



## ***Neighborhood Update for LAN*** *February 2009*

### **Item #1: Volunteers Needed for Safe Winter Walkways**

For this program, volunteers will:

- Provide assistance to seniors or those with a disability.
- Wait for an applicant to be matched.
- Remove snow from the public sidewalk and a walkway or path from the front door to the street. Any snow removal beyond sidewalks and walkway to the street is of the volunteer's own accord and not a requirement.
- Call (785) 832-3338 or sign up at [http://www.lawrenceks.org/safe\\_winter\\_walkways\\_volunteer](http://www.lawrenceks.org/safe_winter_walkways_volunteer)
- Provide snow removal services to the match throughout the winter season.
- Complete the following waiver and return to the Douglas County Senior Services, Inc. [http://www.lawrenceks.org/system/files/SWWP\\_Volunteer\\_waiver.pdf](http://www.lawrenceks.org/system/files/SWWP_Volunteer_waiver.pdf)

To register as a volunteer call (785) 832-3338 and listen to the prompts. You will receive a follow up call to complete your registration.

The community depends on residents to remove snow from public sidewalks. During the winter months, many Lawrence residents need to be able to safely use public sidewalks. Children walking to neighborhood schools, students walking to both campuses, employees going to work and families enjoying the fresh air require safe walkways free of snow.

Safe Winter Walkways is a program provided by the City of Lawrence and the Douglas County Senior Services, Inc.

Caring for our neighbors helps to strengthen the community and make it a better place to live.

### **Item #2: Planning and Development Services Community Development Division announces increase in mobile home loan limits for emergency loan and furnace loan programs.**

Contact: Tony Hoch 785-832-3113 [thoch@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:thoch@ci.lawrence.ks.us)

The Community Development Division of the City of Lawrence Planning and Development Services has announced that the loan limit for the emergency loan and furnace loan programs for mobile home owners has been increased to \$2,500.00. The emergency loan and furnace loan programs are administered with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The loan limit for other homeowners is remaining at \$5,000.00.

For emergency situations, the City offers the above program for emergency repairs or furnace replacement. These loans are payable when the participant is no longer the owner-occupant of the property. The loans are available to income eligible participants and are 0% interest loans. This is the only program that is available for mobile homes.

### **Item #3: At Large positions open for Community Development Advisory Committee**

The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has three at large positions currently available. The functions of this board include recommendation of allocations of CDBG and HOME funds, and review of Housing Code and Environmental Code appeals. The board is made up of representation from low-moderate income areas of Lawrence, as well as at-large positions from other parts of the community. The positions available are at-large community positions.

Term: Three year terms, expiring December 1 or the corresponding year.

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month, 5:30pm to 7:00pm, City Commission Room, First Floor, City Hall

At large Positions available: 3

For additional information or to express interest in either advisory board opening, please contact Margene Swarts at 785-832-3117.

### **Item #4: CDBG Funded Neighborhoods and Political Affiliations**

As a reminder, neighborhood associations that are federally CDBG funded need to be aware of neighborhood-endorsed political affiliations. The CDBG funded neighborhood association as a whole should not be engaged in an endorsement for a particular political candidate, as it can be viewed as a lobbying effort. This reminder does not apply to individuals living in the CDBG funded neighborhoods and their personal political endorsements, but only to the funded neighborhood associations.

### **Item #5: Homeless Issues**

The 2009 Kansas Statewide Homeless Point in Time count has been completed. The information compilation and analysis is being performed by the United Way of the Plains, which is the group that coordinated the statewide count this year. The results of the count will be available to the counties that participated in the January survey in April.

In November, the Lawrence City Commission asked the Community Commission on Homelessness (CCH) to review the camping ordinance to determine if there is a need to update or amend the ordinance as it currently reads. The CCH began their discussion at their December meeting, and while continuing the dialogue in January they met with Lawrence Parks and Recreation Staff and other City Staff to discuss the current ordinance. The CCH has submitted a letter with their recommendation to the City Commission that will be received at a future meeting date that is yet to be determined. Additional conversation on the topic with the City Commission may follow at that time. The recommendation to the City Commission, as well as January meeting minutes and additional public comment are available on the City of Lawrence website at

the City Commission information page. It is located beneath the heading of "tba" at [http://www.lawrenceks.org/web\\_based\\_agendas/2009/02-03-09/02-03-09h/cmo\\_future\\_agenda\\_items\\_memo.html](http://www.lawrenceks.org/web_based_agendas/2009/02-03-09/02-03-09h/cmo_future_agenda_items_memo.html)

Interested citizens can sign up to receive notification updates for various City services, events, and information, including CCH notifications, at <http://www.lawrenceks.org/subscriptions>.

**All information listed can be found at the City of Lawrence website:**

[www.lawrenceks.org](http://www.lawrenceks.org)

*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 please contact Danelle Dresslar by phone at 785-832-3108, email [ddresslar@ci.lawrence.ks.us](mailto:ddresslar@ci.lawrence.ks.us), or at Planning and Development Services Community Development Division; 1 Riverfront Plaza; Level 1, Suite 110; PO Box 708; Lawrence, KS 66044. Comments are always welcome.*