

# Louisburg

## Speaks <sup>KS</sup>

### inside this issue:

- New police chief
- Cold weather tips
- Holiday Magic on Broadway
- Mayor's Minute
- Calendar

December 2022-January 2023

## Council extends FLIP, building permit waiver

The Louisburg City Council has renewed the popular FLIP-Residential and FLIP-Commercial/Enhanced as well as extended the building permit waiver for new construction on single-family homes for 2023.

### FLIP-RESIDENTIAL

FLIP-Residential is a way for residents to make repairs or improvements to the facade of their home.

Residents can receive 50 percent reimbursement up to \$1,000 for improvements that can include repairs like new windows or doors, exterior siding or painting and concrete work such as a driveway or front steps.

In renewing FLIP, the Council made an adjustment to the residential program. The Council increased the required valuation of a home to participate in the program to a maximum of \$250,000. The house must be a single-family dwelling and an application must be pre-approved before improvements can be made.

### FLIP-COMMERCIAL

The commercial program is open to all businesses inside the city limits and can include improvements to the building's facade including painting, brick tucking, window and door replacement, signage and lighting.

Businesses are eligible for a reimbursement up to 40 percent of the project costs although the City's reimbursable amount will not exceed \$2,500.

### FLIP-COMMERCIAL ENHANCED

The council also continued FLIP-Commercial Enhanced that allows commercial business owners to make improvements to the other three sides of the building and interior life safety issues. In this program, business owners can receive up to \$5,000 for improvements. The council extended the program to include the entire city instead of only those commercial businesses located downtown.

Life safety repairs include professional design services for structural engineering; engineering or architectural drawings; new wiring or electrical panel to bring building up to current code; fire sprinkler system repair or installation; interior fire separations, including doors; new or improved egress; and required life-safety signage.

### THE FINE PRINT

All FLIP applications must be pre-approved before work begins. The application and a complete list of program

guidelines are on the City's website.

The council approved a budget of \$20,000 for FLIP-Residential. FLIP-Commercial's approved budget is \$15,000 while FLIP-Enhanced has a budget of \$30,000.

All programs are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will be accepted starting Jan. 3.

All recipients of an award must complete a W9 form.

### BUILDING PERMIT WAIVER

A homeowner constructing a new home can also save money on permit fees after the council extended the building permit waiver to 2023.

A homebuilder on average can save approximately \$1,900 on a 2,000 square foot home. Building permit fees are based on the assessed value of the home so savings can vary depending on the home's value.

Contact the City's building and zoning department for more information at 837-5811.



*The owner of this property took advantage of FLIP-Residential to help pay the cost of an exterior paint to spruce up this home in Louisburg.*



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**City Hall**

Nathan Law  
City Administrator  
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Louisburg, KS 66053  
913-837-5371  
www.louisburgkansas.gov  
Hours: 7 am - 4:30 pm  
Monday-Friday

**Police Department**

Interim Chief Lt. Dave Sander  
209 S. Metcalf Rd.  
Louisburg, KS 66053  
913-837-3191

**Fire Department**

Chief Gerald Rittinghouse  
205 S. Metcalf Rd.  
Louisburg, KS 66053  
913-837-4700

# Louisburg resident named police chief

Louisburg resident Josh Weber has been named as the new police chief by the Louisburg city council. His first day on the job will be Jan. 1.

Weber began his law enforcement career in the Dickinson County, Kan., Sheriff's Office as a part-time deputy while attending Kansas State University. He continued working for the sheriff's office full time after he received his bachelor's degree from KSU. From there he went to the Kansas Highway Patrol where he began his career as a state trooper. Weber had been with the KHP for 25 years.

Weber, a KHP lieutenant, most recently was assigned to the emergency operations and homeland security division.

Weber is also a captain with the Louis-

burg Fire Department where he has volunteered for 22 years.

Weber moved to Louisburg after he graduated from the KHP training academy in 1999.

Weber is excited for his career change.

"I look forward to working with and serving the Louisburg community."

Weber replaces Tim Bauer, who retired as chief in November after serving in Louisburg for seven years.



**JOSH WEBER**

## MAYOR'S MINUTE

### Questions answered

It hardly seems like a year has gone by since I've been in office and getting to know the ins and outs of how the city functions. We as a team have had accomplishments (new businesses, cleaning up areas, fixing some stormwater issues to name a few) and there are exciting opportunities still in front of us. Once again, I thank you for electing me as Mayor. I will keep trying to help our community to be prosperous; plus, accountable to our citizens.

I received another letter that several people wrote (I didn't get the first one for some reason-I apologize) that asked several questions about city government. I will answer some of them now and hopefully will get them all answered in my responses or in the body of the newsletter during the year.

A couple of the questions:

*On the back of the newsletter can a map be listed to show the city wards so people know who their Council representative is? That information will be included in an upcoming newsletter. Ward maps can also be found on the City's website; just search for "ward maps".*

*What store is being built on the corner of Metcalf and 68 Hwy?*

It is a Family Dollar/Dollar Tree combo store. It is a new concept for them.

We have a new Police Chief Josh Weber. He replaced our retired Chief Tim Bauer. Congratulations to both of them.

We have leaf burning issues in the city. Currently we can burn on Fridays and Saturdays (hard for people that work Friday and Saturday). It is hard to do that when the wind is blowing too strong or it is raining, so citizens have a tendency to burn wet leaves which sends smoke all over town and numerous complaints are received. We are working on a resolution to this so it is a win-win for everyone. By the way, it costs the city approximately \$350 every time a fire truck goes out on these leaf burning reports. So we need to come up with a solution.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and spent some time with family and friends. That is the true joy of life.



**DONNA COOK**

*Donna*

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](mailto: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.

# Don't let Old Man Winter catch you unprepared

Old Man Winter is right around the corner and Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse encourages residents to be prepared for winter weather conditions.

"Winter preparedness doesn't only pertain to your house. Make sure your vehicle is prepared in case you get stranded," the chief said.

## WINTER DRIVING & VEHICLE TIPS

Rittinghouse said many people don't bother to grab a coat when traveling by vehicle thinking they are just making a short trip.

"Always take cold weather gear including coat, hat, gloves and appropriate shoes in case you become stranded," he said.

Drivers may want to put together an emergency kit for their vehicles especially if they are planning any long-distance road trips. Here are some items the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends:

- Cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries.
- Items to stay warm such as extra hats, coats, mittens, and blankets.
- Windshield scraper.
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries.
- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- Water and snack food.
- First aid kit with any necessary medications and a pocket knife.
- Cat litter or sand to help tires get traction, or road salt to melt ice.
- Hazard or other reflectors.

The CDC also recommends preparing your car for winter weather:

- Check the antifreeze level.
- Replace windshield-wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture.
- Make sure the tires on your car have adequate tread and air pressure.
- Keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

## PREPARE YOUR HOME

Rittinghouse said preparing your home can save you in the long run.

"Having regular maintenance on your HVAC system or checking your fireplace's flu each fall can save you from being out of your house for months in the event of a fire."

Install a carbon monoxide detector if you have a gas furnace or appliances



or use wood heat. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous, colorless, odorless, tasteless, flammable gas produced by fossil fuels.

If the power goes out in your home, don't try to heat your home with a gas oven, camp stove or charcoal grill or a generator installed in the home. Generators should be located outside and at least 20 feet from windows, doors and vents.

## OUTSIDE SAFETY

Dress for the occasion if you work outside or if the kiddos want to play in the snow.

The CDC says to wear:

- a hat.
- a scarf or knit mask to cover face and mouth.
- sleeves that are snug at the wrist.
- mittens (they are warmer than gloves).
- water-resistant coat and boots.
- several layers of loose-fitting clothing.

Watch for signs of hypothermia. This condition, when the body temperature becomes abnormally low, can be extremely dangerous.

Signs of hypothermia include:

- shivering.
- exhaustion or feeling very tired.
- confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss.
- slurred speech.
- drowsiness.

Finally Rittinghouse recommends that parents warn their children to stay off ice on ponds and lakes, including Louisburg Lake. Often, he said, our temperatures don't remain cold enough long enough to allow ice to become thick enough to walk on. Call 911 if someone has fallen through the ice. The fire department trains for cold water rescues.

## Budget flyer

The City's budget season is almost here. The budget flyer for 2023 will be included with the utility statement mailing in January and provides information in an easy-to-understand format. City officials encourage citizen participation in the budget process, with opportunities starting in late spring.

## UTV tags

UTV tags are up for renewal Jan. 1. City residents who wish to drive their UTV on most city streets must have the vehicle tagged through the Police Department. Tags are good through the calendar year and may be purchased at City Hall during regular business hours.

The renewal fee is \$50. Owners must provide a copy of current insurance and a valid driver's license to renew the vehicle. A sticker will be issued for renewal.

## Wintertime natural gas safety

Residents should remove snow or ice from their gas meter by brushing it off with a broom or their hand. Never kick the meter, which can damage it.

Chimneys and vents for natural gas appliances should also be kept free of snow or ice to prevent potential carbon monoxide build-up in the home.

Gas leaks are possible during the winter due to ground shifting during extreme cold weather.

If you suspect a gas leak, evacuate the area immediately and call 911.

## Burning in city limits

Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse reminds residents that open burning is only allowed inside the city limits on Fridays and Saturdays.

Burning shall not be initiated two hours before sunset or until one hour after sunrise. Materials shall not be added to any burn from two hours before sunset until one hour after sunrise. It is recommended that wind speeds be between 5-15 mph to help disperse the smoke.

While not required, it is helpful if you plan to burn to contact Miami County Dispatch at 913-294-3232 option 4 to help eliminate false calls.

# HOLIDAY MAGIC ON BROADWAY

If you missed Holiday Magic on Broadway in downtown Louisburg earlier this month, you missed a great time! A big thanks to the many businesses and organizations that contributed to make this annual event a festive one for the young and young at heart.

The event was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Louisburg Library, Louisburg Recreation Commission and City of Louisburg



*These boys weren't shy about sharing their wish lists with Santa. The PTO float was a hit in the Light-Up Parade. Who doesn't love a snowball fight in the grass. The U.S. Army's Humvee was a popular spot to explore.*



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Louisburg City Hall closed**  
New Year's Day, Monday, Jan 1.

**Louisburg City Council**  
*moved to Tuesday due to holiday*  
6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 3  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council-  
special meeting**  
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 9  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Park & Tree Board**  
6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 9  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Hall closed for**  
MLK Day, Monday, Jan. 16

**Louisburg City Council**  
*moved to Tuesday due to holiday*  
6:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 17  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm Tuesday, Jan. 17  
LRC Board office, 105 S. Fifth St. East

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 25  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Fox Hall/Cemetery Board**  
5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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

**Louisburg Park & Tree Board**  
6:30 pm Monday, Feb. 13  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council**  
*moved to Tuesday due to holiday*  
6:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 21  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm Tuesday, Feb. 21  
LRC Board office, 105 S. Fifth St. East

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 22  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

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