

**“We Have Tomorrow — Bright Before Us, Like A Flame.”**

*Langston Hughes*



# City of Lawrence

## The Flame | September 2020

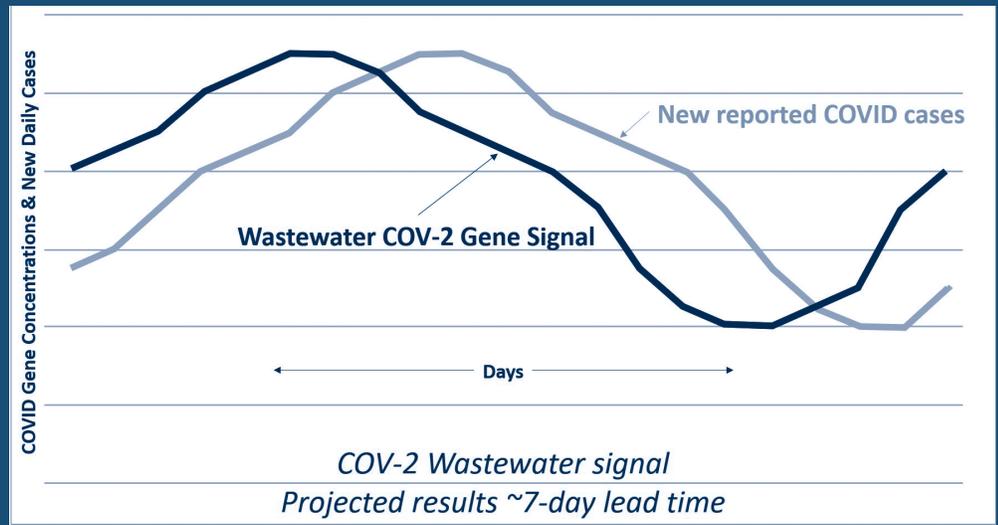
### CITY PARTNERS WITH KU, KDHE ON COVID-19 STUDY

The City of Lawrence is working with the University of Kansas, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on a study to test concentrations of aspects of COVID-19 in the wastewater. As part of the study, the City of Lawrence has initiated weekly sampling at both wastewater treatment plants.

The Lawrence wastewater plants were first sampled in April as part of a preliminary KDHE study. This study demonstrated that viral RNA (genetic material) can be detected from influent wastewater using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) diagnostic method. Detecting the genetic material in wastewater can be indicative of COVID-19 being present and it may give local health officials knowledge of how widespread the virus is in their community, allowing them to take proactive measures to help mitigate its spread.

“The wastewater study is a great example of how our community is collaborating and using every tool in our toolbox to plan and prepare for fighting coronavirus,” said Sonia Jordan, Director of Informatics for Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health.

Dr. Belinda Sturm, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at KU, is working with the City to communicate information on emerging research that may have an impact on our local study. For example, a study from Connecticut showed that COVID-19 concentrations in wastewater preceded new cases identified in health clinics by one week, and the wastewater concentrations correlated with new case counts. This shows that COVID-19



concentrations can serve as a “canary in a coalmine” alert that lets health officials know when cases are likely to increase.

“We hope to bring this early detection to our community,” Sturm said. “If the community responds quickly when wastewater concentrations spike, we can reduce transmission greatly with one-week lead times.”

The City of Lawrence, KU and local health agency partners will work to evaluate our local COVID-19 prevalence data as an early warning indicator. Initial data is being assessed against daily case counts and moving averages to capture potential trends with active cases.

“Part of the challenge with the study will be identifying trends with the data relative to actual case data, since there is a lag from the time a positive case is recorded with the county relative to the

onset of symptoms and/or testing dates due to inconsistencies in laboratory reporting times,” said Trevor Flynn, General Manager of Environment, Health and Science for the City of Lawrence. “As we continue to learn more throughout this study, we will be working closely with KU on some statistical approaches to assess the data as an informative public health metric.”

In collaboration with Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, the City of Lawrence has developed a data dashboard that displays the weekly COVID-19 wastewater testing results relative to available county case data. Anyone interested in following the data can view the dashboard online: [lawrenceks.org/covid-wastewater](http://lawrenceks.org/covid-wastewater)

*To note: Drinking water is not part of this study. Disinfection by all Kansas public water suppliers inactivates the virus so drinking water is safe for consumption.*

City info available online at [lawrenceks.org](http://lawrenceks.org) and on cable Channel 25.

The FLAME is published by the City Manager’s Office, 832-3400.



## Save the Date:

# E-Waste Recycling Drop-Off Event is October 24

Are you still holding on to old electronics from your spring or summer clean-out? The Douglas County E-Waste Recycling Drop-Off Event is your opportunity to get rid of those items in an environmentally friendly way.

The event, open to all Douglas County residents, will be organized as a drive-through to minimize contact.

The E-Waste Recycling Drop-Off Event will be on Saturday, October 24. Information on the location and exact time of event, as well as a full list of accepted items, will be available online as soon as details are finalized: [douglascountyks.org/depts/sustainability/electronics-recycling](http://douglascountyks.org/depts/sustainability/electronics-recycling)

## City creating its first-ever Economic Development Strategic Plan

The City of Lawrence and its community partners, including the Lawrence Chamber, are coming together to develop a community-wide economic development strategic plan.

This plan seeks bold, fresh and innovative ideas to not only recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, but to create an even better and stronger economy for the community going forward. Ernst & Young Economic Development Advisory Services (EDAS) will be assisting the City and its partners in developing the community-wide plan.

A first for the City, the community-wide economic development strategic plan will be designed to guide the actions of the City, in cooperation with our business and community partners, to achieve goals for an economically secure, innovative, inclusive and vibrant community.

The plan is intended to build on the City's previous economic successes, identify economic development opportunities for the next few years, prepare the City to respond proactively to the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and develop an action plan for increasing

economic growth and prosperity for our greater Lawrence community.

Community input will be vitally important and will be incorporated throughout this process. As input is received, the EDAS team will use the information collected to create reports that will be posted online throughout the plan development process. All new reports will be available on the plan's web page: [lawrenceks.org/ed/strategic-plan](http://lawrenceks.org/ed/strategic-plan).

Once completed, this plan will serve as a roadmap for the City and its Community partners to build upon local economic advantages, address opportunities for improvements and provide a mechanism to evaluate efforts and redirect policies where needed.

More information on the economic development strategic plan and an overview of the currently available opportunities to provide input are available on the City website: [lawrenceks.org/ed/strategic-plan](http://lawrenceks.org/ed/strategic-plan).

You can also sign up to receive automatic email updates to stay up-to-date with the latest news: [lawrenceks.org/subscriptions](http://lawrenceks.org/subscriptions)

## Get a K-12 Fall Bus Pass

The bus is a fun and easy option for getting around town, and the K-12 Fall Bus Pass is a low-cost way for students to ride the bus throughout the season.

The K-12 Fall Bus Pass can be used on any Lawrence Transit bus route, so students are free to visit attractions throughout town, including parks, the library, shopping and more.

The K-12 Fall Bus Pass is on sale now. It can be purchased at The Merc as well as any Dillons or Hy-Vee store in Lawrence. They can also be purchased at City Hall.

The K-12 Fall Bus Pass costs \$10 and can be used for unlimited bus rides from September through December 2020.

For more information about the K-12 Fall Bus Pass, visit [lawrencetransit.org](http://lawrencetransit.org) or call Lawrence Transit at (785) 864-4644.



### GO PLACES!

SEE YOUR CITY ON THE BUS

**K-12 STUDENT  
SEMESTER  
BUS PASS**

**\$10.00**

**FALL 2020  
SEPT / OCT / NOV / DEC**

## Now accepting volunteer board and commission applications

Are you interested in serving your community in a meaningful way? Consider volunteering to join one of our City boards or commissions. The City of Lawrence is now accepting applications for current and upcoming City board and commission vacancies. A list of current and upcoming openings is available online along with applications and additional information on each of the boards and commissions: [lawrenceks.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication](http://lawrenceks.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication).

Please note that most applicants will complete the general board application, which is used for every board except the Community Police Review Board. There is a separate application, located on the same web page, for the Community Police Review Board.

**o u r m i s s i o n :**

Insert: #290

*Committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community*