



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



Showing off our PRIDE!

While the annual PRIDE celebration takes place in June, we couldn't help but to keep the party going a little longer this year. To kick off the month, our community came together for a parade on June 3 in Downtown Lawrence. In celebrating PRIDE, we are coming together to embrace diversity, promote inclusion and show our support for the LGBTQ+ community. Lawrence is a community where *everyone* can feel safe and at home.

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

City information is available at lawrenceks.org and on cable Channel 25.

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Splash into summer with Parks & Rec!

Are you enjoying all the outdoor summer fun this year? We're in the hottest part of the season, and that means there is no better time to explore our City aquatics options. From pools to splash pads, we have you covered this year.

The City's Outdoor Aquatic Center, located at 727 Kentucky St., is now open for the 2023 summer season. As the only outdoor public pool in Lawrence, it remains a favorite destination for cooling off throughout the summer months.

But if slides and diving boards at the pool are not your preference, there are a couple other outdoor aquatics options perfect for water-lovers this summer.

The South Park Wading Pool is an ideal place for parents to bring children ages six and under for an afternoon outing. Qualified staff supervise the wading pool area, which contains a zero-depth entry, water sprays and fountains. All children must also be accompanied by an adult supervisor when using the facility. The wading pool closes for the summer season on Saturday, July 29.

In Summer 2022, we opened the City's first splash pad at Burroughs Creek Trail and Linear Park! The latest addition to the City aquatics

offerings, this splash pad offers several interactive water features and spray jets, perfect for cooling off after a walk, run or bike ride down Burroughs Creek Trail.

Finally, our newest addition to the City's outdoor aquatics is the soon-to-open Lyons Park Splash Pad! We anticipate opening the splash pad during the 2023 summer season and will share any news and updates on our website: lawrenceks.org/lprd/aquatics/spwp.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual Pooch Plunge once the Outdoor Aquatic Center closes for the season. This year's event is happening from 4-7 p.m. on Monday, August 14. We'll close the pool to humans and neutralize the chemicals to make the water safe for the canines. Your pup may want to dive in to the deep end or simply splash around in the wading pool. Regardless, this event is fun for participants and spectators alike! Online registration is available at: lawrenceks.org/lprd/programs.

LAWRENCE TRANSIT ROUTE REDESIGN

New bus routes offer new opportunities

Lawrence Transit, the coordinated bus system for the City of Lawrence and University of Kansas, is preparing to implement new routes this August.

Our team has worked closely with the public since late 2020 to explore new route ideas, discuss new on-demand service models for overnight and Sunday, and add value for existing and new passengers. We are excited to see that work come to fruition with new route redesign implementation!

WHY REDESIGN ROUTES?

With the development of the new Central Station at Bob Billings & Crestline Drive, we're redesigning bus routes to better serve this location and the community at-large.

Route Redesign will go into effect in two phases. Phase 1 happened in August 2022 and Phase 2 will take place in 2023. Phase 2 will include the introduction of Sunday microtransit service as well as fare free service system-wide.

NEW ROUTE FEATURES

As part of our route redesign process, we are introducing various new features for Lawrence Transit that will benefit our riders and community members.

Interlining. Interlined routes reduce transfers and create more bi-directional service for a faster trip home. The same buses operate back and forth between two routes. Riders won't need to get off the bus to transfer from one route to the other.

Peak and off-peak frequencies. Based on community interest, Lawrence Transit

is piloting Sunday service. To afford this change, transit trips in the middle of the day (Monday – Saturday) on fixed-route will be less frequent, and trips during the morning and afternoon commute times will be every half hour or better across all routes.

On-demand service. Sunday service will be introduced as an on-demand service that functions like Uber and Lyft but uses transit vehicles and drivers. Anyone can request a trip to and from any location within Lawrence city limits between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Sunday using a smartphone app or dialing a phone number. Night Line will also become an on-demand service, increasing same-day access to evening trips between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., Monday – Saturday.

Fare Free. Thanks to federal stimulus funds, we are in the middle of providing a one-year pilot of fare free Transit in 2023. One of many reasons to pilot fare free service is to make it even easier to explore new route changes!

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Our staff will be at the downtown bus stop on Vermont Street across from the Lawrence Public Library throughout July and the first week of August to hear from our community what they think about bus route redesign.

Stop by, say hi, and tell us what you think!

You can check out our Route Redesign project page for dates and times you can find Transit staff in person: lawrencetransit.org/projects/route-redesign.

Back to School Safety Fair set for August 5

We're partnering with Douglas County for a Back to School Safety Fair this August!

The safety fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. on Saturday, August 5 in South Park.

Last held in 2019, the Back to School Safety fair is a fun way to wrap up the summer and get students ready for a happy, safe, and healthy school year!

Many community organizations will be on hand leading interactive games and learning opportunities for children from pre-school all the way through high school. There will be a bicycle and skateboard helmet giveaway, carseat checks and tours of first responder vehicles!

Don't forget to bring school supplies to donate for the Cram the Cruiser Competition. The car with the most supplies at the end of the event wins!



Moving Reminders

Many apartment leases in Lawrence will turn over at the end of July, which means moving season is in full swing!

While moving can be complicated, we have a few tips to keep in mind. Please remember: By taking the time to plan ahead, you can make your move the best experience it can be!

Go online for utility requests

Due to an increase in the number of moves, the summer months are extremely busy for our Utility Billing team. To help with the high call volume, our team recommends utilizing online service requests when possible.

Online assistance is available for starting, stopping and transferring services, as well as restoring service. You can also go online to pay your bill or to set up automatic payments.

Visit the utility billing web page at lawrenceks.org/utility-billing to learn more.

Reuse, recycle and safe disposal

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. 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 for local options.

Dispose of paint, automotive products, household cleaners, pesticides and other potentially hazardous chemicals properly at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. You must schedule your appointment in advance online at: lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw.

Schedule a pick-up for bulky items that are no longer usable, such as couches, appliances and automobile tires. Call our Solid Waste team at 785-832-3032 or fill out the online form to schedule a pick-up: lawrenceks.org/swm/trash.