

Lawrence Neighborhood News



Attention North Lawrence Residents!

All residents of North Lawrence are encouraged to attend the joint meeting of the North Lawrence Improvement Association and the North Lawrence Planning Council at Woodlawn School at 7:30 pm on Monday, June 12. Members of the Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Office will be on hand to obtain residents' opinions on problem areas and future plans of the community. (This is the first step in the Planning Office's project to draw up a North Lawrence Plan similar to the Pinckney Neighborhood Plan, just completed, and the Oread Neighborhood Plan which will be completed this summer. All these neighborhood plans will be incorporated into Plan 95, the City's blueprint for the future of Lawrence.)



public bus service was needed in North Lawrence. Most respondents were satisfied with North Lawrence police service.

One of the most interesting sets of responses revolved around the issue of a community center. While 88% felt a need for a North Lawrence community center serving youth, adults, and/or senior citizens; none of the respondents or members of their families had ever used Ballard Center. While Ballard Center may serve some segment of the Lawrence community, these results give rise to serious questions regarding how well it serves the needs of North Lawrence.



HELP WANTED

Surely every household will have something to say. Door-to-door surveys of the North Lawrence community will be conducted this summer to obtain more information but the step by step participation of North Lawrence residents is essential to the formulation of a plan that will truly reflect the needs and desires of the neighborhood.

The main topic at the North Lawrence Improvement Association meeting on May 8 was the installation of new sewer lines in North Lawrence to be financed by Community Development funds. Since CD funds only cover installation of the main sewer lines along or under the streets, individual households must bear the cost of connecting their house to them. The City has waived the \$1000 sewer tie-in fee for all presently existing houses. Grants are available to those households meeting low-income guidelines.

It was explained by Margaret Brun, president of NLIA, that individuals may dig their own ditch and lay their own pipe to minimize expenses but the actual plumbing hook-up must be done by a licensed plumber and all work must pass city inspection. No one will actually be required to hook into the new lines until their present septic system is no longer

functioning adequately. Once the new main sewer lines are installed, any repair of septic systems will be prohibited.

At the North Lawrence Planning Council meeting on May 22, Debra Kagan presented the results of a survey conducted in North Lawrence by KU School of Social Welfare graduate students. The students, who were doing this as part of their training by the University Community Services Center, asked North Lawrence residents how they felt about their streets, sidewalks, traffic, drainage, city government, police, transportation, education, community center, day care, and mental health services. The respondents to the randomly mailed questionnaire were equally divided by sex and age (18-30, 30-50, 50-65, and 65 or older).

While 11% of the respondents said their sidewalks were in satisfactory condition, 78% said that they didn't even have sidewalks. (The questionnaire did not ask, however, if these residents wanted sidewalks). Over half felt their street was in need of repair while a little less than half considered the traffic on their street to be a problem. Although 82% responded that their personal car was their major form of transportation, almost 60% agreed that

Finally only 10% of the respondents agreed that city government meets the needs of North Lawrence residents.

It is most likely that this survey will be taken into consideration by the Planning Office in their formulation of the North Lawrence plan, but this questionnaire did not reach all North Lawrencians nor did it attempt to cover all the issues necessary to the development of the plan. Be at the June 12th meeting to make sure your views are presented. If you don't, your neighborhood might not be the same.

Lawrence Women's Transitional Care Services (WTCS) will begin a training course for new counselor advocates on June 14. The course will consist of two-hour sessions twice a week for six weeks, and will cover such topics as divorce and separation, family violence, counseling skills, and crisis intervention.

WTCS is a volunteer organization which provides emergency services and practical and emotional support to women in marital crisis. A large number of its clients are victims of physical violence at the hands of husbands and lovers. Counselors are available 24 hours a day through Headquarters and the Kansas University Information Center. Presently there are 27 on-call volunteers.

Philosophically WTCS is committed to the concept of peer counseling, which means that its volunteers do not have to be professional counselors. "Transitional Care is women helping women solve women's problems," said Pamela Johnston, a member of the training and recruiting committee.

Johnston added that women who would like to become a volunteer advocate with WTCS should call the KU Information Center at 864-3506 to arrange for an interview.



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