



**Neighborhood Events**

**January**

- 17 New York School MLK Day Chili Feed, 5-7 p.m.
- 24 Kennedy School Fundraiser at Papa Kenos
- 26 Downtown Grocery Comm. 9-10 a.m., Library

**February**

- 1 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Rec. Center  
 Guests: Struct/Restruct
- 4 Traffic Calming Meeting, Saturday, 1-3 p.m, ELRC
- 11 Kaw Valley Seed Fair, 9-3 Douglas County Fairgrounds

**March**

- 1 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Parade

**April**

- 1 East Lawrence YART Sale 8-2, New York School
- 5 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 8 Park Clean-Up and Big Event Volunteer Day, Saturday, Brook Creek Park 10 am-2 pm

**May**

- 3 BCNA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., East Lawrence Rec. Center
- 27 Art Tougeau Parade

**June**

- 3 Neighborhood Yard Sale

**September**

- 9 Fall Picnic

**Traffic Calming in Brook Creek Neighborhood**

The problems of cut-through and speeding traffic in our neighborhood have been a big concern for 21 years. Attempted solutions between 1995 and 2001 proved to not work, and instructions by the City Commission in 2001 for the Traffic Engineer to come up with a solution never happened. BCNA made a new proposal in January of 2016 to control the problems on Oak Hill Ave., Maple Lane, and East Glenn Dr.

On June 6, 2016, the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) recommended the City Commission approve traffic calming on Maple Lane and on Oak Hill Ave. However, they didn't recommend specific methods, because our ideas for turn restrictions, partial street closures, or a roundabout at 15th and Haskell were not in our initial request, but only mentioned at their meeting. The TSC recommended the City Commission deny traffic calming on East Glenn Dr., because its speed limit is 30mph. It took more than three months before the City Commission discussed the TSC's recommendations on September 20, 2016. They agreed with all the TSC recommendations, but they referred all three back to the TSC for further study, and directed the Traffic Engineer to meet with BCNA to develop specific methods of controlling cut-through & speeding traffic.

The BCNA President, Vice President, Secretary, and one Director met with David Woosley on October 19, 2016. They considered the full range of considerations including: stop signs, Oak Hill yield signs, 20 mph north of 15th, police enforcement, 15th & Haskell roundabout, chicanes, speed humps, and partial street closures at all the side streets. Speed humps are not allowed on Oak Hill, cost \$8,000 each, and the City has a backlog of 21 unfunded projects. The one method that costs little and could be installed quickly and would affect people the least amount of time, for only five hours per day, only on weekdays, are turn restrictions at the streets turning north off of 15th St. Mr. Woosley also said that traffic calming on East Glenn Dr. would be considered only if the speed limit were lowered to 20 mph, so he advised we request that as our first step for East Glenn Dr.

Following the City Commission's direction, and with Mr. Woosley's advice, BCNA requested the TSC lower the speed limit to 20 mph on East Glenn Dr., and place limited-hours turn restrictions on the streets turning north off of 15th St. We pondered if we wanted similar turn restrictions off of Haskell at 12th and 13th, but withdrew the idea as limiting access too much. Before the TSC heard our requests for specific methods on November 7, 2016, our ideas were published in the weekly E-newsletter and on our Facebook page. Unfortunately, this was the first notice of our ideas to the neighborhood, because prior to meeting with Mr. Woosley, there were no specific methods to discuss, only general requests for "traffic calming".

*Continued, p. 7*

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

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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/>

## Neighborhood Contacts

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**Directors**  
**Ron Bishop**  
**Rena Figures**  
**Melinda Henderson**  
**Andrea Repinsky**

**Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods  
Representative**  
**Melinda Henderson**

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Neighborhood Coordinator**  
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**Send membership renewals to:**  
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Lawrence, KS 66044-3638

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## Note from the President

Hello Neighbors. This past year was filled with exciting events and some wins for our neighborhood and city. We had some great speakers attend our meetings and hope to have more for the next year. I want to thank you for your concerns and opinions given during the surveys we sent out. With the new/returning officers and board members elected in December, we met in January to discuss ideas and came together as a team to talk about how to better serve you, our neighbors. We will be asking for volunteers to help plan the many events we hope to have this year. (Please see article, p.7).

We will continue to look for opportunities to better our neighborhood and hope that if you have an idea that you let us know. We have submitted a resolution to the Parks and Recreation Department on the management and use of our Brook Creek Nature Area, based on the neighborhood committee that was set up last spring. This has been forwarded to the City Council, and in January our requests have been sent for review by pertinent departments. We will continue to monitor this as it develops.

We participate in the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to help fund our paper newsletters and our Coordinator. This year, BCNA and other neighborhood associations will have a smaller budget and we may only be able to have 2, maybe 3, paper newsletters and pay the small salary for our coordinator. We know that that vast majority of people are going digital, but we still find it easier to reach everyone by mail. As an alternative, and to get fast up-to-date information on the latest news in the neighborhood we do have an E-Newsletter on Tuesdays, a Facebook page, and a website. Please sign up for these if you wish. We do use advertising funds to help offset some costs, but it's not sustainable to help with costs. If you have ideas for fundraisers or would like to serve on a fundraising committee to help save BCNA paper newsletters please get in contact with our Coordinator Emily Winters at [brookcreekna@gmail.com](mailto:brookcreekna@gmail.com).

On a brighter note we will have some great speakers at our meetings this year and are open to suggestions on who you would like to talk to or see a presentation from.

*(Continued, p. 3)*

## 2017 Brook Creek Neighborhood Association Elections

The election for the 2017 BCNA Officers and Board was held on December 7, 2016. The following is the resulting vote.

**President, Melissa Fahrenbruch**, Melissa was elected to her second term as President of BCNA. She is currently applying to KU to pursue a dual Master's Degree Program in Geography and Planning. She is involved in several organizations at KU including Mortar Board Alumni, and the Latin American Graduate Organization (LAGO). She and her husband, Matt Fahrenbruch, enjoy participating in community and city events. Melissa hopes that she can introduce new ideas and help the community come together on issues that affect our neighborhood.

**Vice- President, Byron Wiley**, Byron was elected to his 4th 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. 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-

### Traffic Calming, Continued from Page 1

We knew that any November TSC decision wouldn't go to the City Commission for two months or more, that it would probably then take more months for signs to be installed, that we were requesting the signs to be placed on a trial basis, and that we intended to hold a neighborhood forum in that time period for all neighbors to have an opportunity to give opinions. But the clock was ticking on the TSC, which was to be abolished at the end of 2016, so we wanted to have them address this before they ceased to exist. After impassioned debate over the possible implications, we took the following steps: 1) We decided to proceed with the TSC request for the East Glenn Dr. 20 mph speed limit. 2) We decided to wait for the TSC request for limited-hours turn restrictions on the streets turning north off of 15th St., which would have been set for a 6 month trial period. 3) We decided to hold a neighborhood forum in February to provide anyone with concerns the opportunity to voice their opinion and share ideas.

family neighborhood. He was a cofounder, 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**, "I have lived in our home in Brook Creek for 27 years. I retired Emeritus Staff, from KU in 2010. Most of my 25 years at KU were spent in accounting, risk management and budgeting. My husband, Fred Sack (semi-retired) and I are avid gardeners."

**Coordinator, Emily Winters**, "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 10 years. I have been involved in the neighborhood association for 4 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: Returning for 2nd year of a 2 year term:** Andrea Repinsky, Rena Figures. **New 1st year of a 2 year term:** Ron Bishop, Melinda Henderson- LAN Representative.

We are seeking committee chairs and members for several events this year please reach out to either Melissa Fahrenbruch at [meljofah@gmail.com](mailto:meljofah@gmail.com) or Emily Winters at [brookcreekna@gmail.com](mailto:brookcreekna@gmail.com) if you are able to help out. The events are: The Big Clean Up, April 8, 2017; BCNA Wide Yard Sale, June 3, 2017; and BCNA Fall Picnic, September 9, 2017. Thank you for your participation.

We have found that some of the main traffic sources were the East Heights Elementary temporarily housing 3 different schools over the past 3 years and the closing of K-10 and 31st Street. We learned that the school district will still utilize this space in the future, but on a smaller scale. The Community Transition Program will bring approximately 50 students and 20 staff to East Heights, and the school district expects a significant decrease in traffic.

We still want to discuss possible options for traffic calming, as we have had several single car/motorcycle accidents, due to speeding, in Brook Creek Park. We hope you attend one of two meetings. At the regular BCNA meeting **February 1, 2017 at 7-9 p.m.** we will have a speaker and regular business first, but are setting a 45 minute time period for this discussion. Also we are holding a special session on **February 4, 2017 at 1-3 p.m.** for discussion of traffic calming only. I hope to see you there at either or both meetings. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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## Brook Creek Holiday Party

December 2016



### Note from the President, Continued

We will start off with Struct/Restruct in February to update us on the 12<sup>th</sup> Street construction, we hope to have our new City Code Enforcement Officer come for a FAQ session, and a Master Gardener come talk about native plants that are great for our area and soil types. We will update Facebook and the E-Newsletter with others.

We will also have a special session open to ALL residents of BCNA on February 4, 2017 from 1pm-3pm at the East Rec Center Community Room to brainstorm on traffic calming options in our neighborhood as a whole. As well

as, have time at our regular February 1, 2017 meeting 7p-9pm same place after the Struct re Struct and few house-keeping matters. I hope to get your ideas as to the speeding and cut through traffic that we hear concerns about from our friends and neighbors. Please see a full article later in the newsletter about our attempts.

Thank you and have a great year,  
Melissa Fahrenbruch, BCNA President  
Email: meljofah@gmail.com

## BCNA Meeting Notes

### November 2016

Words words words

### December 2016

Attendees planned the schedule of 2017 meetings.

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



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# Notes from Our Elected Officials

## Boog Highberger

I am honored to once again represent the Brook Creek neighborhood in the Kansas House of Representatives. This year I will be serving on the Judiciary, Corrections & Juvenile Justice, and Federal & State Affairs committees. This will be a challenging legislative session, with the biggest issues likely to be fixing the state's serious financial problems and ensuring proper funding for public schools. I am hopeful that we can reform our state tax system so that

## marci francisco

I am honored to once again be representing the Brook Creek neighborhood in the Kansas Senate. This year I will be serving as the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and also will serve on the Utilities Committee and the Assessment and Taxation Committee, and the Joint Committees on Information Technology and State Building Construction. I am particularly pleased to have my first chance to serve on the Senate Tax Committee because our current tax collections are significantly below our expenditures and the tax code needs to be readjusted to be more fair.

it is more fair for low- and middle-income Kansans. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about any state issue. If you find yourself at the Capitol, please feel free to stop by my office at Room 174-W.

Boog Highberger, KS State Representative, District 46  
(W) 785-296-7122, (C) 785-424-3262,  
or [boog.highberger@house.ks.gov](mailto:boog.highberger@house.ks.gov)

Please call my office or email me if you have questions or concerns or would like to be added to my legislative newsletter. I welcome visitors in my office in Room 134-E – I am often in meetings, so if you can, call ahead for an appointment. And if you are or know a student ages 12 to 18 who would like to serve for a day in the Capitol as a page, please let me know.

Marci Francisco, KS State Senator, District 2  
(W) 785-296-7364, (H) 785-842-6402,  
or [marci.francisco@senate.ks.gov](mailto:marci.francisco@senate.ks.gov)

## Addressing the Food Desert Problem in Lawrence

Brook Creek supports efforts to ensure convenient access to healthy food. Here is information on work being done to bring a grocery store to downtown Lawrence to better serve eastern and north Lawrence.

**Who is the Downtown Grocery Committee?** We are friends and neighbors who are concerned about the lack of access to fresh, healthy, affordable food in our core neighborhoods. We first gathered in 2013 to address the issue of the food desert in Lawrence. Our weekly meetings at 9 am on Thursdays are open, and we hold a public meeting at the library on the last Thursday of each month.

**What is a food desert? How would a downtown grocery fix that problem?** A food desert is an area where the majority of people live more than one mile from a grocery store and at least 20% of the residents meet the federal poverty level standard. The downtown grocery store will not completely resolve the food desert in Lawrence, but it will make a significant impact.

**Will the store be a local or regional grocer?** The strong interest to date is Price Chopper, a regional grocer.

**Will the groceries be affordable?** Yes. One of our main goals has been to attract a retailer that offers goods and

services that most people in the surrounding area can afford. This retailer has such a history.

**Will the store double SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)?** That is yet undetermined. The Downtown Grocery Committee supports this type of program, and the retailer has experience doing this in other communities. Price Chopper is signed on with this program for the next few years, starting in 2017.

**Will the store sell local and/or regional produce, meat, and other products?** Yes. Queen's Price Chopper has their own regional produce purchasing program via a local wholesaler, C&C Produce. Local and regional farmers are welcome; they must qualify for the program, be inspected, and have liability insurance.

**When will the store open?** Some time in 2018.

**Will the store be open 24/7?** No. Current operational hours will be 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.; possibly midnight.

**What size will the building be?** 40-45 thousand square feet, slightly larger than the Dillons on Massachusetts Street.

## Food Desert, continued

**Where will the mechanicals (heating, cooling, electrics) for the building be located?** There are many options being discussed including rooftop or enclosed areas; concern for noise and light pollution in the neighborhood is being taken into consideration in the design. The developer has a history of using the quietest mechanicals available, and the design team has been discussing this issue.

**Will the historic Donnelly Stables (and former auto garages) wall on the north side of the current building be saved?** Yes. The architectural plans include saving the north wall and integrating it into the design.

**What does "mixed-use building" mean?** "Mixed use" means a mixture of commercial and residential uses. The commercial use will be a grocery store.

**Will the store deliver groceries? Will there be a drive-up for grocery pickup?** The store will offer pickup for online ordering with an eye on possible future delivery services.

**Will the store have a pharmacy? If so, will it have a drive-thru pickup?** As of December 2016, a local pharmacy is being considered, and the architectural plans incorporate a drive-thru for the pharmacy.

**How will vehicle traffic flow onto and off of the site?** The semi truck entrance will be on the northeast side, off of 7th street. Truck deliveries will happen overnight, so should not affect daytime traffic. Light truck delivery on the east side of the building occurs throughout the day. We don't anticipate a cycle of deliveries that will exceed the capacity of the enclosed delivery bay, which means idling should not happen. The pharmacy drive-thru will be on the south side of the building, in the surface parking lot. Shoppers will use the parking garage, which will have its entrance on the southeast corner of the structure. Surface parking entrance for the store will be on New Hampshire street, and there will be bike racks available nearby. There will be no vehicle access between the Hobbs Taylor parking lot and the grocery parking lot.

**How will the project affect resident parking in East Lawrence?** The discussion between East Lawrence neighbors and developers is ongoing.

**What will the impact be on adjacent downtown parking?** The developer is making every effort to accommodate the increase in parking on-site by building two levels of underground parking and keeping some surface parking available. There will be 200 approximately spaces

underground; 100 for the store and 100 for the building's residents.

**Will there be bus stops convenient to the grocery store? Will these stops have shelters?** The committee and residents plan to advocate strongly to the city and the transportation company for bus stops.

**How will shoppers get carts to and from the underground parking?** Design plans include a cart escalator as well as a people escalator between the store and the parking structure.

**How will the construction project impact downtown?** The impact will be similar to any of the other projects on New Hampshire street recently.

**What will this project cost us as taxpayers?** Some of the funding for the grocery project will come out of federal funding designated for areas identified as food deserts. We are anticipating a request for public incentives for both the parking and living structures. We do not know at this time what will be asked for or how this will affect tax rates. The normal planning process involves several opportunities for public commentary and input.

**How many jobs will the store create?** 150-200 new jobs, both full and part-time.

**Will the jobs at the store provide a living wage?** We expect so, but we don't have data at this time. Incentives from the city may require a living wage.

**What overall benefit will the grocery store have for our downtown and our city?** This store will enhance the character of our downtown by broadening and diversifying its economic base. The store will bring over 2500 people a day to our downtown, many of whom will also seek other goods and services in the neighborhood. It will be an anchor store that supplies local employment, community connection, and convenient access to a variety of foods and other goods to help serve the varied needs of area residents, downtown restaurants, and out-of-town visitors. It will improve access to healthy, affordable food in the food desert, which will have a positive effect in our core neighborhoods.

## How can I learn more?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DTGrocery/>

Contact us via email at: [dtgroc@gmail.com](mailto:dtgroc@gmail.com)