here are some of the things that data reveals about Sunset Hill:

- number of properties - 1303
- number of resident property owners - 815
- number of non-resident property owners - 488
- number of non-resident property owners in Kansas and Missouri - 311
- number of non-resident property owners in Lawrence - 213

In 2017 the initial mailing to Lawrence NRPOs (213) cost \$150, and yielded 19 new members in 2017, with 14 renewing in 2018 and 2019, a total of \$235 in dues.

This year, three years later, we mailed out 213 letters and increased our non-resident membership from 14 to 19. Although this is great news, the small return on a rather large investment may mean that this letter should be sent less frequently. I think the EC should be congratulated for this campaign, which in a short time added 20 new members to our Association!

The EC has discussed a business outreach initiative at recent meetings. I would not be surprised to see a business outreach letter inserted into the rotation soon.

That's all for now!

Thanks for supporting Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association!