

Volunteers needed for Safe Winter Walkways program

The City of Lawrence and the Senior Resource Center for Douglas County needs your help! The Safe Winter Walkways program kicks off this week and volunteers are needed to help elderly or disabled individuals clear public sidewalks during snow events.

Able-bodied Lawrence residents with a passion for helping others and an enjoyment of winter weather are needed to volunteer for the Safe Winter Walkways program. The goal of the Safe Winter Walkways program is to create safer and more accessible pedestrian walkways. This is a joint effort of the City of Lawrence and the Senior Resource Center for Douglas County (SRCDC). Volunteers will be matched with residents needing assistance with snow removal for the winter season.

In years past, more than 90 percent of people who signed up for help got paired with a volunteer.

This year, the city is again offering online registration for participants and volunteers. Visit www.lawrenceks.org/safe_winter_walkways to sign up for the program. This year, the program will close participant sign up on **November 17, 2017**. This date has been selected so that participants and volunteers can be matched prior to the holiday season, and hopefully, prior to snow season.

"This is an excellent volunteer program for our community members who may not have the physical ability to clear snow from their sidewalks," said Porter Arneill, interim communications manager for the city. "This program is a structured version of the neighbors helping neighbors approach. With dedicated volunteers, we can assure that these neighbors can count on a volunteer to be there if snow removal is needed."

"To assure we have the needed support, it's critical that anyone who is interested in volunteering sign up in advance," said Arneill. "Our program is most effective when the volunteers and residents are paired up before bad weather hits so we can react quickly and efficiently."

Volunteer groups, civic organizations and youth groups are encouraged to consider volunteering as a team. Please contact Larry Woydziak with SRCDC to find out how to sign up as a group and requirements for volunteering.

"This program is for public sidewalks only," said Woydziak. "We give priority to homes with public sidewalks and volunteers are not required to provide snow removal for private driveways, sidewalks or walkways – this is left to the volunteer's discretion."

Volunteers can sign up by calling (785) 832-3338 or registering online at www.lawrenceks.org/safe_winter_walkways.

Media Contact: Larry Woydziak, Senior Resource Center for Douglas County, (785) 842-0543 or Porter Arneill, City of Lawrence interim communications manager, (785) 832-3402