

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



Through Sept. 1, we're accepting applications for funding from our Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The following projects for residents living at or below 80% of the Area Median Income are eligible for funding:

- Acquisition of land or structures for affordable housing
- New affordable housing development
- Rehabilitation of affordable housing
- Accessibility modifications and home repair for low-income households
- Housing vouchers
- Projects that increase community awareness on affordable housing

Find more information and application instructions on our website: [lawrenceks.org/pds/affordable-housing/trust-fund](https://lawrenceks.org/pds/affordable-housing/trust-fund)

## OUR MISSION

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

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

The Flame is published by the City of Lawrence, 785-832-3000



## Meet our new Transit Director

In May, the City of Lawrence announced a familiar face would be taking on the role of Transit Director for Lawrence Transit: Felice Lavergne.

Lavergne first joined Lawrence Transit as a Transit Planner II in 2021. Since then, she has led transformative projects that have improved rider experience, expanded access, and enhanced community connection. Her accomplishments include securing over \$8 million in grant funding, overseeing more than 50 bus stop improvement projects, building public engagement tools, and cultivating meaningful community partnerships.

"I'm particularly proud of the extensive work we've done around community engagement and bus stop improvements," said Lavergne. "Over the last few years, I've led our bus stop improvement program, managed our route change processes, and built creative partnerships like community-built bus stop amenities, art installations, fruit trees at bus stops, and the Transit Poet Laureate program. These efforts reflect my belief that city infrastructure can be functional and safe AND full of joy and meaning to our community."

Before her work in Lawrence, Lavergne served as a transportation planner and project manager in New Orleans, where she supported major infrastructure and green space initiatives. She holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the



University of New Orleans and is a certified member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

"I first visited Lawrence right before I moved here in 2021, and the creativity and commitment to wellbeing shone brightly," said Lavergne. "It's a special thing to feel rooted in the work and in the place, and I'm excited to keep growing with Lawrence Transit and the City."

Community connection and reducing barriers are at the forefront for Lavergne as she begins leading an organization that so many community members rely upon. Inclusive, transparent processes form the foundation – as the Lawrence Transit system has been developed to meet the needs and values of its riders.

"I'm passionate about systems that reduce barriers and foster connection, whether that's across town or with a fellow rider," said Lavergne.

For those in Lawrence who may not yet have experienced Lawrence Transit firsthand: Give it a try! Not everyone who uses Transit needs to be a daily rider. The buses are there for whatever best suits your needs that day.

*Continued on back page*

*Transit continued from front page*

"Maybe you join us for our annual Write and Ride workshop, take transit to a football game this fall, or try our On Demand service," said Lavergne. "Our system is still free, so it's easy to hop on for a few blocks and watch the scenery roll by."

If you have questions, need help learning the routes, or just want a step-by-step introduction to the Transit system, you can take advantage of the free Travel Training program. Email [info@lawrencetransit.org](mailto:info@lawrencetransit.org) to get started – individuals and groups are welcome!

*Pictured:* The top of this article features both a headshot of Transit Director Felice Lavergne as well as a photo of her in 2023, planting trees for the Fruit Tree project.

## 2025 Water Quality Report Now Available

### Lawrence gets good marks!

The 2025 Water Quality Report is now available online, and we're proud to share that the City of Lawrence had no violations or exceedances in 2024. Our water met or exceeded all federal and state standards – and there were no instances where public notification was required.

This annual report, also called the Consumer Confidence Report, provides details about where your water comes from and how it's treated. It also includes a summary of detected contaminants, giving you a clear look at what is (and isn't) in your tap water.

Read the full report for Lawrence here: [lawrenceks.org/mso/annual-reports](http://lawrenceks.org/mso/annual-reports)

We're committed to delivering safe, reliable drinking water – because public health and service excellence always come first.

## July is moving season in Lawrence

# EASY TIPS FOR A LOW-STRESS MOVE

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 a much better experience for all involved!

### Go online for utility requests

Due to an increase in the number of moves compared to the rest of the year, 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](http://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](http://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! Scheduling on our website is quick and easy: [lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw](http://lawrenceks.org/swm/hhw).

### All about Bulk Item pickups

Scheduling a pick-up for bulky items is a breeze. Just call us at 785-832-3032 or fill out the online form at [lawrenceks.org/swm/trash](http://lawrenceks.org/swm/trash). Whether it's a trusty old couch, a clunky appliance, or even automobile tires, we've got you covered.

To ensure your bulk items are picked up without any hiccups, plan ahead. Make sure to submit your request well in advance and keep an eye out for any additional charges that may apply. By being proactive, you can avoid surprises and ensure a smooth move-out process.

One common misconception is that bulk items will be picked up free of charge. Unfortunately, that's not the case.

When you submit a bulk pick-up request, if the amount of bulk items is excessive or any items are subject to fees, a supervisor will evaluate the site to assess the appropriate cost for the pickup.

These charges will then appear on your next utility bill. So, it's a good idea to be prepared and understand our bulk-pickup process.

## KEEP IT CLEAN: Don't let grass or leaves get into the street

It might seem harmless, but blowing freshly mowed grass, leaves and other yard waste debris into the street creates big problems, including pollution and flooding for our stormwater system,

Storm drains connect the water from our neighborhood streets directly to local creeks and rivers – with no treatment. That means every bit of debris on the street can end up in our waterways, polluting the environment and adding unnecessary nutrients and organic material to our streams, which can harm fish and decrease water quality.

Leaves and clippings also clog storm drains and block street sweepers from doing

their job. That buildup can lead to localized flooding during heavy rain events.

Luckily, there are easy, eco-friendly ways to manage your yard waste and avoid a storm sewer disaster:

- **Mulch Mow Your Leaves**  
Just mow over dry leaves and grass to naturally fertilize your lawn. Keep your blades sharp for best results.
- **Drop Off at the Compost Facility**  
Bring yard waste to the City's Compost Facility on Saturdays. Visit [lawrenceks.org/swm/compost-facility/](http://lawrenceks.org/swm/compost-facility/) for hours and accepted materials.

- **Try Home Composting**  
Mix dry "browns" like leaves with fresh "greens" like grass. Keep your pile moist (like a wrung-out sponge), turn it occasionally, and avoid adding meat or dairy scraps.
- **Use Weekly Yard Waste Collection**  
Set out your yard waste in compostable bags or City-provided brown carts by 6 a.m. on your collection day. No plastic bags or personal containers, please!

When you handle yard waste responsibly, you're protecting water quality, preventing flooding, and helping Lawrence stay beautiful. Thanks for doing your part!