



Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

MAY 26, 2024

SPRING EDITION

SHNA Executive Committee

Officers

Gary Webber –
President/Newsletter
Editor

Matthew Paul -
Vice President

Joanie Stone –
Secretary

James Jordan -
Treasurer

At-large Members

Jon Dunham

David Mucci

Mariana Nieto

Chris and Betsy
Ostrander

John White

Past President

Jeanne Pees

Contact Us

President

president@sunsethillna.org

785-312-4840

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[Facebook](#)

2024 Annual Meeting Draft Minutes

Monday, April 22, 2024, 7:00 PM

West Middle School Cafeteria

2700 Harvard Rd, Lawrence, KS 66049

- I. Presentation: James Chiselom, Executive Director, Lawrence Community Shelter: Gary Webber opened the meeting, welcoming the participants. He then introduced James Chiselom to speak briefly on homeless issues in Lawrence. It is pertinent to us due to the eight to ten camps in Centennial Park.

Chiselom then spoke about the situation at the Shelter. He understands there are unhoused campers in Sunset Hill and would encourage anyone to call and they will work to accommodate any unhoused individuals. The Village is full with 48 occupants and two hold for incoming users, thus meeting the 50 bed maximum. The Village is fully staffed, including security staff. Two people are always on duty. Chiselom then introduced Lacey Roe, Director of Community Engagement at LCS, who solicited volunteers and donors in support of the program. 383 individuals in the first quarter.

Questions were then taken from the audience. Priority is given to Douglas County residents on the basis of self-reporting. The program goal is to indicate this not your home but a transition spot for a better future. They are working to make services more accessible and the situation more accommodating (e.g. pets accepted).

The shelter is a difficult environment to be in (crowded, noise, etc.) thus the resistance by some to stay. Street outreach is upcoming to engage people who need services. 20% in the ninety-day program are employed. Income is not always the predominant issue in being houseless.

No children allowed at the shelter—they normally work with Family Promise (but a family solution is being sought). Limits on shelter vary from three to six months duration, varying with behavior and progress. Using and drinking is prohibited. Low barrier access exists at the shelter, less so at the Village.

Peak occupancy of the Shelter in the winter cold was 163 people at one time. The Village units have not experienced participant damage but have seen some design problems. Lice and bedbugs are addressed on site.

The VA has programs to aid veterans.

Camping in Lawrence permitted since 2019 court ruling, complicated by Covid and the need to provide housing before non-camping enforced. Enforcement now underway. There are plans to continue to close camps but the timeline is unclear.

Over 50 percent of our population has mental health issues. There is always a need for more mental health services; Bert Nash is working to increase those services to our population.

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

(with links to SHNA Members)

- Absolute Pawfection
- Acres Realty
- Advanced Health Center
- Alvin's Wine & Spirits
- Atma Clinic
- B. A. Green Construction

II. Welcome and introductions of 2022-2023 Executive Committee

1. Bill Arick, Treasurer
2. Jon Dunham
3. James Jordan
4. David Mucci
5. Marianna Nieto
6. Betsy/Chris Ostrander
7. Matthew Paul, Vice President
8. Gary Webber, President
9. John White, Secretary
10. Jeanne Pees, Past President, ex officio member

III. Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$899.62, 68 total members including 2 business members.

Electronic payment process was implemented in 2023. Annual dues are \$5 for homes, \$10 for business. SHNA spent \$116 for supplies. Membership is down from a peak in 2018 and we need to continue to build membership to sustain finances. The downward trend relates to pandemic and some neighborhood issue divisions. We may have to consider suspending the potluck. So please encourage your neighbors to join. Electronic registration may help.

IV. Old Business

1. Accept [minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting](#): The motion was moved by Joe Douglas and seconded by Marianne Nieto. Passed unanimously.

V. New Business:

1. Summary of SHNA Executive Committee actions in 2023:
 - a. Presented 6 Applause Awards—Joni Stone makes this possible through her effort. An award and \$5 gift.
 - b. Published SHNA quarterly newsletter
 - c. Volunteers cleaned Centennial Park and Ludlam Park 3 times
 - d. Donated \$50 each to:
 - a. Sunset Hill Elementary
 - b. West Middle School
 - c. Community Mercantile Education Foundation
 - e. Worked with Municipal Services & Operations to advocate for street maintenance and traffic safety
 - f. Hand-delivered 39 "Welcome Neighbor" packets to new property owners
 - g. Attended monthly Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) meetings

2. Election of Nominees to 2023-2024 SHNA Executive Committee:

- a. The EC nominates Jon Dunham to serve an additional 3-year term
- b. The EC nominates Marianna Nieto to serve an additional 3-year term
- c. Nominations for replacement of Bill Arick, 2 years remaining on a 3-year term. Gary solicited nominees for Executive Committee and none were forthcoming from the floor. Joan Stone then volunteered to serve. The three new members were voted on and accepted without opposition.

NOTE: After the meeting the secretary noted that David Mucci was omitted from the list of Executive Committee members who had agreed to serve an additional term. Webber apologized to Mucci for this omission. Mucci suggested the EC appoint him for this year and then nominate him at the 2025 Annual Meeting. This suggestion was accepted in the May EC meeting.

- Barnes Homes
- Beautiful Music
- Belltone Hearing Aid Center
- [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
- 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

3. Removing the Polaris missile from Centennial Park (Joe Douglas): The missile shell has now been in place sixty years. This missile carried nuclear warheads during the Cold War and was part of the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction. Seven years ago, a peace pole was implemented to provide balance to the belligerence. Douglas would like to relocate the missile shell as its presence in the park seems inappropriate. Joe sought others interested in pursuing this to contact him or meet with him following the meeting.
- VI. New items from the participants:
 1. A participant asked about the camps in Centennial Park. Webber reported that the city plans to continue to close camps, with a priority on areas of highest concentration. Each unit will approach residents individually to find suitable relocation. Centennial would not be a priority but will rise higher on the list as more concentrated unsanctioned camps are relocated. New and abandoned encampments will be immediately addressed and should be reported via the [online Campsite Reporter](#).
 2. A participant asked if the membership could vote on a letter supporting the removal of the Polaris missile shell. Webber indicated that the Executive Committee would be the entity to make an official statement on behalf of the neighborhood as defined by the bylaws.
 3. Webber asked the participants to please promote SHNA to their neighbors. Sunset Hill residents or business or property owners can join from the [SHNA Website](#), either online or via mail-in application. Any additional information questions should go to the President at president@sunsethillna.org.
 - VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

EC Meeting Draft Minutes – Winter, 2024

SHNA Executive Committee Meeting
 Monday, May 13, 2024, 6:30 pm
 Via Zoom

Draft Meeting Minutes

In attendance Jon Dunham, James Jordan, David Mucci, Mariana Nieto, Chris Ostrander, Matthew Paul, Gary Webber, John White. Guests: Mike Malone, Joe Douglas

- I. Tonda Hill is running for District Attorney of Douglas County and wanted a chance to speak with us. She has strong criminal law experience, and currently works in Kansas City. Worked at CLO in Lawrence as an undergrad. She asked for our vote.
- II. Update on Polaris Missile in Centennial Park: Joe Douglas reported that this was a weapon of mass destruction and should not be displayed in a park. Webber asked how the EC could help. Douglas asked for an email poll of members. Marianna suggested an article in the newsletter to educate members on the issue. Webber stated he thought we would have a better case if we knew the history of the shell, a rough cost for removal, and if the city is willing to entertain this proposal. Douglas will submit an article for the newsletter, Webber will make an appointment to speak with the city.
- III. Discussed applying for Neighborhood Traffic Management Project: Webber reported that someone will need to submit a statement of intent to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and collect statements of support for a Crestline project. He reported that Mike Malone plans to apply and does not see a reason to submit a second application. SHNA could participate by distributing requests to submit statements of support for Malone’s proposal. Malone stated that Crestline had become a major street, and speed bumps

- 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

might be a problem. Vicky and Joe Douglas have advocated for a 4-way stop at Orchard and Crestline. Webber asked, and Malone agreed to send Webber a copy of the statement of intent. Webber will share with the EC. SHNA will provide their MailChimp list to solicit statements of support.

- IV. Approve [minutes of fall meeting, Feb. 12, 2023](#). Approved by acclamation.
 - V. Treasurer's Report, James Jordan: Balance as of 5/13/24. \$949.62. Currently 76 members. 78% of 2023.
 - VI. Old Business
 - 1. LAN update:
 - i. Feb: Discuss Code Enforcement and Rental Licensing.
 - ii. March: Presentation: Cori Wallace, City of Lawrence, Director of Communications & Community Relations, SeeClickFix report and A Place for Everyone update.
 - iii. April: Presentation: Brad Finkeldei, Land Development Steering Committee report.
 - 2. Discuss Christ Covenant Church as venue for fall potluck, September 21, 2024: John Lawrence has reserved the Fellowship Hall for us. We will meet there for the August EC meeting. Nieto expressed support for potluck, as did Paul. We will host a potluck at CCC.
 - VII. New Business
 - 1. Elect officers for 2024-2025:
 - i. Gary Webber, President
 - ii. Matthew Paul, Vice-President
 - iii. James Jordan, Treasurer
 - iv. Joanie Stone, Secretary

Nieto nominated the slate, Dunham seconded, approved unanimously.

 - 2. Discuss appointing David Mucci to one-year term on EC due to Webber error: Stone moved to appoint Mucci for one year. Jordan seconded, passed unanimously.
 - 3. Discuss starting new business membership campaign: tabled
 - 4. Discuss replacing Park Cleanup Manager, Phyllis Farrar, starting 2025: Webber will write a newsletter article asking for a volunteer. Stone suggested cub scouts, high school National Honors Society as a source of volunteers.
 - 5. Discuss replacing SHNA President, starting 2025: Webber would like to retire in the next year or two.
 - VIII. New agenda items from participants
 - 1. Paul asked if Webber received replies from newsletter requests. Webber stated he had received 2 corrections, and some thanks, but no one had ever volunteered for a SHNA position from a newsletter article.
 - 2. Paul asked if Webber planned to continue as LAN representative, and about bylaws. Webber said he did not plan to continue as LAN representative, and that Paul could take my place if he was interested. Webber nominated Matthew Paul as LAN representative. Dunham seconded. Passed by acclamation.
 - IX. Set date for August 2024 EC Meeting: August 19, 2024, 6:30 PM, Christ Covenant Church.
- Adjourn meeting at 8:00 PM

- 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

SHNA News

Welcome Joanie Stone to the Executive Committee!

At the 2024 Annual meeting one month ago, Joanie Stone volunteered to serve on the executive committee (EC) and was elected, and on May 13 she was elected Secretary of the EC! Joanie has facilitated the nomination and selection of Applause Award winners since the beginning of the program. Thanks so much to Joanie and all the EC members for volunteering their time to serve our neighborhood.

Centennial Park Adoption Update

For the last five years Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association has adopted both Centennial and Ludlam Parks. This entails picking up litter in the parks three times each year. For all five of those years the coordinator of the program has been Phyllis Farrar.

Phyllis has informed the EC that it is time for her to pass this job to a new coordinator. The volunteer position involves adopting the parks annually, emailing the crew three times a year to schedule a clean-up date, and emailing MSO each cleanup to report how much waste was collected. She then provides buckets and grabbers for crew members and gathers data from them upon completion. The position starts one year from now in May 2025.

If you think you would be willing to volunteer to coordinate the clean-up crew, please email me at president@sunsethillna.org. If needed, I will advertise for this position in a member email. If the EC is unable to find a new Coordinator, they plan to discontinue the adoptions and continue to advertise for a volunteer.

Neighborhood News

Dedicated Left Turn Coming to Crestline and Bob Billings

SHNA residents have been expressing concern about the left turn signal at Crestline for east bound traffic on Bob Billings Parkway. Currently, there is no protected/permissive green left turn arrow, only flashing yellow. Bob Billings east of Crestline bends slightly to the south, making it difficult to see oncoming traffic. Westbound buses on Bob Billings turning left onto Crestline exaggerate the problem. This upgrade was scheduled to be completed prior to the opening of the Central Station. Traffic Engineering in Municipal Services and Operations provided this update:

We have selected a contractor to replace the traffic signal cabinet at this intersection to facilitate the protected/permissive left turns at the intersection. The current cabinet we have at this intersection doesn't have the capacity to add P/P phasing for the turning movements.

With current lead times on the equipment, we are looking at around July/August for completion if everything arrives on schedule. This date could change if issues arise.

*Thanks,
Caleb Pettengill*

Thanks to those who brought this issue to SHNA. You should see a new traffic signal by this fall.

- 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

Report Those Potholes!

In Lawrence, repairing potholes is one of many complaint-driven services, that also include code violations, broken curbs, graffiti, missing street signs, and more. This means repairs may not be initiated until residents complain. This spring I noticed a few potholes opening on my street, and I submitted a [pothole report form](#) on the city website. Within a week a city crew arrived and patched all the potholes including some that I did not report.

Complaint-driven services are notoriously inefficient, perhaps because residents are uncomfortable complaining. SHNA encourages all residents to assist the city in keeping streets and properties safe and clean. For more information on requesting city services, visit the [City of Lawrence website](#) and click on one of the options in the "Report" column.

The Skatepark Has New Features

The Skatepark in Centennial Park underwent a \$250,000 renovation after engaging with the Lawrence Skaters Association and other local skating enthusiasts. Here are the exciting new features added:



- Four Stair: A challenging set of stairs for skaters to conquer.
- Rainbow Rail: A colorful rail element that adds flair to tricks.
- New Ledges: Perfect for grinding and sliding maneuvers.
- Hip: A curved ramp for creative transitions.
- Slappy Curb: A low curb designed for technical tricks.
- Flow Bowl: A smooth, flowing section for continuous lines.
- Euro Gap: A gap jump that tests skaters' skills.

These additions were funded through the city's capital improvement program, thanks to community advocacy and collaboration with Lawrence Parks and Recreation. The revamped skatepark is now ready for skaters of all levels to enjoy!

Polaris Missile in Centennial Park



In 1964, the United States Navy and the Lawrence Navy League donated a decommissioned UGM-27 Polaris missile to the city of Lawrence. This missile, once capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, found its new home in Centennial Park. Although inoperable, it serves as a powerful reminder of the Cold War and the global struggle for supremacy.

- [Here is a tumblr blog post reviewing the history of this artifact.](#)
- [Here is a reddit discussion from one month ago titled "Campaign to Remove Polaris Nuclear Missile in Centennial Park"](#)

This year marks the 60th anniversary of its installation, and long-time SHNA member Joe Douglas has asked the SHNA Executive Committee to help him speak to the membership about this weapon of mass destruction. The EC suggested he write an article for the newsletter. Here is the article Joe submitted:

Many people are surprised to learn that the "rocket to the moon" on the west side of Centennial Park is in fact a nuclear missile, a weapon of mass destruction. What we see is the shell of a Polaris missile, a submarine-launched missile with multiple nuclear warheads up to 80 times the power of the bomb that exploded at Hiroshima. The Navy League gave this missile to the city in 1964 in honor all who had served in the military during the Cold War with the USSR. Polaris missiles were used as part of our doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction, "MAD", which was intended to discourage a nuclear attack from the USSR. The idea was that either country could be assured of retaliation and near total annihilation if they launched first strike missiles.

Centennial Park was established in 1954 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Lawrence. The property was purchased in part by funds raised by school children and then was transferred to the city for \$1 with the condition that it would be used as a park in perpetuity. The park indeed is well used by children and adults alike. Weddings, reunions, celebrations of all sorts are held there. My daughters did their Brownie bridge ceremony over the creek east of the missile. It is a place of natural beauty where people can retreat from the cares and busyness of life to enjoy recreation and peace. So, we must ask, why does the park also contain a weapon of mass destruction that once had the power to kill millions?

I doubt that many would push to remove the missile, certainly not using tax money, but it should serve an educational purpose. We should have a readable sign that would help inform park visitors about the significance of the missile—that would tell them what this thing really is. As a resident of Sunset Hill, the neighborhood adjoining the park, your opinion about this would be important if any change is to be made.

Joe Douglas

If you are interested in discussing this further, please email me at president@sunsethillna.org with your comments. I will forward them to Joe, and he will contact you.

Land Development Code Update

The first draft of the land development code update has been posted and contains several changes which will have an impact on neighborhoods in Lawrence. These include:

1. Increasing density of new and renovated housing,
2. Reducing the amount of public input on development projects,
3. Expanding the number of unrelated individuals occupying a housing unit from 3 persons to 5 persons, and
4. Eliminating off-street parking minimums in residential neighborhoods.

To learn more about the UPC Update, and read or download the Consolidated Draft, go to the city [LDC Update website](#). It is possible to comment on the interactive web version of the document. The Planning Commission will be reviewing, and the City Commission will be considering the update later this fall.

That's all for now. Enjoy the spring!



And thanks for supporting SHNA!