



City of Lawrence

The Flame | December 2021

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

Langston Hughes

Celebrating 60 years of the Human Relations Commission

The City of Lawrence Human Relations Commission is celebrating 60 years of furthering positive relations in Lawrence.

Established by Ordinance No. 3141 in 1961, the Commission was created to allow all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin, the opportunity to thrive without limitation. Since its infancy, the Human Relations Commission has been a leader in the field of equity and inclusion, guiding the passage of ordinances that provide protections for individuals on the basis of sexual orientation (in 1995) and gender identity (in 2011). As of 2021, the Code of the City of Lawrence has expanded to include race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, and gender identity as protected classes.

Per Chapter 10 of the City Code, the Human Relations Commission upholds the policy of the City of Lawrence to do the following:

- Assure equal opportunity and encouragement for every person to secure and hold, without discrimination, employment in any field of work or labor for which the person is otherwise properly qualified.
- Assure equal opportunity for all persons within the city to full and equal public accommodations and the full and equal use and enjoyment of the services, facilities, privileges and advantages of all governmental departments or agencies.
- Assure equal opportunity for all persons within this city in housing.

Since 1961, many Lawrencians have volunteered to serve the community in an important capacity as members of the commission.

The Human Relations Commission meets on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Currently, meetings are held in a virtual format, and the public is encouraged to attend virtually to share their comments with the Commission. Meetings can also be viewed on the City's YouTube channel.

If you or anyone you know feel you have been discriminated against based on race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, familial status, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity, please contact the Human Relations Division by calling 785-832-3310 or going online: lawrenceks.org/human-relations.

EMBRACE INCLUSION

60 Years of
HUMAN RIGHTS



City of Lawrence
HUMAN RELATIONS



Beware of the FOG

What do bacon, ice cream and gravy have in common? They're more than just tasty treats. They're also sources of fats, oils and grease – also known as FOG.

While fats, oil and grease add flavor to your food, they can be a nuisance to our sewer collection system. FOG creates clogs that can back up sewage into your street, yard or home – and can even send it spilling into a neighborhood stream!

In addition to protecting our sewers and the environment, reducing FOG also has cost-saving implications. A FOG backup can cause significant damage to your home if you have to replace a sewer line. Clogs on private property are the property owner's responsibility.

While you should always be conscious of reducing FOG, the holidays are an especially dangerous time for fats, oils and grease to build up on our plates and in our pipes. Fortunately, reducing FOG can be easy.

As you're preparing and cleaning up after this year's family feasts, please keep these simple FOG reduction tips in mind.

- Before washing dishes, use a paper towel or a scraper to wipe away FOG. Dispose of it in the trash or compost.
- Put food scraps in the trash or compost bin, not through the garbage disposal. Use a sink strainer and/or mesh drain strainer to catch food scraps before they go into your drain.
- Pour liquid food scraps, e.g. sauces, milkshakes, etc., into a sealed container for disposal in the trash.
- Pour used oil into a container with a top (the original if available), so it can be reused, recycled or placed in the trash for disposal. Cooking oil can be recycled through the City of Lawrence Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
- Small amounts (less than one quart) of cooking oil can also be absorbed or frozen for trash disposal. Cat litter works well for absorbing cooking oil.

Most FOG-related overflows happen on residential lines, so these easy everyday tips will make a huge difference.

For more information about FOG, including tips for residents as well as restaurants and other businesses, visit our website: lawrenceks.org/mso/fog.

Help us create our Climate Action Plan!

Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability is developing a Climate Action Plan that will identify ways for our community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce risk and vulnerability to extreme weather events.

There are a number of ways for those who care about the future of Lawrence and Douglas County to participate, including an online survey and signing up to be a climate ambassador. Climate ambassadors have a menu of options to choose from to engage with people they already know about issues related to climate.

Results from all community engagement efforts will inform the draft Climate Action Plan. The Sustainability team anticipates presenting the draft plan to



Lawrence City Commission for adoption in spring 2022.

More information on the process and ways to get involved are available on our website: lawrenceks.org/climate

New gleaning program wraps up first year

In its first year, Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability's gleaning program, which recovers unsold produce on local farms, far exceeded the anticipated number of gleanings per month and the amount of produce donated. During the 2021 growing season, produce was picked up or harvested from about 15 farms.

In the program, local farms contact the Sustainability team's food waste reduction specialist when they have leftover produce they are unable to sell. In the spring, it was leafy greens, such as spinach and chard; in the summer it was primarily tomatoes and summer squash; and this winter the team has picked up winter squash and a more unusual – but still tasty – crop: chestnuts!

The Sustainability team has built a strong working relationship with its partner, After the Harvest, and worked

with them on several of the gleanings. All recovered food is donated to Just Food, Sunrise Project and Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. Just Food supplies produce to several area agencies that help feed our community, including produce for the Ecumenical Campus Ministries' weekly veggie lunch.

The winter months are a great time to make plans for next year's growing season. If you're interested in making arrangements to schedule a gleaning next year, you can email Jamie Hofling, food waste reduction specialist, at jhofling@douglascountyks.org.

If you are a household with extra produce, consider donating it instead of throwing it out! You can contact directly any of the agencies listed previously or email Jamie for more information on how to donate.

