

# 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

This will be my last essay for the Flame as mayor. My year long term is rapidly dwindling, as the city's sesquicentennial year is building momentum. The confluence of these milestones, one personal and the other community-wide in their significance, has prompted the reflections that follow.

Given the pace of activity at City Hall, time for reflection has been a rare commodity for me over these last ten months. Nevertheless, the celebration of our one hundred fiftieth anniversary is an event that deserves some thoughtful consideration. It seems to me that my own experiences as mayor and city commissioner confirm some of the larger historical patterns that are woven into the city's fabric.

One of the most striking characteristics of Lawrence, and one that I have had the opportunity to experience in my role as mayor, is the broad diversity of opinion held by our citizens. That diversity of opinion probably stems in large part to one of the facts of Lawrence's population patterns, both past and present; namely, that we are a city disproportionately inhabited by people who came here from elsewhere and who remain here by choice. In 1854, settlers came to Lawrence from many parts of the country, some motivated by political ideals, others by the promise of land or of commerce on the western frontier.

Today, our universities fuel immigration to Lawrence predominantly. The continuous

infusion of new people and new ideas prevent Lawrence from falling too deeply into a rut of convention. Of course, there are plenty of local folks who feel that sticking to the beaten path might make for a more comfortable ride.



Mayor David Dunfield

I'm not sure whether the novelist Jane Smiley has ever visited Lawrence, but if not she (or her graduate students) did her research well. Her book, *The All-True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton*, is largely set in Lawrence during the Bleeding Kansas years. When her protagonist arrives in Lawrence, "I didn't know anything about Kansas politics to speak of, but I quickly learned, because that was all anyone talked about... I didn't know what to think. The people were all so friendly and warm and welcoming...but every word that they spoke amazed me." Politics may not be all we discuss these days, at least during basketball season, but her sense of astonishment at the locals and their "convictions" is one that recent arrivals must still experience today.

It's also a characteristic that sets Lawrence apart from other Kansas cities. Looking at the actions of our state legislature from the perspective of Lawrence, I still sometimes find that every word they speak amazes me. No doubt the feeling is mutual.

The role of the press in Lawrence over our history is also an interesting topic. We have recently created, through the efforts of a committed group of volunteers, the Hobbs Park Memorial. Although the house, which was salvaged and moved to the park, is of a slightly later vintage, the land on which it sits is associated with one of Lawrence's first journalists, if that term can be applied to a fiery editorialist like John Speer. Speer's papers were as much polemic as news, and the editorializing was never tucked away inside. In fact, "ruffians" singled out newspaper offices and printing presses for destruction during the Bleeding Kansas years.

These days the local news media makes a real effort at objectivity, and at trying to keep the opinion pages clearly labeled, but the power of the press is still such that lapses have real consequences. A misleading headline on an otherwise well-reported story has caused my phone and email to light up on several occasions. One recent example resulted in Lawrence being featured on Kansas City and Topeka

MARCH 2004

### In This Issue:

- City Honored with Awards in 2003
- City Services Update
- City Commission Agenda On-Line
- Then and Now

---

**One of the most striking characteristics of Lawrence, and one that I have had the opportunity to experience in my role as mayor, is the broad diversity of opinion held by our citizens.**

---

television news reports, and even on Kansas City's public radio station news. It was amusing to see so much ado made with such anticlimactic results.

City Commissioners were recently presented with a wonderful "perc," a large, beautifully produced aerial view map of the city and its surroundings. Local cartographer David Carttar donated his time  
*(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.

# Then & Now: Enhancing Life for Lawrence Citizens

This year, Lawrence is celebrating its Sesquicentennial. That is 150 years since the settlers arrived from Boston and camped on Mt. Oread and the Lawrence Association was formed on September 18, 1854. Named after Amos Lawrence, the financier of the

New England abolitionists' expedition into the Kansas Territory, Lawrence, Kan. is a community rich in history. The community's history can be seen in the shield of the City of Lawrence. Citizens banded



together to rebuild following the 1863 attack by William Clarke Quantrill when the town was raided for four hours and set fire. Lawrence's motto, "From Ashes to Immortality," is inspired by the efforts of these unforgettable settlers.

Today, just as in 1933, seventy-one years ago, the city of Lawrence strives to provide excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for Lawrence citizens. A look at the city ordinances from 1933 demonstrates the continuation of city services.

## Then From the Revised Ordinances of the City of Lawrence, Kansas 1933

The ordinance referring to building construction listed its purpose as providing minimum regulations and requirements to insure safe and stable design, methods of constructions, and uses of materials.

It was a misdemeanor to drive any horse, or other animal at a fast gait through or on any street or alley or to ride any animal upon any sidewalk.

It was unlawful to hitch any animal to any lamppost, hydrant, water trough, drinking fountain...

It was the duty of the city forester to see that all trees on public property were properly trimmed, protected and cared for.

## Now

The Code Review Committee will present a recommendation of city codes guiding building, fire, mechanical, and plumbing requirements to the City Commission this spring after working for five months through the review process.

In Oct. 2002, the city added a traffic unit to the Police Dept. with a grant from the Kansas Dept. of Transportation Bureau of Traffic Safety.

In 2002, twenty bike parking stations were added to Downtown. City crews installed bike parking adaptors that permit bikes to be secured and not obstruct the walkway.

The Tree City USA title was awarded to the city for the twenty-fifth year from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

# In 2003, the City Provided Excellent City Services

## Remember... the tournament, the tornado, and the dedication

Several unique events occurred in Lawrence in 2003 that provided opportunities for staff to provide city services.

**April:** The community supported the University of

Kansas men's basketball team's trip to the NCAA championship and the city contributed staffing, planning time and equipment to ensure that post-game celebrations went well. City resources along

with assistance from area agencies created a safe and peaceful celebration.

**May:** Public Works crews cleared debris from the public right-of-way in just 24 hours following the tornado. Crews

also provided on site roll off boxes to residents as debris receptacles and left those in place through the weekend. Sanitation crews made Saturday curbside pick ups.

*(continued on back)*

# lawrenceks.org Portal to Wealth of Info

## City Commission agenda goes web-based

The web site [www.lawrenceks.org](http://www.lawrenceks.org) has become home to the City Commission's agenda for weekly meetings. Visitors can view the detailed agenda and its supporting materials. Citizens can also visit the site to subscribe to e-agendas

to receive an e-mail message when the agenda is published each Thursday.

The on-line material can be viewed at [lawrenceks.org](http://lawrenceks.org). The site also serves as a portal to all thirteen city departments.



# City Honored With Awards in 2003

## Budget and financial report receive national recognition

The highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting was awarded to the city for its comprehensive annual financial report. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and

Canada recognized the report demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" that clearly communicates the city's financial story.

The city's budget was also recognized by the GFOA with the Distinguished Budget

Presentation Award. The award reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The GFOA reviews how well an entity's budget serves as: a policy document, a financial

plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

The comprehensive annual financial report can be viewed on line at [lawrencefinance.org/accounting.html](http://lawrencefinance.org/accounting.html). The budget can be seen on line at [lawrenceks.org/budget.shtml](http://lawrenceks.org/budget.shtml).

## 2003 Fire Chief of the Year

The Kansas Fire Chief Association awarded Jim McSwain, Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical Chief, the honor of 2003 Fire Chief of the Year at the association's annual meeting in October. With more than twenty-five years of professional contributions to the

fire service and leading the department to active involvement in EMS, and one of the highest I.S.O. ratings in the Midwest for the City of Lawrence, McSwain has exhibited leadership, creativity and service to community.



*Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical Chief Jim McSwain was named 2003 Fire Chief of the Year by the Kansas Fire Chief Association.*

## Human Relations Commissioner of the Year

Rehelio Samuel, director of the Human Relations/Human Resources Department was named Kansas Human Relations Commission member of the year in 2003.

During the Kansas League of Municipalities annual conference

in October, Samuel was recognized for his knowledge in the human relations field and service to the Lawrence community and State of Kansas as the recipient of the Kansas Human Relations Commission member of the year.



*Rehelio Samuel, director of the Human Relations/Human Resources Department was named Kansas Human Relations Commission member of the year in 2003.*

# Lawrence Receives National Excellence in Aquatics Award

## Excellence in planning and managing diversified aquatic services recognized



*Aquatic staff (back row) Lisa Hughes, Administrative Clerk; Jimmy Gibbs, Aquatic Supervisor; Lynn Applegate, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor; Rob Wyrick, Aquatics Programmer; James Hopper, Park and Facility Maintenance (front row) Mike Nunez, Park and Facility Maintenance; Lori Madaus, Aquatics Manager Not pictured Rick Callahan, Field Supervisor.*

Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department's Aquatic Division received the National Recreation and Park Association's 2004 Excellence in Aquatics Award for communities with populations of 50,000 to 100,000 people in late February.

"This is a great achievement for our department," Fred DeVictor, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, said. "This is the highest and most prestigious national award in aquatics an agency can

receive. As a department, we continue to strive in providing excellent services further enhancing the quality of life for the Lawrence community.

"Jimmy Gibbs, aquatics supervisor, the Aquatic Division staff and our Facility Maintenance Division staff, who support our day-to-day operations, are to be commended for their excellent work and customer service to the community."

# City Services

(cont. from p.2)

The Neighborhood Resources Department inspected damaged structures as part of the FEMA damage assessment.

Once inspected, structures received a placard indicating a completed inspection and deemed the structures either unsafe structures, limited entry or damaged and safe.

The Lawrence Transit System continued to provide service in the area, altering routes through out the day to accommodate the limited traffic flow. Paratransit, eligibility based transportation, contacted riders in the area to discuss alternative arrangements while traffic was restricted.

**July:** Lawrence received an influx of several thousand guests to participate in the Dole Center dedication activities. The coordinated efforts of the various departments and community agencies worked to support the week's events including a display at the Lawrence Municipal Airport.

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

and expertise in creating the map, with help from other local volunteers as well. He described it as a "labor of love," and in addition to providing us with a great educational tool for looking at our history, the effort also reminds us of the commitment so many of our citizens have for protecting and advancing the quality of this place.

The map includes a reproduction of Lawrence's first city map, created within months of the city's founding. Although it carries a surveyor's name, the map is clearly much more than a technical document. It shows the intention, at that early date, of establishing the early vision of what Lawrence might become. The 1854 map identifies streets and parks, of course, but also

points out locations on Mt. Oread for college grounds and a "Capitol Hill." Although the capitol never came to be, the college did, and the map set a high standard for Lawrence to aspire to. It beautifully illustrates the power and purpose of planning. Quality environments don't develop by accident but by deliberate actions. And although every plan is a prediction, and every prediction at least partially wrong, that 1854 survey predicted a city of education and politics, and we have become that. In closing, I'd like to say that it has been a privilege trying to fill the shoes of many worthy predecessors, and trying to justify the trust placed in me by Lawrence voters and by my fellow Commissioners. It's hard

work, but rewarding. A little like gardening in that respect, and in the fact that the results of the labor take some time to develop and flourish. With the help of so many, professional staff and volunteers alike, I can't claim much of the credit for the harvest to come, but I will enjoy continuing the work for another year.



David M. Dunfield  
Mayor