

Louisburg Speaks KS

Inside:

- Garage Sale Signs
- Mayor's Minute
- Recycling flyer

Your Community Magazine • Volume 3, Issue 4 • www.louisburgkansas.gov

Recycling tricky commodity

EDUCATION VITAL TO SUCCESSFUL RECYCLING

A tougher recycling market has made recycling a tricky business, according to John Blessing, Public Sector Manager, and Bryce Smith, District Manager, both with Waste Management. WM is the City's trash provider.

Education is the key to successful recycling, the WM representatives said in recent email communication with City staff. The back page of this newsletter reproduces the Recycle More, Recycle Better flyer which lists acceptable and non-acceptable recycling items. Hang the flyer next to your home's recycling collection area and use it as a handy reference guide for approved items to recycle. The flyer was provided by the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District, the regional solid waste planning agency for local governments in the Kansas City metro area.

Education is important to prevent ruining an entire load of recyclables, Smith said. On a trash pick-up day in late July, Smith said in scouting the city he saw several unacceptable items in recycling containers including wood, baseball hats, air filters, bagged materials, plastic grocery sacks, household trash, unrinsed containers, diapers and glass.

These unacceptable items can cause an entire load of recyclables to end up in the regular landfill, Blessing said.

"Saving landfill space is very important as cost will increase substantially when a new landfill is needed," says Blessing.

Smith added that when Johnson County made recycling mandatory in 2010 the life expectancy on the

Curbside recycling became a part of the regular trash contract in the City of Louisburg in 2012 and no longer an add-on service.

landfill located there was about 18 years with a potential full date of 2028. Since yard waste is no longer accepted there and recycling is now mandatory, that possible closure date has moved to 2043 or later.

RECYCLING IN THE NEWS

In the past few months recycling has made headlines with new restrictions on recycling efforts and more recycling being diverted to landfills because of contamination issues.

"In October last year, China announced that it was tightening up the allowed contamination rate from 1.5% to 0.5%. That doesn't sound like a huge issue," Smith says, "but 46-48% of the United States' material is sold to China and 0.5% times millions of tons equates into a huge burden."

The Kansas City Material Recovery Facility is where Louisburg's recyclables are hauled.

"At one point, the WM/Kansas City Material Recovery Facility

(Continued on page 3)



Mayor

Marty Southard

msouthard@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 1

Kalee Smith

ksmith@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 2

Bill Smith

bsmith@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 3

Dave Maddax

dmaddax@louisburgkansas.gov

Ward 4

Thorvald McKiernan

tmckiernan@louisburgkansas.gov

At-Large

Steve Town

stown@louisburgkansas.gov

City Hall

Nathan Law,

City Administrator

215 S. Broadway

Louisburg, KS 66053

913-837-5371

www.louisburgkansas.gov

Hours: 7 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

Police Department

Chief Tim Bauer

209 S. Metcalf Rd.

Louisburg, KS 66053

913-837-3191

Fire Department

Chief Paul Richards

205 S. Metcalf Rd.

Louisburg, KS 66053

913-837-4700

Louisburg Speaks is published six times a year by the City of Louisburg for its residents. Please direct questions or comments to: jcarder@louisburgkansas.gov

Citywide garage sale weekend

With the citywide garage sale weekend coming up the last week of September, City staff thought it might be a good idea for a garage sale sign review.

A garage sale sign is considered a temporary sign and per City regulation is only allowed to be displayed on the property where the sale is being conducted and may only be displayed for three days.

Twice a year — once in the spring and again in the fall — the City Council grants a garage sale sign moratorium. This moratorium allows for the display of such signs for a two-week period that allows for the unregulated posting of such signs.

This year's moratorium will be Sept.

19-Oct. 3.

There are a few rules to the moratorium. These include: such signage may not be placed on private property without the owner's permission; signs that are a hazard to public safety may be removed by order of the City; signage shall not obstruct or impede the view of intersections, traffic, pedestrians or street signage; signage shall not be affixed to utility poles, signs, hydrants, utility barricades or guy wires; signs shall not be placed on public-owned property; signage shall not be accentuated with strobes, strand lighting or other attention-getting devices that provide illumination; and signs should be removed when the sale is over.

Recycling ensures 'grandpa privilege'

As my summer break is coming to an end and I start back to my full-time job at school, I am always amazed at how fast these last two months have gone. And I know my friends who work all 12 months have little to no sympathy or patience to listen to me complaining of only a few days left of my vacation. Fortunately, I did get to spend more time with my 4-year-old granddaughter this past summer. This has been an absolute blast. She and I went to one of the local fast food restaurants and she asked, "Do they have brown pop today?" I replied, "Yes" and she then asked "Can I have brown pop today?" "Sure" and she did a celebratory brown pop dance in the car, which absolutely cracks me up. When talking to her mom later that day, she said that Haidyn is only given soda a minimal amount of time in order to teach healthy choices. I explained the great celebration dance, but for some reason my daughter was not nearly as amused by the situation. Of course, I cannot argue about teaching healthy habits, so I had to think fast and explain the situation. I told my daughter I was using my "grandpa privilege" and everyone knows grandparents have special privileges and can bend a few rules when dealing with our grandchildren. It is universal and everyone knows about grandpa privilege. My daughter just smiled and rolled her eyes. I have not seen that eye roll since she was a teenager.

I thought that was a good save since we all know that she is right and we should teach healthy choices. This made me think that not too long ago a neighbor was telling me how frustrated he was with what was being taken for recycling. He was complaining and asking was it even worth it? Recycling is worth it and by saving our natural resources it will give our grandchildren and future generations healthy options and still allow grandpas to invoke the "grandpa privilege" with brown pop celebrations for many years to come.



MAYOR'S
MINUTE

Marty Southard

recycling

(Continued from page 1)

averaged 18-22% contaminated material coming in that they had to separate before they could package it to put it on the ship to sell," Smith says.

Most of the recycling is processed and separated and shipped to a West Coast port and then sent to international markets, Blessing says.

"China is the world's largest importer of recycling. China uses the most in their vast manufacturing industries. Another market is the auto industry which uses recycling material in some auto production."

Blessing says using these recycling raw materials in manufacturing helps keep the prices low on items consumers buy each day.

Recycling is a commodity, says Matt Riggs, outreach coordinator for the MARC Solid Waste Management District.

"China is not accepting many of the materials we used to send them, and there aren't big enough markets in other countries to take up the slack at this time. This has caused a significant drop in the recycling markets. Recyclables are commodities, and as all commodity markets rise and fall over time, so do recycling markets."

Waste Management's Blessing says this high supply and low demand has caused some commodity values to go from \$75 per ton to less than \$1 per ton. Prices that low mean that recycling commodity values no longer cover the cost to collect and process recycling, he said.

RECYCLING: REGIONAL IMPACT

According to statistics provided by Smith, in 2016, residences in Louisburg and USD 416 collected more than 4 pounds of recycling per unit. In 2017 that number had grown to 6.61 pounds. So far in 2018 that number has doubled since 2016 with an average collection of 8.33 pounds per unit.

In the Kansas City metro area, each person produces 7 pounds of trash

per day or more than 1 ton of trash per person per year, says MARC's Riggs.



There are several benefits to recycling, Riggs says. It helps the environment by conserving energy, natural resources and landfill space. From a health perspective, recycling helps prevent pollution of air, water and food. And recycling benefits the economy by creating local jobs and tax revenue.

WAYS TO HELP

The local trash collector Waste Management is doing its part to help the recycling market.

The company has invested almost \$6 million to streamline the Material Recovery Facility and has added a third shift to clean and process recycling material, Smith said. The facility runs 24 hours a day, six days per week.

Smith said the biggest thing residents can do is to not mix trash with their recycling.

Residents should also avoid bagging their recycling in plastic sacks. Bagged recycling either ends up as a contamination issue or drivers have to open the plastic bags and dump out the recycling, Smith said. That's not a feasible option if a driver had to do that at every stop.

Plastic sacks cause the sorting equipment to jam and requires someone to clean out the "jaws" of the machine by hand.

Another big issue in recycling is food waste, Smith said. Leftover food in a container contaminates the material and has to be sorted from the load. Contaminated material can cause the load to be converted to regular trash and taken to the landfill.

Keeping glass out of local recycling containers also helps, Smith said.

There is a Ripple Glass container located at the Louisburg Price Chopper that is a collection site for glass. Acceptable items for Ripple Glass include glass food and beverage containers — all colors with labels left on the container; drinking vessels — pint, wine or Mason jars; candle jars — leftover wax is acceptable; cosmetic bottles/jars; and windows, shower doors, table tops — with frames/hardware removed.

Items not accepted include mirrors, TVs, Pyrex or Corningware, dishware such as Corelle, light bulbs, porcelain, ceramic and leaded glass.

More information or other resources on recycling, trash collection and yard waste collection can be found on the City's website, www.louisburgkansas.gov, under the "Services" tab.

CALENDAR & REMINDERS

- Labor Day Parade at 10 a.m. Downtown Broadway. Float entries should line up at the Farmers Market block, S. 1st & Mulberry by 9:30 a.m. No registration necessary but floats are encouraged to have a Sesquicentennial theme.
- Louisburg Sesquicentennial time capsule opening at 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27 at cemetery. Capsule items on display from 8-4 p.m. Labor Day, except during the parade, at Wildcat Activity Center, 7 S. Peoria.
- Citywide garage sale weekend of Sept. 29.
- Louisburg Cider Run & Fall Festival — Saturday, Oct. 6. Activities start at 3 p.m.
- Halloween on Broadway — 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27 Downtown Louisburg.
- Doing work on your home in the old part of Louisburg? Money is still available in the Facade of Louisburg Improvement Program. Information and applications are available on the homepage on the City's website.

recycle **more** recycle **better**

Every little bit counts.

YES

These items go in your curbside recycling bin!



Aluminum Cans



Steel (tin) Cans



Aerosol Cans
(empty only, make no "hiss" sound)



Aluminum Foil & Pans



Cardboard



Paperboard



Junk Mail



Office Paper



Magazines & Catalogs



Phone Books



Newspaper



Paper Cartons



Plastic Bottles & Containers (have #1 - #7 inside arrow symbol on container)

- Keep items loose, do not put in bags or boxes.
- Rinse all containers (plastic, metal, etc.).
- Collect metal caps and lids in steel (tin) can and squeeze shut.
- Put caps and lids back on plastic bottles and containers.
- Break down or flatten boxes.
- No liquid.
- No plastic bags or film.
- No food.

NO

These items do NOT go in your curbside recycling bin!



Plastic Bags & Film*



Clothing*



Plastic Tubes



Food



Liquids



Scrap Metal*



Electronics*



Glass*



Frozen Food Containers



Fast Food & Takeout
Cups & Containers



Tissue



Paper Tableware
(including coffee cups)



Styrofoam™*



"Tanglers"
(long, stringy items)



Shredded Paper*



Medical & Personal Hygiene



Yard Waste*



Medications & Vials/Bottles*



Pizza Boxes
(recycle clean side only)



Household Hazardous Waste*
(do not recycle empty hazardous waste containers, except empty aerosol cans)

*Other recycling options available, visit RecycleSpot.org

Visit RecycleSpot.org or call **816-474-TEAM**
Greater Kansas City's one-stop spot for recycling information



Information verified as of March 2018