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As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization, the Lawrence Preservation Alliance depends on your support to help further our mission. For details on membership, go to www.lawrencepreservation.org.

(If you know of someone interested in being a member, please share this form with them.)

My check (payable to the Lawrence
Preservation Alliance) is enclosed.

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## **Membership options:**

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Donations are tax-deductible.

## Please make checks payable to:

Lawrence Preservation Alliance

#### Mail this form with your check to:

Lawrence Preservation Alliance PO Box 1073

Lawrence, KS 66044

## Thank you!



LPA Officers: Dennis Brown (President), Jeanette Spencer (Vice President) Ernie Eck (Co-Treasurer), Dale Slusser (Co-Treasurer), Phil Stinson (Secretary) LPA Board: Phil Collison, Lindsay Crick, Kate Dinneen,

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# Preservation

The newsletter for the Lawrence Preservation Alliance

Volume 32 | Issue 3 | September 2015

## 2015 Annual Meeting

Eudora City Hall 4 East 7th, Eudora Ks. Sunday, September 27 1:30-3pm

The Annual Meeting (open to all members), will be held in downtown Eudora so we can tour the museum opened earlier this year by the Eudora Area Historical Society (EAHS). We will gather at Eudora City Hall. There will be a brief business meeting at 1:45, followed by a presentation from EAHS executive director Ben Terwilliger, who will then lead us to the museum a short walking distance away for a guided tour.

The Eudora Community Museum maintains the history of Eudora and the surrounding communities of Clearfield, Fall Leaf, Hesper, Prairie Center and Weaver. Collections cover themes including the Shawnee Indians, Oregon Trail, Civil War, late 19th. century development, the African American community, and the Sunflower Ammunition Plant.

The new museum, in the works since 2011, is established in the John Seybold building, donated to the Society in 2013 by owner Pam Staab. Several phases of rehab work have occurred since then, with a lot of hands-on community support and grants from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council totaling \$84,500. Plenty of parking will be available on the street, behind City Hall, and in a parking lot across from City Hall in Pilla Park.

#### Santa Fe Station

Watch for improvements at the 1955 train station, 413 E. 7th, designed in the modernist style by KU grads Warren Corman and Warren Jones. In July, the Lawrence City Commission authorized interim City Manager Diane Stoddard to finalize a complex series of agreements with the current owner (BNSF Railroad), Amtrak (which maintains an active passenger route on the line), and KDOT, which has approved a 1.2 million dollar grant to the City for a major building preservation project.

This is welcome news for the local volunteer group Depot Redux (rhymes with 'deluxe'), which has been diligently working with all the aforementioned groups since 2007 to encourage the deal. Led by LPA member Carey Maynard-Moody, these dedicated volunteers have worked to make the station a welcoming entry point to Lawrence and to spread the word about the benefits its preservation would provide.

Under terms of the deal, which Stoddard has been working on virtually since she began working for the City, BNSF will still own the underlying property and retain a small office, but the City will own the station. Amtrak, which invested 1.5 million in the loading platform and exterior lighting a few years back, will retain use of the passenger waiting room. The City can also use that area for group meetings and events.

The city match of \$385,000, included with the KDOT grant, will pay for a new roof, HVAC, ADA improvements, sidewalks and parking/landscaping improvements on the station's west side. Eligible for listing on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places, the City will now control that process as the new owner of the station.

## **Old Housewarming (members only)**

614 Main Street, Eudora, Ks.
Sunday, October 25
1:30-3pm
LPA members have an incredible opportunity to tour the Charles Pilla house, an 1894 Queen Anne in

downtown Eudora. Pilla, a German immigrant, was a prominent Eudora businessman who owned the lumberyard, a bank, and a general store...good businesses to own if you're building a nice house! The skills of German craftsmanship are evident in the walnut, oak and cherry woodwork, the front and back staircases, the tower and the three original fireplaces. Listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places, this house was home to Pilla until his death in 1916. A daughter then lived there until 1963.

We are the guests of Sue and Monte Pearson, friends since childhood and both Lawrence natives. Sue moved to the house in 1976, and when they married seven years ago, Monte, a retired fireman with 36 years of service with the Lawrence Fire Department, moved in and went to work. He must like to stay busy: he restored the 66 old shutters he found in the basement, and he rebuilt the tower which had been removed due to its failing condition in the 1960's. LPA members: drive, bike, run or walk. If you don't have a car then steal one (or carpool if that's more your style). Just be there to tour this wonderful home!



Charles Pilla House: 614 Main Street, Eudora, Ks

## **Preservation in Progress Awards**

LPA is recognizing two projects for PIP Awards this fall! Award winners are:

#### Pam and Dave Crawford

715 Illinois

Pam and Dave live in one of the older homes in Lawrence (1873), but before last year no one would ever know it thanks to remodeling work by previous owners in the 1920's and especially the 1960's. After tracing the home's history and receiving early photos from the now 90 year old child of a former owner, the Crawfords, as part of an extensive rehab, decided to remove a number of the 1960 elements and reconstruct an original wraparound front porch...ahh, this historic house makes sense again!

#### **Douglas County Historical Society (DCHS)**

1047 Massachusetts, Watkins Museum
DCHS, which catalogues and maintains artifacts
critical to interpreting the history of Douglas County,
has recently completed a multi-year project to restore
the 2nd. and 3rd. floor windows of the largest and
most important artifact of their collection: the historic Watkins Bank building, home to the community
museum at the corner of 11th. And Mass. This project
was funded by a grant from the City of Lawrence and
extensive private fundraising. Individual donors also
made possible significant roof repairs and new guttering. The Watkins Bank building is one of this city's
most significant architectural resources and completion
of this major task is welcome news to our community.

## Look, Up in the Sky!

Is it a bird...or a plane? No, it really is rehab and construction work happening at the old Rhody Delahunty place at 1106 Rhode Island. After years of decay and neglect, an LLC led by Hernly Associates Inc., with a little help from the City to get started, is taking on this daunting project. We'll tell you all about it in the next LPA newsletter!

Lawrence Preservation is published quarterly by the Lawrence Preservation Alliance. Our mission is to preserve historically significant buildings and natural environments, and to educate the community about the benefits of historic preservation. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions. Email us at lawrencepreservation@gmail.com