

Louisburg Speaks ^{KS}

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August-September 2023

Council increases water rates; plans for new sidewalks, hires community development director

Water rates for City of Louisburg utility customers will increase after action taken by the City Council at its Aug. 7 meeting.

During budget workshop sessions prior to the meeting, council members and city staff had discussed the need to increase water rates for customers. Staff has noted to the council that the City currently pays more for water that it purchases from the Marais Des Cygnes Public Utility Authority than it resells to customers.



After much discussion the Council approved a modified increase than what City staff had provided for their review.

Council approved increasing the base rate to \$27.56 from \$26.25. The first 1,000 gallons will increase to \$8.84 from \$7.82 and 1,001 gallons and over per month will also increase to \$8.84 from \$7.82. Water that is resold, sub metered or furnished through the bulk station or fire hydrant meters will now increase to \$1 up from \$0.782, all per 100 gallons. The water protection fee remains at \$0.032 per 1,000 gallons of water by state statute.

The other two scenarios the Council considered would raise the average monthly bill between \$5.50 and \$6.09. While City staff has not determined the change to the average monthly bill using the model the Council chose, Finance Director Richard Mikesic said after the meeting the impact should be similar.

The rates will go into affect with the Aug. 15-Sept. 15 bill and customers will see the additional charges on the bill that is due Oct. 1.

SIDEWALKS

Council also continues to make sidewalks a priority and authorized staff to

seek bids to improve sidewalks on S. Third and S. Fifth streets between Metcalf and Broadway. Construction would not occur until 2024.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Also at the meeting the Council approved the hire of Sarah Altic as the new Community Development Director. This is a newly created position will be responsible for overseeing development within the city limits, provide assistance to citizens and gather information for the City Council. Primary duties will include administering government plans and policies that affect land use; draft regulations that pertain to land use and development; gather and analyze data from market research, census and economic and environmental studies; analyze factors that affect community development/decline; and assess the feasibility of development proposals and site plans and identify for approval or denial.

Altic started in her new role Aug. 14.



**SARAH
ALTIC**



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Louisburg, KS 66053
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Monday-Friday

Police Department

Chief Josh Weber
209 S. Metcalf Rd.
Louisburg, KS 66053
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.

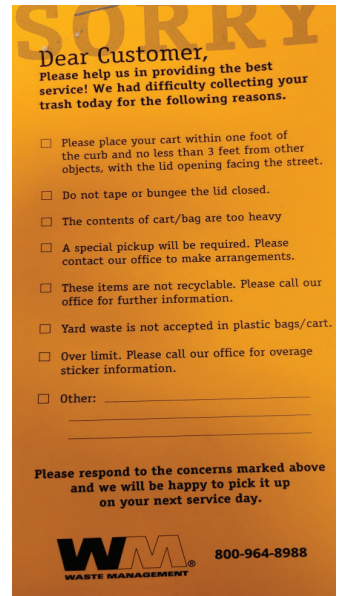
Automated trash collection to start in October

Automated trash and recycle pick-up is slated to start in the City of Louisburg in October, according to Bryce Smith, district manager for Waste Management.

Smith said in mid-August the automated trucks are being delivered to the company soon and that will allow for the automated pick-up to start with the Oct. 3 trash day.

Poly cart trash and recycle customers should remember to place their carts within one foot of the curb or edge of street and no less than 3 feet from other objects. The lid opening should face the street.

Waste Management will use these stickers on trash and recycle carts if there are issues with trash pick-up after automation starts in October.



MAYOR'S MINUTE

Lots to see and do in the 'Burg

What a hot end to the summer this has been. Here it is August and school is starting. Where did the summer go?

CONVENTION & TOURISM

The city has a new Convention and Tourism board established. We always had one, just never appointed anyone to the board. A goal of mine is how do we get people to visit Louisburg. This new board will be working on ways to help bring people into town.

PAINTED DOWNTOWN DOORS

We have one more door painted for everyone to see. The Library did a great job painting the door on the north side; please drive by and see it. The next time you are in the



Library give a thank you to them for a wonderful addition to mural art on doors. I'm in the process of trying to get a business to paint a larger mural on a wall and not a door. A big thank you to the Library.



DONNA COOK

LITTLE ROUND HOUSE

Our Little Round House at Ron Weers Park will be getting some TLC. It is a landmark I would hate to lose, along with our Downtown water tower which I want to keep and not have demolished. We have a citizen that has agreed to decorate the Little Round House for the holidays once it is renovated. A big thank you to her.

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

The American Legion's Labor Day festivities are starting and everyone is gearing up for the great time. Hopefully it won't be too hot. Come by the Legion for some BBQ chicken and I'll see you there.

Donna

Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



The National Fire Protection Association has many resources on its website about fire prevention and safety. Some of the resources include activities for kids of all ages, games and apps, lesson plans for teachers, videos and safety tip sheets.

Louisburg Fire gearing up to visit area schools for Fire Prevention Week in October

One of Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse's most favorite weeks of the year is Fire Prevention Week each October.

This is the week when he and other volunteer firefighters take a truck and visit students at Circle Grove, Rockville and Broadmoor schools in Louisburg.

"Firefighters enjoy interacting with the kids and helping them to learn about fire safety and prevention. Fire Prevention Week is a great opportunity to take a fire truck to a school and let the kids explore the truck and tools we use.

"One of the things we talk about and show children is what a firefighter would look and sound like in full gear. Sometimes our gear can make us seem scary to young children. We definitely don't want them to be afraid of us in the event there was a fire in their home."

Students at Louisburg schools are always excited when firefighters and their trucks come to visit. They are also excited when a teacher gets to dress up in firefighter gear. In this file photo, Circle Grove teacher Tammy Poe shows her students what she looks like in full firefighter gear. Jon Harris, left, and Fire Chief Gerald Rittinghouse, right, help Ms. Poe strap on the air tank.



Rittinghouse also uses this time to encourage students to help their families plan an escape route from their home if there were a fire.

And he stresses the importance of working smoke alarms located on every floor of your home and in all bedrooms.

Fire experts say on average you have less than 2 minutes to escape a fire in your home.

Families should practice their escape plan at least twice a year and parents should teach their children what to do in the event they can't help them.

Fire safety information is available on the Fire Department page on the City's website.

Coffee with a Cop

Members of the Louisburg Police Department and Miami County Sheriff's Office will share a cup of java with members of the community at Coffee with a Cop, 8 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13 at the Louisburg Price Chopper cafe.



This national event, which began in 2011 in California, is designed to help foster community relations between officers and citizens. The event allows for conversations about issues or questions that residents might have and officers can address.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this new and fun event!

Citywide garage sales

The garage sale sign moratorium that allows for placement of garage sales signs around town is in effect from Sept. 20 to Oct. 4 this fall.

Signs may not be displayed on private property without permission of the property owner or tenant, shall not be affixed to utility poles or street signs and may not be placed on publicly owned property. Signs may be placed along rights-of-ways but should not obstruct the view of intersections, traffic and pedestrians.

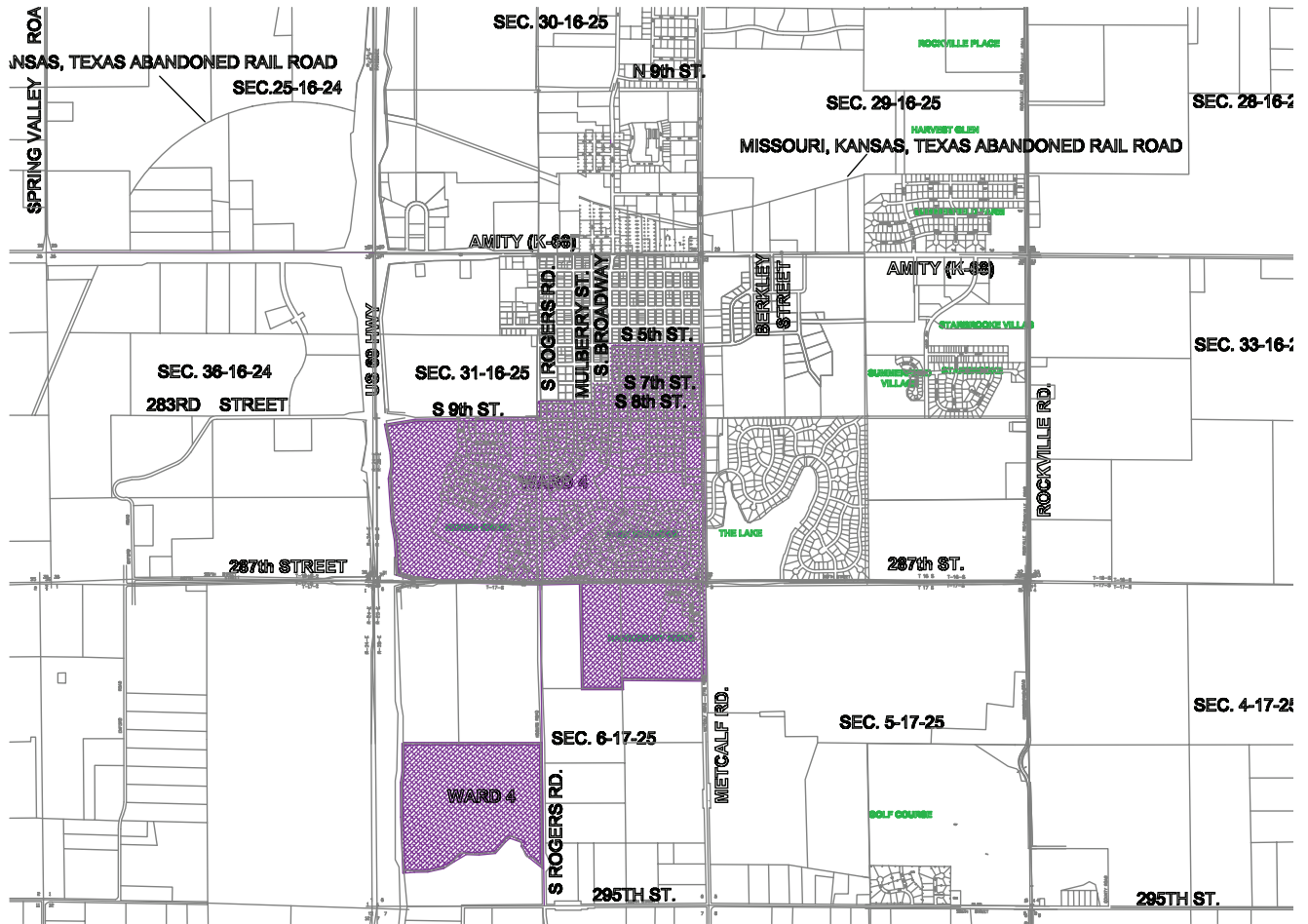
Snow Buddy sign-ups coming soon

Sign-ups for Snow Buddies can be made starting Sept. 1 on the City's website.

This program matches a volunteer who is willing to shovel snow for a local senior citizen. Volunteers are asked to clear the snow from any sidewalk on the property as well as a path from the front door to the end of the drive to allow the resident to get to the mailbox, take out the trash or get into a car safely.

The program is open to city residents who are 65 and over or have a physical disability making it difficult to shovel. Buddies must live in a single-family home to be eligible.

Each year about 20 seniors request assistance. If you have difficulty signing up online, please call Jean at City Hall at 837-2324 after Sept. 1.



Ward 4 map

In response to a request by a resident, ward maps have been published in the last few issues of Louisburg Speaks. This image shows the boundaries of Ward 4, the last of the ward maps. All

ward maps may be found on the City's website under the Government tab and Ward Maps page. Located on the Ward Maps page is a written description that provides boundaries of each ward.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

City Hall closed in observance of Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 4

Labor Day Parade
10 a.m. Downtown Louisburg

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Tuesday, Sept. 5
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Historical Preservation Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 6
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Park & Tree Board
6:30 pm Monday, Sept. 11
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Sept. 18
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Sept. 19
LRC Board office, 105 S. Fifth St. East

Louisburg Planning Commission
6:30 pm Wednesday, Sept. 27
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 2
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Cider Run
3 p.m., Kids Fun Run at 3:30 p.m.
5K/10K at 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 7
Downtown Louisburg

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

Louisburg City Council
6:30 pm Monday, Oct. 16
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

Louisburg Recreation Commission
6 pm Tuesday, Oct. 17
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

LRC Spooky Fest
7-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21
Lewis-Young Park

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

Halloween on Broadway
4-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28

LHS Electric Light Show
7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28
Wildcat Stadium

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