



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

*Langston
Hughes*

City of Lawrence

The Flame | March 2020

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Since 1970, Earth Day has been observed annually on April 22. It was founded as a day of education and to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. And, 50 years later, America is still celebrating Earth Day today.

In addition to its national anniversary, 2020 marks an important milestone in the City of Lawrence's Earth Day celebrations. This year will be the City's 20th annual Earth Day Celebration! In honor of its 20th anniversary, we hope the City of Lawrence Earth Day Celebration has its largest crowd ever!

The 20th Annual Earth Day Celebration will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 18.

The event location and further details will be available on the City's Earth Day website at: lawrenceks.org/earth-day.

All activities are free and open to the public. There is no rain date for the event.

The purpose of the Earth Day celebration is to gather community members to connect, discover, and celebrate local organizations and businesses who support a healthy, sustainable environment. At the same time, the celebration engages event goers with fun activities and exhibitions.

There will be local food vendors, live music, children's activities, yoga, and environmental information booths. The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department will host South Park Tree ID tours.

In addition, Lawrence Transit will offer free rides all day on Saturday, April 18. If you haven't yet experienced a ride on Lawrence Transit, then Earth Day may be the perfect time to test it out!



Coffee with the Mayor



Lawrence residents are invited to join Mayor Jennifer Ananda for a new monthly event: Coffee with the Mayor.

Coffee with the Mayor is an opportunity for residents to engage in an informal setting with Mayor Ananda and various guests. All residents are invited to stop by and chat about whatever is on their mind that month.

Coffee with the Mayor began on February 17 and will continue to be held on the third Monday of the month through the end of the year.

Meeting times (mornings or evenings) and locations will vary month-to-month to provide multiple opportunities for people to participate. Time, location and guests will be announced each month in advance. There are several ways that you can stay tuned in to the latest announcements:

- Follow the City Facebook page: facebook.com/CityOfLawrence. The monthly Coffee with the Mayor details will be added to the events section once available.
- Subscribe to City News on the City e-news subscriptions page: lawrenceks.org/subscriptions.
- Check out the events calendar on the City website: lawrenceks.org/events

All Coffee with the Mayor locations will be accessible via Lawrence Transit. Visit lawrencetransit.org/routes to view available bus routes.



Check your mailbox!

This March, everyone will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Here is **what you need to know**:



WHAT: The Census is a decennial population count of every U.S. resident.

WHO: Every single person living in the United States on April 1, 2020 gets counted. This includes both U.S. citizens and non-citizens, and there will not be a citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

WHERE: While the City is focused on census efforts locally, the count is national.

WHEN: Invitations to complete the census will be delivered (via mail) in mid-March, and you will be eligible to self-respond throughout the spring. Starting in May, census enumerators will go door-to-door to reach those households that did not self-respond.

HOW: For the first year ever, you can respond to the census by going online. Instructions will be included in your invitation to participate. In total, there are four possible ways to respond: online, by phone, by mail and in person.

WHY: The census count provides the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually. Those funds support some vital community programs in Lawrence — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy.

MORE INFO: Visit our website: lawrenceks.org/census



After Winter, Yard Work Begins

2020 Compost Facility Services

In March, the City of Lawrence Compost Facility reopened to the public for the 2020 season. The facility, located at 1420 E. 11th St., which is east of 11th St. and Haskell Ave. and over the railroad tracks, will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays through mid-December (weather permitting).

As residents get started with spring yard work, they may drop off brush and other yard waste, which includes leaves, grass clippings, garden waste and prunings from trees and shrubs, at the compost facility. The cost is \$5 per pickup truck load (more for larger trucks). Materials not accepted at the Compost Facility include lumber, pallets, sod, stones, rope, fill dirt, food waste, metal and plastic.

Residents can also purchase compost or woodchips at the facility. Most Saturdays, the compost and woodchips must be self-loaded, and residents must bring a shovel. The cost is \$10 per pickup truck load (more for larger trucks). If a resident is interested in self-loading small quantities, like a small bag or a plastic tote, that is free.

There will be two spring sale events this year where City staff will be on-hand to help residents load. The cost is \$10 per bucket-load (equivalent to two yards). The events will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on these dates:

- First spring sale event: Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28
- Second spring sale event: Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4

Following the spring sale events, City staff will also be on-hand to help load compost and woodchips on the following Saturdays (open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.):

- Saturday, May 2
- Saturday, June 6
- Saturday, July 11
- Saturday, Aug. 1
- Saturday, Sept. 5
- Saturday, Oct. 3

For more information, please call the Solid Waste Division at (785) 832-3032 or visit our website: lawrenceks.org/swm/yard-waste



VOLUNTEER AT SANTA FE STATION



Are you interested in becoming a Santa Fe Station volunteer? You'll welcome visitors to town and, if needed, assist them in finding transportation, restaurants and hotels/motels for their stay in Lawrence. Those interested can fill out an online application at: lawrenceks.org/lprd/santa-fe-depot. Every applicant will go through a third-party background check, and volunteers will have a training session before starting.

For more information, please visit the website or contact Roger Steinbrock, marketing supervisor, Parks and Recreation, rsteinbrock@lawrenceks.org | (785) 832-3450.