

Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

JUNE 8, 2021

SPRING EDITION

SHNA Executive Committee

Officers

Gary Webber –
President

Matthew Paul –
Vice President

John White –
Secretary

Bill Arick –
Treasurer

At-large Members

Jesús Garcia

Dillon Heter

Marlene Merrill

Mariana Nieto

Chris and Betsy
Ostrander

Past President

Jeanne Pees

Contact Us

President

president@sunsethillna.org

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[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sunsethillna)

Notes from the EC

SHNA Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, May 24, 2021, 6:30 PM

Via Zoom Videoconference

- I. In Attendance: Dillon Heter, Marlene Merrill, Chris Ostrander, Matthew Paul, Gary Webber
- II. [Treasurer's Report](#): Webber presented the first quarter report (Arick unavailable).
- III. Old Business
 1. [Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods \(LAN\)](#) update: In March, Citygate Associates sought LAN's input regarding their comprehensive study of how the Lawrence Police Department can better serve our community. In April, Robert Sands introduced a survey regarding structure of Lawrence city government. In May, RiverFront & CENTER presented their ideas for bicycle and pedestrian connections to the Kansas riverfront and Lawrence area. [LAN meeting minutes here](#).
 2. [Multimodal Transfer Facility](#) progress report: public input is currently being gathered, first concepts have been published, and design will start this summer.
 3. Business membership drive: Webber estimated the cost to send letters at \$100. Personal visits are another option, probably more effective. Webber asked for interest in visits to businesses for solicitation of membership. Paul and Heter replied that they were willing. Webber will send a draft plan and they will meet as a subcommittee to plan a drive for this summer.
- IV. New Business
 1. Spring New Neighbor Packets: Webber asked if anyone was willing to take over this program. No volunteers responded. Webber will contact EC members who have not attended to ask them if anyone is interested in this program. *NOTE: John White has volunteered to take over this program. Thanks John!*
 2. \$50 donations for West Middle School and Sunset Hill Elementary gardens: Approved.

Quick Links

Lawrence Police Department

Non-emergency Dispatch
(785) 832-7509

Neighborhood Resource Officers
(785) 830-7408

Report Traffic Safety Concerns
[Traffic Safety Reporting Tool](#)

City Code Enforcement
(785) 832-3111

[Request City Service Online](#)

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

[Chapter C City Code: Regulation of Animals \(pdf\)](#)

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
- Atma Clinic
- B. A. Green Construction
- Barnes Homes

3. EC term renewals and recruiting new members for 2021-2022: Garcia and Merrill are leaving the EC. Heter and Nieto have agreed to serve another 3-year term. We will need to recruit two new members.

4. Plan for September Annual Meeting and Picnic

- i. Unanimous support for a combined meeting/picnic. Date set for Saturday, Sept 18, 5:00 pm. Same format on potluck as 2019, abbreviated business meeting to elect EC members, "get to know you" activity.
- ii. Distribution of Annual Meeting invitation/membership app to all 800 single family and duplex residences in SH is scheduled for late August. We have been printing and delivering these every other year. Discussion indicated no significant support for continuing. Paul suggested including this in a Nextdoor campaign.
- iii. Membership drive planned for late August. Annual Meeting invitation/letter with self-addressed envelope: The EC strongly supported continuing the annual membership letter. We will stuff these letters at the August meeting.

5. Neighborhood Safety Program pilot application: Webber reported that he, Joanie Stone, and Lisa Goans met to discuss applying. Crestline at Harvard, Crestline at Oxford, Crestline at 9th, Lawrence Avenue, and 9th street were all mentioned as trouble spots. They recommended that SHNA not apply, survey the membership this summer about traffic issues, and perhaps apply in a later round. The EC agreed with this recommendation.

V. New agenda items from participants

1. Unity Church storm shelter: Paul asked if it was time to contact Unity again about using their basement as a neighborhood storm shelter. Paul will contact the church. If restarting this initiative is possible, Paul will contact SHNA member households near the church.
2. Set venue, date, and time for the next EC meeting in mid-August: Discussion indicated support for in-person meeting. Venue and date set: Christ Covenant Church, 2312 Harvard Rd., Monday, August 16, 2021, 6:30 PM.

Sunset Hill Happenings

SHNA 2021-2022 Annual Meeting to be Outside and In Person

ANNUAL MEETING

The SHNA Executive Committee (EC) has decided to hold our Annual Meeting in person after two years of virtual Zoom meetings. The EC will combine the Annual Meeting with a Neighborhood Picnic and hold both outside at the Centennial Park East Shelter on September 18, 2021, 5:30 PM.

- Beautiful Music
- Belltone Hearing Aid Center
- Biemer's BBQ
- Body Boutique
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas
- [Buckingham Palace Cleaning Services-SHNA Member](#)
- 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

As in past years, SHNA will provide a Barbecue entree, plates, and utensils, and lemonade. Members should plan on bringing side dishes and desserts. Following our meal we will hold our Annual Meeting, which will include election of new EC members, a questions and answer session, and some "getting acquainted" activities. You will receive an invitation/membership application in the mail in mid-August.

In other SHNA news, we will start our first Business Membership Drive this summer, visiting neighborhood businesses to encourage them to support their neighborhood association by becoming business members. SHNA currently has two business members, Buckingham Palace Cleaning Services and Sew Forth Alterations. Special thanks to Vice President Matthew Paul and EC member Dillon Heter for working on this membership campaign.

Stephens Real Estate Moves to New Address - 600 Lawrence Avenue

Locally owned and operated, Stephens Real Estate was founded in 1978 and is a strong and stable presence in Lawrence real estate. In April, broker & co-owner Chris Earl said, "We've been at our current location for over 40 years, and it has served us well. But it is time for a new space with upgraded technology as well as more meeting and collaboration space." So, as you may have noticed, what was formerly known as the Stone Meadows Square shopping center at 6th and Lawrence Avenue has had a complete renovation.



Stephens Real Estate is committed to remaining a full-service agency in a world where many companies provide less and less service. "We are continually innovating, educating, and improving to ensure our clients enjoy the highest level of personalized service from agents who are the best in the business," says broker & co-owner Oliver Minnis. "We believe people work best around others, and this building is an investment in our people and the work they do independently and together."

"This area feels like part of Lawrence as a whole - not closer to the west side or the east side," says Chris Earl. "We refer to it as midtown. After looking and assessing, we decided to move just a block down the street because we really love this area." Stephens will occupy the entire 2nd floor and about 40% of the lower level; the remaining space being leased. Oliver Minnis says, "We should

- Free State Insurance
- Free State Ride
- Genstler Eye Center
- 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

be settled at 600 Lawrence Avenue by May. We hope you will stop by to say hello."

Chris Earl
 Broker/Co-Owner
 Stephens Real Estate
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 2701 W. Sixth St., Lawrence, KS 66049
<https://stephensre.com/>

Rezoning application submitted for 1223 Iowa St.

The [Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission](#) will discuss a request to rezone 1223 Iowa from Single Dwelling Residential to Single Dwelling Residential-Office at their June 23 meeting. You may view the meeting on at <https://lawrenceks.org/live/> or on the City's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/lawrenceksvideo>. You may also submit written comments before 10:00 AM, Monday, June 21 via email to planning@lawrenceks.org.

Be Aware of Invasive Plants

May is the month that one of the most invasive plants in the eastern third of Kansas blooms. Asian bush honeysuckle is easily recognizable by its early bushy growth and fragrant white-fading-to-yellow flowers in the spring, and bright red berries in the fall. It is widespread in Sunset Hill and all of Lawrence. [A recent Lawrence Listens code enforcement request in Sunset Hill](#) involved bush honeysuckle.



Bush honeysuckle was initially introduced as an ornamental plant in botanical gardens and became more prevalent when it was pushed as a conservation plant in the 1920s. "It's kind of a bully," says Ryan Armbrust, who is a forest health and conservation officer at the Kansas Forest Service. "Bush honeysuckle aggressively creates monocultures of just itself, due

to a couple of unfair advantages it has. It was initially viewed as a good green plant that grows a lot of places, that spreads quickly, with the idea that it would hold soil. Birds were observed eating its berries, so people figured it was good for the birds," Armbrust says.

But by the 1950s, it was identified as an aggressive, invasive species — even the birds feeding off its flowers weren't gaining anything. "Its berries are junk food for birds, not the type of nutrition migratory birds need," Armbrust says.

- Life Enrichment Center
- Manpower
- Mediterranean Market & Café
- 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 Alterations - SHNA Member](#)
- Shelter Insurance
- Sizzors
- Sonic Drive-in
- Southern Accent Catering
- The Spectacle
- Stephens Insurance
- Stephens Real Estate
- Stoneback Appliance

“At this point, it is a genie out of a bottle. They're here to stay, but we have to draw lines in the sand and protect our most diverse communities.”

More information about the control of bush honeysuckle can be found in this [publication from K-State Research and Extension](#).

From [KCUR, 89.3 in Kansas City](#) and [K-State Extension Service](#)



Traffic Safety in Sunset Hill Neighborhood

The Lawrence [Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program](#) has been soliciting applicants from among the organized neighborhoods for the first round of the Traffic Management Pilot Program. SHNA decided not to participate in the pilot program, not because we have no traffic safety issues, but because we have no data on which of several problem areas to address first. In emails and discussions of traffic safety problems in the neighborhood, Crestline, Lawrence Avenue, and 9th St. were all mentioned. To address this, the EC will poll the membership this summer to decide whether to apply for this program.



With the yard sign and literature program “Safer Neighborhood Speeds”, the city has been addressing three causes of unsafe traffic flow; high vehicle speeds, failure to yield to pedestrians, and lack of situational awareness. The speed limit on local streets was recently reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph, new speed limit signs were installed, and an education campaign was conducted to increase awareness of these issues. Motorists are asked to obey speed limits, be aware of conditions around you when you drive, and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections.

Please keep in mind that when yielding to pedestrians, the safest behavior is to follow the rules on who should yield in any situation. Yielding when it is inappropriate, for example on a busy street where there are no crosswalks, can be dangerous, and should be avoided.

Another safety issue for neighborhoods is excessive “cut-through” traffic on local streets. This occurs when motorists try to save time or avoid traffic by leaving arterial and collector streets to “cut-through” neighborhoods on local streets, overloading them and creating traffic problems for the residents. The city has recently been working hard to improve traffic flow on major arterials streets by installing new timing software and hardware. It is hoped that these

- Stuart Chiropractic
- Sue Mulcahey, D.C., Chiropractor
- Sunflower Natural Pet Supplies
- Sunflower Rentals
- 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

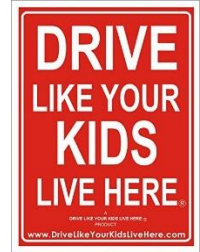
- Centennial Park
- Ludlam Park
- Quarry Park

Sunset Hill Schools

- Sunset Hill Elementary School
- West Middle School

changes will help traffic flow more efficiently and encourage use of the higher capacity streets.

You can help by thinking about how you drive on local streets. Do you take the shortest route to and from a collector or arterial and avoid local streets, or do you tend to use local streets even for long trips? We can make a big difference by planning our car trips to take place on arterial and collector streets as much as possible and leave the local streets to bikes, pedestrians, and short local car trips as much as we can.



You can also help reduce traffic loads city-wide by making more of your trips walking, biking, or on the bus. Get some exercise, have a fun journey, save money, avoid parking hassles, improve the environment, and reduce automobile traffic, every time you leave the car at home.

It starts with us!

That's all for now. Have a safe and fun summer!



Thank you for supporting Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association.