

"We Have Tomorrow – **Bright Before** Us, Like A Flame."

Langston Hughes

The Flame | September 2019

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The City of Lawrence's Sister Cities program has been promoting global citizenship in the lives of Lawrence residents for three decades. In 2019, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of our partnership with Eutin, Germany, and in 2020 we will celebrate 30 years of partnership with Hiratsuka, Japan.

The Sister Cities international network is a worldwide program. Sister city, county, and state affiliations between the United States and similar jurisdictions around the world began shortly after World War II. Today, the Sister Cities network includes more than 2.300 communities in 135 countries.

Lawrence is home to three Sister Cities relationships, both Eutin and Hiratsuka, as well as Iniades, Greece. The relationship with Iniades began in 2009.

The sister cities relationships promote a wide range of cultural, educational, municipal, professional business and interests. The nature of these programs varies widely from city to city and they are based

upon a formal agreement of general purpose and support made between the elected leaders of the two cities.

"Fostering these relationships between residents of Lawrence and our global partners is of great benefit to our community," said Mayor Lisa Larsen. "Through exchanges and mutual support, we're fostering a global environment that helps everyone involved grow into better citizens of the world."

The Sister Cities board also works with "Friend" groups (Friends of Eutin, Friends of Hiratsuka and Friends of Iniades), who are more directly involved in the day-to-day operating of youth exchanges, delegation visits, and other cultural and educational programs. These Friend groups are integral to ensuring the lasting success of the program.

The City of Lawrence looks forward to our annual visits from residents of our Sister Cities and we are proud to offer interested Lawrence residents the opportunity to travel to these cities as well.



Mayor Lisa Larsen, Vice Mayor Jennifer Ananda and members of the Sister Cities Lawrence Board visit their counterparts in Eutin, Germany in May 2019 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Sister Cities program between the two cities.



Students from Hiratsuka, Japan visit City Hall as part of their visit to Lawrence in July 2019. This is the 29th year of the Sister Cities exchange program with Hiratsuka.

More information on the Sister Cities program is available on the City of Lawrence website: lawrenceks.org/boards/sister-cities

City info available online at *lawrenceks.org* and on cable Channel 25. The FLAME is published by the City Manager's Office, 832-3400.



Sign up for LPRD Fall activities!

The Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for fall activities. As a reminder, Fall 2019 activities are listed in the Summer/Fall Activities Guide, which was published in April 2019.

While many activities included in the guide took place during the summer months, there's also a wide variety that start in September and even later throughout the fall.

Whether it's a one-day workshop where you can learn the hustle or full-day winter break camps for the kids, there are still plenty of activities left to take part in from the Summer/Fall 2019 Activities Guide.

The activity guide also includes information on fall sports leagues, including basketball, soccer and volleyball youth leagues as well as basketball, dodgeball, kickball, soccer, softball, volleyball and wheelchair basketball adult leagues.

You can view the guide online at: <u>lawrenceks.org/lprd/summerfall19</u>

We're on Nextdoor!

Nextdoor is a social network for the neighborhood. It is a private social media site where you connect online with those who have confirmed addresses in or near your neighborhood.

The City of Lawrence joined Nextdoor as another way to share our news with residents! If you're already on Nextdoor, you've likely started seeing our posts. They're automatically shared on the timeline of those who live in Lawrence. If you don't have Nextdoor but are interested in joining, you can learn more or sign up at: nextdoor.com.

Remember, Nextdoor isn't the only social media network where you can get news from the City. We're also on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube:

- facebook.com/CityofLawrence
- twitter.com/lawrenceks
- youtube.com/lawrenceksvideo



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The Community Health Facility's 20th Anniversary

This year, the Community Health Facility is celebrating 20 years of servicing the Lawrence and Douglas County communities. Since its opening, the Community Health Facility has been home to the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and the Douglas County Visiting Nurses Association.

On August 8, 2019, the organizations within the Community Health Facility celebrated 20 years of service by inviting members of the health community and the public to an open house. Attendees were able to tour the building and learn about how the different organizations continue to serve our community's health needs.

Construction on the building began with a ground-breaking ceremony on October 11, 1997, and it opened in 1999. The total cost for its construction was \$14.1 million and it was funded by a voter-approved 1994 sales tax question.

In the 20 years it has been operating, the Community Health Facility has helped more than 780,000 people. Beyond serving as an open house, this year's 20th anniversary celebration

included a special recognition for City of Lawrence employee Dale Seele. Seele has been the Community Health Facility building manager since it opened.



In recognition of Seele's 20 years of service, one of the facility's rooms was renamed as the, "Seele Meeting Room."

Seele was joined by friends and coworkers as the meeting room plaque was unveiled during a surprise presentation at the open house.

Congrats, Dale! We appreciate the hard work of you and your team over the past 20 years.

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For more information on the City of Lawrence Solid Waste Division: Visit: lawrenceks.org/swm | Email: solidwaste@lawrenceks.org Call: 785-832-3032 | Follow on Facebook: facebook.com/lawrencerecycles

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