

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

Langston Hughes



City of Lawrence

The Flame | January 2022

Welcome to a new Lawrence City Commission

The Lawrence City Commission is our governing body for the City of Lawrence. It consists of five Commissioners who are elected to represent our community.

Following tradition, at their meeting on December 7, the Lawrence City Commission swore in the three recently elected Commissioners: Lisa Larsen (Vice Mayor), Bart Littlejohn and Amber Sellers. They join returning Commissioners Courtney Shipley (Mayor) and Brad Finkeldei.

Meet our Commissioners!

Bart Littlejohn has been a resident of Lawrence since 1995. He is a marketing manager at the research equipment company, Pinnacle Technology Inc.

Prior to joining the City Commission, Bart was the president of the Pinckney Neighborhood Association and chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and he serves on the Douglas County Community Health Plan Steering Committee. This is his first time serving on the Lawrence City Commission.

Lisa Larsen first lived in Lawrence from the mid to late 1980's and returned in 1998. Her career has spanned more 30 years as an Environmental Geologist.

Lisa was appointed to the City Commission in 2015 and was elected to the City Commission in 2017. She served as Mayor in 2019 and is serving as Vice Mayor in 2022.

Courtney Shipley is a 30-year resident of Lawrence and works as a property manager.

Prior to the City Commission, Courtney served as Chair of the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods. She has also served on the Board of Zoning Appeals as well as the advisory board for the Transient Guest Tax Grant Program, Lawrence Preservation Alliance and Friends of Oak Hill Cemetery. She was elected to Lawrence City Commission in 2019 and is serving as Mayor in 2022.

Brad Finkeldei is a partner with the law firm of Stevens & Brand, LLP. Prior to being elected to the City Commission, he served on boards for Ballard Community Services, Lawrence Family Promise, the St. John's Catholic Church Finance Committee, the Lawrence Jayhawk Rotary Club, and the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission.

Brad was elected to Lawrence City Commission in 2019 and served as Mayor in 2021.

Amber Sellers was born and raised in Wichita, and lived in Lawrence from 1999 until 2008. She moved back to Lawrence in 2019. She works as a Regulation Specialist for the Bureau of Family Health with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Prior to her election to the City Commission, Amber was appointed to the Human Relations Commission in 2020 and served as chair until November 2021. This is her first time serving on the Lawrence City Commission.



Pictured from left to right: Bart Littlejohn, Lisa Larsen, Courtney Shipley, Brad Finkeldei, Amber Sellers.

My New Year's Resolutions for 2022 are to...

...be more involved in my community

Become a Climate Ambassador

Join the Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office in their efforts to make our community better equipped to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. They need your input to build a Climate Action Plan that is tailored to our community's priorities, accounts for our assets and vulnerabilities, and includes specific short-term and longer-term action items and strategies.

One way to get involved is to become a climate ambassador. A climate ambassador is someone concerned about the impacts that climate change will have on our health, livelihoods, and landscapes in Lawrence and Douglas County. If you are compelled to share the climate plan process with your community circles, helping to increase the stories, feedback, and ideas that create our plan, then we need you.

All you need is a willingness to connect with people you already know, have conversations, and share what you learn to help enhance the community voice in our climate plan.

Our website has a link to the "Climate Ambassador Guidebook," which



includes suggested activities for our ambassadors. Each activity includes a description, suggested age range, ideal group size, time needed, materials, and detailed instructions. You are also welcome to create your own activity.

More information is on our website at lawrenceks.org/climate.

Join a City board or commission

Are you interested in serving your community in a new and rewarding way? Consider volunteering for one of the City's many advisory boards or commissions.

Our website has a list of current and upcoming board openings, which includes a description of what the board does, how frequently they meet, and who is currently serving.

You can learn more and apply at lawrenceks.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication.

Get engaged on City projects

Wondering what the City is up to and how you can be involved in important decision-making? We've developed a new community engagement portal on our website to share all the projects currently underway that include community engagement.

Visit our website at lawrenceks.org/community-engagement for more information on our current efforts.

...give back

For some of our community members, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic compounded outstanding utility payments and left them unable to keep up with their bills.

The City created the Utility Assistance Program as a resource for households that could use extra help getting back on their feet as we continue fighting COVID-19. There's no set amount to donate, you can give as much or as little as you're able.

To sign up for monthly donations, fill out the online form at lawrenceks.org/utility-billing/donate. To make a one-time donation, please come to the utility billing window at City Hall or call our team at 785-832-3221.

We appreciate any and all support!

...reduce my waste

Did you know that on average, each person generates about 4.5 pounds of waste every day? You can make a difference by making it your resolution to reduce the amount of waste you generate in 2022!

This year, make a pledge to reuse, repair, recycle and/or compost before throwing things away. To get a jump start on recycling, visit our online Recyclable Materials Directory at lawrenceks.org/swm/recyclable-materials-directory.

...move more

If you want to move more in 2022, look no further than the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department.

In the cold winter months of early 2022, you can use one of our indoor recreation options, including the Community Building, East Lawrence Recreation Center, Holcom Park Recreation Center, Sports Pavilion Lawrence, and the Indoor Aquatic Center, to get moving. Or you can consider signing up for one of our indoor fitness programs, including adult and youth sports options, fitness classes, personal training, or lifelong recreation classes geared toward those aged 50 and older.

As of August 2021, access cards are required to gain access to the parks and recreation facilities. Access cards are free to Douglas County residents and can be obtained at any recreation facility during operating hours. Residents ages 10 and older need only provide proof of residency to receive their card.

Once it starts to get warmer, you can consider a visit to one of Lawrence's many beautiful parks or trails for some outdoor activity.

No matter the time of the year, our Parks and Recreation team has options to keep you healthy and active into the new year!



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