

Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

SUMMER, 2020

SHNA Executive Committee

Officers

Gary Webber –
President

Matthew Paul –
Vice President

John White –
Secretary

Bill Arick –
Treasurer

At-large Members

Jesús Garcia

Faye Hale

Dillon Heter

Marlene Merrill

Mariana Nieto

Chris and Betsy
Ostrander

Past President

Jeanne Pees

Contact Us

President

president@sunsethillna.org

785-312-4840

Website

<http://sunsethillna.org/>



[Facebook](#)

Notes from the Executive Committee Meeting

SHNA Executive Committee Meeting

August 16, 2020, 6:30 pm

Via Zoom Videoconference

In attendance: Bill Arick, Dillon Heter, Marlene Merrill, Mariana Nieto, Chris Ostrander, Matthew Paul, Gary Webber, John White

- I. Approve May 7th, 2020 minutes: Motion by Ostrander, Nieto second, minutes approved.
- II. Treasurer's Report - \$1255.75 beginning balance, \$1,308.75 ending. 124 current members. Only 1 landlord did not re-new. Household renewal 73%, landlord 94%, combined 76%. Bill Arick was elected Treasurer of SHNA via email in July and will take over all duties in September.
 1. Bill thanked everyone on the EC for their involvement in the neighborhood. Bill is from South Bend Indiana, and went to Indiana University (Accounting & Finance). He is a Master Gardener & Master Naturalist. Formerly Manager of Regulatory Compliance, AM General Corporation, manufacturer of Humvee (and others). Then Senior Finance Manager, School Bus Division, Navstar. Married with 3 kids, 6 grandchildren. Many varied interests.
- III. Old Business
 1. LAN update (Webber): Webber has not attended last 2 months. LAN is meeting via Zoom, and discussing K-10 & South Iowa development, Eastern Lawrence development, and Social Justice issues among other items. Minutes of all LAN meetings are on the [LAN website](#). Webber asked if Dillon would be willing to be the SHNA representative to LAN.
 2. Website update (Webber): The website is evolving. Paul complemented the recent graphic changes. Paul renewed hosting for next 5 yrs. Webber encouraged Paul to send an invoice to Arick and be reimbursed for WordPress hosting and domain fees.
 3. Plan for Annual Meeting and Picnic (all): Webber stated that he believed we need to meet to nominate Arick, renew Paul and Merrill to the EC, and to report to SHNA. Webber suggested we conduct a Zoom meeting. We need 12 members (10% of membership) for a quorum. Late September? Merrill agreed this was a good idea, not many are comfortable with in-person meetings. Nieto agreed. Arick asked if there was a time limit for holding an annual meeting? Webber replied not strictly, but that we are out of compliance as of April – we need to meet in the calendar year. The 12 households quorum is inclusive of EC members. Discussion of timing of this

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

meeting. Merrill moved to meet on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 – 8:30 pm., passed by acclimation.

4. Membership rates for businesses and households (all): Paul discussed that he was not necessarily advocating increasing business rates but rather adding flexibility of different levels of support from business members. Marlene advocated not increasing dues because of economic concerns. Arick agreed with Paul about donations from businesses. Webber proposed leaving By-Laws unchanged and convening a subcommittee to work on business memberships and donations campaign in 2021. Merrill stated that she is in favor of recruiting new business members asking for donations, but that such a campaign should include plans for spending the additional funds. She recommended no changes to the By-Laws.

IV. New Business

1. Update on storm shelter in Unity Church – Paul & Webber have talked to Unity Church regarding opening the basement to Schwarz Acres members during tornado alerts. However, there is no room for social distancing. We will table this initiative and try again at a later date.
2. Update on Centennial and Ludlam Parks – Webber reported that we are cleaning both Centennial and Ludlam parks three times annually. Paul suggested we ask about signs in the parks advertising that we had adopted them and including our web address. Webber will investigate.

V. New agenda items from participants

1. Webber asked if he could clarify the invitation to the annual meeting. Webber will send out a draft agenda to the EC and request members to present sections. There will be no guest speakers for the annual meeting.
2. Nieto asked about Bill doing a gardening article for the SHNA newsletter.

VI. Adjourn meeting at 7:10

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

What's Happening?

Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

The annual meeting of the Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association usually takes place during the second week of April. However, because of the pandemic, The Executive Committee (EC) decided to postpone the meeting this year. The EC met on August 16 and decided that we can wait no longer. They scheduled a virtual meeting for September 22, 2020, 7 p.m., online via Zoom. You should have received an invitation to this meeting in an email sent out last week. You will receive a reminder email one week before the meeting.

The EC scheduled an hour and a half for this video conference to give us time to solve any technical glitches before we begin the meeting, so be patient while we get started. Laptops and desktops work best for video conferencing, although a smartphone will work if that is all you have.

To join the videoconference, simply click on the link in the email invitation (or paste it into your browser). You will need to give your permission to have the Zoom client installed on your computer and then say yes to audio and

- 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

video. You will need a microphone and speakers (or headset) to participate, and a video camera allows your image to be seen by others. If you would like a quick tutorial, simply email me (Gary Webber) at president@sunsethillna.org and I will arrange a short practice session with you. Here are a few tips for using Zoom:

1. Mute your microphone by clicking the "mute" button in the lower left when not speaking. Click it again when you would like to speak.
2. In the upper left, click on "gallery view" to see all participants in small panels. "Speaker view" shows only the speaker but can be disconcerting if noises from other participants cause the view to shift around.
3. If you are not receiving audio or video, please click the "chat" button to type a message asking for help.

Contact me at the email address above if you have questions.

Interruptions in Electrical Service

Evergy has struggled once again this summer to maintain uninterrupted electrical service. Our neighborhood, and other parts of the city, have experienced many interruptions (as opposed to outages) during the last few months. Interruptions last only seconds or minutes, while outages last more than a few minutes. You may remember that we had similar problems during the summer of 2018.

I received some inquiries from members about these issues, contacted Evergy, and summarized their response in an email sent to SHNA members on June 30. The email follows:

Dear Sunset Hill Neighbors,

Unless you don't own any appliances with electronic clocks, you will undoubtedly have noticed that we have been experiencing a series of power interruptions lasting from a few seconds to a few minutes. These interruptions have been occurring overnight or in the early morning.

I spoke today with Jarrod Konecny, Construction Supervisor for Evergy in Lawrence, and asked about this series on interruptions. He told me that they have known about this problem for about two weeks and have been working to identify the cause and repair it. This problem is affecting an entire circuit in central Lawrence, comprising about 1500 customers. The circuit starts at the substation at 6th and Massachusetts, and continues west along the north side of 6th, before it crosses over to the south side of 6th around Iowa. Most of Sunset Hill is affected.

*Jared said that they found and replaced a damaged insulator last week, and thought they had corrected the problem, only to have the interruptions continue. They have a crew working on this today, and hope to have the problem resolved soon. He apologized for the inconvenience these interruptions cause. **He encouraged customers who lose power for a short period of time to call Customer Service to report the interruption. You can reach Customer Service at 1-800-383-1183. You will be asked for your address, and then you can report the interruption.***

If you experience a power outage that is not quickly corrected, and your power is off, please call the Automated Outage Report number and report the outage. A crew will be dispatched to your home to troubleshoot, if they are not already working on the problem. The number to report an ongoing outage is 1-800-544-4857.

You can find out more about outages, and view a map of ongoing outages on the [Evergy web site](#). Click on "Outages" at the top of the page. Please note

- 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

that the map only identifies ongoing outages where power is down completely. Short interruptions of service are not displayed on the outage map.

I hope this information is helpful. I know these interruptions can be frustrating, but I encourage you to be patient and always report interruptions to Customer Service, and outages to the Automated Outage Report system.

*Best regards,
Gary Webber, President, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association*

I am hopeful that the issues have been resolved. It has been over a month since the electricity in my home was interrupted, so perhaps we can go back to resetting our clocks every few months rather than every few days.

Zoning Change Proposed for Southwest Corner of Hillcrest Shopping Center

The owner of Hillcrest Shopping Center has applied for a rezoning of a 1.68 acre lot on the southwest corner of the shopping center. This parcel is currently a parking lot, and is at the corner of Yale and Centennial. The owner is requesting a change from CN2-Neighborhood Commercial, to CS-Commercial Strip. The proposed project is a 17,890 SF "controlled climate mini warehouse", 300 ft. long and three stories tall. A smaller 3-story mini warehouse is planned for the future just east of the proposed building. Click on these links to view the [application](#), [zoning map of the area](#), and [concept plan for the proposed building](#).

In my opinion, this rezoning is inappropriate on many levels:

- The CS designation is intended for arterial abutting properties. Article 20-213(a) Lawrence Land Development Codes: "The CS, Commercial Strip District, is primarily intended to provide for existing commercial strip development along the City's Major Arterial Streets."
- Although Hillcrest Shopping Center does abut Iowa, this project is planned for a parcel on local streets; Yale and Centennial. The southwest corner of Hillcrest Shopping Center where the building is to stand, is 945 ft. from Iowa St. to the east, the nearest arterial
- The planned warehouse belongs on an arterial street. Of the 13 Lawrence mini-warehouse/self-store facilities, 11 are on arterials, the twelfth is on North Iowa, a minor arterial, and the thirteenth is in a commercial/industrial block in Barker neighborhood 200 ft. west of Haskell Ave, an arterial.
- The less restrictive CS district allows businesses to be developed **by right** (no Special Use Permit required), that are not appropriate for a lot 760 ft. from West Middle School and two blocks into a residential neighborhood (Sex Shop, Sexually Oriented Theater, Heavy Equipment Sales/Rental, Inoperable Vehicles Storage, Large Collection Recycling, Fast Order Food, Nightclub, Fleet Storage, Gas and Fuel Sales).
- The CN2 designation should remain unless there is a good reason to regress to a less restrictive code. A 300-foot-long, 3-story warehouse with blank walls facing the neighborhood is not a good reason.
- Parking could become a problem for the businesses in the Hillcrest II building, abutting the site on the north, Royal Crest Bowling to the northeast.

- 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

- If the purpose of this warehouse is for the storage of inventory or other materials for area businesses, a significant amount of truck traffic to and from the facility can be expected. Much if not most of this traffic will utilize Yale of Centennial to avoid the crowded Hillcrest parking area. This traffic will negatively affect the adjoining neighborhood.

This proposed zoning change will be presented to the Planning Commission at their meeting on the evening of September 23. The SHNA Executive Committee is discussing this proposal, and will submit written comment on the proposed change, and a representative of the EC will attend the Planning Commission's virtual meeting. Sunset Hill residents who would like to submit written comment or register to attend the zoom meeting, should contact planning@lawrenceks.org by Monday, September 20 by 10:00 am. If you would like to contribute to the EC response to this application, please contact Gary Webber at president@sunsethillna.org.

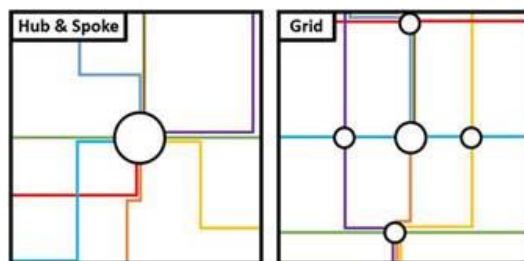
Lawrence Bus Transit Hub Plans Moving Ahead

Here is a report from Phyllis Farrar, a resident in our neighborhood and SHNA member, who serves on Lawrence's Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC). The documents on which this report is based can be found in the [August 10 meeting's Agenda and Agenda packet](#), and the [two preceding meetings](#).

The new Director of Lawrence Transit, Adam Weigel, began his job in mid-March. He finished his Master's Degree in City/Urban, Community and Regional Planning three years ago at the University of Kansas. Welcome back to Lawrence, Adam!

Over the past decade, our community has discussed, debated, and studied a permanent location for a primary bus transfer facility. The City conducted two site selection studies in [2014](#) and [2018](#), in addition to a TIGER grant application in [2016](#) that was not awarded. In July 2020, the City and the University of Kansas signed a legal agreement to move forward with further study and development of a multimodal transfer facility on university property located at Bob Billings & Crestline Drive. This location takes into account community feedback from prior studies that sought a relatively central location and one that did not encroach on established neighborhoods.

As the City and KU continue moving forward on the legal and technical requirements for this site, it is critical to begin community discussions early about redesigning routes to serve this new primary transfer facility. Decisions about route redesign will inform design decisions for the transfer facility. Different route design concepts, such as the hub & spoke or grid as shown below, may result in different transfer facility needs.



The estimated timeline for route redesign planning and facility design planning are shown in the table below. Generally speaking, the City will

- 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

engage with the community over the next 12 months to collaboratively determine a new route structure for transit. The first route redesign study will take place this fall, led by KU Urban Planning students, followed by a consultant-led route redesign planning process in spring 2021.

Following these route redesign processes, the design process for the facility itself will begin. Each route redesign study and the facility design process will include early and substantial public engagement. Public engagement will consist of web-based surveys at minimum, expected to accept comments for 3-4 weeks per survey. Staff will continue to explore additional methods to safely engage community members who do not have access to technology.

Fall 2020	Route Redesign – KU Student Project
Spring 2021	Route Redesign – Consultant
Summer 2021 – Fall 2022	Facility Design & Construction
August 2022	Estimated facility opening

A new transit center on the southeast corner of Bob Billings & Crestline would put all transit services within easy reach of our neighborhood, although not actually within our boundaries. We will alert you to the exact dates and methods for public engagement opportunities when the City makes them available. Please follow the progress of this project at www.lawrencetransit.org/transfer-facility.

Changes Underway to Timing of Traffic Lights on Major Arterial Streets



You may have noticed some changes in traffic flow on 6th Street recently. This is the result of a new program to change the way traffic lights are activated on [major arterial streets](#). The city is moving from vehicle detector activated traffic lights on these major streets to timed traffic lights. These changes have already taken place on 6th, and are planned during the summer for Iowa Street, Clinton Parkway, and Bob Billings Parkway.

Prior to this change, traffic lights on arterials were activated when a vehicle pulled up to the intersection on a side street or a pedestrian activated the pedestrian crossing call button. The new system uses a 120 second cycle rather than the vehicle detectors. This system is intended to make traffic move smoothly down the arterials without frequent stops. This new system also means that you may wait a little longer (or a bit shorter) at cross streets to enter the arterial. Pedestrians will also have to wait until the traffic signal changes, as the pedestrian buttons do not interrupt the timing sequence.

In addition to these changes, the city also changed the way lights at some major intersections act late at night. Prior to this change, signal lights on some major intersections began blinking yellow on the arterial, and red at the cross streets, after 10:30 pm. This type of signal can result in increased accidents and does not allow pedestrians to stop traffic to cross the intersection. These lights now follow the same pattern at all time. Look for further changes this summer to the other three arterials addressed in the program.

Visiting Nurses Send Their Thanks for PPE Drive

One of our members, Rhonda Schademann, organized a PPE drive in March, and donated the supplies to the Lawrence Visiting Nurses Association. She shared a lovely thank you note they sent, and I thought I should share it with you.

Dear Rhonda & Neighborhood Association—
Wow!! Thank you so very much for your donation. We can tell you gathered the items from the whole group. Thank you for not only the items—but also your time/energy. We have been able to use everything you gave us. Please pass on to the whole group how much we appreciate you thinking of VNA in this unsettling time! Stay safe!
Lili Grant & VNA Team

PS—
This donation/card meant a little more to me...
My mother, Jeremy Phillips, is the principal at Sunset Hill Elementary School. He always talks about what a wonderful neighborhood it is. Nice to see those actions from you all—really supports what he says!! Thank you!
—Jill

Centennial Adoption Update

To uphold our responsibility to clean Centennial three times per year, we scheduled clean-up events in April, July, and October. The summer clean-up was carried out by five volunteers on Saturday morning, July 18. The park has seen lots of visitors this summer but did not take long to clean up. The October clean-up will take place on October 17 at 1 PM.

Please contact Phyllis Farrar, clean-up coordinator (pfarrar21@gmail.com), if you would like to help. The ideal crew is at least 12 people. Volunteer now; Phyllis will send you a reminder in early October. Each crew works no more than one hour. Remember to clean up after yourself when you use the park! :>)

City of Lawrence Unveils New “Lawrence Listens” Platform and Mobile App

This is a reprint from a City of Lawrence email.

Beginning today, Lawrence residents are invited to access “Lawrence Listens,” a new community engagement platform powered by SeeClickFix. Lawrence Listens allows citizens to request service assistance from the City with the simple click of a button.

Lawrence Listens is a name many residents may already find familiar. The new platform is an extension of the already existing Lawrence Listens online survey tool. In the new tool, available both from the City of Lawrence website and via a new mobile app, the survey and service request features are combined to give residents one platform where they can share their City of Lawrence-related feedback.

“We’re thrilled to offer Lawrence Listens as a new way for residents to communicate directly with the City,” said City Manager Craig Owens. “Our hope is that, through the app’s continued usage, the City will continue to become more transparent, collaborative and responsive in recognizing and serving the needs of our residents.”

Through the service request feature of Lawrence Listens, residents can easily ask for the City’s assistance with a variety of concerns, from potholes to downed tree limbs, parks issues and much more.

After downloading the Lawrence Listens mobile app (links available below for Apple and Android users), or accessing on the City of Lawrence website, residents will be asked to set up a simple profile before they start submitting requests. Once submitted, those service requests are routed to the appropriate City department, which then works to review and address the request, communicating to the resident throughout the major steps in the process.

Once the user has created an account, submitting a request takes only a few seconds. Users click the new request button, take a photo of the issue, drop a pin on their location on a map, select a category, give a quick description of the issue and hit submit. City staff will receive the request and process it as necessary, giving comments back to the user in real-time.

Residents can access the Lawrence Listens platform, including both the survey and the service request features, through the City of Lawrence website or by downloading the app directly onto their device

- City of Lawrence website: lawrenceks.org/listens.

- Download from the Apple App store: <https://lawks.us/2BEHWVz>
- Download from the Google Play store: <https://lawks.us/2BEHYNb>

Contact: Porter Arneill, 785-832-3402 parneill@lawrenceks.org

Sunset Hill Businesses

Buckingham Palace Inc.

In 2019 SHNA gained its first business member in many years, Buckingham Palace, Inc. (BPI). The owner, Jennifer Lutz, grew up in Sunset Hill, so she thinks, and we agree, that it is awesome that her business is in our neighborhood. Here is a short prospectus of BPI.



Buckingham Palace, Inc. was founded in 1984 by Jennifer Lutz based on the core values of honesty and integrity. Initially, Jennifer and a few employees cleaned a small number of homes and offices and operated out of Jennifer's apartment. As their reputation for reliable, quality service grew, so did the Company.

Today, Buckingham Palace, has over 50 employees in three divisions. BPI Building Services is our commercial division and maintains a variety of businesses ranging from manufacturing plants to small offices. Red Carpet is our carpet cleaning division. These technicians maintain floors and clean carpets, rugs, and upholstery for our commercial and residential clients. Buckingham Palace Housecleaning's teams serve over 100 satisfied clients. In addition to all of these services,

Buckingham Palace, Inc. also is certified to decontaminate commercial and residential settings for positive cases of Covid-19 as well as preventative disinfecting with our electrostatic sprayers. Our goal is simple—to provide a clean and healthy environment, which is why they have been number one in Best of Lawrence for the last two years.

Jennifer Lutz, President
BPI Building Services
2441 W. 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66049
jlutz@bpicleaning.com
785-842-6264
<https://www.buckinghampalacecleaning.com>

That's all for now! Enjoy the fall weather!

Thank you for supporting Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association!