Tom Markus Named City Manager

The Lawrence City Commission recently announced Tom Markus will become the city’s next City Manager. Markus currently serves as the City Manager for Iowa City, Iowa and has over 40 years of municipal government management experience in four Midwestern states.

“As a Commission, we were impressed with Tom’s experience in strategic planning and his understanding of the unique challenges facing university communities,” said Mayor Mike Amyx. “He will be a great asset to Lawrence and I look forward to working with him on community issues. As a City Commission and government, we recognize there are many issues on the horizon including affordable housing, economic development, and maintaining the strong quality of life our citizens rely on daily.”

He is expected to begin his role as City Manager for Lawrence the week of March 21.

Lawrence Set to Participate in National Arts Study

Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 Program will help quantify economic impact of the arts & cultural industry

The city is excited to announce Lawrence and Douglas County will join Americans for the Arts’ latest national economic impact study, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5! Lawrence’s participation in this important research project will allow the city to quantify the economic impact of the local arts and culture industry. It’s well known that the arts and culture industry supports jobs and generates revenue.

In June of 2017, the city will receive a final report which is expected to provide an understanding of just how many jobs and how much money is represented in our community!

The study requires the collection of detailed financial and programming information from all of the arts and culture organizations located in Lawrence and Douglas County as well as a minimum of at least 800 audience-intercept surveys from people who are attending arts and culture events. The city will be seeking help with these two tasks during 2016.

Beginning in January and lasting throughout the rest of 2016, the city will ask selected arts presenters and facilities to help us collect audience-intercept surveys from attendees at their events. Surveys will take less than three minutes to complete and will be completely anonymous.

In the spring of 2016, the city will begin contacting all of the arts and culture organizations located in Lawrence and requesting they complete a web-based organizational survey that is required for this important research study.

This study is conducted by Americans for the Arts, the nation’s leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. Americans for the Arts has conducted similar economic impact studies in more than 400 U.S. communities since 1994. Their methodology is sound. In fact, their economic impact data is used consistently by the Congressional Arts Caucus on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to support federal arts support.

Questions about this study can be directed to Porter Arneill, Director of Arts & Culture for the City of Lawrence, parneill@lawrenceks.org or (785) 832--3402.
After Winter, Yard Work Begins

The City of Lawrence has many options for helping residents clean-up and clear-out the clutter when it comes to yard work. Here are a few options.

Yard Waste Curbside Collection - Residential curbside collection of yard waste will begin on Monday, March 7 (weather permitting). If you do not mulch mow or compost your yard waste at home, or simply have too much to manage, the city's Solid Waste Division will pick it up on Monday mornings March through mid-December, except on holidays. Set out yard waste by 6:00 a.m. on Mondays only in cans, city trash or yard waste carts (NO recycling carts), or compostable paper yard waste bags. Bundles are also accepted (must not exceed 5-feet in length or 18-inches in diameter; must not weigh more than 65-pounds). Bundles must be tied with durable string or twine (please do not use wire, duct tape, etc.). For a complete list of yard waste collection guidelines and to purchase a yard waste cart, please visit www.lawrenceks.org/swm.

Wood Recovery and Compost Facility - In 2016, the city's Wood Recovery and Compost Facility located at 1420 E. 11th Street, which is east of 11th and Haskell Avenue, over the railroad tracks will be open to the public on Saturdays, March through mid-December, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. At the site, residents can:

1. Drop-off brush and other yard waste which includes leaves, grass clippings, garden waste, and prunings from trees and shrubs. Cost: $5 per pickup truck load (more for larger trucks). Cash only.
2. Purchase compost or woodchips. Self-load only, bring a shovel. Cost: $10 per pickup truck load (more for larger trucks). Cash only.

Compost and Woodchip Sale Event - This spring the city will hold a Sale Event for compost and woodchips at the city's Wood Recovery and Composting Facility on Thursday through Saturday, March 24, 25, 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (the city will load trucks and trailers; $10 per bucket load/two cubic yards). The sale will be held rain or shine. Cash only. Compost and woodchips are not intended for commercial applications but rather for the citizens of Lawrence. The city cannot load trucks with ladder racks.

For more information, visit www.lawrenceks.org/swm.

Electronic Recycling Event - March 19

The City's Solid Waste Division will host an Electronic Recycling Event on Saturday, March 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Free State High School north parking lot, 4700 Overland Drive. Electronic recycling will be provided by Midwest Recycling Center (MRC). For a list of electronic items accepted and information on recycling fees, please visit www.LawrenceRecycles.org.

www.LawrenceRecycles.org