

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



### LAWRENCE TRANSIT POETS LAUREATE

Poets, family, and friends gathered at the newly opened Central Station to celebrate the finalists of the inaugural Lawrence Transit Poet Laureate Program. The community can find their poems on electric buses for the duration of 2024.

The 2024 Lawrence Transit Poets Laureate are Hilary Carter (Route 7), Nikita Imafidon (Route 43), Melissa Fite Johnson (Route 10), Julia L. (Route 6), Roman Osborn (Route 3), and Margene Swarts (Route 1).

In addition to the electric buses, you can read their poems online at: <https://assets.lawrenceks.org/transit/2024Poems.pdf>

### OUR MISSION

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

City information is available at [lawrenceks.org](http://lawrenceks.org) and on cable Channel 25.

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## Download the new City of Lawrence App



Apple App store



Google Play store



## New City App makes service requests easier!

The City of Lawrence app allows us to easily share and receive information with our community about important City services.

The City of Lawrence App makes it easier for community members to request City services – allowing you to submit a ticket and follow along with progress updates through the work's completion.

Currently, the City of Lawrence App will allow community members to submit requests for City assistance in seven service categories:

- Property Maintenance – General (code compliance)
- Property Maintenance – Weeds
- Police – Non-Emergency (theft of items – not vehicles, theft of vehicle, damage to property, use of financial card, and shoplifting – for businesses only)
- Parks Maintenance Issue
- Tree/Overhead Limbs
- Missed Trash Collection
- Dead Animal

We plan to launch more request types later this year.

Using the app is simple. You can access it online at [lawrenceks.org/request-services](http://lawrenceks.org/request-services) or by downloading the "SeeClickFix" app to your smart phone from the Apple App or Google Play stores. Once you're in the app, you'll need to sign up for a new account or login if you already have one. Then there are just a few steps to complete your request:

- Click "Submit Request"
- Add a photo (optional but encouraged)
- Confirm the location
- Select the request category
- Submit your request and follow the ticket through completion as it gets routed to the appropriate City team

All communication related to your service request will happen within the app, and you'll receive updates on the response in real time.

The City of Lawrence App is powered by SeeClickFix, which is used by several of our neighboring communities, including Topeka, Shawnee, Mission Hills and more.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

# 6th St: From Massachusetts St. to K-10

We're in the middle of several big, exciting projects on 6th St. that will improve the road and provide a host of other benefits for travelers and residents of Lawrence.

Our work on these 6th St. Improvement Projects is part of our Connected City outcome, which is focused on making sure Lawrence has well-maintained, functional, and efficient infrastructure, facilities, and other assets. One of the vital pieces of City infrastructure that our community members use every day is our streets!

Did you know – Our 2022 community satisfaction survey told us that two of the top community priorities for our work in the coming year were 1) the overall maintenance of City streets and utilities and 2) the overall flow of motor vehicle traffic and congestion management on streets.

Our continuing investment in projects to improve our streets, especially our most traveled roadways like the recently completed E 23rd St. and the currently underway 6th St. projects, reflects the City's commitment to meeting the community's desire for excellence in these areas.

### THE PLAN FOR 6TH STREET

6th St. was last repaved more than 10 years ago, and the current work is essential to prevent further damage to the road and subsequent impacts to traffic. Though there will be impacts to traffic as these projects continue, we intend to maintain traffic flow across 6th St. during construction.



This information was gathered in March 2024 and may change as the projects progress. To stay up to date with the latest closures and traffic impacts, we strongly encourage that you sign-up for weekly traffic alerts and view the interactive construction maps at: [lawrenceks.org/construction](http://lawrenceks.org/construction).

**Massachusetts St. to Iowa St.** – This project will provide pavement maintenance, including full-depth patching, curb/gutter and storm sewer upgrades. We're replacing 3,000 feet of waterline on the north side of 6th St. between Bluffs Dr. and Maine St., and we're adding an ADA-compliant shared-use path on the north side of 6th St. from Iowa St. to Wisconsin St.

Impacts and street closures will vary during the different project phases, but crews will always maintain at least one lane of traffic in each direction on 6th St.

The project began in February 2024 and we're anticipating completing it in Fall 2024.

**Iowa St. To Folks Road** – This project is for pavement maintenance, including curb and gutter upgrades. Additionally, this project will include a full replacement of the water main between Champion Lane and Monterey Way.

We're anticipating completing the project in Fall 2024.

**Schwarz Road** – For this project, we're installing ADA-compliant ramps, traffic signal and pavement markings. Additionally, we're installing a new 10-foot shared-use path along the north side of 6th St. between Lawrence Ave. and Iowa St.

We're anticipating completing the project in Fall 2024.

**Queens Road** – We're installing a new traffic signal at the intersection of 6th St. and Queens Road.

We're anticipating completing the project in Summer 2024.

### \*BONUS KDOT PROJECT\*

**6th St. and K-10** – This project from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) includes the reconfiguration of the existing diamond interchange to a diverging diamond interchange with new ramps, signals and bike/pedestrian facilities.

Any questions related to this project can be directed to Kate Craft, [kate.craft@ks.gov](mailto:kate.craft@ks.gov).

*Pictured left: A view down 6th St. in January 2024 before construction began.*

# April is Fair Housing Month

Fair Housing Month is celebrated in April in commemoration of the Fair Housing Act, which was passed in April 1968. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, color, national origin, religion and gender. In Lawrence, Chapter 10 of our City Code contains our local laws that prohibit discrimination within housing, public accommodations and employment.

In 2023, the City of Lawrence introduced two new ordinances protecting against discrimination. The first, commonly referred to as the source of income ordinance, prohibits discrimination in housing based on a person's source of income or immigration status. Among other protections, the new law will help people who use a Housing Choice Voucher – also known as a Section 8 voucher – access affordable housing. Landlords will no longer be able to reject a tenant solely based on their use of a voucher. More information on the Source of Income Ordinance is our website: [lawrenceks.org/attorney/soi](http://lawrenceks.org/attorney/soi).

The second anti-discrimination ordinance passed in 2023 declares that restrictions or bans on natural hair or protective hairstyles violate the intent and spirit of the anti-discrimination regulations in our City Code. The Lawrence City Code prevents discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodations because of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, or familial status. With ordinance No. 10003, the definition of "race" has been expanded to prohibit discrimination based on a person's hair style or texture.

The City of Lawrence Human Relations Division is a resource to any resident who believes they may be the victim of discrimination in housing, employment or public accommodation. Residents are encouraged to confidentially contact our staff to discuss whether they might be a victim. For more information, you can email the Human Relations Division at [humanrelations@lawrenceks.org](mailto:humanrelations@lawrenceks.org) or call 785-832-3310.



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