



Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

APRIL 16, 2022

WINTER EDITION

SHNA Executive Committee

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Gary Webber –
President/Newsletter
Editor

Matthew Paul -
Vice President

John White –
Secretary

Bill Arick -
Treasurer

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Jon Dunham

Dillon Heter

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Chris and Betsy
Ostrander

Past President

Jeanne Pees

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Notes from the Winter EC Meeting

SHNA Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, March 28, 2022, 6:30 pm

Fellowship Hall, Christ Covenant Church, 2312 Harvard Rd.

Participants: **Bill Arick**, Bob Crown, Vicki and Joe Douglas, **Jon Dunham**, Phyllis Farrar, Nancy and Armin Landis, **Gary Webber**, Adam Weigel, **John White**. 50% quorum present.

I. Call to order by Gary Webber at 6:31 pm. Introductions of attendees.

II. **Presentation from Adam Weigel, Transit Director, on proposed bus route changes and new Transfer Facility:**

The opening of the Transfer Facility is currently scheduled for January 2023. Route Redesign (<https://lawrencetransit.org/route-redesign-final-scenario/>) is nearing completion. Six weeks of public input on route redesign began last week. Route changes will happen in two phases; University routes will change in August 2022, city routes will change in January 2023.

Weigel described January route changes in Sunset Hill:

1. Route 4 no longer uses Harvard and Centennial,
2. Route 6 would add north-south service on Iowa,
3. Route 30 would be split into two routes (100 and 30) but would use the same combined route as 30 currently uses.

All busses will enter the transfer facility from Crestline just south of Bob Billings. Busses will exit from the same access, plus eastbound on Bob Billings. Routes have been redesigned to increase access to important destinations on all routes, and address food dessert issues. Route 4 through North Lawrence connects that neighborhood to grocery stores on 6th Street.

For the Transfer Facility, an existing building will be rebuilt to include space for Transit offices, bus rider amenities, solar power, native plants. The artist for an art component will be selected soon. Sunday only “micro-transit” or “on demand” bus service will start in January 2023. Riders will be able to schedule small transit vehicles via app or phone for destinations within the city.

All bus services will be fare free for one year starting January 2023. This is possible due to stimulus funds. One feature of redesign is the joining

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

of two routes called "Interlining" that extends the route of a bus rider while eliminating the need to change buses.

Question from attendees:

Will intersection of Crestline and Bob Billings change in any way? *No changes are currently planned.*

Will bus routes during KU home games be changed in any way? *No. KU will continue to offer shuttle busses.*

Will the changes interfere with current school heavy traffic at school openings and closings on Crestline and Ninth? *No, there are no buses which currently or in the future go through that area. There is one bus on Crestline for one block just north of Bob Billings (30).*

What percentage of costs is currently paid for by fares? *In Lawrence, 6% pre-pandemic 3% pandemic. This is low, as comparable bus systems average 10% from fares.*

Participant asked how many at the meeting ride bus in Lawrence? 2 of 10 raised their hands.

Webber thanked Weigel and encouraged participants to help Transit by completing the survey (<https://lawrenceks.org/listens/surveys/>) in the next 5 weeks.

- III. **Discuss request for letter of support from Connie Fiorella Fitzpatrick, East-side People's Intercultural Center:** Connie was unable to attend.
- IV. **Approve minutes of fall meeting, December 6, 2021:** Approved by acclimation.
- V. **Treasurer's Report, Arick:** Last meeting Dec 6th. \$1,254.61 starting balance, income \$40 expenses \$70. \$1,224.61 final balance. 105 members 92 households, 8 landlords, 5 businesses.
- VI. **Old Business, Webber**
 1. **LAN update:** Webber reported the following issues were discussed during the previous quarter:
 - i. USD 497 budget shortfall discussion
 - ii. New Chief of Police
 - iii. Subdivision Code Update progress report
 - iv. Building Peace mediation project
 - v. Old West Lawrence Traffic Management pilot project
 2. **Website update:** Nothing new to report. Webber will be contacting East Lawrence to ask how they set up their membership "Pay Portal" on their WordPress web page. If it is feasible for us, he will bring a proposal before the EC in a future meeting.
 3. **EC Membership:** We need to recruit one additional EC member for 2021-2022. Please send contact information of potential members to Gary Webber at president@sunsethillna.org.

- Belltone Hearing Aid Center
- Biemer's BBQ
- [Body Boutique Fitness – SHNA Member](#)
- [Buckingham Palace Cleaning Services- SHNA Member](#)
- Busey Home Mortgage
- Capitol Federal Savings
- Capitol Agency Insurance
- Central Bank of the Midwest
- [CEK Insurance – SHNA Member](#)
- 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 & Brews – SHNA Member](#)
- 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

4. **Business Membership Drive update:** Campaign will continue with our August 2022 membership drive.

VII. New Business

1. Discuss Neighborhood Traffic Safety Management application for 2022: In March, Ellenbecker, Goans, Stone, and Webber met via zoom and reviewed crash and survey data. They recommend applying in the next round with the focus on Crestline from 6th to University and 9th from Lawrence Ave. to Crestline.

- i. Dunham moved to approve proceeding with application, Arick seconded. Approved unanimously.

If you would like to participate in developing an application, email Gary Webber at president@sunsethillna.org.

VIII. New agenda items from participants

1. Jeanne Pees asked (via email) about crumbling curbs.

Webber replied that curbs in Sunset Hill are evaluated annually, and problem sites are photographed and submitted via SeeClickFix. This is the process we have been told to use by the city. In addition, neighbors are reporting the same curbs on SeeClickFix. Calls, emails, and letters to Municipal Services & Operations result in instructions to use SeeClickFix to report gutters and curbs, and that gutters and curbs will be repaired when they reach the top of a prioritized list of repair sites. Webber commented that deteriorated curbs along Wellington between Stephen and Harvard, and Yale between Centennial and Iowa were renovated last year. He stated that he believes that this is a city-wide problem, primarily due to inadequate funds for repair, and that SeeClickFix is not helping.

Webber stated that LAN asked for an update on the SeeClickFix program in November, 2021. City staff have yet to provide an update, despite multiple requests. He believes that SHNA has done what they are supposed to do, and that LAN, with support of the neighborhood associations, should address this issue next.

2. Jeanne Pees brought up two questions about the area around the skate park within Centennial Park; 1) whether Parks and Rec had contacted SHNA about the proposed change, and 2) whether additional cleanup and trash receptacles should be requested there.

Webber replied that Parks and Rec had not contacted SHNA about this proposed addition to the skate park and that it is probably premature to assume more receptacles are needed. Phyllis Farrar, SHNA park cleanup organizer, noted that last year our request to City Parks staff for either a recycle bin or an additional trash can in the skate park was soon acted on. They delivered a recycle bin to the skate park and it appears to be

- Free State Insurance
- 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
- Iowa Massage
- Jade Garden Restaurant
- Jayhawk Nail
- Jayhawk Trophy
- Jazzercise Lawrence
- Joda & Friends
- John R. Hooge, Attorneys at Law P.A.
- Kansas Secured Title
- 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
- The Merc Co+op

emptied regularly. If receptacles are overloaded in the future, Webber will report this to Solid Waste.

3. Vicki Douglas asked if an additional feature in the skate park will increase parking requirements. She advocates no increase in parking to maximize green space. Webber replied that if additional parking were to be proposed, he would contact the EC about their position on this and communicate their position to the city.
4. Joe Douglas asked about the Polaris Missile shell at Centennial. He would like to see it moved to a more appropriate venue, such as a museum. Webber stated this issue has come up in the past, but never addressed. He suggested that he could add this to the agenda of EC in their May meeting, and to the Annual Meeting Agenda for discussion. He stated that it may take a subcommittee of interested members to approach the neighborhood and the city with such a proposal.
5. Vicki Douglas asked about the potholes in the parking lot at Hillcrest Shopping Center. Webber replied that he has contacted the company responsible for maintenance of Hillcrest. They respond that no repairs are planned.
6. Electronic recycling event: Saturday, April 2nd, 8:30 AM – 1 PM, University of Kansas Lot 301. Arrive early, vehicles arriving after 1pm will not be able to enter the event.

IX. **Set date and time for spring meeting in May:** Meeting scheduled for May 16, 6:30 PM, Christ Covenant Church.

X. Meeting adjourned at 7:47.

Sunset Hill Happenings

Sidewalk News

A major project is underway at 9th and Iowa, involving replacement of water lines, traffic signals/poles, and sidewalks. Major improvements are being made to this intersection, an important one for traffic and pedestrian flow in Sunset Hill.

Pedestrians in the neighborhood will have noticed lots of new sidewalk panels in the last few months, especially on arterial and collector streets, and on routes near our two schools. The individual new panels are paid for by the adjacent property owner and the city, depending on what caused the damage, and are the result of the Sidewalk Improvement Project at <https://lawrenceks.org/sidewalk-improvement/>. **On behalf of all pedestrians in Lawrence, thank you, thank you, thank you to all property owners who repaired their sidewalks, and to all city residents for paying the taxes that fund the city's portion of repairs!**



- Midwest Property Management
- Miller & Midyett Real Estate
- Muddy Waters Studio
- Munchers Bakery
- NAPA Auto Parts
- Optometry, F. J. Florey, O.D.
- Orchards Drug
- Point A School of Dance
- Pops-N-More
- Prestige Hair Studio
- Property Management Services
- Quality Inn Lawrence
- [Red Pepper Chinese Restaurant - SHNA Member](#)
- Dr. Robert Werner, Chiropractor
- Royal Crest Lanes
- Salon Renew
- The Scone Lady Coffee Shop
- Scotch Cleaners
- Screen Express
- The Selection Autos
- [Sew Forth Alterations - SHNA Member](#)
- Shelter Insurance
- Sizzors
- Sonic Drive-in
- Southern Accent Catering
- Stephens Insurance
- Stephens Real Estate
- [Stoneback Appliance - SHNA Member](#)
- Stuart Chiropractic
- Sue Mulcahey, D.C., Chiropractor
- Sunflower Natural Pet Supplies
- Sunflower Rentals
- Sunset West Laundry

In related news, the City Commission recently asked staff to compile information on the possibility of shifting the burden of repair of sidewalks from individual property owners to city taxpayers at large. Staff is scheduled to report at a future meeting. Check upcoming agendas at <https://lawrenceks.civicweb.net/portal/members.aspx?id=10> for renewed discussion of this proposal.

The longer, continuous stretches of new sidewalk such as on Yale east of West Middle School, are installed as part of the city's Safe Routes to School program at <https://lawrenceks.org/mso/srts-improvements>, and are part of the Capital Improvement Plan. An additional sidewalk on the South side of Harvard from Crestline Drive to Iowa Street was scheduled for completion in 2021 but has been delayed.

Thanks again to both taxpayers and property owners for making this investment in our transportation infrastructure. Lawrence residents and visitors have the right to demand pothole free streets and crack free sidewalks.

Bus Transfer Facility News

Site and building plans for the Lawrence Transit Transfer Facility just east of Crestline Drive and Bob Billings Parkway have been posted to the web, along with proposed route changes to accommodate the opening of this new facility in January, 2023. You can view plans for the new facility plus much more Transit information from the project webpage at <https://lawrencetransit.org/transfer-facility/>. You can also provide input into proposed route changes on the Transit survey here: <https://lawrenceks.org/listens/surveys/>.



Transit Director Adam Weigel presented this news at the Winter Executive Committee meeting of SHNA. See the minutes on page one for more information.

SHNA was asked one year ago to participate in selection of artwork and an artist for the new Bus Station. Your President served on the Art Selection Subcommittee and is pleased to report the process went well. The Subcommittee's recommendation will be presented next to the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission, who will consider our recommendation for approval. If approved, the City Commission would then make the final decision.

- The EyeDoctors Optometrists
- The University National Bank
- Tortas Jalisco Mexican Restaurant
- 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

Give a bird a home

Birdhouses are easy and fun to make, requiring minimal skills, materials, and tools. Wren houses are particularly fun, since other birds find it difficult to use their small door and are therefore less likely to steal a nest. We have a house wren couple who raised two families last summer!



If you think you might like to give it a try, here are plans for a house that can be made from one cedar fence picket, \$2.37 at Home Depot. Here is a link to the plans in pdf format:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/homeowner/NRCS142P2_008678/

And here is the "Definitive Guide to building Your Own Birdhouse"

<https://www.wintuadubon.org/Documents/DefinitiveGuideToBuildingYourOwnBirdhouses2013.pdf>

Please Welcome our Newest Business Member!

We are proud to welcome CEK Insurance!

<https://cekinsurance.com/>

Established in 1931 by Clif Calvin and Joe Traylor, CEK has grown to a full-service insurance agency. Currently, CEK Insurance serves the insurance needs of about 8,000 individuals and families:



"Our number one priority is to protect your family from any unforeseen event that may be a burden to your family in the future. Our Personal lines staff is here to answer any questions you may have and research the best policy for your needs."

They also serve the insurance needs of 6,000 business concerns in NE Kansas and NW Missouri:

"At CEK Insurance, we pride ourselves in evaluating your business insurance needs in Kansas. We take the time to find out the different challenges your industry may have for insurance concerns and tailor a package that fits your risks. We also look at other exposures your business may have according to your personnel, location and future plans."

CEK has a staff of 25 in its Lawrence office, as well as offices in Kansas City, and Topeka. The next time you visit them to discuss your insurance needs, thank them for joining Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association!

Living in the City

Noise Laws and Enforcement in Lawrence

At the 2021 Annual Meeting in September, an SHNA member asked if anything could be done to reduce loud noises from aftermarket exhaust systems and music amplification in vehicles. I spoke with Officer David Ernst, Public Affairs/Media, LKPD about this question. I paraphrase his response below.

In Lawrence, the primary law governing vehicle exhaust system noise is [Kansas Statutes Chapter 8. Automobiles and Other Vehicles § 8-1739](#). Mufflers and noise suppressing systems. This ordinance states in its entirety:

(a) Every vehicle shall be equipped, maintained and operated so as to prevent excessive or unusual noise. Every motor vehicle at all times shall be equipped with a muffler or other effective noise suppressing system in good working order and in constant operation, and no person shall use a muffler cut-out, bypass or similar device.

(b) The engine and power mechanism of every motor vehicle shall be so equipped and adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke.

This means that an absent or malfunctioning muffler is in violation of 8-1739 and can be ticketed. The fine for this offense is \$50 plus \$60 court costs. If the perpetrator repairs the exhaust system within 72 hours, the fine will be dropped. For more information on fines for breaking the law in Lawrence, [here is a link to the Lawrence Municipal Court Fine and Bond Schedule](#).



A second Lawrence ordinance regulates sound amplification systems in vehicles. Ordinance 17-116.1 states:

The City of Lawrence recognizes that loud vehicle stereo equipment has become a noise problem. Ordinance 17-116.1 was adopted on July 1, 1999, in order to deal with this problem. A violation of this ordinance can result in a traffic ticket with a minimum fine of \$80. The ordinance states:

No person or persons operating or occupying a motor vehicle on any street, highway, alley, parking lot or driveway shall operate or permit the operation of any sound amplification system from within or upon the vehicle so that the sound is audible at a distance of fifty (50) feet or more from the vehicle. Nothing in this ordinance shall require the witnessing law enforcement officer to physically measure the distance from the officer to the allegedly offending vehicle operator and vehicle prior to the issuance of the citation.

Loud sound amplification devices used for public safety, emergency situation and authorized public events are exempt from this ordinance.



This means that excessively loud sound amplification systems can be ticketed. The fine for this offense is \$80 plus \$60 court costs.

Both offenses are enforceable at the discretion of individual police officers. Officer Ernst stated that although tickets are issued for both offenses, they are not a high priority for patrolling officers. The workload and staffing levels in LKPD are such that nearly all the officers' time is taken up with offenses of higher priority such as crime, traffic crashes, and various types of emergencies.

This ends his response.

The following is an editorial opinion from the Editor:

I understand the limitations our police department faces. It is to our detriment that we underfund them and limit their ability to enforce our laws. The result is non-enforcement of these two and many more traffic laws, and approval of any muffler you want to install on your vehicle, no matter how loud it is.

I agree with [Ted Reuter, Director of Noise Free America, in 2011](#): "Kansas used to be quiet. The entire country used to be quiet. It is shameful that elected officials and the police have allowed illegal exhausts and boom cars to ruin the nation's soundscape. A motorcycle ride to support Toys for Tots does not justify the destruction of peace and quiet. It does not justify breaking state and local laws."

There are three levels of enforcement in the US today. 24 states including Kansas have laws that have vague and unenforceable language around exhaust system noise. 17 states also prohibit modification if it causes the muffler to emit more noise. 9 states have an objective method for measuring exhaust noise, and laws that limit it. [Follow this link for a state-by-state summary from the Specialty Equipment Market Association \(SEMA\), an organization supporting the automotive aftermarket industry.](#)

Any state or municipality that attempts to strengthen restriction on vehicular noise pollution faces an organized and well-funded response from loud vehicle proponents and specialty market associations. I think it is sad that a small group of motorists are allowed to destroy the peace and quiet of our streets and neighborhoods, but it appears that this is the world we live in. Unless the city or state decides to strengthen laws governing excess noise, and then enforce them, we can only expect this to worsen in the future, to the detriment of all.

Gary Webber, Newsletter Editor

**That's all for now.
May we have a glorious**



Thanks for supporting SHNA!