



The Brook Creek Breeze

The Newsletter of the
Brook Creek
Neighborhood Association

September—October 2014

Neighborhood Events

September

- 6 BCNA Neighborhood Picnic in Brook Creek Park, 5:00—9 p.m.
- 10 BCNA Meeting, 7:30 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center, Guest City Manager David Corliss on 19th Street traffic

October

- 15 BCNA Meeting, 7:30 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center, Guest from Lawrence Police Dept. on proposed police facility

November

- 4 Voting Day
- 12 BCNA Meeting, 7:30 p.m. East Lawrence Rec. Center, Officer Nominations

December

- TBD BCNA Holiday Party, Meeting & Officer Elections

Come to the Brook Creek Neighborhood Picnic!

Friendly neighbors, good food, and great music come together at the Brook Creek Neighborhood Picnic!

Saturday, September 6, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Brook Creek Park Gazebo

Bring a potluck dish to share. BCNA will bring burgers and fried chicken. We need grills to borrow, plus grillmasters and setup/ clean-up volunteers. If you can help, please contact brookcreek-na@gmail.com or 841-4997.

Brook Creek Park Cleanup

BCNA held its annual park cleanup on April 12, and it was a great success.

27 KU students from Hashinger Hall volunteered as part of KU's "Big Event" community service day. The students worked alongside neighborhood residents for a thorough cleanup of the Brook Creek Park woods, Brook Creek, 12th Street, and Burroughs Creek.

Lunch was provided to the volunteers by Dillons, Community Mercantile, and WheatFields. Cottin's Hardware donated gloves, and the City donated trash bags. Thanks to all of them, and to event organizer Julie Mitchell.

Brook Creekers delivered cookies and snacks to the volunteers' floor of Hashinger Hall shortly before finals to thank them for their hard work.



Volunteers from KU's Hashinger Hall at the April 2014 Brook Creek Park cleanup



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Brook Creek Babbles

Changes will come to Brook Creek. Let's make sure they're good ones! In this newsletter, Eric Jay of Struct/Restruct describes their plans for exciting improvements at 12th & Haskell. We're also thinking about changes to traffic that could result when 19th Street opens to the industrial area to the east. Please bring your questions about it to the BCNA meeting in September, when City Manager David Corliss will join us.

Giant "thank yous" go to past BCNA President Julie Mitchell for organizing the Brook Creek park cleanup, to coordinator Julie Banhart and Treasurer Susan Miller for their dedicated service, to Secretary Michael Almon for keeping a fire lit under us all, writing stories and soliciting newsletter ads, and to Emily Winters for improving BCNA communications. Thanks to all businesses who supported the park cleanup with lunch donations, and businesses who support BCNA with newsletter advertisements. We like to support you, too.

Congratulations to Brook Creekers Emily Roe and Fred Sack for winning 1st place at the Womens' and Mens' Horseshoe Contests at the Douglas County Fair!

Two polite young men visited the neighborhood in an effort to convert people to their religion. They offered to help with tasks around our homes while they're at it. Call them at (785)218-3983.

You can save money, use less fuel, and be more comfortable in your home. The City has funds available for weatherizing homes throughout Lawrence. Eligible improvements include attic insulation, storm windows and door weather-stripping. Call (785) 832-7700 for more information.

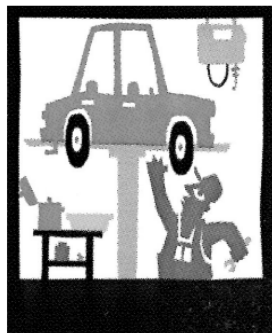
Issues we're keeping an eye on include the development of a downtown grocery store, needed park improvements, and research on the history of the Burroughs Creek corridor. Please join us at the next BCNA meeting to share your news, concerns, and vision for the neighborhood.

Please share your email address with BCNA! 61 households currently receive weekly notices about events and news in the neighborhood and around the city. The email list is a way to notify you of unscheduled BCNA meetings and events, and to send you copies of the minutes for your review before the next meeting. All email messages are sent out as blind copies so your privacy is protected. **Please send your name, address, and email address to brookcreekna@gmail.com**

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City Offers Free Repairs to Help Manage Stormwater

The Lawrence Waste Water Treatment Plant on the Kansas River has an average daily capacity of 12.5 million gallons. But when there's a heavy rainfall, water enters the sanitary sewers in many places, increasing the flow into the treatment plant to a point of overload. This causes problems of extra pumping energy and extra chemicals that cost taxpayers more, and also possible overflow of untreated sewage into the Kansas River. The City has two options – either build a very expensive larger treatment plant and larger sewers or reduce the rainwater infiltration into the pipes. They have chosen to reduce the infiltration.

Lawrence has already sealed the inside of many sewer pipes, which did help the problem. The next phase is the eight year "Eco-flow Rapid Rainwater Reduction Program." The City wants to locate where rainwater from downspouts, sump pumps, floor drains, exterior drains,

damaged sewer cleanouts, and other similar places may be infiltrating the sanitary sewers. They are starting with an area which includes the Brook Creek Neighborhood. They will be evaluating many properties, both residential and commercial. It's a voluntary program, and they hope folks will be willing to participate.

A hired contractor, Trekk Design Group, will be contacting selected properties to set up an appointment for an evaluation. If any incorrect discharges are found, the City will pay for any repairs, including both materials and labor. Landlords must give tenants a three-day notice of an inside evaluation, and tenants may make the appointment themselves. Property owners have the option to select a plumber to do the repairs from a list provided by the City. For more information, call the City at 832-7800 or visit - <http://www.lawrenceks.org/utilities/ecoflow>

New Recreation Classes are Enrolling Now

Flexercise at East Lawrence Center

For ages 50 and Up. Enrollment 6/Max 10. This exercise program emphasizes safe and beneficial movements and routines that will increase your flexibility, strength and endurance. Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 beginning September 9 at East Lawrence Center.

Contra Dancing

Enrollment 6/Max 20 Contra Dance is a traditional, fun, dance style performed in two long lines, facing each other, to lively fiddle music. It is a great exercise that benefits both the body and brain. All levels of dance experience and fitness are welcome in this friendly, welcoming environment. Meets at the Carnegie Building Thursday nights, 7:30-8:30 beginning September 11.

Register at East Lawrence Center or online at www.LPRD.org.




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Invasive Amur Honeysuckle: Not a Good Neighbor

It's sneaky, it's pretty, it has berries the birds love, and it's the invasive plant problem you never heard of. Amur Honeysuckle (botanical name *Lonicera maackii*), a non-native bush from eastern Asia, is a very aggressive plant that sprouts abundantly, out-competes many plants, and tends to take over if not controlled. In March, it leafs out earlier and grows rapidly to get a head start on other bushes. It has a white bloom by early May, and by August is setting berries. The berries are red, stay on the bush all winter, and birds spread the seeds.

Eight states have outlawed it. The Kansas Department of Health & Environment recommends that cities eradicate it, but Lawrence Parks & Recreation doesn't have the budget to control it. Amur Honeysuckle is taking over Brook Creek Neighborhood and many areas of Lawrence. It's all over the Brook Creek Woods, all along the Burroughs Creek Trail, along the Kansas River, in many City drainageways, and is even a major problem at the Prairie Park Nature Center. You very likely have it in your fence line.

The Brook Creek Neighborhood Association is launching an effort to eradicate Amur Honeysuckle in our neighborhood. Any occurrence of it poses a problem for your neighbors, so please identify it and remove it if you have it. To learn more about it visit <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3040>, & <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/loma.htm>



UGA2307092



Amur Honeysuckle bush (photo by Warner Park Nature Center)

grows 15-20 feet tall
flowers in May
fruit sets in August
fruit ripe November

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BCNA Welcomes Struct/Restruct to the Neighborhood

Eric Jay of Struct/Restruct provided the following information about the business and their new location at 1146 Haskell Avenue.

“Struct/Restruct (SRS) is a full-service design-build studio rooted in the heart of East Lawrence. Lifelong friends, Matt Jones and Eric Jay own and operate the business at 1146 Haskell, the previous location of the Recycling Center. They currently have 9 full-time employees and one resident watchdog. Over the past 6 years they have been designing and building throughout Lawrence, with their main focus in East Lawrence. Each project implements innovative design, custom woodworking and reclaimed materials. Their previous shop was located at 920 & 924 Delaware, current home of Decade Coffee and The Lawrence Re-Cyclery. SRS spent four years at that location and was quickly outgrowing the facility. When 1146 became available last spring, SRS met with the previous owner and immediately saw its potential.

Currently, SRS has office, storage and woodworking space set up in the building with high hopes for it all. We’re in the process of updating the building with a fresh coat of paint, an accessible bathroom, and fire rating portions of the space. With an approved site plan in place we can also begin working on site improvements like removing the

green fence, sidewalk, curb & gutter and doing landscaping improvements. The first course of action is to remove the green fence along 12th St. Portions of the fence will be re-purposed for the buffer yard fence between our industrial space and the residential lots to the east. As part of the redevelopment of the property, nine residential lots were created along 12th Street. Once the infrastructure is designed and installed, we can start selling the lots for residential development. It took a year to get where we’re at now, and the process from here on out will be lengthy as well. When it’s all finished, we feel it will be a great asset to the neighborhood.

Other major things that will happen as part of the site plan are demolishing the two small out-buildings to the north of the shop and the addition of a sawmill in the shop yard. SRS has a stockpile of harvested logs from around town which will be milled into boards and used in its projects. We also hope to make local hardwoods more accessible to people in town by having milled and surfaced lumber available for sale on site.

When the crew isn’t around the shop, you can find them at their many current projects going on in the Eastside. If you really want to see what we’re up to, you should stop by the shop and get a first hand glimpse.”

Welcome to the Neighborhood

1702 Genessee St.-Adam & Mindy Fry

1812 E. 17th St.-Tammy Bevens

931 Oliver's Ct.-Rosemarie Hanson

1633 Matthew Ter.-Lucille Pennewell

940 Anna Tappan Way-Amy Berg

1511 Powers St.-Amy Fore

1530 Cadet Ave.-Crystal Kenestrick

1336 Brook St.-Benjamin Kelley

1810 Harper St.-Kevin Jaquay

1334 Brook St.-Tenants to Homeowners

1844 Almira Ave.-Carole Lash

1606 Wedgewood Dr.-Allyson Stock

1523 Hanscom Road, Stephen & Teresa Reetz

1146 Haskell Ave.Struct/Restruct LLC

1340 Haskell Ave.- Aaron & Kendra Marable

1713 Miller Dr. - Michele Simmons & Ashley Simmons

1401 Prairie Ave. - Grant & Anna Catloth

1320 Haskell Ave. - Aron & Sarah Cromwell

1503 Lindenwood Lane-Lora L. Schalk & Bradley A. Howard

1510 Harper St.-Jacqlene Nance & Tina M. Mengler

924 Anna Tappan Way - Ryan M. Vandament

926 Oliver's Court- Daniel & Moriah Lindsley

1233 Laura Ave.-Morgan Seaman & Pilar I. D'Asto

1610 Irving Court - Juan Rubio & Jesus Rubio

1601 Irving Court - Kira & Brian Ptacek

915 Anna Tappan Way - Chad Henson

1613 Irving Court-Tabbatha Householder

1204 Haskell Ave.-Christopher Meyeres

1610 Wedgewood Drive - Frank N. & Denna M. Dressler

1531 Powers St.-Xiaoqing Yang & Zihihua S. Xiao

1201 E. 13th - Courtney Shanks & Brian Ayers

1614 E. 18th St. - Joshua F. & Amanda M. Wear

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association Meeting Notes

February 12, 2014

Kendra and Aaron Marable, who live at 1300 Haskell, have purchased the historic Haskell House at 1340 Haskell. They plan to get both properties placed on the local historic register. They plan to restore 1340 Haskell for a hospitality-based business, such as a bed and breakfast.

Struct/Restruct plans to purchase 1146 Haskell to use the existing building for an office and workshop, and to construct homes on 12th Street. The site plan will be presented to the City Commission meeting on February 18.

David Crawford asked BCNA to support a downtown grocery store, possibly at the old Borders Bookstore building. A marketing survey is being conducted. Attendees expressed support for developing a locally owned store with fresh and local food.

Lt. Matt McCluer of the Salvation Army (SA) spoke about their plans for their property bordered by Haskell, Home-wood, Bullene, and Lynn Streets. SA has done a community needs assessment to plan their construction and activities. McCluer said that the SA programs include a youth program, summer camps, and emergency assistance. He said that 85% of donations stay in the community. McCluer stressed that the new building will not be a homeless shelter or transitional housing for families. Instead, they work with local landlords to provide housing assistance. There will be no overnight accommodations, and activities will be limited to daytime office hours. They plan to break ground in about 2-3 years, followed by about 18 months of construction time. The new building may have a dining room for the feeding program, a gym, classrooms, computer labs, after-school program, a sanctuary, and offices. Some attendees at the meeting raised concerns about safety and the possibility that property values might go down. McCluer said that they do background checks on staff, and use video security.

March 12, 2014

The City will be expand its rental licensing program to include all rental units in the city.

Announcements: (a) A letter in support of a downtown grocery has been sent to the City by BCNA. (b) The new playground at Edgewood Park might be ready by May. (c) City compost and woodchips will be available throughout the spring and summer. (d) KU's Big Event volunteers are requested to help with the April 12 Brook Creek park cleanup. (e) Struct/Restruct's site plan for 1146 Haskell was approved by the City Commission.

Robert Baker of Tenants to Homeowners (TTH) described changes in TTH's activities. They now use a land trust style program. Home purchases through TTH are more affordable because the land is not included in the sale. TTH also provides rental units and counseling and education programs. About 65% of their tenants have been in place for at least 5 years. When the owners of a TTH home wish to sell their home, it must be sold to another low-income family, and the sellers will get 1/4 of the resale profit. TTH is building a new senior living community near 25th & Cedarwood, containing lots of integrated technology and green design.

April 9, 2014

Lawrence Utilities Department staff and consultants explained the city's "Eco-flow Rapid Rainwater Reduction Program" to find incorrect connections to the sanitary sewers on private properties.

The invasive shrub Amur Honeysuckle has been spreading through the neighborhood, stream banks, parks, and the entire city. See newsletter article for more information.

City Manager David Corliss will be asked to talk to BCNA about the planned street connection between the new Venture Park Business Center and 19th Street. 19th Street may see a large increase in traffic volume. Neighbors expressed interest in either no connection at all, with the Business Park traffic put on 23rd Street, or significant traffic calming on 19th Street.

May 14, 2014

Emily Winters volunteered to set up an email list-serv, with moderation help from the BCNA Coordinator. When it is set up, a posting will be sent to all the email addresses we currently have, with the option to opt out of the list-serv.

Mike Myers, architect for Kendra and Aaron Marable for the property at 1340 Haskell, described the property, the zoning and allowed uses, and the steps that needed to be taken to make it a 4-room bed-and-breakfast with receptions and a boutique bar with limited hours. Parking requirements are to be worked out. All attendees agreed to support the proposed uses of the property.

Attendees discussed the shooting at the 13th & Maple apartments on Mother's Day. A Neighborhood Resource Police Officer will be invited to answer questions and offer information about actions that can be taken to increase security in the neighborhood.

(continued)

June 11, 2014

Guest presenter Officer Trent McKinley discussed crime data and response as a follow-up to the shooting at 1121 East 13th St. With the investigation ongoing, he couldn't share details. He mentioned that the public can access police report data

on an interactive map on their website. Use the pull-down menu under "services" on their front page <http://police.lawrenceks.org/>. Officer McKinley said that 1121 E. 13th St. doesn't have proportionately more police calls than the neighborhood at large, and Brook Creek Neighborhood doesn't have more violent crime than the city at large, nor no particular pattern of causes. Neighborhood Resource Officers work M-F, 8-5, and some evenings for public meetings. Call them at either 830-7408 or 830-7409 for ongoing issues, but call 911 for a crime in progress.

Particular living units are tracked as "nuisance properties" if they have citations that go through the Court system. Another incident within two years triggers an abatement process. This applies to any type of crime other than domestic violence. Right now there are no nuisance proper-

ties at 1121 East 13th St.

The management company said they had just began managing the property and clearing out problem residents. Carrie Lindsay at the Housing Authority said the Section 8 units do have a higher standard of behavior, but she couldn't reveal which were Section 8 for privacy reasons.

Robert Baker of Tenants to Homeowners commented that problem rental properties often have lack of maintenance and no background checks on renters. They were able to improve 1409-1411 Haskell over 2-3 years of repairs and good management.

Officer McKinley said a neighbor-to-neighbor effort is needed to alert the police about problems. A Neighborhood Watch that tracks and records abnormal activities and uses a phone tree can be effective. He said that most drug activity involves property crime, not violent personal crime. Neighborhood Watches should note unusual level of activities, auto make and model, and license plate numbers.

Plans were made to create the email list-serv up and to post the minutes on our web page. Plans were made for future meetings, newsletters, and a fall neighborhood party.



JOIN US at a Brook Creek Neighborhood Meeting!

November: Officer Nominations

December: Officer Elections + cookies



DECADE

coffee & espresso

920 Delaware St

Our friends in East Lawrence were wondering whether they have the oldest neighborhood association in Lawrence. Was it Brook Creek instead? This is what they found:

The Journal World reported, on April 16, 1934,

"The Fairmont Improvement Association met at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Savage on Thursday evening with 33 present."

On October 3, 1944, the Journal World described the Fairfax & Belmont Additions as bounded by 12th Street, 15th Street, Haskell, and Oak Hill Cemetery.

Thanks to Dave Evans and KT Walsh for sharing!

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

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

Please **check** ✓ any box that applies:

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- 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:
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