

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



We want to thank artist Toni Brou for creating this year's Phoenix Awards. In our November 2023 issue of The Flame, in which we honored the incredible artists and arts organizations who received awards this year, we failed to acknowledge Toni Brou as the creator behind the artwork used for the awards. We apologize for the mistake and are extremely appreciative of Brou's contributions.

Information on the Phoenix Awards is online: [lawrenceks.org/phoenix-awards](http://lawrenceks.org/phoenix-awards)



## Central Station opens and bus routes change

Change is coming! To support the new Central Station location, Lawrence Transit is preparing to implement new routes that go into effect on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

City and University staff have 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.

To get ready for the changes coming to Lawrence Transit in 2024, check out these resources below.

**New routes toolkit.** Review the system map, routes and schedules, and a summary of the changes on our Route Redesign project page: [lawrencetransit.org/projects/route-redesign](http://lawrencetransit.org/projects/route-redesign).

**Travel training.** Need help navigating the new routes? Reach out to our team for travel training: [info@lawrenceks.org](mailto:info@lawrenceks.org). Visit the Travel Training page for more resources: [lawrencetransit.org/travel-training](http://lawrencetransit.org/travel-training).

**Trip planning.** Transit App, our new preferred trip planning app, has a preview of 2024 route changes. Check out our mobile tools page for links to download the app: [lawrencetransit.org/mobile-tools](http://lawrencetransit.org/mobile-tools).

Real-time bus arrival information is now available on Transit App.

**Central Station.** The new facility will have eight covered bays for Lawrence Transit buses, as well as bays for K-10 Connector and Greyhound services.

Amenities will include public restrooms, an indoor waiting area, bike racks and bike lockers, and digital signs with bus arrival information. Bus drivers will have access to improved features, including restrooms and a breakroom. Lawrence Transit worked with artist Tyler Kimball to produce several works of blown glass art that have been incorporated into the site (art pictured above).

**Downtown Station.** Upon completion of Central Station, five routes will continue to serve Downtown Lawrence. More than \$1.6 million of state funds have been awarded for a new Downtown Station, and the bulk of public outreach, site selection, and concept design is anticipated to happen in 2024, with construction likely in 2025.

### 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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## INTRODUCING OUR ONLINE SYSTEM FOR PERMITS AND LICENSES

# Enterprise Permitting & Licensing

We're introducing a new, more streamlined system for our permitting and licensing services. Enterprise Permitting and Licensing (EPL) will launch on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024.

The new system moves many of our manual processes online and will provide numerous benefits for our community members. Our staff is looking forward to more efficiently turning around our permitting and licensing services once we've fully integrated this process. Other benefits of this new system include:

- 24-hour availability! The online platform is accessible 24-hours a day, seven-days a week, so you can apply anytime you want.
- One place to log in! There is one login for the entire system. Whether you're securing rental licensing or applying for a right-of-way permit, they are all now included within a single platform.
- Access to everything in one place! Our customers will have access to their entire license history in one place.

Enterprise Permitting & Licensing will encompass all the City's current permitting and licensing systems:

- Business licensing
- Contractor licensing
- Rental licensing
- Building permits
- Special event permits
- Right-of-way permits
- Planning submittals

Our staff is working diligently to ensure a seamless transition for our customers when we switch over. As part of the transition, staff will accept only emergency permits and licenses for one week from Friday, Jan. 26, 2024 at 4 p.m. through Friday, February 2, 2024. This allows our team to focus on implementing the system switch. Please plan accordingly and submit any needed permit and license applications before or after this week.

Our City team is working on tutorials explaining how to use the new system. Visit [lawrenceks.org/epl](http://lawrenceks.org/epl) for the latest updates.



## Meet the 2024 Lawrence City Commission

At the City Commission meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, newly elected City Commissioners Brad Finkeldei, Amber Sellers and Mike Dever were sworn into office.

Both Finkeldei and Sellers are serving a second consecutive term, while Dever is returning to City Commission for the first time since 2015. The three joined returning commissioners Lisa Larsen and Bart Littlejohn.

At the December 5 meeting, the group elected Bart Littlejohn as Mayor and Mike Dever as Vice Mayor for 2024.

Thank you to our commissioners for their service to our community.

## LKPD begins 46th Basic Training Academy this January

For a demanding, yet rewarding 18 weeks, Lawrence Kansas Police Department (LKPD) recruits will gain the knowledge, discipline, and skills required to help keep our city safe and secure, when the department's 46th Basic Training Academy begins on January 8, 2024.

At the approval of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC), LKPD operates a satellite police academy here in Lawrence. Instructors are current Lawrence, Kansas Police Officers who design, teach and certify new recruits as Police Officers in the State of Kansas. The Academy is meticulously structured to encompass a diverse curriculum, including legal, tactical and communication areas of study.

Based on the framework of the U.S. Constitution and established case law, recruits learn their legal ability to investigate crimes, patrol the streets, and help keep our city safe from crime.

Tactically, mentors subject recruits to a barrage of challenges designed to build resilience, create endurance drills, produce high-stress simulations, and design real-life scenarios to prepare officers to react decisively in dynamic and often unpredictable situations.

It's a challenging 18 weeks and some may not make it through.

But the training doesn't stop there. Once graduation is over, each recruit moves on to an additional 16 weeks of on-the-job training with an experienced Patrol Training Officer before being released on their own. The 46th Basic Training Academy will have

a graduation ceremony in Spring 2024.

Go to [joinlawrencepd.org](http://joinlawrencepd.org) to learn more about joining the next academy and if you want to keep track of how this group does, follow the Lawrence Kansas Police Department on Facebook [facebook.com/LawrenceKansasPolice](https://facebook.com/LawrenceKansasPolice) or X (formerly Twitter) @LawrenceKS\_PD.

