



# Village Beat

## Community Village Lawrence Newsletter

EDITION 3

JANUARY—MARCH 2015

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Chris Holmer

Amy Hope

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Pearl Torres

### Letter from the Chair

Spring is in the air, the flowers are just beginning to bloom, and I'm pleased to report that Community Village Lawrence is also greeting the new season with growth and changes. People are first at CVL and the dedicated volunteers who are creating a Village in Lawrence are redoubling their efforts.

Our Fundraising Committee created an elegant evening in late January with the first edition of 'A Taste of San Francisco' seafood dinner and auction fundraiser. Much credit goes to all the volunteers and staff for their dedication and flare – we have a new signature event on the Lawrence social calendar.

CVL has a new VISTA program coordinator, Ben Tasner. Ben has relocated from San Francisco and brings great enthusiasm to discover what possibilities Lawrence offers. He joins Pearl Torres staffing the CVL office at Independence Inc. Ben fills the position vacated by Kris Roberts, who has concluded his year of service and is now taking a masters level independent studies ceramics course at Emporia State. Swing by the CVL tables at the East Lawrence Yart sale at New York school this Saturday morning (March 28) and say Hi to Pearl and Ben. Details of the Yart sale are in this edition of the Village Beat.

Two special guests joined us at last Saturday's Town Hall meeting to grant a major award. Officers of MoKan Wireless Association presented a generous donation to CVL to support our progress toward the introduction of member services. The Town Hall featured speaker, Rick Massey, summarized veterans benefits and addressed the concerns of vets, their spouses and families of those in attendance. Details of MoKan's special recognition award, and follow-up contact information for Rick and the local Kansas Commission on Veteran Affairs office are listed in this newsletter.

The town Hall meeting closed out a busy week on a positive note. The week began with CVL sharing an information table with the Senior Center at the Senior Resource Fair where many attendees were receptive to our message of "Neighbors helping neighbors age in their own homes."

Your Board of Directors will harness all these examples of support with a bold initiative. Board member, Judy Bellome has accepted the lead position on a new leadership team and will be joined by Mary Baskett to create a clear path to the introduction of member services. Judy and Mary's unique backgrounds have prepared them for this task and their efforts will direct CVL to the next stage of public service. Much of the groundwork for this new phase was hammered out under the skilled oversight of Jo Bryant. Jo generously facilitated a Board planning session that focused on using the new leadership team to the greatest advantage. Many thanks to you, Jo.

This edition of the Village Beat is reaching six hundred readers.

Thank you one and all, and stop to smell the flowers.

Chris Holmer, Chair

785.749.2084

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Ellen Paulsen, Vice-Chair, speaking with a guest at the Town Hall Meeting on March 21.

# A TASTE OF SAN FRANCISCO

On January 15, 2015, Community Village Lawrence hosted their first annual fundraiser, entitled: 'A Taste of San Francisco' at Arterra Event Gallery. The evening was well attended, the setting warm and welcoming and the food was outstanding. A fourth generation premier boutique seafood wholesaler, A. LaRocca Seafood, provided fresh catch flown in specifically for guests. Upon arrival, attendees enjoyed an assortment of beverages during cocktail hour, while hors d'oeuvres were passed around.

Special guest and KU Athletic Director, Sheahon Zenger, shared stories and insight as to his responsibilities to KU athletes, current and incoming. He spoke of family ties and the growing trend of adult children caring for their elderly parents, as well the many contributions seniors make in an aging society. Advisory Council member, Shelly Wakeman, skillfully managed her duties as MC and assisted with the live auction. There were several noteworthy auction items including a literature basket filled with books by local authors; a Sierra Nevada condo package; a signed KU basketball; a John Bukaty painting of the 1943 Jayhawk, and a pastel painting.



John LaRocca, Board Member, speaking to guests.

The Arterra event space was stunningly decorated with ocean-inspired accents of blue and sand colors. Floating candles, surrounded by shells, were placed in vases filled with blue/green tinted water for table arrangements. Guests were served family style, each of the five-courses paired with a beverage of choice. 'By the Bay' ambiance filled the room with upbeat background music, accompanied by streaming photos of the sights of San Francisco.



The evening was dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Community Village Lawrence's mission to enhance quality of life for the community by helping neighbors remain in their homes as they age.

The fundraiser was a success and the organization raised over \$7000. In doing so, Community Village wishes to begin serving members in 2015 and continue to shine a light on the importance of the non-profit's efforts to support local seniors.

The Fundraising Committee will reconvene in the summer to begin planning the 2nd annual "A Taste of...". Stay tuned! As always, thank you for your interest and support.

Guests enjoying a meal of fresh seafood, including oysters, crab bisque, and petrale sole piccata, flown in from San Francisco for the event.





# Advisory Council

We are happy to announce one new Advisory Council Member, Sandy Praeger. We are delighted to have a group of people with various backgrounds, strengths, and knowledge to guide us as we move our organization forward.

## Advisory Council:

Charlie Bryan  
(Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Planner)

Jo Bryant  
(Retired Executive Director of the United Way of Douglas County)

Linda Cottin  
(Owner of Cottin's Hardware & Rental)

Dennis Domer  
(The University of Kansas)

Jill Enyart  
(Co-Executive Director of Independence Inc.)

Allyson Leland  
(Director of Volunteer Services at Lawrence Memorial Hospital)

Jeremy Taylor  
(KLWN 1320 AM)

Nancy Thellman  
(Douglas County Commissioner)

Shelly Wakeman  
(Lawyer and former Executive Director of Health Care Access)

Sandy Praeger  
(Former Kansas Insurance Commissioner)

## *New Community Village Lawrence Board Member:*

# John Hodge

John Hodge moved to Lawrence in 2014 after semi-retiring from a career in Supply Chain Management. He first joined Community Village Lawrence as a Volunteer Project Coordinator, and since the moment he began he has been greatly involved in helping the organization grow. So it did not take long before CVL Board Members extended an invitation to him. John joined the Board in December 2014, bringing our total to ten dedicated Board members. John Hodge serves as Chair of our Program Development Committee, where his involvement primarily focuses on developing various member service programs, helping organize committees and contributing to public events.

John is originally from Michigan, graduated from Michigan State University and is married with two sons.



## Visit Us:

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

# MoKan Wireless Association Supports CVL

Officers of MoKan Wireless Association attended the March 21 Town Hall meeting to formally present a donation to Board member Diane Adamson and Community Village Lawrence. Laurie Hatfield (President) and Suzy Alt (VP) recognized CVL's commitment to the Lawrence community and to support those efforts, MoKan Wireless donated \$5000. The funds will enable CVL to assist those in need to live independently in their own homes. Local contractors and service firms in the wireless industry work together through MoKan Wireless to improve the lives of many residents in the communities they serve. Community Village Lawrence is deeply grateful for the vote of confidence and support this donation represents. Many thanks to MoKan Wireless Association!



Board Members and staff of Community Village Lawrence accepting a donation from MoKan Wireless at the March 21 Town Hall Meeting.

## Town Hall Meeting

Rick Massey, Veterans Services Representative for the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office, gave a thorough presentation at the Town Hall Meeting regarding benefits available to veterans and their spouses. He has a wealth of information available, and if he doesn't have exactly what you're looking for he will direct you where you need to go.

Rick Massey  
Veterans Services Representative  
745 Vermont, Suite 2

Phone: (785) 843-5233  
Email: [kcvavsro12@gmail.com](mailto:kcvavsro12@gmail.com)  
[Kcva.ks.gov](http://Kcva.ks.gov)



## Dillons Community Rewards

### A Free and Simple Way to Support the Village

Your Village has received a great response from our many supporters who shop at Dillons, and Dillons recently modified their non-profit donation program to make the process easy. Participation does not cost you a thing. By selecting CVL during enrollment in the Dillons Community Rewards program, shoppers like you are directing Dillons to make a cash donation to Community Village Lawrence. Those donations are based on the customer's purchase amount when the shopper's card is used during checkout. The customer receives all the in-store price discounts as well as the fuel rewards gas discounts. No penalty to you!

Already have a Dillons shopper card? Great, you're one step ahead. The link below will send you to the enrollment guide stored on the CVL website (<http://cvl.clubexpress.com/docs.ashx?id=203783>)

Five minutes from now, you'll complete the enrollment feeling good that you are helping CVL make a difference in the lives of your neighbors.

That's what we are about – with your help.

## Quick and Easy Instructions



## Hy-Vee Senior Fair

Community Village Lawrence has officially become a member of Lawrence Area Partners in Aging (LAPA). And on March 10, CVL tabled from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Senior Resource Fair in the Hy-Vee on Clinton Parkway. We enjoyed meeting new people from the community and seeing familiar faces. We had a lovely door prize, a pink orchid. And one lucky winner was randomly chosen to take the beautiful flower home.

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Board Members Mary Johnson and Ellen Paulsen providing information to a shopper at the 2015 Hy-Vee Senior Fair.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### YART SALE

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association  
Annual Fundraiser

Saturday March 28th 8:00 am-2:00 pm

Location: New York School Gym

### EARTH DAY

15th Annual Earth Day Parade and Celebration  
ft. the Water Festival

#### **Parade for the Earth**

Saturday, April 11, 11:00 am — Parade will begin at Buford Watson Park and travel along Massachusetts Street.

#### **Celebration in South Park**

Saturday, April 11, 11:30 am to 4:00 pm  
South Park at 11th & Massachusetts Street  
Free Admission

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

# AmeriCorps VISTA members at Community Village Lawrence



Community Village Lawrence would like to welcome our new AmeriCorps VISTA Program Coordinator, Ben Tasner. He will be working alongside Perlita (Pearl) Torres, our current AmeriCorps VISTA. Ben received his Bachelors of Arts in Journalism from San Francisco State University, with a minor in Holistic Health. He recently moved to Lawrence, Kansas from San Francisco, California. His interests include: walking, biking, basketball, reading, writing, movies, beer, and cooking. We are excited to welcome him to our team!

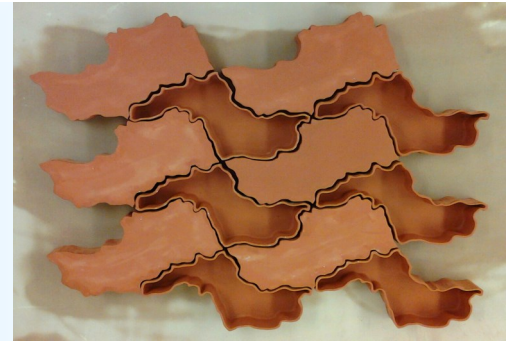
**Amy Hope:** What drew you to apply for an AmeriCorps VISTA position with Community Village Lawrence?

**Ben Tasner:** It's undeniable that older adults are becoming a larger segment of the population and that this trend will only increase with future generations. But in most communities, older adults are an underserved and undervalued group, which is unfortunate, because they have so much to offer and

are an integral part of any community that wishes to thrive. I wanted to join an organization that helps older adults remain independent, while also increasing their participation in the community by connecting them to resources, and Community Village Lawrence accomplishes both. On a more personal level, I want to be able to assist my parents and loved ones as they age; and I want to participate as a member in my local village when I get older. When I applied for this position I saw an opportunity to help others while helping myself at the same time.

**Amy Hope:** Share your experience working with CVL and its members. What tasks have you undertaken so far in your term and what do you hope to accomplish?

**Ben Tasner:** I have observed a group of highly skilled, passionate and caring individuals who dedicate their efforts to the community of Lawrence. I'm impressed with their commitment and compassion in every aspect of the organization and community. I look forward to going to work because I am encouraged to explore new ideas and be creative, and I know the Board Members trust me and support me. My fellow AmeriCorps VISTA Pearl Torres has been a great help to me, and together we are working to increase membership, recruit volunteers, fundraise and plan events.

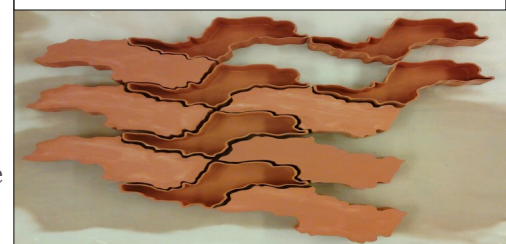


Interlocking (tessellating) forms based on rivers, created by Kris Roberts.

As we say hello to our new AmeriCorps VISTA, we would also like to say good bye to our previous AmeriCorps VISTA, Kris Roberts. He is currently attending Emporia State where he is working on a big art project. He is creating an installation of interlocking (tessellating) forms based on rivers. The pieces are still a work in process; they will have color/ glaze surface treatments. His current work is pictured above and below.

Kris is also currently interviewing for various AmeriCorps VISTA Leader positions throughout the Midwest and Northeast. A VISTA Leader is responsible for marketing VISTA positions, recruiting new VISTA members, training, supervision, providing guidance, and, according to [nationalservice.gov](http://nationalservice.gov), facilitating, sharing and peer learning, while increasing the capacity of VISTAs to complete their work plans successfully.

Kris, we wish you good luck in your next life adventure. Thank you for your VISTA service and for helping sustain Community Village Lawrence with your hard work. Your artistic talents will be greatly missed.



## Membership Opportunities

We are currently taking membership applications for our Free Sample Services.

**Telephone Reassurance Program**

**Smoke Detector Checks**

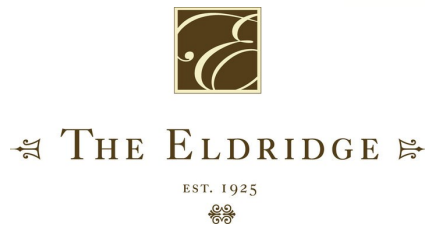
**Fire and Home Safety Education**

**Home Fire Safety Inspection**

To learn more about these programs and how to apply, please visit our [website](http://www.communityvillagelawrence.org) or call one of our AmeriCorps VISTA Program Coordinators at 785-505-0188 or 785-505-0187.



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