



Pinckney Neighborhood Association
PO Box 125
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

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Get Active in Your Neighborhood!

Get Active in PNA!

If you live in the Pinckney Neighborhood, you are a member of PNA. Now is the time to become an ACTIVE member!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ (Join the list to receive e-mail

notices before monthly PNA meetings and special events. We will keep your information private. Expect 1

or 2 e-mails per month.) Suggested Dues: *an annual donation of \$1 per person or \$2 per household is greatly appreciated.*

Please bring this form to the next PNA monthly meeting or mail it to: **Pinckney**

Neighborhood Association

PO Box 125 Lawrence, KS 66044



PINCKNEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 125 Lawrence, KS 66044

Winter 2016 Newsletter

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February 20 - PNA Annual Meeting & Elections

10:00am at Lawrence Douglas County Health Dept.
200 Maine St., first floor meeting room

March 19 - PNA Monthly Meeting

10:00am at Memorial Hospital,
lower level, meeting room D south.

April 16 - PNA Monthly Meeting

10:00am at Lawrence Memorial Hospital,
lower level, meeting room D south.

May 21 PNA Monthly Meeting

10:00am at Lawrence Memorial Hospital,
lower level, meeting room D south.

June 18 Pinckney Neighborhood potluck picnic

11:00am-1:00pm in Clinton Park 901 West 5th St.

Pinckney Elementary School "Really Big Sale!"

Saturday February 20, 8am to 3pm at Pinckney Elementary School 810, w. 6th Street, The Really Big Sale is an annual fundraiser to pay for field trips and transportation for all grades, and money raised beyond that go into our general fund to support PTO's mission of supporting education and fostering community among Pinckney families. Anyone can donate items to the sale and/or volunteer to help set up. Donations can be dropped off at Pinckney Elementary School east entrance anytime during the week of February 15-19. Set up is all day on Feb 19.

Educate Lawrence

Educate Lawrence is an organization dedicated to educating Lawrence citizens about legislation affecting public schools and advocating for full and fair funding to educate Lawrence children. Everyone is invited to an event designed to inform the community about legislation affecting our public schools, both now and in the future. You are invited to attend a meeting hosted by Educate Lawrence on Tuesday, February 16 at 7 pm in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium to learn more about Funding and Legislation that Threaten our Public Schools.

Annual Neighborhood Meeting and Elections

Each year in February, the Pinckney Neighborhood Association holds its annual meeting to elect officers and set goals for the coming year. We also plan events and get input from Pinckney residents on issues and concerns. Offices open for election this year are the Vice President and the Secretary. The Treasurer position is also vacant. Everyone who lives in the Pinckney Neighborhood is automatically a member of the Pinckney Neighborhood Association and is encouraged to attend PNA Meetings, run for office or work on a committee. Also at this meeting, guest speaker Richard Renner will talk about a Fourth of July events that will be moving to Burcham Park this year.

Pinckney Neighborhood Plan Update

Please plan to attend the PNA monthly meeting on Saturday April 16th when our guest will be Amy Miller from the City's Planning Department. She will help explain the process for updating the Pinckney Neighborhood Plan, an important city planning document that helps guide zoning and development decisions. Our neighborhood plan was last updated in 1978. Many Pinckney residents participated in the process of preparing that plan. However, over time, many things have changed in our neighborhood, and it's time to update the plan to reflect our current community status and concerns.

LIEAP Helps with Westar bills

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that assists eligible households in paying a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit. To qualify for LIEAP, applicants must be living at the address, be personally responsible for utilities, have made recent payments of at least \$80 toward utility or heating costs, and have a combined gross income (before deductions) of all persons living at the address not to exceed 130% of the federal poverty level. Applications online at: www.westarenergy.com/low-income-energy-assistance-program. (Phone) 1-800-432-0043.

6th Street Tunnel to Remain Open During Pinckney School Construction

Based on strong community interest in continued public access to the Pinckney Tunnel during the upcoming reconstruction of the Pinckney School, the City and the School District have reached a consensus that it is possible for access to the tunnel to remain open during the majority of the Pinckney School project. The School District and its contractor are rightfully concerned about public safety as well as job-site security because the tunnel entrance is very close to the front door to the school.

The School District sent a letter to the City on December 14, 2015, indicating that access to the tunnel during construction will be allowed during a majority of the construction period. However, there will be times during construction that access will need to be restricted due to safety-related issues. The contractor has agreed to limit those times and will provide notification to the City, the Pinckney School staff and Pinckney and Old West Lawrence representatives in advance of any closures. This agreement was reached following discussions on December 1 by representatives of the School District, their contractor, the City, Pinckney School Principal Kristi Hill, Pinckney School Site Council, Old West Lawrence Association and Pinckney Neighborhood Association.

During the period of construction, from about May 2016 to late summer 2017, the artwork in the tunnel will be removed and stored in a safe location. Pinckney and Old West Lawrence residents will be asked to volunteer to help keep the tunnel clean and safe, since Pinckney School staff will not be on site to care for it. PNA will send out announcements about how you can help closer to the date.

PNA Contact Information

Website: www.pinckneyneighborhood.org

E-mail: Pinckney.Neighborhood@gmail.com
(Subscribe to periodic e-newsletters)

Facebook: "Pinckney Neighborhood Association"

President – Pat Miller

(785) 550-6958 = pgmiller@sunflower.com

Vice President – Melinda Toumi

(785) 979-2477 = melindatoumi@gmail.com

Treasurer – vacant (replacement being sought)

Secretary – Kim Heck

(785) 331-9869 = kheck@stma.org

Communication Coordinator – Lance Fahy

(785)-917-0664 lafahymusic@yahoo.com

Lawrence Transit System to hold annual public meetings

Lawrence Transit System invites the public to attend its annual meetings to discuss service changes for the coming year. Meetings are held in an open house format.

Proposed service changes include:

Route 1: Major changes to route alignment

Route 3: Change from flex route to a fixed route.

Route 5: No longer serve East Hills Business Park.

Route 6: Serve Rock Chalk Park; but no longer LMH

Route 9: Would no longer serve Rock Chalk Park

Route 15: Major changes to route alignment

NOTE: changes to routes 3 and 6 would have a direct impact bus service to Pinckney Neighborhood residents.

"We encourage people to attend these meetings and let us know how the routes are working for them," said Robert Nugent, transit administrator. "We usually only make adjustments once a year, so now is the time to share comments and suggestions."

Three meetings will be held at the Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, Meeting Room C on the lower level.

Tuesday, Feb. 16: From 5 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 17: From noon to 1p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 18: (two meetings,) from noon to 1 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.

One meeting will be held at KU in the Governor's Room at the Kansas Union.

Wednesday, Feb. 17: From 4 to 5:30 p.m.

For those who are not able to attend one of the meetings, comments can be sent to info@lawrencetransit.org or submitted by mail at Lawrence Transit System, PO Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Comments will be accepted until March 31.

For more information, please visit

www.lawrencetransit.org or call (785) 864-4644.

Questions? – Comments? – Concerns? Neighborhood News?

Send an email to:

Pinckney.Neighborhood@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors: Lance Fahy & Pat Miller

UPDATE FROM THE DOWNTOWN GROCERY STORE COMMITTEE

The entire northeast quarter of our city, including part of the Pinckney neighborhood, has no full-line grocery store, and this has created a federally recognized food desert. Concerned citizens have formed a downtown grocery committee that is working and meeting weekly for more than two years to secure a downtown grocery store that will serve the needs of the northeast areas of Lawrence where, the citizens live in this food desert. With the availability of the former Borders Book Store building, the committee believes that Lawrence has a unique opportunity to address this critical need. The committee also believes that if it is the only clearly suitable site for a food store in downtown Lawrence and if it is lost to other uses, a downtown grocery store could be unattainable for decades. With the current interest of the property owners and at least one grocery retailer, it appears that an opportunity for success in this effort is as close as it has ever been.

The committee recommends that it is more important than ever that the city of Lawrence and its partners in this effort remain focused on the desired outcome. Therefore, the committee would like to share some of its goals and specific elements it believes critical to the final success.

Elimination of a federally-recognized food desert in these Lawrence neighborhoods:

- North Lawrence
- East Lawrence
- Downtown Lawrence
- Pinckney Neighborhood
- Old West Lawrence
- Brook Creek Neighborhood

Affordability:

A downtown grocery store must carry merchandise of a quality and price that meet the needs of the diverse neighborhood demographics and socio-economic mix. The store must especially serve the needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled people who are most impacted by the food desert. While the store may sell some gourmet or specialty items, or prepared foods, the preponderance of the floor space must be devoted to affordable staple foods and household necessities.

Process:

The establishment of a grocery store should not be tied to larger development projects financially or otherwise. Linking these projects will add

complication, controversy and long delays that could result in the loss of interest by grocery retailers.

Any city incentives for this project should be mostly, if not entirely, limited to one-time investments in public infrastructure and maintenance thereof. Ongoing incentives such as tax abatements should be avoided. The city should also explore the use of state and federally funded programs that might be helpful.

The lease agreement must be of long enough duration to ensure that the store can establish itself, and not be forced to vacate for another use that might offer more short-term profits to the landlord. Terms of the lease are critical to a downtown grocery store being in place for the long-haul, and remaining a downtown anchor business.

Parking and safe crossings for pedestrians are important issues that will need to be addressed throughout the development stages of this project. The city of Lawrence should recognize that a downtown grocery store is an important element in the vitality and sustainability of our historic downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods. It is essential to creating a walk-able central city, something that creative and innovative people and companies seek.

Thank you Pinckney Residents!

In December, the downtown grocery committee conducted a survey to assist potential grocery retailers in determining whether a downtown grocery store would be profitable, what types of products would be preferred, and other important demographic information. A big thank you is extended to all the Pinckney neighborhood residents who participated in this survey. Your input is an important part of attracting the right grocery retailer for this project.

PNA communication coordinator Lance Fahy serves on the downtown grocery committee and shares his information and ideas with the Pinckney Neighborhood Association. He would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the project. As more details about a downtown grocery store become available, they will be shared with Pinckney neighbors in our E-News updates. Some details about this project will also go before Lawrence City Commission as agenda items. Public comment is welcome and encouraged.