



Neighborhood Update for LAN

October 1, 2015

Item #1: Neighborhood Contact Information

Is your neighborhood a registered neighborhood? By registering your neighborhood group, you are given notification regarding pending development applications received by the Planning Department, giving your group the opportunity to comment on development projects that may impact your neighborhood. Register your neighborhood at http://lawrenceks.org/pds/neighborhood_registration. To find out if your neighborhood information is current, see the neighborhood list at <http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/neighborhoodcontacts>.

Item #2: Horizon 2020 Update Process

On September 21st, the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission voted 9-0 to adopt the Horizon 2020/Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee's Issue Action Report and recommended forwarding it to the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners and Lawrence City Commission for their consideration. If adopted by all 3 bodies, the Issue Action Report would become the work plan for Staff to revise the document under the continued guidance of the Steering Committee. Staff is currently working to schedule the Issue Action Report for both governing bodies and will update LAN once the dates are available.

Item #3: Rental Licensing Update

The new City-wide rental licensing and inspection program became effective July 1, 2014. RS (Residential Single-Dwelling) zoned rental units (most of which were licensed under the prior program) were transitioned to the new program beginning July 1, 2014.

Effective January 1, 2015 and throughout 2015, owners of rental units in non-RS zoning districts are required to license their rental units (although many owners of non-RS zoned rental units have elected to voluntarily license before they were required to do so). Owners or ownership entities with names beginning with A and B were required to license all their rental units by the end of January 2015; owners or ownership entities with names beginning with C and D were required to license all their rental units by the end of February 2015; owners or ownership entities with names beginning with E and F were required to license all their rental units by the end of March 2015. Proceeding in this manner throughout 2015, all rental units in Lawrence (estimated to be about 20,000) should be licensed by the end of 2015.

Required rental inspections for RS zoned single family dwellings began in July 2014. Required rental inspection for non-RS zoned dwelling units officially began on July 1, 2015 (although a significant number of non-RS zoned rental unit owners voluntarily requested earlier inspections, which were accommodated by City Staff).

As of September 17, 2015, 6,170 licenses including 16,023 total rental units were issued and active (licenses issued since inception of the expanded Program on July 1, 2014 - a single "master" license may be issued for a rental property with multiple dwelling units located on single or adjoining parcels under the same ownership).

The City has developed a website devoted to the Rental Licensing Program, which can be viewed at www.lawrenceks.org/pds/rental-licensing or www.lawrenceks.org/rent. The website contains information such as a Program Handbook, the adopting ordinance, inspection forms and guidance, licensing process and inspection brochures, a tenant information brochure, diagrams of program processes and FAQs for both owners and tenants. The website also features monthly and annual program reports that have been provided to the City Commission. New or updated information is frequently being added to the website.

Please contact the City with any questions at (785) 832-3345 or by email at rentallicensing@lawrenceks.org.

Item #4: City Website Resources

- Interactive Rental Licensing Map

The Planning and Development Services Department has published a Residential Rental License Interactive Map for citizens, prospective renters and landlords to access. The map can be found at: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/rental-licensing/map>. The map identifies all rental dwelling units that are licensed and in good standing with the rental licensing and inspection program requirements. The map is intended to provide consumers information about units that comply with the city's rental program as well as help landlords market their code-compliant properties. The map is linked to the department's home page. Citizens can click on the blue map dot of a rental property and view the landlord name, zoning district, the number of units licensed and the apartment complex name, if applicable. Staff believes the map will be a valuable resource for tenants, landlords and the general public as the program continues to license properties through 2015 and beyond.

- Find Active Building Permits on City Website Interactive Map

In May 2014, Planning & Development Services launched a new Building Permits interactive map that shows locations and provides basic information about active City of Lawrence building permits (for both non-residential and residential new construction and addition projects, and for non-residential remodeling or change of use projects). Zoom in on the map to see building permits that have been recently issued in or around your neighborhood. Find the map on the City's website at http://lawrenceks.org/city_maps or <http://lawrenceks.org/pds/building-permits/map>.

- Project Submittals

Planning project submittals can now be accessed on the Planning Division's website through the following address: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/submittals>. The list is updated every Monday and also includes a link to an interactive map that shows the locations of the projects.

- City of Lawrence Subscription Services

How can I stay involved with the latest City of Lawrence Notifications?

Interested citizens can sign up to receive notification updates for various City services, events, and information, including advisory board information for the City Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Historic Resources Commission, Community Commission on Homelessness (CCH) and the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC), as well as City News, Public Meeting Notices, Recreation Announcements, and Neighborhood news. All these subscriptions can be found at <http://www.lawrenceks.org/subscriptions>.

Item #6: CDD Information

The Community Development Advisory Committee has two openings for appointments to the committee. The open positions are for low-moderate income area representatives. The appointees must come from an area that is 51% or more low-mod and is not already geographically represented on the committee. Please forward any letters of interest to either Danelle Dresslar or to the City Manager's office.

All information listed can be found at the City of Lawrence website: www.lawrenceks.org/pds

The Neighborhood Update is produced for LAN during the first week of every month to keep members updated on neighborhood oriented issues via communication directly from the City of Lawrence. For any additional information regarding CDBG information, please contact Danelle Dresslar by phone at 785-832-3108 or email ddresslar@lawrenceks.org or for any other information contact Becky Pepper by phone at 785-832-3153 or email bpepper@lawrenceks.org. Comments are always welcome.

Item #7: October Planning Commission Items

The Lawrence/Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission will hold their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on October 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room on the first floor of City Hall, 6 E. 6th Street.

The Planning Commission will consider the following public hearing and non hearing items at their Monday, October 19, 2015 meeting:

Z-15-00427: Consider a request to rezone approximately 2.96 acres located at 1501 Learnard Ave from RS7 (Single-Dwelling Residential) District to IL (Limited Industrial) District with conditions to limit certain uses. Submitted by Sunrise Green LLC, property owner of record.

TA-15-00346: Consider a Text Amendment to the City of Lawrence Land Development Code, to add Urban Agriculture as a permitted use and establish standards. Initiated by City Commission on 6/23/15.

All information listed can be found at the City of Lawrence website: www.lawrenceks.org/pds

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