

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
1322 Maple Lane
Lawrence, Kansas 66044



Neighborhood-Wide
Yard Sale May 21!

Join Brook Creek Neighborhood Association for only \$1.00

Support BCNA so that we can effectively represent you.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

In-neighborhood individuals \$1.00 Out-of-neighborhood individuals and businesses \$5.00

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Member information is used only for neighborhood communications, and not distributed or sold.

Please **check** any box that applies:

- I do not want my name printed in the newsletter as a new or returning member
- I would like to be included in a neighborhood e-mail list-serve
- I would like to receive a weekly e-newsletter

Mail this form and your check payable to BCNA to:
Brook Creek Neighborhood, 1406 Oak Hill Ave., Lawrence KS 66044

Visit us at <http://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>



The Brook Creek Breeze

The Newsletter of the
Brook Creek
Neighborhood Association

Spring 2016

Neighborhood Events

April

- 6 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 16 Park Clean-up, 10:00 a.m.,
Brook Creek Park Gazebo
- 19 Electronic Recycling at Free
State High School, 9:00– 1:00

May

- 2 Deadline for yard sale sign-up
(see article at right)
- 4 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 21 Brook Creek Neighborhood
Yard Sale! 7 a.m.

Brook Creek Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale

Clear out your winter accumulation of stuff, and make some extra money at our neighborhood-wide yard sale on May 21, starting at 7 a.m. We can attract more “yard sailors” by offering a neighborhood full of bargains. Brook Creek Neighborhood Association will arrange for publicity with signs at key intersections and advertisements on Craigslist and other places online and around town. We'll list your address in all our publicity, but you must register with our Coordinator no later than May 2nd. Contact her at <brookcreekna@gmail.com> or 785-760-4742. We ask that you donate \$10 to Brook Creek Neighborhood Association to help us fundraise for newsletter costs. BCNA is happy to help you. Thanks for helping the neighborhood!

Brook Creek Park Clean-Up

Join your neighbors on a beautiful spring day to have fun and beautify our parks! The annual Brook Creek Park Clean-Up is Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year, Brook Creek is co-hosting the clean up with East Lawrence Neighborhood Association, and we'll be joined by KU student volunteers, thanks to The Big Event annual volunteer day. East Lawrence is providing bagels and coffee in the morning, and BCNA is providing lunch. Meet at the Brook Creek gazebo. We'll clean up both Brook Creek Park and Burroughs Creek Trail.

If you're a New York School family, you might also be interested in joining in a cleanup and gardening work day at the school from 9 a.m. to noon at the school.

Actions Taken to Improve Traffic Safety

Several neighbors have contacted BCNA and attended neighborhood meetings to share their concerns about dangerous drivers on neighborhood roads. In response, BCNA sent a letter to the David Woosley, the city Traffic Engineer. The letter expressed concerns about traffic speeds on East Glenn Road, Maple Lane between 13th and 15th, and Oak Hill Ave. City staff have responded and said they will do some surveys and contact the neighborhood when they have more information. Updates will be added to the website when available. If you have other concerns about safety or nuisances in the neighborhood, you are welcome to bring them to the attention of BCNA.

Plea for Email Addresses

Email is an important way for BCNA to share information on issues and events that affect the neighborhood. This is especially true now, since funding for our printed newsletters is reduced from previous years, and it is uncertain into the future.

Please send your email addresses to help BCNA keep the neighborhood informed and organized. You will receive occasional announcements and our great new e-newsletter.

Submit your email address to:

BrookCreekNA@gmail.com

Neighborhood Contacts

Melissa Fahrenbruch, President
meljofah@gmail.com

Byron Wiley, Vice-President
bwiley@sbcglobal.net

Michael Almon, Secretary
paradigm@sunflower.com

Jenna Coker, Treasurer
fredandjenna@sunflower.com

Directors
Ron Bishop
Rena Figures
Melinda Henderson
Andrea Repinsky

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Representative
Melinda Henderson

Emily Winters,
Neighborhood Coordinator
BrookCreekNA@gmail.com

Send membership renewals to:
1406 Oak Hill Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66044-3638

[https://www.facebook.com/
brookcreekneighborhood/](https://www.facebook.com/brookcreekneighborhood/)

<https://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>

A Letter from the President

Hello Neighbors,

I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Melissa Fahrenbruch. I'm your new President of Brook Creek Neighborhood Association. I wanted to thank everyone for a great year! Thanks to Rena Figures, our past president, and the past and present officers and directors for all their hard work.

We have had some great wins and speakers for our neighborhood this past year, thanks to our officers, directors, and you. We played a key role in Verizon moving the location of their cell tower; we helped campaign for bus benches in our area; the 19th Street pass through to the industrial park is on hold for now. We held our annual park clean-up, fall picnic and winter party.

I can't wait to see you at events and meetings this year. Please spread the word to your family, friends, and neighbors to connect with us through our e-newsletter, Facebook, and LISTSERV.

If you have questions or concerns, or you just wanted to say hi, please feel free to reach out to me meljofah@gmail.com. Have a great year.

Best wishes,

Melissa Fahrenbruch



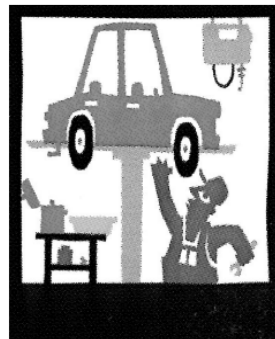
Neighbors gathered in December 2015 for annual officer elections and the Brook Creek holiday party.



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Classes at East Lawrence Recreation Center

Silver Steppers

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., \$36

Fun step combinations will torch calories and get your heart pumping with time for stretching and flexibility work.

Senior Strength Training

Tuesday/Thursday, 9:00-10:00 a.m., \$58

Strength training helps increase muscle mass, strengthen bones and improve balance.

Planting for Pollinators

Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., \$5

Attracting many different kinds of pollinator insects will bring life and movement to your garden. Learn the various ways in which flowers are adapted to different insects. The class will discuss how to choose

the right plants for your garden, those that bring beauty and support area and migrating wildlife. Instructor: Susan Phillips, Master Gardener.

Container Gardens

Saturday, May 7, 9:00-10:00 a.m., \$5

Container gardens offer many benefits, including versatility, less disease and weeding, and accessibility - all in a small space. Join a master gardener just before the last frost and in time for Mother's Day. The class will discuss: containers, soil, sun / shade plants, watering and fertilizing. Instructor: Susan Phillips, Master Gardener.

Register online or at any recreation center. Contact the East Lawrence Recreation Center at 832-7950.

Garden Notes

Gardening season is back! Here are a few reminders and tips.

The Unwanted Guests

Mosquitos can breed in any water that is standing for a few days. You can prevent mosquitos by cleaning out your gutters and emptying or turning over all outdoor containers that can hold standing water.

A few invasive weedy plants are common in Brook Creek, taking over wildlife habitat and making a mess of yards and gardens. Some of the worst plants to look out for and remove are honeysuckle, trumpet vine, garlic mustard, burning bush (euonymus), Johnson grass, Sericea lespedeza, and Bradford pear trees.

Go Native

Native plants provide food and habitat for native wildlife, while non-native plants provide very few ecological benefits. Great native trees to choose for your yard include oaks, which are like wildlife superstores, plus pawpaw trees, buckeyes, and redbuds. Several plant sales provide beautiful native plants that are adapted to our climate and ecology. The sales support good organizations, and the plants support native butterflies and bees. Consider the fun you can have with children looking for Monarch butterfly

caterpillars on flowering milkweed plants. The Monarch Watch plant sale and open house is on May 7 at Foley Hall on KU west campus. The Grassland Heritage Foundation native plant sale is May 14 at the Lawrence Public Library lawn.



Bumblebee on butterfly milkweed

Go Edible

The Lawrence Community Orchard grows right next to Brook Creek Neighborhood. Brook Creek residents are among the volunteers that planted a variety of edible plants as a 'free food park' where anyone can pick ripe fruit. It provides examples of food production in public spaces, a place to learn about organic orcharding, and fun volunteer opportunities. The orchard can be found at the east end of Garfield Street, on Burroughs Creek. More information is at: lawrencefruittreeproject.wordpress.com

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes

December 2015

The December meeting was a brief business meeting followed by the annual holiday party. There was a discussion of the new social media tool Next Door that helps to connect neighbors. A letter was sent to the city Park and Recreation Department with neighborhood concerns and ideas. They will be following up with a meeting appearance in 2016. Attendees discussed a January board planning meeting and the annual spring park clean-up event. Some time was spent recapping the neighborhood accomplishments in 2015, including forcing Verizon to move their cell tower, making progress on getting better bus coverage for the neighborhood, and an improved presence on the internet and better communication.

The election took place and the new directors are as follows:

Melissa Fahrenbruch for President
Byron Wiley for Vice President
Jenna Coker for Treasurer
Michael Almon for Secretary
Rena Figures for Director
Andrea Repinsky for Director
Ron Bishop for Director
Melinda Henderson for Director

February 2016

The guest speaker was Taylor Oliver, a developer for Dollar General. Dollar General is interested in this area because it is underserved. They will be building in the parking lot in the front southwest corner. It

will be a free standing building with landscaping and its own parking. Mr. Oliver stated he anticipates all delivery traffic and the majority of the patron traffic will be on Haskell Ave., and will stay off of 19th Street. The park and ride users will now park behind the convenience store in the northeast corner, but there shouldn't be any disruption to that service. Melinda Henderson gave an update on the Downtown grocery project. There is no official news, but Mayor Mike Amyx is supportive of the project and the developers are open to a grocery store.

There was a discussion about the newsletter budget from Coordinator Emily Winters. CDBG funds were again cut this year making it difficult to afford newsletters. The decision was made to fund one more spring newsletter using the remaining CDBG funds, ad revenue, and some additional money from savings. The bulk cost is in mailing and printing so the decision was made to have an 8 page newsletter again. To help make up for the loss in newsletters we will continue to gather more email addresses and continue our online presence.

Ms. Henderson gave an update on the improved bus route which will now travel both north and south along Harper and Haskell, making it much easier for residents to get downtown. She is still working on helping improve enforcement of the fireworks ban and will let the neighborhood know how it can help. Ms. Fahrenbruch discussed the Urban Agriculture Zoning Amendment that is on the planning commission agenda for late Feb.

BCNA meeting minutes are posted in full on the BCNA website: <https://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>



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Hours: M-F 7:30am-6:00pm; Sat. 8:00am-5:00pm; Sun. 10:00am-5:00pm

Meet Your Brook Creek Neighborhood Association Officers and Board

President: Melissa Fahrenbruch, Maple Lane

Melissa is a recent addition to the Brook Creek neighborhood and to Lawrence, since November, 2014. She moved from Colorado where she completed a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sustainability Studies. During her last summer in Colorado she worked as an intern with the Planning and Community Development Departments of the City of Greeley. She is an alumna of the Mortar Board Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and has held officer positions in other clubs, as well. She is a community supporter of the Latin American Graduates Organization (LAGO) at KU. In her spare time she enjoys working on her house with husband, attending Zumba classes at the Community Center, reading, and spending time with friends. Please let her know if you have any suggestions or concerns for the neighborhood, or just want to say hello.

Vice-President: Byron Wiley, Almira Ave.

Byron is serving his third term as vice president of BCNA. He is active in several community organizations including the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project, Sunrise Project, the local contra dance group (Lawrence Barn Dance Association), and he plays in a Scandinavian folk dance group. He is passionate about plants and food-producing plants. Part of his time is also spent working on handyman and carpentry related projects.

Secretary: Michael Almon

Michael has lived in Lawrence since 1977. He worked for two years as a planning aide at the city planning office. He has started and run three businesses, one of which was Simple Goods General Store at 735 Mass. Since moving to Brook Creek Neighborhood, he has participated in many initiatives to stabilize our single-family neighborhood. He was a co-founder, and is Director of Sustainability Action Network, a not-for-profit that advocates for bicycle transportation, local food growing, and energy conservation.

Treasurer: Jenna Coker, Oak Hill

Jenna has lived on Oak Hill for 24 years (in the Savage House, where one of the first Brook Creek meetings were held.) She has served Brook Creek in the past as our CDBG representative. Jenna has also

been a long-time volunteer for Headquarters counseling center. She retired as emeritus staff in 2010 after 25 years of service to KU. Her last 15 years at KU were all in accounting and budget management taking care of 63 accounts with different rules and regulations to follow. Jenna is an avid gardener with the help of her husband, Fred Sack.

Coordinator: Emily Winters, Haskell Ave.

Emily said: "My husband and I both grew up in Lawrence and knew we wanted to raise our family here. We have lived in the neighborhood for almost 9 years. I have been involved in the neighborhood association for 3 years and have been trying to improve communication. I hope to be able to make even more progress in my new role as coordinator."

Directors:

Andrea Repinsky, Almira Ave.

Andrea returns as Director for the second year of a 2-year term. She previously served as BCNA President and Vice-President. Andrea has lived in Brook Creek for most of the past 15 years. She works as an urban planner and also volunteers as President of Grassland Heritage Foundation, where she welcomes others to join in to native prairie preservation and education.

Ron Bishop, East Glenn Dr.

Ron joins the BCNA board as a new member, though he's a long-time resident of the neighborhood. Ron said: "I first moved from Barker to East Glenn Dr. in 1955, when almost everything east of Haskell Ave, around 19th St. was pasture or woods. 15th St. North was developed to 11th St. I am a U. S. Navy veteran, aviation electronics field, with a BSJ in Photojournalism from KU. I am also president of the Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club in Kansas City, formed in 1956, and president of the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 912 in Ottawa. I moved back to my parents house, which my dad built himself, in 1999, after working in Missouri, Kansas, Wyoming, Arkansas, and Oklahoma on newspapers, to help take care of them and work on the newspaper in Ottawa, Kansas. I am semi-retired now, keeping busy with beekeeping and working part time at (continued)

Davenport Orchard and Vineyard. This is my first term on the BCNA board. I hope to make the neighborhood a good neighborhood to live in."

Rena Figures, Harper St.

Rena moved to the neighborhood 2013 and has a private practice as a midwife and massage ther-

apist. She served as President of BCNA during 2015 and now continues to serve the neighborhood as a BCNA director. She lives with her two sons who bike and walk the neighborhood as much as possible. She looks forward to meeting more folks and serving the community.

Get to Know the Brook Creek Neighborhood

Did you know that Brook Creek Neighborhood goes west of Haskell Ave.? Brook Creek's boundaries are the Burroughs Creek Trail on the west, 11th Street on the north, 19th Street on the south, and the City limits on the east. Brook Creek contains the Oak Hill and Memorial Park Cemeteries, Brook Creek Park, the Burroughs Creek Trail and Linear Park, and the East Lawrence Recreation Center at Edgewood Park.

Brook Creek also contains the historic Haskell Row houses and the Kibbee House, all on Haskell Ave. East Heights Elementary is no longer operational, but it has been housing other schools during renovation. Children in the neighborhood attend both New York and Kennedy elementary schools. Great local volunteer opportunities are at Just Food and the Lawrence Humane Society.

