Louisburg Speaks KS

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December 2021 - January 2022

Council hears recap of master plan projects

At its first meeting in December, City Council members heard an update from City Administrator Nathan Law on notable achievements or updates to Master Plan work.

Some of those achievements includes:

• Facades of Louisburg Improvement Program, which provides a monetary contribution for making improvements to the front of your home or business;

• volunteer efforts from local individuals or organizations in sprucing up the City's parks;

• the Historical Preservation Commission is working toward Certified Local Government status and searching for grants to conduct an architectural and historical survey of the community's residential and business properties;

• creating an incentive policy to facilitate the build-out of incomplete subdivisions;

• continue efforts to make pedestrian connections including in the upcoming year the construction of the Amity Trail, the N. Broadway sidewalk and Metcalf 2.0 and its sidewalk and trail;

• Continue with stormwater improvements at N. Third and Broadway, S. First and Vine, S. Fifth and Broadway, and S. Ninth and Rogers Road;

• continue work on the Master Trails Plan.

The update noted that master planning items will be included in every council agenda for review and possible reprioritizing and budgeting by the City Council.

To facilitate some of these projects, the Council has approved the formation of a sidewalk improvement program to be utilized by residents to help fix sidewalks on their property.

In the past year the Council also approved moving ahead with targeting sidewalk improvements on S. Third from Broadway to Metcalf, S. Fifth from Broadway to Metcalf and Broadway from S. Third to S. Fifth.

Some other significant projects that have been completed the past two years is the stormwater project at Shoreline and Broadmoor Drive and completed improvements at Lewis-Young Park including the shared trail, ball field repairs, paving projects and the disc golf course. A pavilion will be built on the east side of the park near the soccer fields in 2022.

The Louisburg community is fortunate to have many volunteers and organizations who assist with keeping the City tidy. From church groups to high school organizations like the local Future Business Leaders of America club shown here, volunteers gather a couple times a year to spruce up the City's parks. In March, the FBLA club raked leaves in City Park. At other times, members from several local churches spread mulch, trim bushes, power wash picnic tables and assist with other chores in the City's parks.

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City Hall
Nathan Law
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215 S. Broadway
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913-837-5371
www.louisburgkansas.gov
Hours: 7 am - 4:30 pm
Monday-Friday

Police Department
Chief Tim Bauer
209 S. Metcalf Rd.
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913-837-3191

Fire Department
Chief Gerald Rittinghouse
205 S. Metcalf Rd.
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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

The City of Louisburg requires building permits. Please call the Building & Zoning Department at 913-837-5811 before beginning any construction project.

New process for burn permits

A new burn permit process is coming to Miami County.

Rural residents who need a burn permit are now being directed to the "Important Links" section on the homepage of the Miami County website at www.miamicountyks.org.

Permits will be available for one full year and will be issued through the Miami County Emergency Management department rather than through local fire departments.

Prior to burning you must call Miami County Sheriff's Office dispatch 913-294-3232 Option 4 to advise that a burn will take place.

There is no charge for the permit. Additional regulations are available on the permit form. Violations of the terms and conditions may result in a fine of $250 and assessment of all costs incurred by the fire department(s) extinguishing the fire upon which the violator is convicted.

BURN PERMIT

BURNING INSIDE LOUISBURG

Burning is permitted inside the city limits of Louisburg on Fridays and Saturdays. Residents who plan to burn are still required to call the Sheriff's Office dispatch at 913-294-3232 Option 4 before conducting a burn, Louisburg Fire Chief Jerry Rittinghouse said.

Burning is allowed one hour after sunrise and one hour after sunset. A responsible party must remain at the burn location for the duration of the burn.

The controlled burn must be more than 50 feet from a structure.

Do not use tires, oil, or composition shingles to ignite or accelerate the fire.

Dog tags due Jan. 1

Dogs older than six months are required to be licensed per City Code. Tags are good for the calendar year and are payable by May 1 to avoid a penalty. Cost of the tag is $3 for a spayed or neutered pet and $5 for a non-spayed or non-neutered pet. A copy of the pet's rabies vaccine is also required.

No more than three dogs and only five pets total are allowed per household.

Pit bull breeds are prohibited in the city limits.

Tags can be purchased at City Hall from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Thank you for opportunity to serve

I've been mayor since April 2015. During this time Louisburg has had many positive changes. New professional staff was added to City departments, several businesses have come to town, some businesses have updated, and overall I'm proud of the accomplishments that have taken place during my tenure as mayor.

As I've said many times, Louisburg is a fantastic place to live and to raise a family. When getting involved in City politics we sometimes disagreed but that never changed the fact that the community is made up of wonderful people who make this a great place to live. I truly feel that people will always disagree in how to run city government and what is best for the city. As long as we keep in mind that our goals are to continue to care about the city and to care about each other, compromise can be reached.

MARTY SOUTHARD

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor. I have learned a great deal in the process of serving the two terms. I look forward to watching from the sidelines as new leaders take over and continue to move Louisburg forward.

Marty

Council extends building permit fee waiver, FLIP

The single-family building permit fee waiver and Facades of Louisburg Improvement Program were extended to next year in action taken by the City Council at its Dec. 6 meeting.

The waiver deducts the City's building permit application fee on new, single-family home construction. Based on the average new home construction in Louisburg, that waiver saves a new homeowner about $1,200 to $1,500 on average. The savings is based on the estimated value of the home to be built.

Jeff Charpentier, of Louisburg, is currently building a home in the traditional area of town, says the waiver played a part in his decision to construct a new home.

"The waiver enticed me to build the new house at S. Third and Rogers," Charpentier said in an email. "The waiver probably saved me $1,500. It also helped sway my decision to build because there's just a lot of costs before a hole is even dug..... like: insurance on the house $1,000; engineering and cost of the house plan $1,000; survey $600-$1,000; lot cost approximately $30,000; water meter, gas and sewer hook up.... most of which the costs are up from previous years. So, yes, the waiver did sway me to build."

Builders have been in conversation with the City Council about additional incentive packages as the cost of home-building is skyrocketing.

"The waiver benefits home buyers because, as a builder, I can price the house without the additional cost of the permit. In this case it helps offset the unbelievable spike in lumber," Charpentier said.

The City Council also approved continuing the Facades of Louisburg Improvement Program, or FLIP, for both commercial and residential properties into 2022.

Business owners and residents can apply to the City when making improvements to the front of their business or home.

There are no changes in FLIP-Business. Business owners making improvements to the front of their commercial space may receive up to $2,500 for their efforts. Eligible expenses include brick tucking, exterior painting, door and window replacement, signage, landscaping and similar projects. Participating businesses are eligible for a reimbursement of 40 percent of their costs with the City's share not to exceed $2,500. This year to date, almost $9,500 has been reimbursed to businesses for projects that generated just over $26,000 in improvements.

A local homebuilder is taking advantage of the single-family building permit fee waiver to build this new home in the traditional part of Louisburg at S. Third and Rogers Road.

The owner of this home took advantage of FLIP-Residential to paint the exterior of the home and receive money back from the City.

FLIP-Residential did see one change to its program in action taken by Council. The eligible amount to be reimbursed has adjusted from a $500 award to $1,000. In a staff report to Council, it was noted that almost half of the projects made improvements of more than $2,000 with six of those projects making improvements of more than $3,000.

The program is available to any resident whose property is valued up to $197,750. Residents can received a reimbursement of up to 50 percent of their project with the City's share not exceeding $1,000.

So far in 2021, $3,574.61 has been awarded in FLIP-Residential with more than $11,000 in improvements.

Information on both programs can be found on the City's website under the News & Announcement section.

Applicants for both programs must be pre-approved before beginning their project.

FLIP
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Holiday Magic on Broadway

The first ever Holiday Magic on Broadway was a great success, says event organizers. The holiday spectacular was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, City of Louisburg, Louisburg Library and Louisburg Recreation Commission.

Plans are already underway for next year's event. A special thanks to everyone who was a part of the Light-Up Parade and to these businesses who participated in the afternoon's events: Farm Bureau/TJ Solander, First Option Bank, Granny's Schoolhouse, Heartland Printing, Keller Williams/Marcela Egea, Louisburg Cider Mill and Louisburg school choir students & director Alison Moore.

Visits with Santa Claus and the Grinch, carriage rides and a Light-Up parade were just part of the fun of Holiday Magic on Broadway in Downtown Louisburg in early December.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

City Hall closed for Christmas
Dec. 23-24

City Hall closed for New Year's
Dec. 30-31

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 3
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Historic Preservation Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 5
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
Special meeting to swear in newly elected officials
6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:45 pm Monday, Jan. 10
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 18
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
meeting moved due to holiday

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Jan. 18
meeting moved to Louisburg United Methodist Church, 249 N. Metcalf

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 26
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Fox Hall Board
5 pm Monday, Jan. 31
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Historic Preservation Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 2
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 7
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 14
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Feb. 15
meeting moved to Louisburg United Methodist Church, 249 N. Metcalf

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 22
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway
meeting moved due to holiday

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 23
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

An updated calendar as well as agendas and minutes for city meetings can be found at www.louisburgkansas.gov under the Agendas & Minutes icon.

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