



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

*Langston Hughes*

# City of Lawrence

**The Flame | June 2021**

## Lawrence Transit bus shelters adorned with artwork

Beautiful decorative artwork has been placed on the glass panels of seven Lawrence Transit bus shelters, creating an eye-catching and aesthetically pleasing place for passengers to wait for the bus. The artwork was created by young artists at Van Go, Inc., and each bus shelter has its own unique character and design.

The United Way of Douglas County and AARP provided the funding to make this project possible. The decorated bus shelters are located at:

- Overland Drive – Free State High School
- Louisiana & 23rd Street – Checkers
- Iowa & 9th Street – The Merc
- Haskell & 16th Street
- Vermont & 7th Street – Downtown Bus Transfer Location
- 31st & Iowa Street
- 27th & Lawrence Avenue – Holcom Park Recreation Center

This is just one step in the plan to improve bus stops around Lawrence. Phase two of the AARP/United Way grant provides hand-crafted wooden shelters at five currently unimproved stops. Further plans are in place to add bus shelters and benches at more than 20 additional bus stops this year.

"Lawrence is a community that embraces art and creativity. It is exciting that Lawrence Transit has had the opportunity to combine art with the functionality of our bus shelters," said Adam Weigel, Transit and Parking Manager for the City of Lawrence. "We couldn't be happier with the partnership we have with United Way, AARP and Van Go."

"Our initial goal was to use the AARP Community Challenge Grant funds to install three new infrastructure sites in Lawrence, but through our partnership with the Lawrence Transit System we have managed to vastly expand the scope of the project, including these

delightful contributions from Van Go, which adds dignity and joy to the existing shelters," said Daniel B. Smith, Director of Marketing and Resource Development for the United Way of Douglas County.

"The visibility and recognition derived through public art is priceless and builds the intangible feeling of self-esteem for our youth," said Kristen Malloy, Co-Executive Director of Program Administration/HR at Van Go. "We appreciate community partnerships such as this one with the City, United Way and AARP that provide important acknowledgement and invaluable employment opportunities for the population we serve at Van Go. We look forward to many more public art projects that draw attention to and celebrate vital services such as the Lawrence Transit System."

For more information on this project, please visit [lawrencetransit.org](http://lawrencetransit.org) or call Lawrence Transit at (785) 864-4644.

*Pictured to the right: Before and after photos of the bus stop located at 31st and Iowa St. The header photo is the bus stop at 9th & Iowa St. View more photos online on the Lawrence Transit Facebook page: [facebook.com/lawrencetransit](https://facebook.com/lawrencetransit)*



## Parks & Recreation hiring now for summer jobs!

The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department is now hiring summer employees for seasonal work opportunities in our community.

Specifically, Parks and Recreation is in desperate need of lifeguards and swim instructors for the summer season. Summer fun won't be so fun without them! Training will be provided.

More information – and applications for available job opportunities – can be found online on the Parks and Recreation jobs website: [lprd.org/jobs](http://lprd.org/jobs).



Regardless of how you celebrate Independence Day, please remember:

# Lawrence is a fireworks-free city!

For more information, visit [lawrenceks.org/fireworks](http://lawrenceks.org/fireworks).

## Recent parking changes in Downtown Lawrence

Throughout this past spring, the City of Lawrence brought several changes to the Downtown Lawrence parking system, including mobile payments, a rates adjustment, citation updates and more.

### MOBILE PAYMENTS

There are two mobile payment apps now available to choose from when using metered parking spaces downtown: Passport Parking and ParkMobile. Both options charge users a small convenience fee for the service.

Both Passport Parking and ParkMobile can be downloaded from the Apple App or Google Play stores. Or, visit the City website: [lawrenceks.org/parking](http://lawrenceks.org/parking)

Traditional meters are also still available for metered parking spaces, so downtown visitors can use whichever payment method is most convenient.

### RATES ADJUSTMENT

Parking rates have increased for two-hour meters, 10-hour meters and parking garages. The previous and new rates are noted below:

- Two-hour meters increased from \$0.50/hour to \$1.00/hour
- 10-hour meters increased from \$0.10/hour to \$0.20/hour
- Parking garages increased from \$1.00/day to \$2.00/day

### PARKING CITATION UPDATES

The parking division is using vehicles equipped with License Plate Recognition for issuing citations. With this technology, anyone who receives a citation can go online and pay immediately. Parking citations will be payable through a new online citation portal on the City's website: [lawrenceks.org/parking](http://lawrenceks.org/parking). Users will need to enter the violation number, vehicle information and credit card information to pay through the online portal.

Additionally, parking citations have now increased from \$5 to \$10.

### ADVANCED KIOSK STATIONS

New advanced kiosk stations have been installed in parking lots and garages. Kiosks allow customers to select from multiple language options and they accept several types of payment, including credit card and cash. All meters that were previously in lots have been removed.

Kiosk stations will also allow users to pre-pay for multiple hours or days at a time – or go online to extend their parking session.

### ONLINE PERMIT PORTAL

In addition to in-person options, you are now able to purchase a parking permit for Downtown Lawrence online at [lawrenceks.org/parking](http://lawrenceks.org/parking). Permits can be purchased on a quarterly or annual basis.

## Severe Weather Preparedness

The following tips from Douglas County Emergency Management are important to keep in mind as severe weather season ramps up. Help yourself be prepared by following the below steps.

### BE ALERT TO THE FORECAST

Pay attention to changing weather conditions. **Watches** are issued when a specific hazard (for example a thunderstorm or tornado) is possible during a specific time range. **Warnings** are issued when a specific hazard is occurring or is believed to be occurring.

### DEVELOP AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Your emergency plan should include both how to get alerts (identify more than one method) and where to take shelter (lowest level of a building, in an interior room with no windows).

Different ways to get weather alerts include a NOAA weather radio, outdoor warning sirens, local TV/radio, wireless emergency alerts, social media and cell phone applications. Douglas County residents can also sign up for the free Northeast Kansas Regional Notification System online at [bit.ly/NEKSNotification](http://bit.ly/NEKSNotification).

### COMMUNICATE WITH NEIGHBORS

In developing your plans for emergency sheltering situations, be sure to include connecting with neighbors via phone, texting or apps, including using Nextdoor. You can also check social media apps for information from your neighborhood, City of Lawrence, Douglas County Emergency Management, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health and more.

### BUILD A PREPAREDNESS KIT

Your kit should have basic items that you can either keep in your shelter or take with you if you leave. It should be easily portable and everyone in your household should know where to find it.

Thank you for including these safety measures into your preparation for severe weather season. More information on severe weather awareness can be found on the Douglas County website: [douglascountyks.org/depts/emergency-management](http://douglascountyks.org/depts/emergency-management).

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*We create a community where all enjoy life and feel at home.*