



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

*Langston Hughes*

# City of Lawrence

**The Flame | August 2022**

## Lawrence Transit introduces community's first electric bus

This year, Lawrence Transit will be introducing five zero-emission electric buses to their fleet – with two more electric buses anticipated next year!

These electric buses are the result of two grants awarded to Lawrence Transit by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) through their competitive "Low- or No-Emission" grant program. The program finances the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses and supporting facilities, such as charging infrastructure.

Lawrence Transit has received this grant the past two years. The 2020 grant award of \$3,765,000 was put toward the removal from service of five diesel-fueled buses that have exceeded their useful life and the deployment of five zero-emission battery electric buses in their place. These buses and accompanying charging stations are being introduced this year.

Lawrence Transit received a grant award in 2021 for \$1,815,750, which will

allow them to purchase two additional electric buses (and accompanying charging stations) and remove two additional diesel buses from service. The 2021 grant requires the City of Lawrence to match \$694,250, which is already budgeted as part of the City's fleet replacement and sustainability goals.

"To meet City of Lawrence goals for sustainability, we hope to never purchase another diesel bus again," said Adam Weigel, Transit and Parking Manager, City of Lawrence.

"These awards will make nearly a third of the fixed route fleet all-electric and

keep us on track to meet Lawrence's bold sustainability goals."

Overall, the City of Lawrence has a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. For Lawrence Transit, that means converting 100% of their fleet of vehicles to clean energy by 2035.

In addition to their environmentally friendly characteristics, the new electric buses have features that will enhance trip experience and comfort for Transit riders, such as USB chargers and flip seats. These seats can easily be raised or lowered to make extra room for mobility aids, grocery carts, strollers or other cargo.





## Common Ground adds new community garden site

The Common Ground community gardening and urban agriculture program is adding a new garden site at Broken Arrow Park, 2800 Louisiana St.

The new community garden is a partnership between Common Ground and Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health and was funded through a Kansas Department of Health and Environment Chronic Disease Risk Reduction grant.

The Broken Arrow Community Garden will feature two communal garden beds, two ADA-accessible beds and 10 individual plots that can be rented.

Applications for the individual plots will be accepted on a rolling basis, but will be first come, first served.

The garden will also welcome volunteers and groups interested in pitching in for a few hours.

Anyone interested in Common Ground can reach out to Umut Bayramoglu, Common Ground Program Manager, at [ubayramoglu@douglascountyks.org](mailto:ubayramoglu@douglascountyks.org) or 785-312-2347 to let her know of your garden aspirations!

More information is on our website at [lawrenceks.org/common-ground](http://lawrenceks.org/common-ground).

## Through Other Eyes is City's latest art installation

The newest artwork in the City's public art collection, *Through Other Eyes* by Joseph O'Connell of Creative Machines, was installed in late June. An unveiling event is being planned for September.

Mr. O'Connell was chosen through a national competition and selection process. He worked with staff and community members to develop this concept.

The artwork is both sculptural and architectural and serves as a gateway and meeting point for the developing park, which will be located to the north of the Police Department headquarters at 5100 Overland Dr. Additionally, the City will be adding benches and

covering the surrounding area in grass to create a gathering spot.

The ring atop the arches includes ten sets of interpretive eyes crafted from glass beads. Each pair of eyes is based on a photograph of an individual Lawrence resident and represents our community diversity.

"This artwork is about the wonder and beauty of eyes and seeing into and through other's eyes," said the artist, Joseph O'Connell.

There is also a spherical light at the top of the arches that lights at night and projects images on the ground under the artwork.



## Land Development Code update begins

The Land Development Code is a framework for our community that determines the kind of building that can be done and where. It guides everything from allowed land uses, building density, setbacks, street widths, parking requirements and more.

The City's current Land Development Code was adopted in July 2006 and reflects the community's values and expectations as included in the previous comprehensive plan, Horizon 2020, which was adopted in 1998.

In November 2019, the City of Lawrence and Douglas County adopted a new comprehensive plan, Plan 2040. In 2021, the City adopted its new strategic plan, which sets out strategies and progress indicators for five outcome areas: Unmistakable Identity; Strong, Welcoming Neighborhoods; Safe and Secure; Prosperity and Economic Security; and Connected City.

The Strategic Plan and the Comprehensive Plan set the vision for our community, and the Land Development Code provides a list of standards and regulations that help us implement that vision.

As the Land Development Code update begins, the City will host a series of public engagement activities at the end of August. More information on those opportunities will be available on the project website: [lawrenceks.org/community-engagement/land-dev-code-update](http://lawrenceks.org/community-engagement/land-dev-code-update).



**Pictured on the front:** Residents celebrate the grand opening of the new splash pad located along the north side of Burroughs Creek Trail and Linear Park near the trail crossing at 15th Street. The splash pad will be open daily from 9 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. through most of the summer season.