



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

Langston Hughes

City of Lawrence

The Flame | December 2022

Looking back at Highlights from 2022!

The City kept busy in 2022! Improving our streets and other City infrastructure, supporting more opportunities for affordable housing, adding several department directors and – of course – celebrating an invigorating national championship for the KU Men's Basketball team! Here's a recap of some of the work that kept us busy in 2022:

Strong, Welcoming Neighborhoods for ALL

The City has pursued several initiatives this year in our efforts to ensure all people in Lawrence have access to safe and affordable housing.

In April, we announced the six projects that would receive Affordable Housing Trust Fund awards as part of the 2022 funding cycle, including projects from Tenants to Homeowners, the Housing Stabilization Collaborative, Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority, Independence, Inc., and Lawrence Habitat for Humanity. In total, the fund allocated \$850,000 to selected applicants.

Additionally, the City made a donation of five acres of land to Tenants to Homeowners to develop new affordable housing. The project should create 122 new units with 236 total bedrooms.

Improving our Connected City

In addition to regular street maintenance, two major construction projects began in 2022: The E 19th St. reconstruction and sidewalk improvements and the E 23rd St. reconstruction and water main replacement. Both will result in wide-

ranging improvements to East Lawrence, and we are excited to see the results!

In addition to street infrastructure, Lawrence made progress on the Lawrence Loop this year and even outlined the plan for its completion by 2027. Infrastructure like the Lawrence Loop contribute to our "Walk Friendly Community" – a designation Lawrence received this year in recognition of our policies and programs that prioritize pedestrians and safe places to walk.

Engaged & Empowered Leadership

We added several new team members to City of Lawrence leadership this year! This includes Rich Llewellyn, Chief of Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical; Kathy Richardson, Sustainability Director; Judge Chris Kopecky, Municipal Court; Melissa Sieben, Municipal Services & Operations Director; Megan Dodge, Human Resources Director; and Rich Lockhart, Chief of the Lawrence Kansas Police Department.

Unmistakable Fun for the Final Four

What was surely the highlight of the year for many Lawrence residents, our City team had a lot of fun helping with the Final Four celebrations downtown this year. It was a coordinated team effort from Municipal Services & Operations to Parks and Recreation, from Police to Fire, and all the other City departments and team members who contributed their time to make our downtown celebrations safe and fun! We appreciate everyone who pitched in to ensure our celebrations could continue!



Construction continues on E 23rd St.



A recently completed affordable housing project.



Jayhawk fans celebrate a Final Four win.

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 — aka FOG.

While FOG adds flavor to your food, it can also 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 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 into a sealed container for disposal in the trash.
- Pour used oil into a container with a top 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, visit our website: lawrenceks.org/mso/fog.

Winter is Coming

You never know when winter weather is going to strike, so it's best to start your preparations early. The City of Lawrence has a number of programs and policies in place to help make the season go as smoothly as possible for residents. Here are some key reminders for this snow season!

Snow plowing operations are generally not effective if there are less than two inches of snow on the ground. City crews will typically spread sand and salt on the roadways for icy conditions and small accumulations.

When snow does hit, **City crews follow the snow removal policy.** You can view the policy, route maps, and live traffic cams online: lawrenceks.org/snow

City crews aren't the only ones with some responsibility when it comes to clearing snow. City ordinance No. 8324 states that **all property owners must clear their public sidewalks of snow and ice within 48 hours of a winter storm.** This helps keep pathways safe for all Lawrence residents.

Holiday Solid Waste Schedule Reminders

There will be no changes to collection services during the Christmas or New Year's holiday weeks. Monday through Friday collection routes for trash and recycling will be completed on schedule. There will be no yard waste collection throughout the holiday weeks.

Protect your Pipes!

Easy tips to avoid frozen water pipes:

1. Disconnect outside hoses
2. Repair leaking faucets outside
3. Cover outside faucets
4. Keep furnaces set to at least 55°

Holiday Tree-Cycling

Recycling your holiday tree is a great way to return it to nature. When the holidays are over, you can place livecut trees at the curb or alley by 6 a.m. on your collection day, and City crews will collect them so they can be given a second life as wildlife habitat.

Lawrence Transit offers Travel Training

Travel Training is a free personalized service provided to anyone interested in learning how to use the Lawrence Transit bus system and other transit options in the area.

The program is customized to meet your individual needs and goals. Participants will gain the necessary skills to travel independently through hands-on experience with one of our Lawrence Transit experts. The Travel Trainer will spend as much time as needed with you to ensure you are comfortable traveling on your own.

There are a number of options for Travel Training, including one-on-one sessions, group training and training the trainer (works best for organizations).

The service is open to anyone interested in using the Lawrence Transit system: Seniors, adults, individuals with disabilities, paratransit approved riders and those new to the Lawrence area — to name a few.

If you or your organization are interested in learning more about the Travel Training program, please email Lawrence Transit at info@lawrencetransit.org.

Assistance for income-eligible homeowners

Have you heard about the City of Lawrence grant and loan programs that assist income-eligible homeowners.

The emergency loan program provides up to \$5,000 for emergency repairs that either eliminate immediate health and safety hazards or repair damage to a structure likely to cause health and safety hazards.

The furnace loan program can provide up to \$5,000 for the replacement or addition of an existing heating and/or cooling source with approved energy-efficient appliances.

Both programs require a zero interest, zero payment mortgage to be placed on the property. The loan amount is due in full when the applicant is no longer the owner/occupant. For additional terms and conditions, you can contact our Housing Initiatives staff at (785) 832-7700 or visit our website: lawrenceks.org/pds/housing_programs.