



# City of Lawrence

**The Flame | July 2021**

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

*Langston Hughes*

## In tribute to "Flame" artist Lin Emery

*Emery, who sculpted "Flame," the statue in front of City Hall, passed away earlier this year at the age of 94.*

In 1982, the people of Lawrence gifted "Flame," a statue created by artist Lin Emery, to sit on the lawn in front of City Hall. The piece was brought to the City by the Lawrence Art & Sculpture Fund, which was established by the Lawrence Arts Commission in 1981.

The work is described as an, "abstract kinetic sculpture representing flames to symbolize the rebirth, optimism and vibrance of Lawrence following Quantrill's Raid of 1863, which burned the city. The sculpture has four moveable parts, which are wind-driven."

The artist, Lin Emery, recently passed away in March 2021 at the age of 94.

Emery was a world-renowned sculptor based in New Orleans. She created artwork inspired by the forces of nature.

We are thankful to Emery for the wonderful piece she created for the City. Next time you drive by City Hall, at the corner of 6th & Massachusetts St., we hope you'll take a moment to view and appreciate the sculpture. **Tip:** The artwork is especially impactful on a windy day when its four moveable parts are constantly shifting in the breeze.

*Thank you to Lawrence resident Tom Harper who took note of the statue while on a run and decided to dig deeper into its history and the artist who created it.*



## Budget season is in full swing!

The City of Lawrence budget is guided by the City Commission's strategic plan, which was adopted in October 2020.

Every year, City staff begins preparing the budget in early February. In June, staff present the Capital Improvement Plan, Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Plan and Maintenance Plan to the City Commission for their consideration for the budget. This year, on July 13, the City Manager presents the recommended budget to the City Commission. During the presentation, commissioners will have time to ask questions, and community members can also review the budget and submit comments to the commissioners for consideration.



In August, a budget hearing is held. Currently, the public hearing for the budget is scheduled for August 31, and it is anticipated that the budget will be adopted on September 7. Under Kansas law, the budget must be adopted by October 1.

During the budget process, there are multiple opportunities for our community to share their input on priorities for the following year. More information on the budget, and an up-to-date timeline, is available on our website: [lawrenceks.org/budget/current](https://lawrenceks.org/budget/current).

More information on the City's strategic plan is available on our website at: [lawrenceks.org/strategic-plan](https://lawrenceks.org/strategic-plan).

## Online options for utility service requests

The summer months are peak season for the City's Utility Billing division. Since many leases take effect or terminate at the end of July, this is the time of year when there is a dramatic increase in transfers, disconnects and new service installations. In previous years, the City has received approximately 10,000 requests for service in just July and August.

To help with call volume and hold time, we recommend utilizing our online service requests. You can visit our website at [lawrenceks.org/utility-billing](http://lawrenceks.org/utility-billing) to:

- Use the Service Request Form to start, stop or transfer utility services.
- Use the Restore Service Form to get your utility service restored.

Utility service customers can also pay their bills through the online customer portal. To access the portal, residents must register for an online account through this simple process:

1. Go to the customer portal website: <https://link-infinity.lawrenceks.org>
2. Click on the "Register Now" link in the top right corner of the page.
3. Complete the New User registration form and click "Register". You can also opt-in to paperless billing.
4. You'll be sent an email confirmation. Please click the link in the email to verify your account. After verifying, you can log-in to the portal using your new username and password.



## Use your water wisely this summer!

With the City's new water billing rate structure in place, we're offering tips to help you use your water wisely this summer. As you're aware, Kansas summers get HOT and keeping lawns nice and green can use up a lot of water. If you're irrigating, follow these helpful tips to get the most bang for your buck:

- Water early in the morning or in the evening to reduce evaporation and allow more water to reach your lawn's root zone.
- Water only when needed, not on a set schedule. If your grass springs back after you step on it, it doesn't need watering.
- Water your garden by hand or use drip irrigation rather than sprinklers.
- Use a rain barrel to capture water running off your roof to water your garden. Get information about making your own rain barrel at [lawrenceks.org/stormwater](http://lawrenceks.org/stormwater).
- Mowing at the highest setting on your mower will encourage deeper grass roots, which will reduce the need for watering during dry spells.
- Use a rain gauge to determine when your lawn needs water and to measure how much you're applying. Generally, turf grasses need  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1" of water per week. If rain is forecasted, hold off on watering.

Other ways to conserve water and keep your water bill low around your house:

- Fix leaks. Leaky faucets, showerheads and toilets can add up to gallons of water lost every day.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Letting the water run while brushing can send gallons of wasted water down the drain.
- Take showers, not baths. Showers use less water (just keep an eye on how long you've been in there).
- Plug your sink or use a wash basin if washing dishes by hand.
- Use a dishwasher — and make sure it is fully loaded!
- Scrape your plate, rather than rinsing it, before loading it into the dishwasher.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of letting the faucet run until the water gets cold.
- Thaw meat in the fridge overnight rather than using running hot water.
- Throw food scraps in the trash rather than using your garbage disposal. (This one helps our sanitary sewer system, too!)
- Wash only full loads of laundry or select the appropriate water level or load size on the washing machine.

## Moving this month?

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While the process of moving can generate a lot of waste, a little planning can go a long way toward reducing waste and keeping reusable goods out of the landfill. Here are a few reuse, recycling and safe disposal options to keep in mind if you're planning a move this month.

**Reduce** the amount of waste generated with packing supplies by using reusable or recyclable padding, like towels or newspaper, to pack your boxes instead of purchasing Styrofoam peanuts or plastic wrap. Rather than purchasing new boxes for every move, you can stop by a grocery store or bookstore and ask for free cardboard boxes to use.

**Donate** gently used clothing and household goods to local charities, hold a moving sale, or post to online Buy, Sell, Trade groups. Donate non-perishable food to food banks, pantries and shelters.

**Recycle** old electronics, cardboard boxes, newspapers, plastic bags and any other recyclable materials. Search the online Recyclable Materials Directory at [lawrenceks.org/swm](http://lawrenceks.org/swm) for local options.

**Properly dispose** of paint, automotive products, household cleaners, pesticides and other potentially hazardous chemicals at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Schedule your appointment in advance: [lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw](http://lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw).

**Schedule a pick-up** by calling Habitat for Humanity Restore (856-6920), Salvation Army (856-1115) or the Lawrence Community Shelter Move-Out Program (832-8864) for your furniture and household goods. Are the items no longer usable? The City will collect bulky items, such as couches, appliances and automobile tires. Call our Solid Waste team (785-832-3032) or fill out the Residential Special Item Pickup online form: [lawrenceks.org/swm/trash](http://lawrenceks.org/swm/trash).

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### What do I do with my carts?

The green City trash carts and blue City recycling carts should not go with you when you move. These carts belong to the address to which they are delivered.

If you have purchased a brown yard waste cart(s), it can be moved to your new home as that cart belongs to the person/household who purchases it.

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