

# the FLAME

“We Have  
Tomorrow --  
Bright Before  
Us, Like A Flame.”

-Langston Hughes

City information is available on-line at [lawrenceks.org](http://lawrenceks.org) and on cable Channel 25. The FLAME is published by the City Manager's Office, 832-3400.

## A Word From Our Mayor

It's not as if I planned to become a politician. In fact, it still makes me squirm a little to use that word about myself. But after having run for election, twice, I have to admit that's an accurate description of how I spend at least a part of my time. I'm often asked, usually with a tone of disbelief, what made me decide to run for city commission. There are days when I question that myself.

The beginning of the answer lies in the decision my family made to move back to Lawrence ten years ago. Having grown up in suburban Kansas City, Kansas (Washington High School, class of 1970), I had originally come here to attend KU. I immediately fell in love with the town, but much more slowly figured out what sort of career might be of interest. My wife Pat and I met in 1975, married in 1977, and both finished our (last) college degrees in 1983. At that point we began a series of "career moves" to Kansas City; Ithaca, New York; Osaka, Japan; and St. Louis. At that point we had had our fill of career moves and decided to make a "life move." We did some research into cities where we would want to settle more permanently, and Lawrence kept rising to the top of the list.

We bought a house, attended a Barker Neighborhood Association meeting and introduced ourselves. At the end of my self-introduction I said, "...and I'm never moving again." That statement seems to have been the turning point. Several of my neighbors must have gotten together and said, "If he's so thrilled to be here, let's put him to work." A year later I was president of the neighborhood



Mayor David Dunfield

association, a couple of years after that, president of the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods, then city commissioner and now mayor.

Depending on your point of view, that story is either a warning of the dangers of volunteering too much information or an illustration that being open to opportunities for involvement in the community can lead to rewards and experiences you may never have imagined. On balance, I'd certainly agree with the second of those viewpoints, although there are times....

My professional training as an architect has been a real benefit to my public life. (But you'd have to ask my bosses whether public life has been good for my professional work.) Dealing with site plans, zoning, and building codes are things I do in both of my jobs. Maybe more important is the fact that architects are trained to take criticism. You don't make it through architecture school if you can't stand up in front of a group of bright, very opinionated people and absorb their ideas about what you're doing right and more often, what you've done wrong. And you don't succeed as an

architect if you don't figure out that the people you work with and for usually have something valuable to say, something that you need to learn.

Being mayor is certainly a great learning opportunity. Mayors come and go pretty quickly with the system of government we have in Lawrence. The year is going to be full of unique experiences and challenges. Fortunately, while the mayor may stand up on the stage alone, there is a large, highly trained, able and dedicated group of city staff backing up him or her.

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**It would be impossible for a mayor to be successful or even appear marginally competent without the support of staff.**

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I am repeatedly amazed by the depth and breadth of accumulated experience and expertise that our city staff represents. It would be impossible for a mayor to be successful or even appear marginally competent without the support of staff. Whether it's a question of interpreting legal language in a city ordinance or of getting a pothole filled, we elected officials often act as a conduit to the folks who do the real work around here.

If you think of city government as a corporation with a \$100 million

### MAY 2003

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annual budget, you start to get an idea of the complexity of the system. Now consider a corporation whose services include everything from traffic control to summer camps, emergency services to utilities, sanitation to construction. It becomes obvious that the level of knowledge required to run such a corporation is vast. As a stockholder, would you trust that corporation to a bunch of amateurs who might only be around for two to four years? Certainly not.

And fortunately, you don't have to because while mayors come and go, city staff provides the continuity that keeps those many wheels rolling and on the tracks. To continue that analogy, the majority of the work that goes on at City Hall is a matter of momentum, keeping the machinery of city services maintained and repaired and moving on down the line. Elected officials don't really have to do much in terms of the day to day

*(continued on back)*

o u r m i s s i o n :

We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence community.

## Did you know that all this went on in the city in 2002?

Contributions to Lawrence's future included;

- Expanded water treatment capacities
- Nearly complete expansion of the waste water treatment capacity
- Conservation easement with Kansas Land Trust
- Relocation of Fire Station #2
- Master planning process began for the more than 1500 acres east of Clinton Lake Dam
- Added junior high school resource officers
- Received traffic unit grant
- Storm water projects completed
- Transportation 2025 Plan
- 23rd Street Corridor Study
- Renovation of the McGrew Nature Preserve
- Expanded the Lawrence Municipal Airport
- Developed trench collapse and confined spaces operations training area
- Graduated recruits from the 15th Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical Academy
- Graduated recruits from the Lawrence Police Department training academy
- Reached a 32% recycling rate
- Recycled 10,846 tons of municipal solid waste collected by Solid Waste Division
- Saved landfill costs of \$207,700 with materials collected in city recycling programs
- Replaced 10,066 feet of water mains
- Inspected 1,077 water hydrants
- Increased ridership by 60% on the Lawrence Transit System fixed routes
- Added the Community Mercantile as a purchase site for "T" monthly passes and punch tickets
- Hosted over 100 kids at instructional Junior Mini-Camp at Eagle Bend Golf Course
- Reserved 14 shelters for 777 events
- Provided aquatic programming for more than 230,000 people

# Firefighters participate in Science Festival

## Duo shared career opportunities available to females.



**E**ve Tolefree and Karen Glotzbach, members of the Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical Department delivered "Life Saving Tools and Techniques", an interactive presentation about fire science careers to girls at the Sally Ride Science Club Festival in April. The pair emphasized physical fitness, math, science, chemistry and first aid, the necessary coursework that help firefighters, EMS and paramedics succeed. *(continued on back)*

# Mayor's Excellence in Education Award

## Recognition for educators in the Lawrence Community.

**I**n February, then Mayor Sue Hack made two surprise school visits to present the Mayor's Excellence in Education Award. Visiting Lawrence High School, Hack along with Commissioner Jim Henry, a member of the selection committee, and administrators from Lawrence Public Schools interrupted the class of US history teacher Michael Ortmann with the award.

Later that afternoon, the prize patrol converged on Cordley Elementary School and joined a school assembly organized to present Frank Hoffmann, fifth grade teacher with the award. Both recipients were later recognized at the Lawrence School Board

meeting and the Lawrence City Commission meeting.

The Mayor and City of Lawrence founded the award to provide students, families and colleagues the opportunity to recognize Lawrence educators who demonstrate excellence in education, leadership and community involvement.

Designed to recognize teachers for both the fall and spring semesters, the award can be presented to three levels; pre-schools or elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools. The Mayor's Excellence in Education Award will return in December for the fall semester of the 2003 school year. Nominations will be available on line at [www.lawrenceks.org](http://www.lawrenceks.org).



*During a February classroom surprise visit, former Mayor Sue Hack awards Michael Ortmann the inaugural Mayor's Excellence in Education Award at Lawrence High School.*



*Frank Hoffman (far left) poses with his parents, Mayor Sue Hack and Principal Kim Bodensteiner, at Cordley Elementary School following a February school assembly where Hoffman was surprised with the presentation of the Mayor's Excellence in Education Award.*

# Number one priority: The water we drink!

## The drive of the Department of Utilities Quality Control Division.

**R**egulations for operating and monitoring water systems serving the public sector were developed in the early 1900's. One hundred years ago there were reported outbreaks of waterborne diseases related to contaminated drinking water. In the 1960's and early 1970's, scientists and public health experts realized the previously unrecognized potential for harmful disease-causing organisms and chemicals in drinking water. As a result, drinking water regulations ensure that every public water supply in the country meets minimum health standards.

There are still many challenges in providing clean and safe water today including the natural occurrence of bacteria, new and emerging waterborne pathogens, and other organisms that can be transmitted in the supply of water. However, regulatory obligations, water quality and water treatment practices protect the public health and environment.

The City of Lawrence, Department of Utilities works to consistently deliver a good quality of water that meets or exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment regulatory

requirements. Utilities staff monitors the drinking water at the source, Clinton Reservoir and Kansas River, in the distribution system and at the tap for physical, chemical and microbial parameters. The frequency of testing is daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual depending on the regulation.

Each year, the Quality Control Division publishes and distributes the Consumer Confidence Report containing information on the quality of water in Lawrence. The 2003 report titled The Water We Drink will be included with your June Utility bill.

# City services: a 24/7 operation

At all hours of the day and night, city employees are working.

**A** day in the life of the city runs around the clock. City staff are working at all hours of the day and night to provide the broad

array of services that keep our community thriving. As a citizen of Lawrence you are continuously interacting with the services delivered by the

City of Lawrence. During some contacts you are mindful of the city's efforts, such as a visit to a park or relying on emergency services, however, you might

be less aware when you use a traffic signal or turn on the tap for water that city staff also provide those services.

## 12:30am

an operator at the wastewater treatment plant monitors intake from the city's sanitary sewer system

## 1am

a police officer responds to a call for service

## 2:17am

unit from Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical Department assists a woman having difficulty breathing

## 6:19am

Lawrence Transit System bus departs Four Wheel Dr.

## 8:03am

concrete crew from Public Works Department places a form for a curb to be poured later this morning

## 8:15am

Utility Billing meter reader completes a residential reading

## 8:35am

Parks and Recreation facilities crew empties trash bins in a neighborhood park

## 9:10am

Parks and Recreation class begins a weaving project

## 9:47am

an animal control officer delivers a stray dog to the humane society

## 10am

central maintenance garage mechanic services a patrol car

## 10:15am

Public Works maintenance worker removes oil stains in the downtown parking garage

## 10:30am

second grade elementary school class tours the safe house presented by Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical Department

## 10:45am

Parks and Recreation cemetery supervisor visits with a family about burial services

## 10:56am

a technician in the Utilities Department collects water samples for quality testing

## 11am

storm water engineer explains the purpose of a drainage easement to a prospective homebuyer

## 11:15am

Information Systems technician responds to failing computer server

## 11:37am

personnel recruiter schedules a job interview with an applicant

## 11:45am

Municipal Court clerk receives a payment for a parking violation

## 12:20pm

Parks and Recreation instructor leads 47 people in a lunchtime aerobic dance class

## 1:15pm

a school resource officer talks with a student

## 1:27pm

Utilities Department crew removes a manhole cover to clean a line

## 1:47pm

a city/county planner talks with homeowners about a room addition

## 2pm

a solid waste driver delivers yard waste collections to the composting facility

## 2:10pm

street maintenance crew fills a pothole reported earlier on the pothole hotline

## 2:25pm

a customer service representative from Utility Billing answers questions about establishing water service

## 2:30pm

electrical inspector from Neighborhood Resources reviews a local retail store remodeling project

## 3pm

Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical training exercise begins

## 3:27pm

recycling specialist writes letter outlining a neighborhood pilot program

## 3:40pm

finance director receives statement of city sales tax for month

## 4:10pm

naturalist at Prairie Park Nature Center feeds animals and fish

## 4:57pm

unit from Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical Department responds to a car fire

## 5:20pm

assistant golf pro at Eagle Bend Golf Course checks in a foursome for a 5:35 tee time

## 6:15pm

a lifeguard at the Indoor Aquatic Center takes roll at a learn-to-swim class

## 6:35pm

Mayor calls the weekly City Commission meeting to order

## 7pm

a human relations specialist begins a presentation on fair housing at a community education seminar

## 7:10pm,

Parks and Recreation instructor introduces bridge to 14 people in an introductory class

## 8pm

a reference librarian helps a student locate a magazine article for a research paper

## 8:50pm

Parks and Recreation volleyball official whistles the start of an adult sports match

## 9:57pm

a grounds specialist at the Clinton Lake Softball Complex turns off the lights after an evening of softball games

## 11:15pm

an operator at the Clinton Reservoir Water Treatment Plant records a reading

## 11:35pm

Utilities Department staff answers a call reporting a water line break



12:00 1:00 2:00 3:00 4:00 5:00 6:00 7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00 12:00 1:00 2:00 3:00 4:00 5:00 6:00 7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00 12:00

Address Service Requested

## Firefighters (cont. from p.2)

“As a female in a non-traditional career, I was excited to share my experience with young ladies who are interested in science,” explained Toefree. “The festival gave girls a look at fire science, an area that lacks females. Removing the stereotypes of a male-dominated career early on can create the mind set that the career is obtainable.”

*Lawrence*  
**CITY LIMITS**  
**FIREWORKS-FREE ZONE**  
Same Great City - Only Safer!

City ordinance prohibits the sale, use, possession and display of **fireworks** except for professional fireworks shows.

## Mayor's Column (cont. from p.1)

operation, but the staff lets us ride up front and toot the whistle from time to time.

By now, you may be wondering if having elected officials is even a good idea. But we do perform a couple of vital roles.

The first is accountability. Since we face elections every two years, voters have the opportunity to let City Hall know whether they are satisfied with the way the city is running. Between elections, citizens are able to give us their views on that question first hand, in person, by telephone and by email. When people are dissatisfied with the city's services or the lack of services that are desired or the direction they feel we are headed, we hear about it. Listening to the community and finding ways to help our professional staff respond to citizens' concerns is a big part of the job.

The second role has to do with setting directions and priorities, creating a vision for the way future city services will be delivered and how they can best satisfy the desire we all share to make Lawrence more and more a distinctive, attractive, healthy community.

This is probably the area in which elected officials can be most helpful to city staff. There are always limited resources, always more potential jobs to do than hours and materials available to do them. The current economic situation and budget problems at the State level have made this aspect of our work even more visible than usual. By suggesting goals that are broader than the necessities of maintaining the services already in place, by establishing community-wide priorities, we allow staff to focus its efforts and analyze how its daily work contributes to the greater whole. Especially in tight fiscal times, it is important that our decisions help keep us on track toward our larger goals and help us prepare to take advantage of better circumstances when they arise.

That's the theory anyway. In the coming weeks, this new city commission will get together with members of our staff and the public to work through the budget for 2004. We'll also hold a two-day goal setting session to try to refine a vision of where the community wants to go from here.

I expect that our top three goal categories will continue to be those that we defined last year: economic development, planned growth and community building. The recent city election gave us a good sense of the direction that voters want to see us take in approaching those broad goals. Our priorities for actions that Lawrence will take to reach toward those objectives will be studied and refined as the two parallel processes of goal setting and budget resolution go forward.

Next time I write, I plan to share some concrete ideas about what I expect and hope that the city can accomplish over the next year and beyond. For now, I'll just say thank you to all those who have placed their trust in my fellow commissioners and myself. We will do our very best to earn it.

David M. Dunfield  
Mayor